



# CrOZworld

|N|o.|1|6|5| |J|A|N|U|A|R|Y| |2|0|0|4|



[www.crosswordclub.org](http://www.crosswordclub.org)



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

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



The year 2003 has been another successful one for the Australian Crossword Club. We have maintained our level of membership, continued to host our website to a worldwide audience and we brought you Australia's best crossword puzzles.

Thanks to the generosity of member donations, we are pleased to announce that the level of prizes in 2003 has increased for the puzzles and the quizzes in 2004.

We sincerely thank those who have adjudicated in the past six months: Audrey Austin, Catherine Hambling, Audrey Ryan, Betty Siegman, Brian Symons and Steve Workman. Thanks also go to the Slot 6 adjudicators: Ian Brown, Jim Colles, Doreen Jones (2), Roy Wilson (2) and to the quizmasters Brian Symons (2) and Ted O'Brien. A special thank you to the wonderful compilers and quizsetters who strive so hard to meet the high standards of puzzledom set by the Club.

We specially mention our hard-working Secretary Bev Cockburn who has made a huge contribution to the success of the Club. Our sincere thanks to Steve Workman for his sterling work as the Club's Treasurer and to Patrick Street for his assistance in formatting the puzzles and quizzes and editing and publishing *Crozworld* each month.

This month's selection of puzzles has all your favourites with cryptics from *Southern Cross* and *Praxis*. *Timid Terrier* has compiled the AJ and *Virgo* is back with a Double Acrostic. A Whodunit by *Pundit* is an ingenious invention and *Stroz* invites you to share some Christmas Cheer under the Christmas Tree. Happy solving!

Finally, the Executive Committee of the ACC extends to all members and their families the Peace and Joy of Christmas and prosperity and success in the New year.

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

**Slot 1:** 6dn produced WINNING, WINCING and WINDING, 14ac AHOY and AHUM (which I couldn't verify in *Chambers*). 18ac DANUS, couldn't find this word.

**Slot 2:** Again some transcription errors and blanks, especially the M missing from 23dn, tucked away in the bottom left corner. Eleven cases of RENOVATION for 6dn; 17ac OVERT (2), almost over = OVE and tea for two = TT.

**Slot 3:** 5dn was the Waterloo here for 11 members! SHRUB fits 'Bush', but not 'get rid of'. 17ac, 'succeeds in' or 'boards' is GETS ON. GETS IN does not quite fit the clue. Other errors were WEEVIES, 4dn, SASHED, 19dn and SCOFFED 19ac.

**Slot 4:** WELL!! Apart from a few brave souls who voted the 'F' word as COTM, most members were NOT impressed with this word. (See members comments, although I received far too many to publish). Two entries had MNEMONICS: tricky word that. See members comments on XENOGLOSSIA, Olsen should have been spelt as Olson for a correct anagram. KISMIT is clearly indicated in the 'K' clue, but it is interesting to note that not one single person could find this spelling referenced anywhere. We have decided to allow both KISMIT and KISMET as correct in this case.

**Slot 5:** It seems the Americans are not quite sure where one of their most famous battles was fought. The Internet provides GETTYSBURG, GETTYSBERG and GETTESBURG, so all were acceptable. GALDRE and GOLORE (36ac) looked like transcription errors, also WETERLOO (20dn). 33ac produced POISIERS and POIZERS. Otherwise this puzzle did not present too many problems for our clever members.

**Clue of the month from 46 members**

A wide spread of opinion here, but Slot 3, 1ac, INGRID, with 7 votes, breasted the tape just ahead of Slot 4, BIGAMY, 6 votes. Third was Slot 4, ATISHOO, with 5 votes, and 4 members opted for Slot 4, the F word.

Adjudicating the December issue is to be highly recommended. Thank you to all those members who sent cards, letters and season's greetings to me - it is greatly appreciated. My very best wishes go to all our members for a joyous Christmas, and for health, happiness and prosperity (and correct solutions) in the coming year.

—Betty Siegman

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

Puzzle No.	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Entries received	102	108	103	99	107	517
Correct entries	84	82	77	89	92	422
Success rate (%)	82.4	75.9	74.8	89.9	85.9	81.6
Prizewinners	J Wood	G Owens	B Wallace	M Pope	A Callan	From 109 members

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

	page
Christmas Cheer! by Stroz	3
Cryptic by Southern Cross	4
Cryptic by Praxis	5
AJ by Timid Terrier	6
Double Acrostic by Virgo	7
A Crossword Whodunit by Pundit	8
Prize Schedule 2004	9
Members Comments	10
Boys' Weekend by Pundit	13-15
'Blethingly' puzzle	16

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

<b>President</b>	Patrick Street	395 Canning St, North Carlton Vic 3054	☎(03) 9347 1216	pstreet@bigpond.net.au
<b>Secretary</b>	Bev Cockburn	12 Norman St, Merrylands West NSW 2160	☎(02) 9635 7802	bevco4@bigpond.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Steve Workman	PO Box 660, Wentworthville NSW 2145	☎(02) 9893 9080	ACC@famill.com.au



### December 1-2003

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

### December 2-2003

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

### December 3-2003

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

### December 4-2003

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

### December 5-2003

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

### November 6-2003

The  
Ant's  
Pants

## MEMBERS RESULTS FOR DECEMBER 2003

MEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6
AINSWORTH Y	.	.	.	.	.	.
ANDERSON C	.	.	.	.	.	.
ANDERSON JB	.	.	.	.	.	.
ARCHIBALD C	.	.	.	.	.	.
ATKINSON S	.	.	.	.	.	.
AUSTIN A	.	.	.	.	.	.
BENNETT B	.	.	.	.	.	.
BENNETT D	.	.	.	.	.	.
BROWN I	.	.	.	.	.	.
BRYANT R	.	.	.	.	.	.
BUTLER D	.	.	.	.	.	.
CALLAN A	.	.	.	.	.	.
CAMPBELL G	.	.	.	.	.	.
CHANCE C	.	.	.	.	.	.
COATES D	.	.	.	.	.	.
COCKBURN B	.	.	.	.	.	.
COCKBURN M	.	.	.	.	.	.
COLLES J	.	.	.	.	.	.
COLLINS M	.	.	.	.	.	.
CONWAY H	.	.	.	.	.	.
COWAN M	.	.	.	.	.	.
CRANE L	.	.	.	.	.	.
DAVIS K	.	.	.	.	.	.
DAVIS M	.	.	.	.	.	.
DEARIE P	.	.	.	.	.	.
DENNIS M	.	.	.	.	.	.
DINHAM V	.	.	.	.	.	.
EDWARD J	.	.	.	.	.	.
EISENTRAGER D	.	.	.	.	.	.
FOSTER C	.	.	.	.	.	.
FREELAND J	.	.	.	.	.	.
GALBREATH M	.	.	.	.	.	.
GARNER P	.	.	.	.	.	.
GLEESON C	.	.	.	.	.	.
GLISSAN B	.	.	.	.	.	.
GRAINGER D	.	.	.	.	.	.
GREENING D	.	.	.	.	.	.
HAGAN B	.	.	.	.	.	.
HAMBLING C	.	.	.	.	.	.

MEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6
HOCKING A	.	.	.	.	.	.
HOWARD V	.	.	.	.	.	.
IBBOTT B	.	.	.	.	.	.
IKIN D	.	.	.	.	.	.
JERMY A	.	.	.	.	.	.
JESSOP N	.	.	.	.	.	.
JONES D	.	.	.	.	.	.
KENNEDY D	.	.	.	.	.	.
KITTO J	.	.	.	.	.	.
KNIGHT S	.	.	.	.	.	.
KNIGHT V	.	.	.	.	.	.
LEE K	.	.	.	.	.	.
LOBSEY V	.	.	.	.	.	.
McCLELLAND C	.	.	.	.	.	.
McDERMOTT P	.	.	.	.	.	.
MACDOUGALL I	.	.	.	.	.	.
McGRATH J	.	.	.	.	.	.
McKENZIE I	.	.	.	.	.	.
McKINDLAY Y	.	.	.	.	.	.
MANNING R	.	.	.	.	.	.
MARSLAND L	.	.	.	.	.	.
MAUNDER M	.	.	.	.	.	.
MEEK D	.	.	.	.	.	.
MERCER P	.	.	.	.	.	.
NOBLE C	.	.	.	.	.	.
O'BRIEN E	.	.	.	.	.	.
O'BRIEN S	.	.	.	.	.	.
O'HARA H	.	.	.	.	.	.
O'ROURKE R	.	.	.	.	.	.
OTRUPCEK R	.	.	.	.	.	.
OWENS G	.	.	.	.	.	.
PARKER J	.	.	.	.	.	.
PHELAN T	.	.	.	.	.	.
POPE M	.	.	.	.	.	.
PREWETT G	.	.	.	.	.	.
PROCTER D	.	.	.	.	.	.
PROCTER M	.	.	.	.	.	.
RANDALL J	.	.	.	.	.	.
RAW M	.	.	.	.	.	.

