



|N|o.|2|4|2| |J|U|N|E| |2|0|1|0|



www.crosswordclub.org



Books do not exhaust words, nor words thoughts.
Chinese Proverb

|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|

There is a new TV quiz program called 'Letters and Numbers' to be aired on SBS later this year. The publicity states: "Are you fanatical about figures and fancy a word or 2? If you excel at anagrams and mental arithmetic, we invite you to become part of our equation. Contestants will pit their lexical dexterity and numerical agility against each other and the clock." To register your interest, please log on to sbs.com.au/lettersandnumbers. It is believed that the Quiz will be looking for contestants from Melbourne initially but plan to extend the program to interstate contestants. We have more details about the program on p9. Why not register your interest and show people how brilliant you are?

It's a good time to mention how we value the never-ending work of our Adjudicators. We could not exist without their unfailing assistance and we sincerely appreciate how onerous their work can be in checking hundreds of grids and then providing the results in a timely fashion so that each *CroZworld* can be published such a short time after the closing mail date. Thanks a lot!

This month we have another challenging set of puzzles and a Quiz for you expertly chosen by our skilful Puzzle Set-up person Ian Williams. Favourites include *Southern Cross*, *Timid Terrier* and *Penobscot*. We welcome two new compilers *Whynot?* and *Kaiela* in the Slots 2 and 4. The Slot 6 puzzle is another beauty by the dynamic duo *Barney Naga* and the Quiz titled *Nothing to Shriek About* by Brian Symons will keep you amused for quite a while.

And there are details on p9 about the forthcoming Christmas in July Get-Together. We have an easy xwd, a sparkling Quiz and some wonderful prizes to give away. We are hoping that all of the Victorian members will make the trip and make the day a memorable one indeed. Interstate members are more than welcome too! Happy CroZworlding!
—Patrick

On a cold winter's night what could be nicer than to curl up before a nice fire with a glass of something warm and soothing and a challenging crossword? Or, in the case of your loyal adjudicator, ten or twenty from all over the country. Some from old friends, some well-recognised names, some new ones. Some from brains "infinitely wiser than ours", others who won't score a single dot (and will wonder whether their letter arrived). But each one precious. Then the cutoff date and the frantic assembling of results, cross-checking like a treasurer on budget eve – must be 100% correct but no time to waste. So it's over for me for another year but just the start of another month for our indefatigable Editor.

Slot 1: Few problems with this line and length from *Jesso*, though AWN produced a few interesting variations. IRONICAL was another common error.

Slot 2: A high success rate for this one from *The Eager Beaver* (our Secretary, Bev Cockburn). FLED for FLEW was one of the few consistent inconsistencies.

Slot 3: TRANSLATER spoiled many otherwise perfect grids and ABSOLUTIST was the downfall of many, but what surprised this adjudicator was the number who had the "daily double" – TRANSLATER AND ABSOLUTIST! 2ac could have been either PARISITIC (a non-word) or PARASITIC (which doesn't fit the clue) so we accepted either. Many COTM nominations for *Pindar* (John Brotherton).

Slot 4: EIDOLON was a popular lacuna, as was HYPED. *St Jude* (Andrew Meek) managed to insert a few curly ones, but greatly appreciated by many.

Slot 5: Quite a few DIMWITS among the NITWITS and a few PISTOLIERS but otherwise few mistakes in a well-received puzzle.

COTM: In a race to the wire, *Crowsman's* FLIBBERTIGIBBET and *Pindar's* COCHAIRMAN were equal favourite. *Crowsman* would have been Cluer of the Month if there were such a thing. By a remarkable coincidence, most of this month's prizewinners had cast a vote.

The old problem of blank cells seems to be on the rise; if you lost a dot when your original looks perfect, that may be the reason. Of course, those of us who are net-connected and use our *e-lodgement* system don't have that problem. Speaking of which, much credit should be given to Ian Williams, who each month handles the *e-judication* – coaching newcomers in its operation, sorting out their technical problems, and collating results etc. That's apart from his duties as puzzle coordinator.
—Doug Butler

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

Puzzle No.	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Entries received	105	105	103	94	91	498
Correct entries	83	97	68	71	52	371
Success rate (%)	79.0	92.4	66.0	75.5	57.1	74.5
Prizewinners	J Smith A Simons	D Grainger C Wilcox	R Caine N Storey	M Procter	C Noble A Shield	from 107 members

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

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Prizewinner: May 2010 Slots 1-5: Margaret Pyc