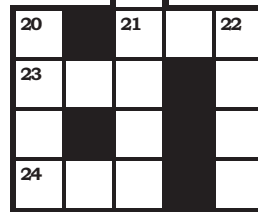
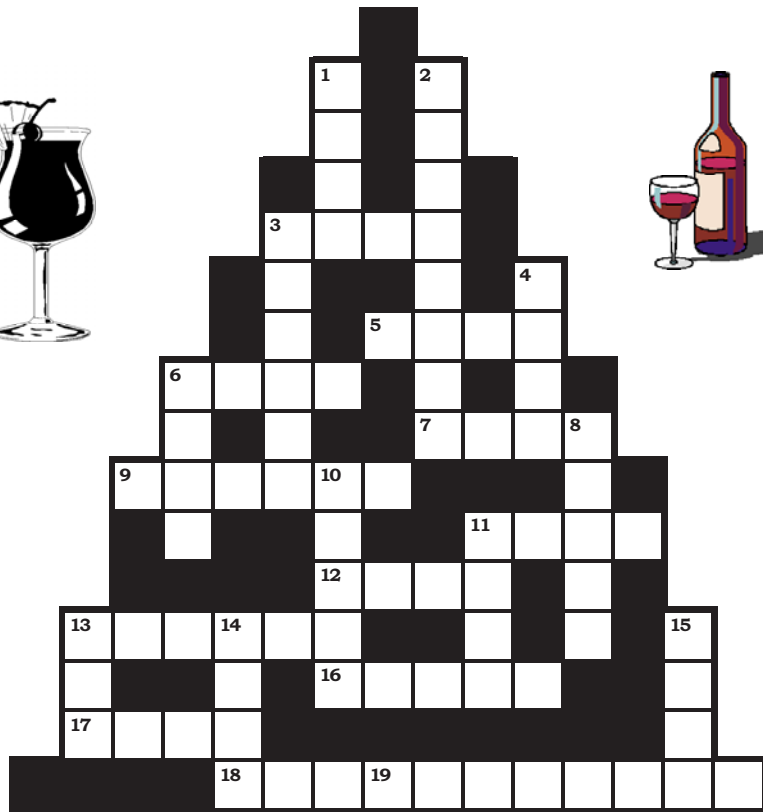
MEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6
REARDON C	.	.	.	.	.	.
REEVES V	.	.	.	.	.	.
RENDELL A	.	.	.	.	.	.
REYNOLDS P	.	.	.	.	.	.
ROBERTS R	.	.	.	.	.	.
RODDICK M	.	.	.	.	.	.
RYAN A	.	.	.	.	.	.
RYAN W	.	.	.	.	.	.
SAVANAH T	.	.	.	.	.	.
SEALE E	.	.	.	.	.	.
SIEGMAN B	.	.	.	.	.	.
SKILLICORN A	.	.	.	.	.	.
SMITH J	.	.	.	.	.	.
SOLOMON B	.	.	.	.	.	.
STANDARD J	.	.	.	.	.	.
STOCKS J	.	.	.	.	.	.
STOREY N	.	.	.	.	.	.
SYMONS B	.	.	.	.	.	.
TAYLOR R	.	.	.	.	.	.
TICKLE B	.	.	.	.	.	.
TOFONI B	.	.	.	.	.	.
TROLLOPE S	.	.	.	.	.	.
VERESS M	.	.	.	.	.	.
WAITES L	.	.	.	.	.	.
WALLACE B	.	.	.	.	.	.
WALTER A	.	.	.	.	.	.
WATT K	.	.	.	.	.	.
WATTS I	.	.	.	.	.	.
WATZINGER M	.	.	.	.	.	.
WILCOX C	.	.	.	.	.	.
WILSON N	.	.	.	.	.	.
WILSON R	.	.	.	.	.	.
WOOD J	.	.	.	.	.	.
WORKMAN S	.	.	.	.	.	.
ZUCAL H	.	.	.	.	.	.

J	A	N	U	A	R	Y
2	0	0	4			
S	L	O	T		1	

**Christmas  
Cheer!  
by  
Stroz**



[rrp: \$36.95]



**Across**

- 3 Coca-cola (4)
- 5 A carbonated soft drink (4)
- 6 A mixture of crushed malt and hot water (4)
- 7 An aniseed-flavoured spirit of Turkey (4)
- 9 A Chinese alcoholic drink made from fermented rice (6)
- 11 A hot drink of beer and spirits sweetened (4)
- 12 Trade name of a well-known South Australian sparkling wine (4)
- 13 A sweet white wine made in Bordeaux (6)
- 16 A very fine sort of green tea (5)
- 17 A strong German beer (4)
- 18 An after-dinner drink which includes whiskey and a whipped cream topping (5,6)
- 21 A spirit distilled from fermented sugar-cane juice (3)
- 23 A drink made from the infusion of malt by fermentation (3)
- 24 A beverage made by infusing leaves in boiling water (3)

**Down**

- 1 An aniseed liqueur (4)
- 2 Black coffee (4,4)
- 3 A syrupy blackcurrant drink (6)
- 4 The old name of various dry white wines from Spain (4)
- 6 An alcoholic drink made by fermenting honey and water (4)
- 8 A Celtic commodity, especially whiskey (5)
- 10 Alcoholic liquor illicitly distilled and distributed (5)
- 11 A dry sherry (4)
- 13 Strong drink in the olden days (3)
- 14 A Japanese alcoholic drink made from fermented rice (4)
- 15 An alcoholic drink made from the fermented juice of grapes (4)
- 19 A sweet, orange-flavoured Italian liqueur (6)
- 20 Liquor produced from germinated grain by fermentation (4)
- 22 A white liquid used in the production of butter and cheese (4)

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

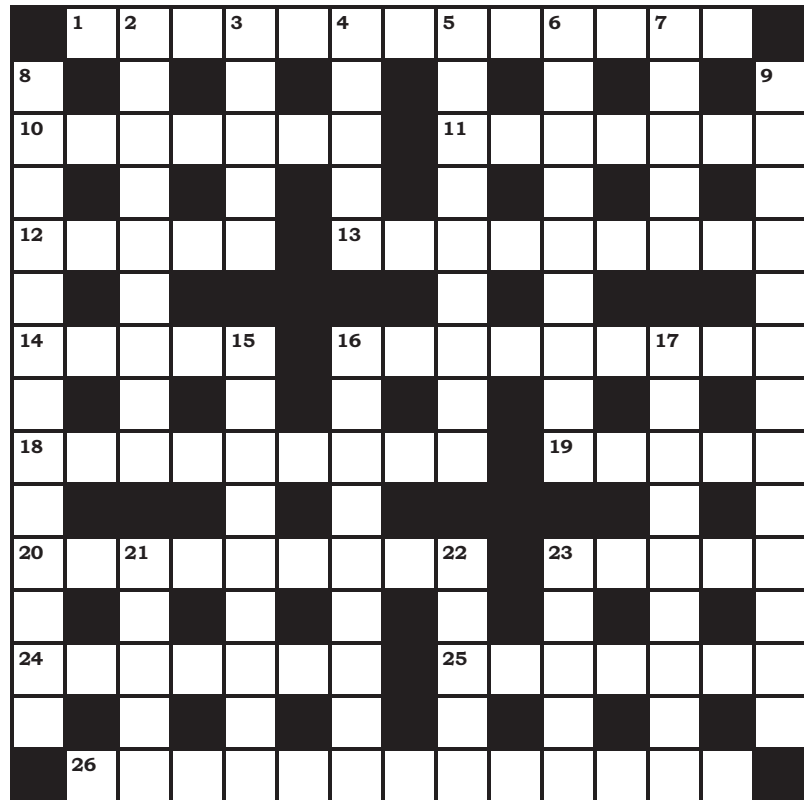
Slots 1-5: Jim Colles, PO Box 600, Rye Vic 3941.  
e-mail: jimcol@pac.com.au  
Closing mail date: Tuesday 27 January 2004.  
Slot 6: Stef Savannah, 24 Wyvern Avenue, Chatswood NSW 2067.  
e-mail: stef\_savanah@optusnet.com.au  
Closing mail date: Friday 6 Feb 2004.

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

J	A	N	U	A	R	Y
2	0	0	4			
S	L	O	T		2	

**Cryptic  
by  
Southern  
Cross**

**Prize  
\$60**



**Across**

- 1** Something to be prized where all else counts for nought (3,2,1,7)
- 10** Rolls up again – recurrence, say? (7)
- 11** Part of window framing coloured band in front of counter (4, 3)
- 12** Topless singer transplanted African flower (5)
- 13** Set aside after boy is found (9)
- 14** Moulded metal procured after a short space (5)
- 16** News-reader presents one part of speech about the Queen (9)
- 18** Your old one is found in clean-out – it hasn't been seen for ages (9)
- 19** Pick-me-up to put back in top of cabinet (5)
- 20** Source of information (wholly, they say) for use with business machines (5, 4)
- 23** Push one's way in as the Spanish submit (5)
- 24** Is a name-change the answer to being forgetful? (7)
- 25** Explosive element gives an expression of disgust – rest upset? (7)
- 26** Overdoes it when putting on the jam? (4,2,2,5)

**Down**

- 2** 1980's chap points to salary joke (3-3, 3)
- 3** Inside, the meal hasn't begun ... (5)
- 4** ... perplexed, as tea is prepared (2, 3)
- 5** Disrespect found only in tavern and church (9)
- 6** Missing nobleman failed to keep track of numbers (4, 5)
- 7** Gold piece given for compass (5)
- 8** Introduce, as Shakespeare does with witches (5,4,4)
- 9** Prussian King died after battle with bushranger (a Captain) (9, 4)
- 15** Packing cases provided as coach sets out (3, 6)
- 16** The plate's taken up by Bill where lion tamers perform (6, 3)
- 17** Changed once while in charge of a convent (9)
- 21** Name the girl after Gran (5)
- 22** Inform on business leader deserting workhorse (3, 2)
- 23** Hope to return round about this time (5)

J	A	N	U	A	R	Y
2	0	0	4			
S	L	O	T		3	

**Cryptic**  
by  
*Praxis*




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	28										
29											
30								31			
			32				33				

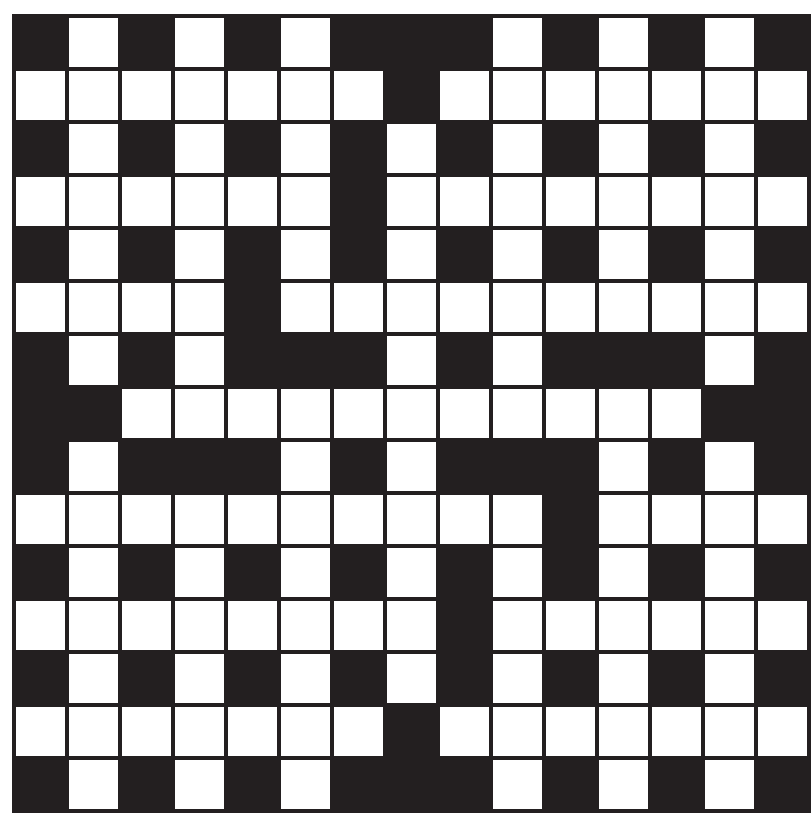
**Across**

- 1 Uses gum for non-returning boomerangs? (6)
- 6 Booze retired American surgeon (4)
- 11 Boy, disheartened, left Palmer a flower (4)
- 12 Ornamentation's put on; Ed removed that in Paris (8)
- 14 Clear out a hundred in gallery cut back (8)
- 15 Somehow pipers conserve moisture ... (12)
- 16 ... alas, one has scarcity (5)
- 19 Starting to tremble, literal fear (6)
- 20 Bookies accepted bounder's return to tracks (6)
- 21 Approval limits new site's independent existence (6)
- 23 Disturbance in garden's seen as a threat (6)
- 26 One captain retired, becoming a worshipper (5)
- 27 Overcome brain damage! Great achievement! (12)
- 29 A bad reversal can alter direction for coalition (8)
- 30 They sacked journalist over questions (8)
- 31 So, I'll retain the side! (4)
- 32 Cut back studies ... (4)
- 33 ... last unknown's a chemical compound (6)

**Down**

- 2 Hardy character's about to stumble in Nullarbor? (8)
- 3 At home brother has a wine that's out of sight (8)
- 4 Study what's written about it in advance draft (12)
- 5 After course, one who delves becomes more alert (6)
- 6 Streams inspire poet (6)
- 7 Light picked up new and aged bones (5)
- 8 Speech first then sign books (12)
- 9 One moving out creates drama (4)
- 10 Set up drive, raise money for old afflictions (6)
- 13 Barney, subdued, brooded outside (4)
- 17 Present time's squeezed by a drop in food (8)
- 18 Stop: time to reveal damage (8)
- 21 Prepare a lawyer for planned attack (6)
- 22 Doctor Ryan Edward briefly spoke (6)
- 23 Old reveal cyder's recipe (6)
- 24 It's money that is keeping the sides apart (4)
- 25 Finish with creasote, having removed rot (5)
- 28 Brett's one that's protected (4)

<p> J A N U A R Y   2 0 0 4   S L O T   4 </p>
<p><b>AJ</b> by <b>Timid</b> <b>Terrier</b></p>
 <p><b>Prize</b> <b>\$60</b></p>



Solve the clues and fit the answers where you can. All answers begin with the leading letter.

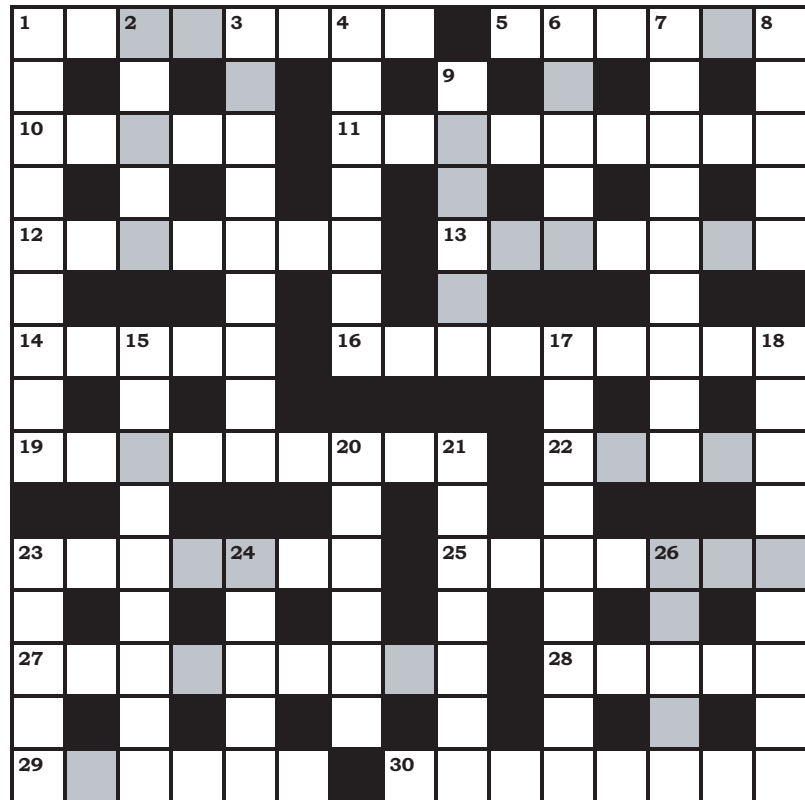
- A** Buried roseola container (7)
- B** Gluttony of Tim and Bert not finished with old provisions (5-6)
- C** Firm race towards plant (6)
- D** Insanity of silly head (8)
- E** Improved beginning of each new harmony for burlesque dance (8)
- F** Fidgety, fussy person a devotee of Scot's fox (6)
- G** Glory!! Louis bowled splendidly (10)
- H** Observe male editor (4)
- I** Unauthorised sick bird reported (7)
- J** Poke Irish upper class bird (6)
- K** Knockout Spenser to woo without time and show servile deference (6)
- L** Allegiance of vassal to monk (8)
- M** False religious belief of detestable scoundrel who dropped model at Cyprus (10)
- N** Disguised varan in French stew (7)
- O** Work left at University street for man without settled principles (11)
- P** Will sent before due time to mention first daughter (8)
- Q** Mental tranquillity; a peaceful doctrine (8)
- R** Displacing a radiation dosage at cricket ground (7)
- S** Fragrant cabbage in old city (7)
- T** Bird has no love for one Scots constellation (7)
- U** Press forward with first of union rebellions generally expected (4)
- V** Turkish province exploited a levy (7)
- W** Seal to sway and twist about (6)
- X** Unknown worker, male to start new engine for crystalline compound (8)
- Y** University holds very loud bird (6)
- Z** A New Zealand treatment for Fitzgerald umbrella fabric (7)



J	A	N	U	A	R	Y
2	0	0	4			
S	L	O	T		6	

## A Crossword Whodunit by *Pundit*

[This puzzle is dedicated  
to my mother,  
Therese Savannah]



Motive: \_\_\_\_\_

Means: \_\_\_\_\_

Opportunity: \_\_\_\_\_

Murderer: \_\_\_\_\_

Read the short story 'Boys' Weekend' (pages 13-15) and try to guess the solution to the murder mystery. Then solve the crossword puzzle to see if you are correct. The letters from the shaded squares will spell out the solution, which should be written in the appropriate spaces underneath the grid.

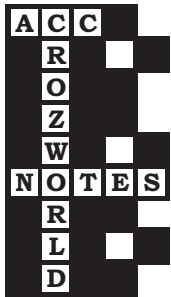
All the clues for the crossword are embedded in the story highlighted in bold characters. They follow the usual conventions for cryptic clues. They may be part of longer sentences, but only the highlighted words are part of the clue. The bracketed superscript at the end of each clue indicates the position as well as the number of letters in the solution. For example: ...**deciding about clearing something up**<sup>(11a/9)</sup> is the clue for 11ac and the solution has 9 letters.

The story's conclusion will be printed along with the crossword solution. Happy sleuthing!

**Post  
Solution  
to:**

**Stef Savannah, 24 Wyvern Avenue,  
Chatswood NSW 2067.  
e-mail: stef\_savanah@optusnet.com.au  
Closing mail date: Friday 6 Feb 2004.**





The Victorian Crossmas Cruciverbal held on Sunday 14 December was another successful occasion. We were privileged to have in attendance the 'living legend' ShirI O'Brien (known to us all as *Southern Cross*) together with ShirI's cheerful husband Jack and ShirI's sister Desolie King. Some of the others in attendance included Max Roddick, Denis Coates, Marge Pope, Cheryl Wilcox, Alison Hocking, John and Wendy Villiers, Elva Gould and Valerie Howard just to name a few. The occasion was greatly heightened by the fact that Jim Colles (*Cactus*) graced us with his presence. It was marvellous to meet up with you Jim! ShirI spoke to those attending and gave an enthralling account of her professional career in crossword compilation which began with *The Courier-Mail* (Brisbane) in 1984 and later with the *Guardian* (UK). ShirI said that her 1000th puzzle will be published soon by *The Courier-Mail*. Thank you ShirI for making our Crossmas Cruciverbal really special. And many thanks to Valerie Howard for her sterling efforts in organising such a successful event.  
—Patrick

**Crowzworders, South Australia:** A smaller than usual group of CrowzWorders met on Saturday 13 December. Despite, or perhaps because of the single table, it was a rollicking affair. But that was only after we'd solved the first problem – our restaurant had closed down! The same had happened to that of our first two get-togethers. So as a favour to Australia we're holding the next two at McDonalds!  
—Doug Butler

**Results of July-December 2003 Cumulative Slots 1-5:** Perfect score (30) Bev Cockburn, Mal Cockburn, Carole Noble, Brian Symons and Roy Wilson. With 29: ShirI O'Brien, Ron O'Rourke, David Procter, Marian Procter and Joan Smith. Congratulations!