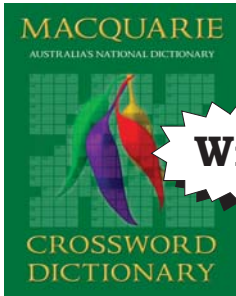
|L|E|A|D|I|N|G| |L|I|G|H|T|S|

President	Patrick Street	395 Canning St, North Carlton Vic 3054	Ph (03) 9347 1216	pstreet@bigpond.net.au
Secretary	Bev Cockburn	12 Norman St, Merrylands West NSW 2160	Ph (02) 9635 7802	bevco4@bigpond.com
Puzzle/Quiz submission	Ian Williams	12 Lindrum Cres, Holt ACT 2615	Ph (02) 6254 6860	ianw@webone.com.au

J	U	N	E		
2	0	1	0		
S	L	O	T		1

Half 'n Half
by
Timid Terrier

Prizes: \$50



Win!

[2007 edn]

1		2		3		4			5	6		7		8
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11			12						13					
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					34		35							
36				37							38	39		
				40				41		42				
43								44						
				45										
46									47					

Across

- 1 Miserable, wretched (7)
- 5 Refund (6)
- 9 Artist's frame (5)
- 11 Achieved. Procured (8)
- 13 A small carnivore (6)
- 14 Aged (3)
- 15 Old American airways (3,2)
- 16 Portico, covered colonnade (4)
- 17 Opponents (6)
- 18 Baked (7)
- 22 Droop. Fall (5)
- 24 Coloured insects (3,4)
- 27 Instalment (7)
- 29 Sailor (7)
- 31 Poets (literary) (5)
- 34 Dislikes, Loathes (7)
- 36 Birthplace of St. Francis (6)
- 38 Bucket (4)
- 40 Sharp, pointed (5)
- 42 Jewel (3)
- 43 Feeling of being there before (4,2)
- 44 Veneer, layer (8)
- 45 Sea-eagles (5)
- 46 A monosaccharide sugar (6)
- 47 Passage (7)

Down

- 1 Splashes female insect with sulphur (7)
- 2 Artist also a chief in Fiji (5)
- 3 Rank-smelling duck cover (4)
- 4 New English record for Scottish turnip (4)
- 5 Compensated minor in grass (8)
- 6 Some hazel emits fragrant resin (5)
- 7 Resist sailor's slur (7)
- 8 Registers Spain's new catalogues (7)
- 10 Modify commercial apartment (5)
- 12 Scare man with branch (5)
- 19 Public work at heart of Kent (4)
- 20 Wasp Irene concealed on flower spike (5)
- 21 Wear down first of European staff at back of Bourke? (5)
- 23 Meadow features oleanders (3)
- 25 Obligation of model after couch is returned (4)
- 26 Point up to fox (3)
- 28 Physical education for woman to heal with cosmetic treatment (8)
- 29 Wind unkind communist up (7)
- 30 Speed up employment for work needed quickly (4,3)
- 32 Tree snake starts emerging at the end of Autumn (5)
- 33 Striking stranger in street (7)
- 35 Name bird at start of legislation with drug (5)
- 37 Protects first of sanctuary birds (5)
- 39 Collect American donkey (5)
- 41 Part of Orient feast (4)
- 42 Gail shot venomous lizard (4)

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

Slots 1-5: **Betty Siegman, 3 Burrawong St, Bateau Bay NSW 2261.**
e-mail: betty_siegman@hotmail.com
Closing mail date: **Friday 25 June 2010.**
e-lodgment: ianw@webone.com.au
Slot 6: **Jeremy Barnes, 4 Iraga Ave Wollongong West NSW 2500.**
e-mail: barnes2500@gmail.com
Closing mail date: **9 July 2010.**

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

J	U	N	E		
2	0	1	0		
S	L	O	T		2

Cryptic by Whynot?



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29														
				30										

Across

- 1 Like migrating geese, producing good oil! (11)
- 9 Sport played in turbulent pool (4)
- 10 Prisoner joined and now can't think straight (8)
- 11 Direction that audience will not stand for (2,6)
- 13 Safely train to hold cases for wings (6)
- 14 The best story revealing where the executives often are (3,5)
- 16 After cure, journalist improved (7)
- 19 Placing gold on heavyweight cover, to keep out the weather (7)
- 22 Having knobby outgrowths, tangled, unloosed (8)
- 25 Indeed? Yes! Make friends again (6)
- 26 Germs in atmosphere etc going back to academic (8)
- 28 Fire perhaps, having no pattern (8)
- 29 We're told water escaping may be used in soup (4)
- 30 Deb slides D.W. around for conjugal ecstasy (6,5)

Down


- 2 Food item used to get ahead? (6)

3 Artificial leg, not on at first, used as piece of cricket

- equipment (3,5)
- 4 Celebration in front of ancient field leads to barbarous act (8)
- 5 Old tender piece is a juicy item (6)
- 6 Resistance units – a law unto themselves (4)
- 7 Mail opening? Dig this one! (4-4)
- 8 Think of us around circle of great weight (9)
- 12 Sprite-like entertaining finale, but missing one character (5)
- 15 Savages left cannabis strewn around (9)
- 17 Strung out, sum up edict incorrectly (8)
- 18 Mark found on a board left in tide (5)
- 20 Above, the cargo is an excessive one (8)
- 21 Book into old African province with student – it's a pleasure! (3,2,3)
- 23 Expunged seared mess (6)
- 24 Shellfish containing iodine will lead to insurance demands (6)
- 27 Libertine found in the garden shed? (4)

GENERAL COMMENTS:

- Many thanks for the neat little book prize for the clue writing comp. I was really chuffed to win this as I have entered the Clue Writing Competition every time and this was my first success. *Brian Symons*
- Many thanks for the prize I received (and for the others in the past) for Slot 3 in the April *Crozworld*. I received the cheque almost on my 80th birthday, making it even more exciting. Although I can only do up to about 3, and am nowhere near as proficient as a lot of the others, I have always felt that it is important to keep my brain going and therefore spend a lot of time just thinking and trying to work them out. Unfortunately I don't always complete them in time. Thanks again Patrick. *Heather Zucal*
- Delighted to come home and find a prize at my door. *Rosemary Dorrell*
- Thank you so much for my win and cheque for Puzzle Two in April, and also congratulations on reaching 10 years of publishing your wonderful magazine. *Nancy Hazell*
- Thank you so much for my prize cheque. It was an unexpected and welcome surprise. *Margaret Raw*
- Thank you all for my gorgeous copy of *Brewer's* – a double surprise as I only had one slot correct last month. *Helen Annand*
- I've been busy learning a lot of lines and Sondheim songs so far this year ... great fun but leaving no time for crosswords. Now I'm treating myself to some relaxing train travel: Perth-Sydney-Wagga-Melbourne-Kaniva-Adelaide (with 3 days on the Murray)-Perth with lots of crosswords and reading. The batch this month has been very good. *Ross Bryant*
- ... the usual mixture of hard, harder and "that's a new word; what does it mean?" but all fair and doable. No Clue of the Month from me. *Bev Cockburn*
- An interesting lot – several new words to add to my ever-expanding vocabulary. *Bob Hagan*
- It is a long time since I managed to finish all five puzzles. *Valerie Howard*

J U N E 2 0 1 0 S L O T 3
<h2 style="margin: 0;">Cryptic by Southern Cross</h2>


1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8
9						10								
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				24										
25										26				
27						28								

Across

- 1 "Evangelist's Hour" awaits developments (5,4)
- 6 Do students yen for a moppet? (5)
- 9 Conduct a meeting in professor's office (5)
- 10 Mixing sour spirits for us ... (9)
- 11 ... as whisky might be served – broken down (2,3,5)
- 12 Briefcase contains something to go with crackers (4)
- 14 Dawdle out with the model's garbage (7)
- 15 Arrested traitors finally beheaded (7)
- 17 Outline scam when travelling (7)
- 19 Model bashful about naming poet (7)
- 20 I have two and there are three in the yard (4)
- 22 Open cut getting approval across the road (4,3,3)
- 25 Anyhow, salt and dried stalks could be what broke the camel's back (4,5)
- 26 Nothing atomic in derelict tub? It could go under (1-4)
- 27 Cries out for the old records (5)
- 28 Directions given about treatment of spores in coffee-making machines (9)

Down

- 1 Boy's Mamma chose part that's aggressively male (5)
- 2 Livestock carrier rode, we hear, with coach (4-5)
- 3 Show picture on entry – something to keep out undesirable (6,4)
- 4 Press or extractor initially the source of Hancock fortune (4,3)
- 5 Son beneath stockade cries on discovery (7)
- 6 Fabric worker could have followed 6 across (4)
- 7 Sporting champ's arrangement of Ravel (5)
- 8 Beatles' favourite revived very recently (9)
- 13 Changed place of residence and made way for units (5,5)
- 14 Taken first to a court quite discreetly (9)
- 16 Tiger under tree in Queensland town (9)
- 18 Go back over poetry (7)
- 19 The hands, having to eat out, become emotionally disturbed (5,2)
- 21 Stand taken by artist when lease is broken (5)
- 23 Abominable creatures one's following still (5)
- 24 Requests coming in for vacuum flasks (4)