**Subscription renewals for 2004:** Col Archibald, Alison Callan, Chester Chance, Angela Cockburn, Mary Dodd, Iris Fox, Cheryl Gleeson, Odette Greenberger, Edna McGloin, Joan McGrath, Roma Roberts, Stef Savannah, Eva Seale and Michael Vnuuk. Happy Crozworlding in 2004!

**Donations to the Prize Fund 2004** from the following members are gratefully acknowledged: Chester Chance, Cheryl Gleeson, Edna McGloin, Roma Roberts and Eva Seale. Thank you for your generosity.

**A Quickie:** The word "gullible" is not in *The Chambers Dictionary*.



**New Member:** A warm welcome to **Michele Digby** from Mill Park in Victoria. Welcome to the wonderful world of Crozworlding, Michele!

**Puzzle Adjustments:** Heather Zucal gained a tick for November Slot 1 and Joan McGrath gained a tick for November Slot 3. The word GERNERALIZATIONS for the G clue in November 4-2003 has been allowed. The following gained ticks: June Edward, Valerie Howard, Daryl Ikin, Veniece Lobsey, Bev Solomon, Betty Siegman, Wendy Villiers and Norm Wilson.

**Acknowledgement:** Many thanks to *The Courier-Mail* for kind permission to publish Cryptic by *Southern Cross* (Jan 2-2004).



**PRIZE SCHEDULE for Jan - June 2004**



Monthly prizes for Slots 2, 3 and 4: \$60 each.  
 Monthly prize for Slot 6 in 2004: \$100.  
 Puzzle No 1: The Macquarie Concise Thesaurus (paperback \$36.95rrp)  
 Puzzle No 5: Book Prize (tba).  
 Cumulative Slots 1-5: \$2000 in total as follows:  
 Breakdown of cumulative Slots 1-5 prizes of \$2000 for Jan-Jun 2004: 1st = \$325, 2nd = \$300, 3rd = \$250, 4th = \$225, 5th = \$200, 6th-10th = \$140 each. For tied positions prizes will be averaged.  
 Quizzes: \$60 each.  
 Cumulative Quizzes: \$600 per year as follows: 1st = \$150; 2nd = \$125; 3rd = \$100; 4th = \$90; 5th = \$75; 6th = \$60. For tied positions prizes will be averaged.

**NOTES:** (1) "Closing mail date" means that entries must be received by the Adjudicator at or before the time of the postal mail delivery on the date specified each month in *Crozworld*. This includes any entries which may be sent electronically via e-mail. Any entries received after that time and date will not be eligible to gain a 'dot' or to qualify for a prize.

(2) Only current financial members of the Australian Crossword Club are eligible to win prizes in 2004.



**Letter of the Month**

Dear Mr Workman,  
 I am writing to ask you to please remove my name from your subscription list. The only reason my name is on your list is because my daughter signed me up, believing me to be better than I am. I have enjoyed scanning the crosswords, but have not in two years been able to finish any of them. Thank you for the brain food, and may you go on to bigger and better crosswords. Yours sincerely, Margaret Bain.

**Reply:** Many thanks for your letter Margaret. As they say in the Classics: Practice makes Perfect. The Executive Committee of the ACC has decided to send you during 2004 a complimentary copy of *Crozworld* and the *Crozworld Compendium*. With a little more practice...



**SALE**  
**CHAMBERS BOOKS**

**Collins English Dictionary:** A new edition has just been released. Thinking of buying it? Well, think again. One of the features of the Collins has been its biographical data covering a great number of persons in some detail. With the new edition all of this data seems to have been removed! Perhaps it will surface in a separate Biographical Dictionary next year. But it lessens the value of this trusted dictionary. Also, Collins will shortly replace Chambers as publishers of the list of allowable words for Scrabble. This decision was taken by Mattel, the owners of Scrabble in the UK, without consulting Scrabble players.

- Chambers Dictionary, 2003 ed, normally \$89.95 now \$75 inc p & p.
  - Chambers Dictionary, 1998 ed, normally \$100 now only \$50 inc p & p.
  - Chambers Biographical Dictionary, 7th ed 2002, \$80 inc p & p.
  - The Chambers Encyclopedia, 2001 ed, \$70 inc p & p.
  - Chambers Book of Araucaria Crosswords, 2003 ed, \$15 inc p & p.
- Kindly send a cheque/money order payable to 'P Street' to Patrick Street, 395 Canning St, North Carlton Vic 3054.

## December 1-2003: Half & Half by Noel Jessop

- Difficult for a No 1 puzzle, especially clues such as 9dn. *Irene Watts*
- Another good puzzle from Noel, but no gimme, battled with 9dn for ages, till the penny dropped (I had TAU on the brain instead of MU). *Col Archibald*
- I liked the 3dn clue. *Ted O'Brien*
- I like Noel's half and halves and this was a good one. *Catherine Hambling*
- A reasonable level Slot 1 puzzle, but would prefer to see here a thematic or general knowledge orthodox puzzle. We do have 5 other cryptic puzzles. *Alan Walter*

## December 2-2003: Cryptic by Sue Donim (Bruce Austin)

- 16dn Heathier. Is this a word? 8dn: Very wordy clue which I cannot quite follow. *Doreen Jones*
- The 15 lettered answers were well clued. *Ted O'Brien*
- A tricky puzzle, clues often difficult to interpret, though amusing. I did not like 16dn & 24ac as too artificial. *Irene Watts*
- For the life of me, I can't work out how 8dn equates to TOM. I can see TOM backwards in (MOT)OR CAR, but what does 'Mum's cat prefers to sleep' have to do with the price of eggs? Please explain. *Col Archibald*
- Sue Donim gave us something to get our teeth into with nothing too controversial. *Catherine Hambling*
- Good to have another from Sue; enjoyed it very much. *Roy Wilson*
- Thanks to Sue Donim for an enjoyable cryptic puzzle. In 19dn I always thought an enlarged photograph was JUMBOSIZE, so discovering ENPRINT was a surprise revelation. *Alan Walter*

## December 3-2003: Cryptic by Southern Cross (Shirl O'Brien)

- I always enjoy Shirl's puzzles. Her clues are so good and often very amusing. I loved 19ac; the baby was obviously SPOONFED (minus the N) and it looked as though a 'reward' was delivered to the carers as well. *Irene Watts*
- Although I'm not a fan of multiple word answers, Shirl, as usual, leads us straight to the answer with deceptive, but fair, clueing. *Col Archibald*
- Shirl's multi-word answers were a feature here, especially my COTM, 13ac. *Ted O'Brien*
- Liked Shirl's cryptic with a few interesting phrases included. They are always harder to solve than single words. *Catherine Hambling*
- Deja vu??? Always an enjoyable puzzle though. *Roy Wilson*
- UNSEEN is a beautifully worded clue. *Brian Symons*
- Shirl, thanks for your remarkable selection of phrases, the most I've seen in a grid that I can recall, WISE GUY, ALL AT ONCE, DO ONE IN, GETS ON, NO END TO IT, RUN INTO, IN A BIND, ONE NATION, IN THE NEWS, NO CAN DO, GOOD GRIEF, what a collection! *Alan Walter*

## December 4-2003: AJ by St Jude (Drew Meek)

- Peroneal: What a poor clue. FOR does not equal per as far as I know. *Doreen Jones*
- I enjoy the alphabeticals but this one was loaded with some very strange words. By the time I finished solving it, I felt like a LUNATIC or as though I had been RUN OVER by an OMNIBUS. I almost swallowed my dictionary with finding VEXILLOLOGY and XENOGLOSSIA. As for the F word, words fail me! I had to get the chef to make me an EGGNOG and A HAVARTI sandwich to restore my WANING strength. I have a pain in my PERONEAL bones and I think I am getting a cold, ATISHOO! Re K clue, surely this is KISMET. My dictionaries do not give any alternative spellings as KISMIT. *Irene Watts*
- It seems that quite a few errors are evident in this puzzle, the K clue where the answer is obviously KISMET, which means the definition of 'My fate', but does not meet the secondary indicator requirements, which, if followed would yield KISMIT, can't find any such animal in my references. I think both would have to be taken as correct. The X word seems to require another O to make sense as an anagram, but has a superfluous E instead. The U clue would have to be the daddy of all indirect anagrams, too involved to enter into here, suffice it to say a potato is not a 'root' but a root vegetable! The F word definitely was!! Otherwise, once completed, quite enjoyable! *Col Archibald*
- Could not get a full Nelson on the K clue. KISMET Hardy! but hardly KISMIT? *Tom Phelan*
- It has to be KISMIT from the clue. I haven't met that spelling before. *Ted O'Brien*
- The AJ caused me some grief. I have put KISMIT for the K word because this is how the clue reads. I can't find it as an alternative to KISMET, but maybe it is there somewhere. The X word appears to have one letter wrong for the anagram, and I've put JOCULAR for J but can't quite figure out the clue. *Catherine Hambling*
- YOICKS!!!! *Roy Wilson*
- If the answer to the X word is XENOGLOSSIA then OLSEN should read OLSON. *David Procter*
- A challenging AJ, but because of the number of errors this puzzle has to be given the thumbs down. The puzzle needed to be properly checked prior to publication. In clue X, "Olsen age 6" was an incorrect anagram of XENOGLOSSIA. In clue K I'm bouzouki smitten, if hidden gives KISMIT, whereas the proper spelling of 'fate' here should be KISMET. In clue U 'bookmaker' is probably SP, but as there is no S in UPROOTING it would be great if the secondary indicator could be explained please. The F clue and answer were dreadful, 'heiffer' should be correctly spelt 'heifer'. 'Head' as a definition does not indicate in Chambers nor the Macquarie. Collins dictionary indicates this definition as 'U.S. Taboo Slang', so at least 'U.S. Slang' should have been indicated. Overall this puzzle was not appropriate for publication in its present form. *Alan Walter*
- I liked several St Jude clues particularly BIGAMY - my clue of the month - and ATISHOO, both very witty. Had some misgivings about the F clue in our family mag, but perhaps I'm just an old prude - a bit smutty I thought. Generally, I enjoyed the puzzles and thought they were just a shade easier. *Merv Collins*