GENERAL COMMENTS (contd)

- The puzzles were not too bad overall, but once again I've run out of time – life is so busy between work, grandchildren and all the other things. Maybe once I retire?
Barb Ibbott
- What on earth did I do before my Croz membership? Thank you Club of the Millennium. A special thankyou to your foundation member Meg Pyc, who joined me up!
Dale McManus
- Not an easy month, though I fear I'm starting to lose the plot. Can't see myself finishing Slot 6.
Shirl O'Brien
- Thanks again for another month of fun – and head-scratching.
Anne Simons
- Challenging but enjoyable.
Cheryl Wilcox
- Sincere thanks to the ACC for my April 2010 Slots 1-5 prize. It is much appreciated & will be put to good use.
Alan Walter

Apropos of ...

• With Jessica Watson's epic voyage in the news, the following remarks are topical: When will TV talking heads stop referring to the Cape of Good Hope as the southernmost tip of Africa? It is not. And I wonder who was responsible for the entry in *Macquarie Dictionary*

(2nd ed.) Sir Francis Chichester as the "first person to sail around the world single-handed. He was not. Correctly, Cape Agulhas is the southernmost tip and Joshua Slocum the first to sail solo round the world, Sir Robin Knox-Johnston the first to do so non-stop.

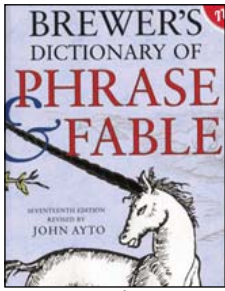
Peter C Dearie

A Clarification

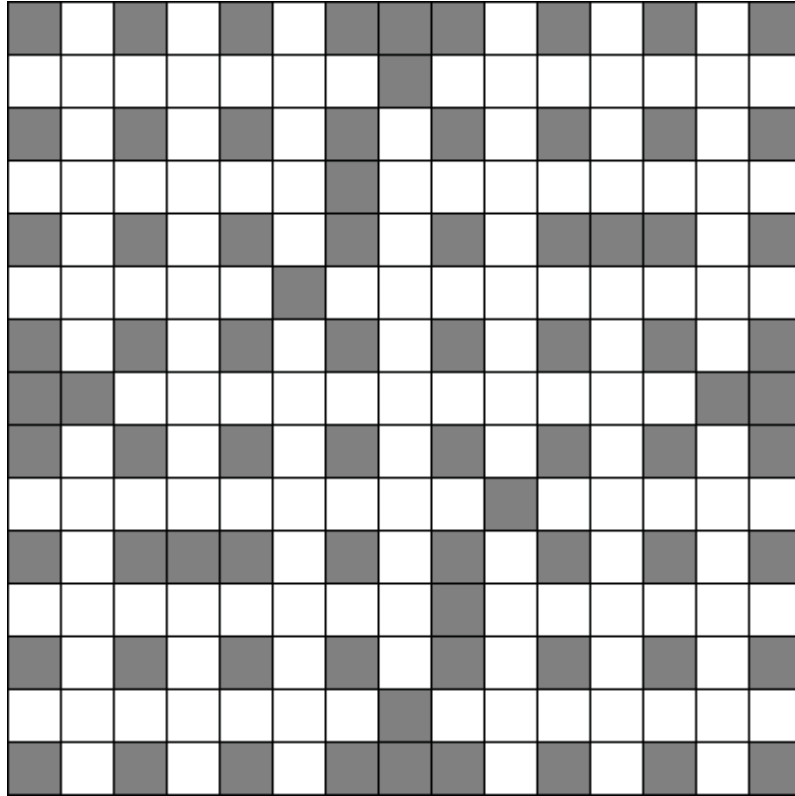
- My apologies to all new members, who through not knowing my name, lost a precious dot in April Slot 1. I AM AN ORIGINAL, some might even say eidolic (I only appear now and again). A Member since first joining ACC I have been fortunate to win numerous book & cash prizes, the latest being a Slot 1-5 last year. I am an avid solver of all the puzzles and enjoy members' comments etc. I HOPE to participate more often in the future. *Odette Greenberger*
- I thought other members might get a laugh, as I did, from this clue which appeared in a recent *Guardian* Crossword in *The Courier Mail*. Clue: Tool for Australian cricketers, say? (6). Solution - PLIERS.
Catherine Hambling
- Another similar from a CT *Guardian*: Plants to make shopping bags for Sheilas? (7) Solution - KERRIAS.
IMW

J	U	N	E		
2	0	1	0		
S	L	O	T		4

AJ
by
Kaiela



[rrp: \$65]



Solutions begin with the given letter. Solve the clues and place the solutions in the grid, jigsaw-wise, where they fit

- A** Abnormal angst. Time for taking stock (9)
- B** Cuckoo with intellect? No, he's stupid (9)
- C** Acid found in illicit rice (6)
- D** Tenderfoot firstly does up dangly earrings (4)
- E** Compass point damaged. Mishap admitted. Caused stress (9)
- F** Measure Heather's little fish (11)
- G** Eaten (chewed) (digested) by sentry – that's for sure (10)
- H** Recklessly hanker after boss (8)
- I** Thin Rene is confused and it's innate (8)
- J** Amusing for Marj to scour lead roof regularly inside (7)
- K** Tie the ranks up in a knot (4)
- L** Air bell burst at party (7)
- M** Learning to note rebellion (10)
- N** Unhealthy to give nobelium to disorderly Sioux (7)
- O** Oh my! Sound commonsense is foreboding (7)
- P** Earnestly asks "Start to put right all your sins" (5)
- Q** Drug one of five in Spain (7)
- R** Hear you are back inside. Gee, I'm sorry (5)
- S** The principal is at the table on the right (9)
- T** Big bird with no guard (7)
- U** Hidden in recessive knees, nurse! (6)
- V** An enterprise without notice – some daring (11)
- W** Be aware! Piece of material has no point! (5)
- X** Vote on the fourth of July against consonants representing chemicals (7)
- Y** Measure gun at the end of the pole (7)
- Z** Tribesmen took primarily zebras using long, untipped spears (5)

COMPILER PROFILES:

1. Whynot? (Tony Dobeles)

I first attempted writing crosswords when I combined them with an interest in boating. I built a 'Jarcat 5' plywood boat and for one year wrote 'straight' crosswords for a monthly nautical magazine. Gave up boating after a bit and nowadays my wife and I (although both still working) are what we delight in calling 'transitioning to retirement' and indulging our son and 2yo grandson, and our daughter – they're 600 and 2000km away but we do have Skype! We're looking forward to the birth of grandchild number two in November.

2. Kaiela (Anne Simons)


Retired ex-teacher and dairy farmer. Interests – horses, cards, crosswords. "Kaiela" was the name of the dairy farm.

Results of Quiz 4/2010: The Ends Justify the Means by Ted (Ted O'Brien)

Entries: 26. Winner: Margaret Steinberger. Congratulations!
Results: 16: Warren Allen, Sonia Atkinson, Robyn Caine, Bev Cockburn, Peter Dearie, Pat Garner, Barbara Glissan, Ann Jermy, Trish McPherson, Andrew Miles, Carole Noble, Marian Procter, David Procter, Joan Smith, Margaret Steinberger, Brian Symons, Alan Walter and Jenny Wenham. **15:** Valerie Howard, Susan Howells, Anne Simons, Jack Stocks, Nea Storey and Robyn Wimbush. **14:** Claire McClelland and Betty Siegman.

Adjudicator's comments: Apologies again for the problems that ailed this otherwise splendid quiz. Most entrants expressed their enjoyment, albeit in some cases tinged with a little frustration over the errors. As noted in the last issue, because of the errors the quiz was adjudicated only on the 16 correct clues. Not that this made any real difference, because the errors were predominantly in the other questions. Trust the members of the ACC to get it right regardless! The main errors in the sixteen were in #2 where a number of competitors gave "Limerick" when "Clerihew" after Edmund Clerihew Bentley was required and #15 where "Bertie" (although having the "correct" final letter) was given in place of the intended answer of George (who was the Fifth (1910 – 1936) – his son, George VI, having the family nickname of Bertie). In this question I liked the answer "Unready", which I think was the much earlier Ethelred – but if anyone was unready perhaps it was George VI after the abdication of his brother. Regrettably, even a number of the correct entries noted that they hadn't twigged the theme: this would have helped enormously in obtaining the correct solutions to the incorrect clues: as hinted in the title, the "ends" of the letters spelled out "Twentieth Anniversary" in the anniversary edition and all of the clues were ingeniously based on 20 in one form or other. Thank you for all the kind wishes. It was just like receiving 25 letters and e-mails from members of the family.