## December 5-2003: Bloody History by Virgo (Audrey Austin)

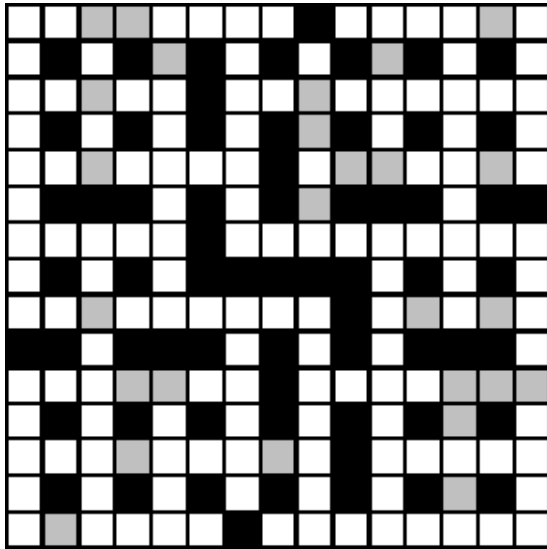
- Not sure about 28dn. If ALLOW is right I can't find a clue for the second L. I enjoyed this one, though our puzzles are getting somewhat warlike lately - I blame George Bush! *Catherine Hambling*
- Something different from Audrey. It was a good puzzle to battle with and the theme well sustained. *Irene Watts*
- No problems here, and once I cottoned onto the theme was fairly straightforward. Thank you Audrey. *Col Archibald*
- It was a real battle to finish this! *Ted O'Brien*
- Nice puzzle, Audrey! Loved the title - how many school kids have thought that? *Roy Wilson*
- Is the second L in ALLOW clued? *Brian Symons*
- Does the setter think a poke is a sty? A poke is a bag. Buying a 'pig in a poke' is buying something without seeing it. Virgo had a lot of good clues, 34ac, 3dn and 22ac, my COTM. *Mal Cockburn*



Send solution to: Stef Savanah,  
24 Wyvern Ave, Chatswood NSW 2067.  
Closing mail date: Friday 6 Feb 2004.



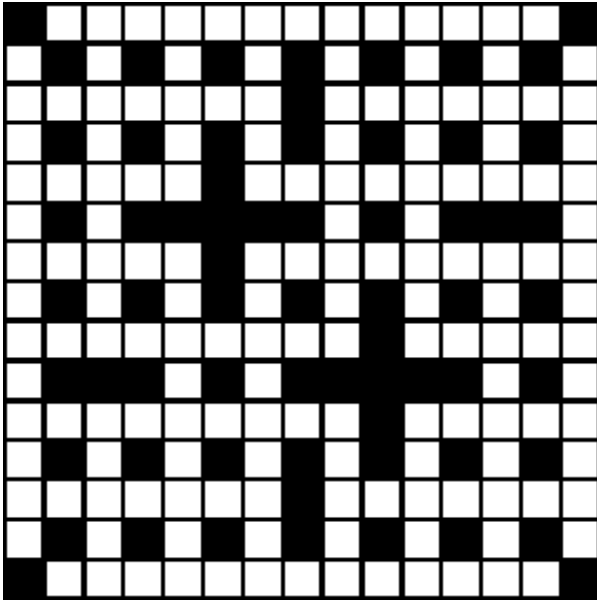
NAME: .....



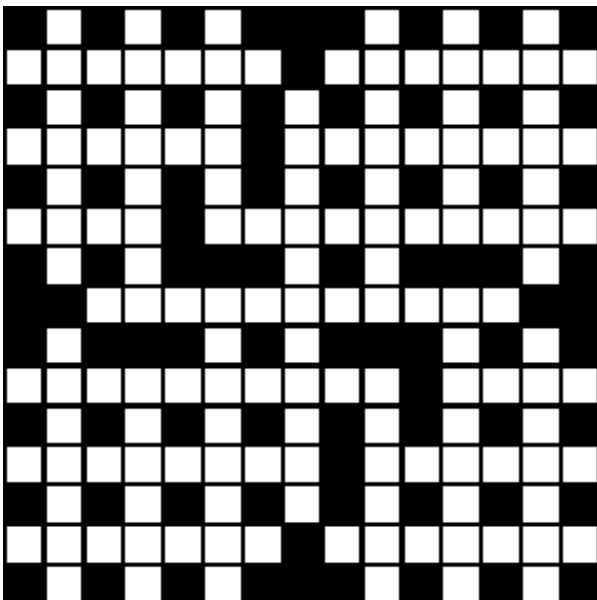
Motive:  
Means:

Opportunity:  
Murderer:

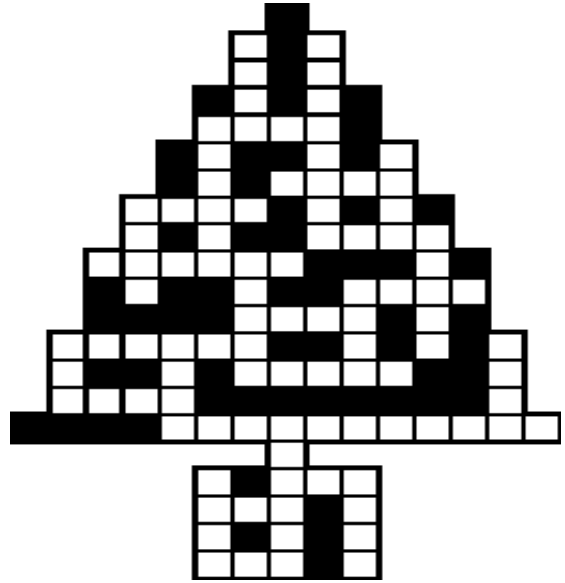
|J|A|N|U|A|R|Y| |2| |2|0|0|4|



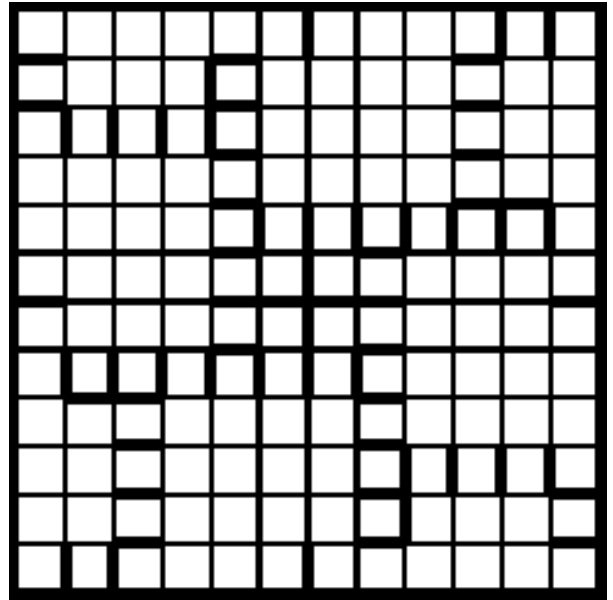
|J|A|N|U|A|R|Y| |4| |2|0|0|4|



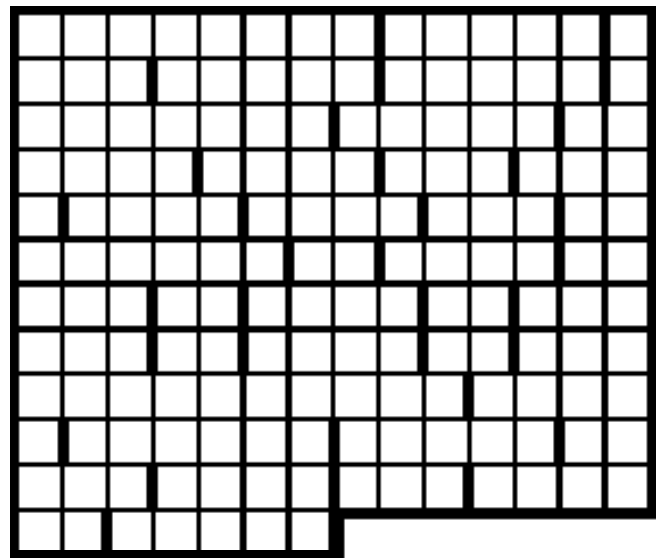
|J|A|N| |1| |2|0|0|4| NAME.....



|J|A|N|U|A|R|Y| |3| |2|0|0|4|



|J|A|N|U|A|R|Y| |5| |2|0|0|4|



Title .....  
Author .....

Clue of the Month .....

**November 6-2003: Overworked!** by *Makeanote (Ian Brown)*

**Entries received: 54. Correct: 54. Success rate: 100%. Prizewinner: Ann Jermy. Congratulations!**

**Solution: The Ant's Pants**

**Adjudicator's Comments:** What a pleasure to have been able to adjudicate this puzzle, particularly from such busy and enthusiastic workers! Thanks for the letters of encouragement, and also those of helpful (and insightful) instruction. All the entries received were correct. Well done! There were some issues with members looking for 'ant' spellings, when the intended pun would not carry into the correct spelling, but I trust that the solutions (which follow) may help to clear this up. All the very best to you all this Christmas!