—Kay Williams, on behalf of Ted O'Brien


J U N E 2 0 1 0 S L O T 5
Acrostic by Penobscot
Prizes: \$50  Win! 2006 edn

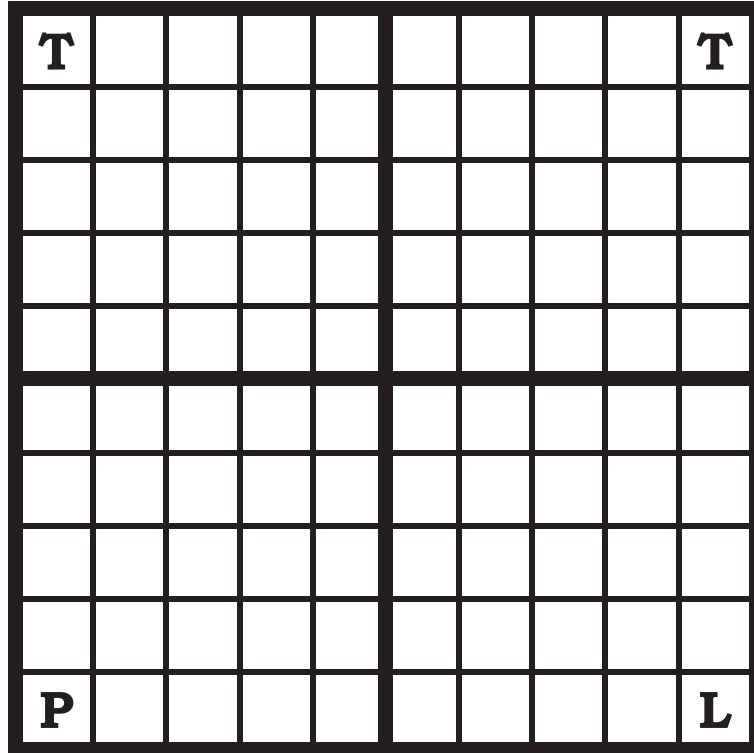
The text is one English rendition of the libretto of part of a well-known piece of music. Reading downwards, the first letter of the solutions will reveal the singer. Solve the clues in the lettered clue grid and transfer the letters to the other grid.

- A** Affirmative when these have it (7, 2 words)
- B** Has gig upset Burns' great chieftain? (6)
- C** Formerly stir wheel nuts (9)
- D** Shakespearean who took the lead (8)
- E** Idle on the hill of Summer? Where? Maybe via estate in Shropshire, lad(9)
- F** Modern music by Weaver is the pits (10, 2 words)
- G** What a brow may have? Correct! (6, 2 words)
- H** Result of a cause (6)
- J** Cheating – for the birds? (7)
- K** Hopi and I wriggle like a snake (8)
- L** Up the sharp end, me hearties! (6)
- M** Top of the bill? Rats! (8, 2 words)
- N** Although rheumy thy movement hath grace (9)
- O** Is all halva served in heroes' resting place? (8)
- P** All pervading mint with name processed (8)
- Q** I made malts brew on Aug. first (10)
- R** Late mina stuffed and plated (8)
- S** Did a mean type damage the marrow? (9)

A	132	86	145	92	71	126	38			
B	88	99	55	74	133	150				
C	64	117	9	109	27	47	108	106	140	
D	122	147	12	46	2	139	129	39		
E	82	6	131	34	10	144	65	59	91	
F	113	43	141	25	125	67	154	76	48	3
G	7	15	134	32	85	111				
H	26	40	93	30	104	114				
J	130	20	116	66	11	124	136			
K	78	49	5	73	149	138	112	16		
L	41	102	127	98	110	69				
M	84	97	123	153	4	8	63	95		
N	72	52	103	33	29	19	75	14	45	
O	90	70	81	60	24	107	142	105		
P	31	23	44	57	18	101	22	42		
Q	35	89	151	135	28	53	58	94	100	143
R	137	152	51	17	148	36	54	80		
S	96	119	79	13	37	21	56	146	120	