—Ian (*Makeanote*) Brown

- |                                 |                                  |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Car ant = currant            | 12. Car ant sees = currencies    |
| 2. Ant's are able = answerable  | 13. Four bear ants = forbearance |
| 3. A bore ant = abhorrent       | 14. Ignore ants = ignorance      |
| 4. Comply ant = compliant       | 15. Fine ant shawl = financial   |
| 5. Boy ant = bouyant            | 16. 'Anty' thesis = antithesis   |
| 6. In-form ant = informant      | 17. Impede ants = impedance      |
| 7. Provide ants = providance    | 18. Convey ants = conveyance     |
| 8. Clever ant = clairvoyant     | 19. Grieve ants = grievance      |
| 9. In-flue ants = influence     | 20. Perform ants = performance   |
| 10. Countin' ants = countenance | 21. Pl. ants = plants            |
| 11. Redone D ant = redundant    | 22. Descend ant = descendant     |
|                                 | 23. Rod ant = rodent             |

To conclude, An Antithetic Antic from the 'inimantable' Irene Watts:



Ants in the pants and bee in the bonnet,  
Are not a good recipe when writing a sonnet,  
But ah! The ant's pants,  
And O! The bee's knees  
Are just the right labels  
For Ian's expertise.  
So, many thanks, Ian, for a great device,  
Your puzzle really merits an epithet nice.



### General Comments:

- Wow!! I'm really stoked. A million thanks for my cheque. What a good start to the Xmas Season! *Judy Neck*
- Thank you for the cheque for last month's slot 2 prize and thank you Patrick for all you've done on the club's behalf – it's greatly appreciated by all our members, I'm sure. *Roy Wilson*
- Thank you for my prize for Quiz No 5, the Bee's Knees. It was fun to do, so thanks Ted for picking my name out of the hat, as I hadn't won a prize for yonks! When the cheque arrives it will be a welcome boost to the post Christmas budget. Happy Christmas to everyone in the ACC. *Irene Watts*
- Thanks for the Oxford book. Has someone in our all-seeing club sensed my need? Our appreciation of the efforts of all concerned in this club is heartfelt. May I wish all members a joyous festive season and a peaceful 2004. *Tom Phelan*
- It was a great *Crozworld* – as usual – and we're so lucky to be part of a wonderful club. *Shirl O'Brien*
- A question about grid symmetry that may be of interest to other members. Where does the convention come from? When is it acceptable to depart from symmetry? (I noticed that the Ximenes style grid in #5 was not fully symmetrical). *Drew Meek*
- Roddy Forman (known to UK crossworders as *Radix*) says: "Most serious crossword setters impose restraints upon themselves (grid symmetry, grid connectivity, entry lengths, unch patterns, clueing rules, and perhaps the most important of all by far, viz that elusive quality of 'fairness', so strongly insisted upon by both Afrit and Ximenes). These self-imposed restraints may pass unobserved by the majority of solvers, but they nonetheless tend to add immeasurably to the goodness of a good crossword."
- Many thanks to all the compilers who have kept us entertained and enigmatised with their puzzles during 2003. Happy Hogmanay, but don't 'hog many' drinks in the New Year. Here's looking forward to 2004's *Crozworlds*. *Alan Walter*
- Thanks to the committee for my prize of \$50 – of course it will go towards a reference book! Also thanks to the compilers and adjudicators who do such a great job each month. Special mention to *Virgo* and *Southern Cross* – so many of their clues made me smile – and I think that must be the test of a good clue. *Eva Seale*
- I get a lot of enjoyment from doing these crosswords each month. Congratulations to all concerned. *Chester Chance*

**Chambers Gigglossary** is a new online project that gives you the chance to write humorous definitions for words in a similar style to those in The Chambers Dictionary. *The Chambers Dictionary* is famous for its humorous and witty definitions. Although the most famous is probably that of **éclair** ("a cake long in shape but short in duration"), there are in fact many others. Check out the website: <http://www.chambersharrap.co.uk/chambers/gigglossary/index.php> Here are some recent contributions hoping to make it into print:

**accountant** a person who will prove that two and two did make four, but, after deducting professional fees, now only comes to three.

**bra burner** a woman who would rather rely on support from her fellow protestors.

**computer** an electronic time-saving device that is commonly used for time-wasting activities.

**DIY** an abbreviation for Damage-It-Yourself.

**home** an estate agent's word for a house.

**horrific** a word used to describe an accident on any occasion when 'tragic' is inappropriate.

**indicator board** a board displaying the time when a train or bus is scheduled to depart, as opposed to the actual departure time of the train or bus.

**monosyllable** a contradiction in terms.

**pyromania** a misplaced burning ambition.

**skiving** when one is working hard at not working at all.

**thatcher 1** a craftsman who for a charge will put a new roof over one's head. **2** (with *cap*) a politician who will charge for the existing roof over one's head.

**tree** in Ireland, the number that comes between two and four.

Try **Chambers Christmas Prize Crossword** at: <http://www.chambersharrap.co.uk/chambers/crossword/christmas/index.php>  
Entries close 10 January 2004.

## BOYS' WEEKEND

'Motive, means and opportunity, Siwel, that's what you need to identify a murderer!' So spoke Sergeant Esrom Christie to his long-suffering sidekick, PC Siwel. He was cheerful enough for an early Sunday morning as their police car sped toward the tiny resort town of Chorley on the Australian Gippsland coast – known locally as Gippsy-Chorley.

'Give it a break, Ez,' the less cheerful PC Siwel replied, 'we're not even CIB!' True, but they had been asked to take charge at a cliff-side guesthouse where a murder had apparently been committed. A crime investigation team had already been dispatched from regional HQ but would not arrive for several hours.

'You may scoff, Siwel, but I tell you there's a science to solving murders. As the evidence **builds, you rearrange the bits – with some uncertainty** <sup>(15d/9)</sup> at first – but soon it all falls into place. It's like solving a crossword puzzle: crack all the clues and it finally comes together!'

The guesthouse was a rambling old structure built in the 1930s. The policemen were met by two of the guests, Dale Moran and Simon Logan. The landlady was too overcome, had gone to a relative's in the town and would come by later when she felt better. Esrom asked his constable to check around the grounds and meet him inside, and then proceeded to take a **big look inside the residence**. <sup>(28a/5)</sup> It was rather wide with two storeys. On the ground floor were the entrance hall, large kitchen, dining room, ballroom and various lounge areas. Upstairs were some two dozen bedrooms and bathrooms on either side of a central corridor, with a staircase on each end. Simon and Dale led the sergeant to the victim's bedroom. As they entered the room he saw a body slumped over an escritoire at the far wall. The window was wide open and looked out over the cliff to the ocean. A small pool of blood had trickled onto the escritoire from the side of the victim's head, which seemed to have been crushed by a blow from a heavy object. There was no obvious murder weapon in sight. Dale had discovered the body after coming upstairs to find out why the victim, Eric Lang, had not come down for breakfast.

'We think it must have been an intruder in the middle of the night,' said Dale just as PC Siwel entered. Esrom asked his PC if he could describe what security was like outside.

'Yes, Sarge, **roughly – I screened the house** <sup>(1d/9)</sup> and grounds for clues. The backyard goes back to the edge of a cliff and the whole place is ringed by a fence that seems to go on forever,' he answered.

'Security can't be that tight with this so-called **surrounding 'limitless' fence not keeping** <sup>(17d/9)</sup> anyone out that's determined to get in,' remarked Dale offhandedly. 'And look, there seems to have been a struggle – lampshade tipped over, alarm clock on the floor...' PC Siwel picked up the alarm clock with a handkerchief and held it to his ear.

'It's stopped Sarge. That's a bit of luck: if it broke during the struggle it gives us the time of death. 8:45!' Esrom ignored him and pointed to a rather tall candle and a long Maglite torch on the escritoire. He asked Dale and Simon if there had been a blackout the previous night.

'Hey, bravo Detective!' chirped Dale brightly. 'Yes, there were gale force winds last night and the power went off about 7:30. It was out for about 50 minutes. Fortunately every bedroom has one of those torches in the bedside drawer and there were candles in the kitchen.'

'I'm not a detective,' Esrom reminded him curtly. 'CIB and a forensic team will be arriving soon. We're here to take preliminary statements. Siwel – what's that under the body?' PC Siwel lifted the body slightly to take a closer look.

'It's a partially written love letter, Sarge.' And with that he blushed a little comically.

'Come, come, Siwel, surely it can't be that embarrassing?' Esrom chided. 'Well, Sarge' he stammered, 'it's just that it starts off *Dearest Ed.*' Dale and Simon were taken aback. Dale described the victim as a 'man's man' – couldn't possibly be gay!

'Well, as my wife always says, you can't judge a book by its cover,' said Simon.

'Is your wife also a guest here?' asked Esrom.

'Winnie here? Good heavens, no!' chortled Simon, 'no women allowed!' He and Dale then explained the circumstances of the annual Boys' Weekend. Definitely no spouses permitted – in fact in most cases no one even knew each other's partners as they only met up once a year at this event. The boys had known each other since University and some as far back as high school. They had discovered this wonderful spot during their varsity days; the university film club held their annual 'Film Weekend' here. A group of them decided to keep coming back every year during the off-season. They were very friendly with the owners who would open up the place just for them. The guests did all their own cooking and cleaning and needed only Mrs. Lambert, the elderly landlady, to manage the place. ('She's like a mother to us, a real **angel – the old girl eats cheese** <sup>(21d/7)</sup> and crackers by the fire every night. Usually plays the organ for us but it's out of order right now.') There were only a disappointing five guests this year, though usually at least a dozen would turn up. The other guests were Jack Regan and Larry Lorne.

After Dale and Simon finished their explanation, PC Siwel noticed a small bruise on Simon's cheek. 'Nasty bruise you have there, sir,' he said ingenuously. 'Get it last night?' Simon reddened at the implicit accusation.

'I stumbled down the stairs during the blackout,' he retorted, eyeing Siwel severely. Dale immediately corroborated this, being at the bottom when Simon had come tumbling down. Siwel returned Simon's gaze firmly, but let it drop. Sergeant Esrom barely hid his amusement at the constable's suspicions but said nothing. Instead he asked Dale to set up a private room wherein the interviews could take place and to send in each of the four guests one by one.