1	2	D	3	F	4	M	5	K	6	E	7	G	8	M	9	C	10	E	11	J	12	D	13	S	14	N	
I																											
15	G	16	K	17	R	18	P	19	N	20	J	21	S	22	P	23	P	24	O	25	F	26	H	27	C	28	Q
29	N	30	H	31	P	32	G	33	N	34	E	35	Q	36	R	37	S	38	A	39	D	40	H	41	L	42	P
43	F	44	P	45	N	46	D	47	C	48	F	49	K	50		51	R	52	N	53	Q	54	R	55	B	56	S
57	P	58	Q	59	E	60	O	61		62	E	63	M	64	C	65	E	66	J	67	F	68		69	L	70	O
71	A	72	N	73	K	74	B	75	N	76	F	77		78	K	79	S	80	R	81	O	82	E	83		84	M
85	G	86	A	87		88	B	89	Q	90	O	91		92	A	93	H	94	Q	95	M	96	S	97	M	98	L
99	B	100	Q	101	P	102	L	103	N	104	A	105	O	106	C	107	O	108	C	109	C	110	L	111	G	112	K
113	F	114	H	115		116	J	117	O	118		119	S	120	S	121		122	D	123	M	124	J	125	F	126	A
127	L	128		129	D	130	J	131	E	132	A	133	B	134	G	135	Q	136	J	137	R	138	K	139	D	140	C
141	F	142	O	143	Q	144	E	145	A	146	S	147	D	148	R	149	K	150	B	151	Q	152	R	153	M	154	F

J U N E 2 0 1 0 S L O T 6	
Word Squares by <i>Barney Naga</i>	
Prize 	



Barney's Word Squares are a series of four separate collections of five five-letter words that are placed both vertically and horizontally in a 25-square grid. An example would be:

M	O	G	U	L
O	Z	O	N	E
G	O	U	R	D
U	N	R	I	G
L	E	D	G	E

In this puzzle there are twenty normal cryptic clues in random order. When the clues are solved they can be arranged to form four word squares in the same formation as the sample above. To help get you started a corner letter in each grid has been supplied.

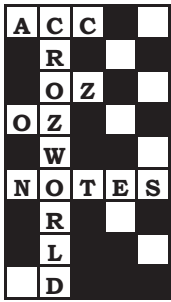
Clues

- Evenly spaced attack, means it is captured
- A keen stewed fruit
- Hinder a few of the nearest opponents
- Smooth out the papers
- Give service in great surroundings
- Stress without opening the lock
- A coach tour to our regular places
- Prophet was upset before they started to go off
- A revolving cylinder, anyway
- A slur most are prepared to ignore
- Needle, comb and card
- Go in back to front to get an income
- Grain with spiky top put in the middle ovens
- Drunkard to return oils?
- A quantity of unsaturated salt

- A demanding body given directions to make reparations
- On reflection, routinely, I eat a scanty morsel
- The leading player, opener Katich, was very much exposed
- Stoop down to adjust the anklet that came off!
- Hymn solo in the mass ends the service

Post Solution to:

Jeremy Barnes
4 Iraga Ave Wollongong West NSW 2500
e-mail: barnes2500@gmail.com
Closing mail date: 9 July 2010.

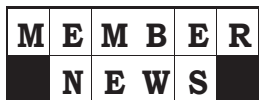


CROSSMAS CRUCIVERBAL 2010: Our Annual Victorian Get-together this year will be **Christmas in July** and will be held at noon on Sunday 25 July at the Royal Oak Hotel, 442 Nicholson Street, North Fitzroy. The Dining Room does not usually open on Sundays, but we persuaded them to open specially for us if we can guarantee at least 30 persons. So we need your support for this function otherwise. We already have a few attending: we need many more. Help! Please. We have organised an excellent lunch: tasty savouries on arrival, a choice of three delectable main courses and a selection of three desserts followed by coffee/tea. All this for only \$35 per head. Some wine – Red and white – will be provided too. And you can purchase all sorts of drinks from the bar at very reasonable prices. Pay on the day. Bookings and enquiries to Patrick Street, ph (03) 9347 1216 or email: pstreet@bigpond.net.au by 20th July please. There will be an exciting Crossword, a Quiz and plenty of prizes! Not to mention a lovely warming open fire. Come along and join in the merriment! We look forward to renewing acquaintances!