Dale Moran was himself the first to enter the interview room and sat opposite the policeman at a large table. He was slim and softly spoken with boyish good looks and seemed quite affable – even cheerful, superficially. 'Mr. Moran, would you mind telling us your occupation?' asked Esrom.

'I'm a poet,' said Dale brightly. Esrom and PC Siwel stared back at him silently. Dale sighed and continued more soberly. 'I'm a copywriter. I write verse and jingles for advertising slogans.' Esrom asked him to describe the events of last night.

'We had a lovely seafood dinner, if I may say so myself. Everyone chips in for the weekend's food and I volunteered to do the cooking – I adore cooking. After dinner, about 7:30 – just before the blackout – I went off to the TV room while Simon cleaned up. Simon and I had plans to play some cards and watch TV after dinner. Eric went up to his room to 'do a bit of paperwork' and Larry said he was going for an early night. Strange guy, Larry – he comes every single year but he doesn't mix that well. He was a bit of a geek at school. Got bullied a lot, poor guy. While everyone else is doing water sports or hang-gliding he's out there collecting insects or something. Good card player, though. He sometimes slips out at night – probably koala-spotting! We heard him trying to sneak back in last night about midnight through the kitchen door but it was **secured by key, and obstructed** <sup>(23a/7)</sup> his entrance. He had to come in the front.

'Jack Regan went to the local pub after dinner – been friendly with some of the locals for years. Though he probably lost a few friends after what happened the previous night! Eric and Jack both arrived early on Friday night and went to the pub together. He likes a drink does Jack and when he's had a few can get a bit aggressive. Some people get upset by his verbal **offerings** – **acceptable behaviour around people** (18d/9) not being his strong point. There was some karaoke party going on and he interrupted it. It was the microphone he was trying to **appropriate and right** (13a/7) away caused a fracas. As the rest of us were arriving Eric was giving Jack some **help back in the pub, as an Asian** (20d/6) guy seemed to have been offended by something he said. He was **forced to leave – after resistance – refused** (1a/8) admission altogether. Still, he decides not to **retreat and remains to crash** (5a/6) the party! I guess Eric must have helped sort it all out, but I dare say they didn't endear themselves to the locals that night.'

'How well did you know the victim?' asked Esrom.

'Oh, very well, I liked Eric a lot. I'm shocked by what's happened. In fact he was probably the only person that kept in touch with the boys outside of the annual Boys' Weekend. He's helped me out quite a bit. I get occasional bouts of depression and Eric has always been there for me. At one time I'd reached **the lowest point and somehow I got right** (14a/5) with his help. He has – *had* – a reputation as a bit of a wheeler-dealer. I heard he talked Simon into a get-rich-quick scheme that eventually went bad. Relations between them did seem a little strained this weekend.

'When did you last see Eric Lang?' asked Esrom.

'I suppose it was when the power blackout started. He made his way downstairs to the kitchen using his torch and I'd also felt my way there. Simon had already found a couple of candles and Eric wanted to take them both but Simon and I wanted one for our card game. Anyway, they each last about an hour so I told him one should do him until the power came back on. He went back upstairs to his room leading the way for Simon who went to get the torch and a pack of cards from his own room. When Simon came back down we went to the TV room and played a bit of cards by candlelight until the power came back on. After the return of **power minutes before, light left off** (8d/5) downstairs was switched back on – by Simon. That was a little before 8:30, just in time for an episode of Inspector Morse.'

'So, at 8:45 you were watching TV with Mr. Logan,' PC Siwel commented. 'Yes, that's right. Afterwards we played cribbage over some port and cheese until the small hours. Puts me in the clear, I guess, doesn't it?' said Dale merrily. Esrom asked if they played for money. 'Well, yes – but only small stakes – just to keep it interesting – we don't play for sheep stations or anything,' Dale replied a little nervously. Esrom handed Dale a notepad and asked him to write down his name, occupation and address. Dale complied and then left the room and went to send in the next interviewee. Esrom asked PC Siwel for his opinion.

'Sounds genuine enough to me, Ez' replied PC Siwel, 'though he seemed a bit anxious toward the end.'

'Yes. Could be nothing, but we'll soon see. Eventually, anyone who **lies gets exposed – poets** (30a/8) included!'

Larry Lorne came in next, introduced himself and took his place. He was rather slim with bony features and curly hair. His thick, twisted lips and bushy eyebrows made a scowl his natural expression. 'How well did you know Mr. Lang?' asked Esrom.

'We were at school together but never friendly. He was always big on sports while I preferred more scholarly pursuits. He was always picking on me – resented my higher IQ. He's very popular with the boys nowadays but I steer clear of him. A bit too slick for my liking. And now I just heard he was gay! Huh! That's typical – macho and homophobic on

the surface and a closet homosexual underneath! We don't know who this Ed guy is, though.'

'What did you do yesterday, sir?' asked PC Siwel, pen and notepad at the ready.

'We weren't sure if the weather was going to be good but it turned out quite sunny,' Larry began. He spoke briskly and disjointedly. 'I went for a bush walk. Jack was rapt **about the sun and left to fly high over** (6d/5) the cliffs in his hang-glider! That's just a minor **outing to Jack, relative** (2d/5) to his usual escapades. He's a real macho type, bit of a bigot, always drinking and brawling – got done for grievous bodily harm once, I think. He's real smug, too – just because he's got good looks. Always bragging about his latest girlfriend! Last year he even beat me at bridge! I was determined to get my own back this weekend – if I could find anyone to partner me, that is. Don't know what the others did yesterday – probably went with Jack, although I did see Dale later in the afternoon in the town shopping for groceries – I was at the gift shop buying this fantastic brass figurine for a...friend.' Larry seemed to pull himself short toward the end and his eyes shifted.

'Oh, I'd like to see that,' remarked PC Siwel. 'Er, I'm afraid it's all wrapped up,' responded Larry evasively.

'What happened in the evening?' prompted Esrom.

'Dinner was disgusting: **ruddy shellfish! Scrambled** (3d/9) eggs was my only alternative! Like, sure – those guys really forgot I'm allergic to seafood! Afterwards I went straight to bed to read. Mrs. Lambert used to play music in the evenings but I had to make do with **a lesser activity, not having the organ to listen** (4d/7) to this year. My plan was to **hastily eat and retire - repeat** (7d/9) *retire*: I had no intention of staying up after dinner. When the sun's **setting deeply, I go back to bedclothes!** (19a/9). I was there all night, never left my room.' Larry was quite agitated as he spoke all this. Esrom and Siwel gave each other sideways glances, so obvious was his discomfort. After taking down his contact details Esrom thanked him and asked him to send in the next person.

Simon Logan entered nervously and sat down with a haughty and somewhat defiant expression, as if expecting to be grilled. He was tall and gaunt but rather dapper in his designer clothing, and well spoken. Esrom tried to put him at ease with a genial opening. 'So you play cribbage sir? I'm a dab hand at it myself.'

'Oh, yes, well all the boys play lots of cards – poker, bridge, cribbage – you name it. Those who didn't play before learned fast – the weather's not always good and we often end up staying indoors. Some are keener than others, though – Larry for instance. He always wants to set a new **game record – from points against Jack, perhaps,** (16a/9) or anyone else who challenges his self-professed supremacy.' Simon was more at ease now – almost jovial.

'What else can you tell us about Larry Lorne?' asked Esrom.

'Single, bit of a loner. He's a **bachelor to a jot – fauna and flora** (23d/5) are his main preoccupation.'

'Mr. Moran says you both heard Mr. Lorne reentering last night about midnight. Is that so?' 'Yes, we heard him all right, though I don't think he wanted to be heard. God knows what he does around here at that time of night – as if we care. We'd been up playing cards ever since Inspector Morse finished – we both enjoy that program. We went to bed a couple of hours later. To think poor Eric had been dead all that time and none of us knew it.

'Are you close to Mr. Moran?' asked PC Siwel. 'Not particularly, though Dale's a nice enough chap really – quite popular with the ladies though he seems to ignore them. Although single and **eligible, Dale's to be found around the betting shop** (12a/7) most of the time. Gambles a little too much, if you ask me.'

'And just how good a gambler is he?' inquired Esrom.

'**Fair – primarily cool with an inclination** (22a/5) to take occasional big risks – at least at cards. Got a bit of a gambling debt, I believe. I happen to know that Eric helped him out with some loans recently. I noticed he was acting a little strangely at dinner last night. He appeared – even though he prepared a **lavish meal – depressed, caught in a spell** (25a/4-3) it almost seemed. Like he was **deciding about clearing something up**. (11a/9) Probably my imagination.'

'How well did you know Eric Lang?' 'We were pretty close actually – I'm devastated by his death and I'll give you any help I can to identify the culprit. He was popular with everyone – well, obviously not *everyone*...' 'Did you have any business dealings with him?' asked Esrom.

'Just the once – he convinced me and the wife to invest some venture capital in a start-up company with him. Didn't go so well unfortunately, we all lost a bit money – but I don't hold that against him. It was only a few thousand dollars – play money, really – and besides that we all knew the risks involved – not his fault at all. And not a reason to kill him,' he added with a blush.

'All right Mr. Logan,' said Esrom gently, 'no one's accusing you of anything. Could you please write down your name, occupation and address for us.' Simon Logan took an expensive monogrammed pen from his pocket and began writing.

'That's a very nice pen you have there, sir,' said PC Siwel eyeing him carefully.

'My wife's, actually,' responded Simon casually, without looking up. 'Must've accidentally left the house with it in my pocket.' When he had left PC Siwel turned anxiously to Esrom.

'Did you see that pen, Ez? It was monogrammed EL – the same initials as the murder victim – Eric Lang! The guy's got guilt written all over him.'

'Simmer down, Siwel! You don't kill a man and then steal his pen! Besides, he didn't look like he would miss a few grand. We have one more interview left – let's wait until after that before we start jumping to conclusions...'

Jack Regan showed no signs of nervousness at all. He almost swaggered in. He was below average height but stocky and powerfully built. He sat down and faced the policemen as if preparing for a scrap. Sergeant Esrom Christie, however, was not one to back down from a fight. They sat in silence for a minute like battle lines awaiting the order to attack. Esrom broke the silence. 'Not too popular with the locals, I hear,' he observed dryly. Jack Regan guffawed in genuine amusement.

'Some of them look upon me like a fishbone caught in their **gullets and desperately hope I go as** (27a/9) far away as possible.'

'Been in trouble with the law before, have you sir?' asked PC Siwel pointedly. 'Only once and it was not my fault. Some guy made a pass at me in a pub loo! I had to smack him around a bit to teach him a lesson – what else could I do? Anyway, it was a first offence and I only got community service.' Jack positively grinned as he related this story.

'You don't seem that upset about your friend getting killed,' asserted PC Siwel. 'Of course I am,' Jack retorted angrily. 'He was a good pal – my drinking buddy. He would have been my Best Man – if I ever got married.'

'You're engaged?' Asked Esrom. 'Nah – never been in a hurry to tie the knot. Though my latest girlfriend, Kay, might tempt me. She's a real honey – a supermodel, travels a lot – spends a lot of time **travelling around New York – nevertheless**, (29a/6) one day I might walk her down the aisle if she

behaves. Earlier this week she sent me a **letter from Greece, sounds like Kay – apparently the first four** (24d/5) days there – had a shoot on some bigshot's yacht. She's a bit of a high-flyer! I was on holiday when I first met her – she bought me a drink.'

'Oh really, and where was that, then?' asked PC Siwel sarcastically feigning fascination. He suppressed a nearly irresistible urge to reach across, seize the braggart by the neck and throttle him.

'Oh, in some **South Caribbean Island dive**, (10a/5) Jack replied, oblivious to the rhetorical nature of the question.

'When did you come in from the pub last night?' asked Esrom, changing tack.

'I don't know – about midnight. It's within walking distance. I was there the whole time; I went straight after dinner. Eric was meant to join me later on but he never showed. I should have known there was something wrong in that. He's never let me down before.'

'So, you must have got quite a shock when you heard your good ol' drinking buddy was gay,' said Esrom deliberately provoking him. Jack's eyebrows closed ranks and his reply was punctuated by jabs of a stubby forefinger.

'Eric Lang was not gay,' he said menacingly. 'I don't care about any so-called love letter – it's a mistake. I knew him and he was as straight as I am.'

Esrom shoved a notepad across the table at him. 'Name, occupation and address,' he said stiffly, 'and then you can go back to the others – please ask everyone to wait for us in the main lounge; we'll join you shortly.'

'Well, Siwel,' said Sergeant Esrom Christie, 'that's all of them. What do you think?'

'My money's still on an intruder,' replied PC Siwel. 'Maybe someone who was upset during the previous night's brawl at the pub.'

'Perhaps, but the idea of **Gipsy-Chorley harbouring some kind of maniac** (9d/6) killer doesn't ring true to me.'

'Well then how about that Simon Logan? I know he has a watertight alibi but maybe Dale Moran's covering for him. I still think Logan got that facial bruise during the struggle with the victim.'

Esrom smiled knowingly. 'Actually, I'm not convinced there really was a struggle. Try again.'

'OK, then Jack Regan. He's got a rep for violence. Could've slipped away from the pub around 8:45, maybe pretending to go to the loo.'

'I'll bet his alibi for that time holds up under scrutiny, though,' Esrom remarked. 'Any other ideas?'

'Well, that Larry Lorne's got no alibi at all. **On top of everything, only Larry Lorne's account seriously jars** (26d/5) with the others. Maybe he was getting back at Eric for the way he was treated at school.'

'Good gracious,' laughed Esrom, 'you mean *Revenge of the Nerd*?' PC Siwel frowned and folded his arms petulantly.

'Well what's your theory then, Ez? I suppose you've already solved your "crossword puzzle" and know all the answers?' Siwel said huffily.

'But of course!' said Esrom, patting his colleague amiably on the back. 'Come, Siwel, they're all waiting for us in the lounge. Let's move quickly before CIB get here and spoil the fun. It's time to expose the murderer.'

*To be continued...*

## FETCHING BLETCHINGLY

This puzzle was published in 1942. If a solver could complete it in 12 minutes, the solver would be considered for a post at Bletchingly, the UK war-time code-cracking establishment. Feel free to send your completed grid and timing to: Maurice Cowan, 14 Waratah St, O'Connor Act 2602.

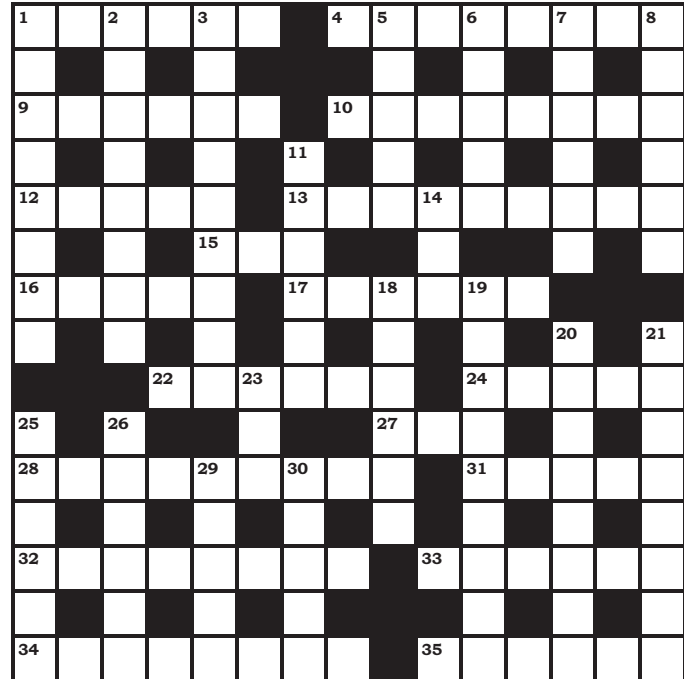


### Across

- 1 A stage company (6)
- 4 The direct route preferred by the Roundheads (5,3)
- 9 One of the evergreens (6)
- 10 Scented (8)
- 12 Course with an apt finish (5)
- 13 Much that could be got from a timber merchant (5,4)
- 15 We have nothing and are in debt (3)
- 16 Pretend (5)
- 17 Is this town ready for a flood? (6)
- 22 The little fellow has some beer: it makes me lose colour, I say (6)
- 24 Fashion of a famous French family (5)
- 27 Tree (3)
- 28 One might use this tool to core an apple (9)
- 31 Once used for unofficial currency (5)
- 32 Those well brought up help these over stiles (4,4)
- 33 A sport in a hurry (6)
- 34 Is the workshop that turns out this part of a motor a hush-hush affair? (8)
- 35 An illumination functioning (6)

### Down

- 1 Official instruction not to forget the servants (8)
- 2 Said to be a remedy for a burn (5,3)
- 3 Kind of alias (9)
- 5 A disagreeable company (5)
- 6 Debtors may have to this money for their debts unless their creditors do it to the debts (5)
- 7 Boat that should be able to suit anyone (6)
- 8 Gear (6)
- 11 Business with the end in sight (6)
- 14 The right sort of woman to start a dame school (3)
- 18 "The War" (anag) (6)
- 19 When hammering take care to hit this (5,4)
- 20 Making sound as a bell (8)
- 21 Half a fortnight of old (8)
- 23 Bird, dish of coin (3)
- 25 This sign of the Zodiac has no connection with the Fishes (6)
- 26 A preservative of teeth (6)
- 29 Famous sculptor (5)
- 30 This part of the locomotive engine would sound familiar to the golfer (5)



## Conundrum

[Originally published in a Cambridge (UK) newspaper, date unknown.]

I sit on a rock whilst I'm raising the wind,  
 But the storm once abated, I'm gentle and kind,  
 I've Kings at my feet, who await but my nod  
 To kneel in the dust on the ground I have trod.  
 Though seen to the world, I'm known to but few;  
 The gentile detests me, I'm pork to a Jew.  
 I've never passed but one night in the dark,  
 And that was with Noah, alone in the Ark.  
 My weight is three pounds, my length is a mile,  
 And when I'm discovered you'll say with a smile,  
 That my first and my last are the best in the Isle.

[Send your solution to Catherine Foster, 36 Sixth St, Boolaroo NSW 2284.]

## NEAT CLUES

- 1. Guide for European actor (4,4)
  - 2. Runner has zero energy (4)
  - 3. Swift little creature (11)
  - 4. Fabricated party lantern that is out of this world (14)
  - 5. Casus belli not found post-war - CIA messes up (7,2,4,11)
  - 6. Day? No! Thing changes (5)
- [Solutions next month.]

## NEW WORDS for 2003

The *Washington Post* asked readers to take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting or changing one letter and supply a new definition. These are some of the 2003 winners [courtesy of Brian Symons]:

- **Intaxication:** Euphoria at getting a tax refund which lasts until you realize it was your money to start with.
- **Reintarnation:** Coming back to life as a hillbilly.
- **Giraffiti:** Vandalism spray painted very, very high.
- **Sarchasm:** The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it.
- **Inoculatte:** To take coffee intravenously when you are running late.
- **Osteopornosis:** A degenerate disease.
- **Glibido:** All talk and no action.
- **Caterpallor:** The color you turn after finding half a grub in the fruit you are eating.
- **Arachnoleptic fit:** The frantic dance performed just after you've accidentally walked through a spider web.
- **Dopeler effect:** The tendency of stupid ideas to seem smarter when they come at you rapidly.
- **Beelzebug:** Satan in the form of a mosquito that gets into your bedroom at three in the morning and cannot be cast out.
- **Decafalon:** The gruelling event of getting though the day consuming only things that are good for you.
- **Bozone:** The substance surrounding stupid people that stops bright ideas from penetrating. The bozone layer unfortunately shows little sign of breaking down in the near future.
- **Cashtration:** The act of buying a house which renders the subject financially impotent for an indefinite period.