BRAIN FOOD: Physical activity and mental stimulation could delay the onset of Huntington's disease, Melbourne researchers have found in a world-first study. Huntington's disease is a genetic disorder that destroys brain cells, leads to dementia and reduces lifespan. It affects one in 10,000 people and there is no cure. Lead researcher Prof Martin Delatycki said those who spent more time on passive activities that lacked physical or mental challenge – such as watching TV or working in a desk-bound and menial job – were diagnosed four years earlier than their peers. Prof Delatycki said: "People with a genetic predisposition to the disease could significantly delay its onset by minimising passive activities and ensuring they incorporate physical and intellectual activity in their daily life such as crosswords, sudoku, quizzes and reading." —*The Age*, 14 May 2010

LETTERS AND NUMBERS QUIZ – FORMAT EXAMPLE

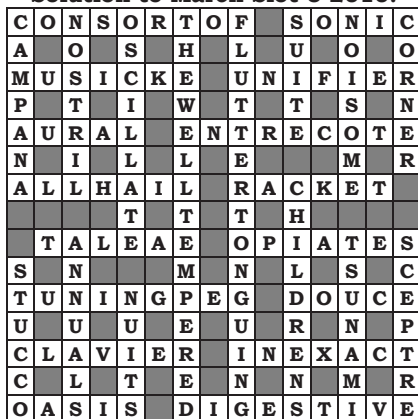
Please read the following examples to give you a further understanding of how the new TV Quiz show will work. Please note format changes may take place, but the focus of the show would always remain on letter and number puzzles. **Letter Round:** The letter round involves the contestant choosing nine tiles being a mixture of consonants and vowels. They then have 30 seconds to find the longest word they can from the available letters. Example: Contestant One chooses five consonants, then three vowels, then another consonant making E A D C C R R I T. Contestant One reveals 'erratic' while Contestant Two has 'accredit'. **Number Round:** For the number rounds, a contestant selects six number tiles and a random three-digit target is generated by an electronic machine. The contestants then have thirty seconds to get as near to the target as possible by combining the six numbers selected using addition, subtraction, division and multiplication. Not all numbers need to be used. A number can be used as many times as it appears. Decimals are not allowed – only integers may be used at any stage of the calculation. Example: Contestant One requests two large numbers and four small numbers. Selection is: 75, 50, 2, 3, 8, 7. Randomly generated target is: 812. Contestant One declares '812' being $50 + 8 = 58$, $7 \times 2 \times 58 = 812$. For some games, there are many ways to reach the target exactly – the example target above could also be reached by $7 \times (75 + 50 + 2 - 8 - 3) = 812$. However not all games are solvable. **The Conundrum** is a nine-lettered anagram, usually arranged into the form of two condensed words. The contestants have thirty seconds to find the word. The first contestant to buzz with the correct answer is awarded points. Example: C H I N A L U N G. Contestant One buzzes, and says 'launching'.



Membership Renewals for 2010: Merv Collins, Caroline Mackay-Sim and David Stickley.

Puzzle Adjustments: Frank Martin gained a dot for Slot 4 in April. **A Plea from Our Puzzle set-up Editor:** We have a reasonable stock of the more normal crosswords for future editions, but are extremely short of AJs to fill the traditional slot 4. Crosswords with a twist that normally occupy slots 5-7 are also in fairly short supply, so please sharpen your pencils and send any offerings to me. We all rely on the work done by our usual compilers to provide brain food for the magazine, but I'm more than happy to work with new compilers to help them develop puzzles for any slot to the standards expected by club members, so have a go and don't be shy. —*Ian Williams*

Solution to March Slot 6-2010:



The Australian Oxford Dictionary

WORD OF THE MONTH

breatharian *n.* a person who believes that it is possible, through meditation, to reach a level of consciousness where one can obtain all the nutrients one needs from the air or sunlight.

The Australian Oxford Dictionary, Second Edition, 2004.
Edited by Dr Bruce Moore. \$115.00 ISBN 9780195517965

Quiz 6/2010

Nothing to shriek about by Brian Symons

Answers are in random order but are all alike. A bonus point will be awarded for a full explanation of the heading.
Send your answers to Brian Symons, 1 Kookaburra Pl, Grays Point NSW 2232 or by email to bms65@bigpond.com
Closing mail date: 9 July 2010. Book prize.

- 1 Grumble (6)
- 2 Gloat (4)
- 3 Fact avoider (7)
- 4 Frolic boisterously (7)
- 5 Potato (4)
- 6 Scoff (4)
- 7 Nation (6)
- 8 An infection (6)
- 9 Glance (6)
- 10 Prompt (5)
- 11 Rate measure (4)
- 12 Take in (7)
- 13 Daunt (5)
- 14 Criticism (5)
- 15 A letter (3)
- 16 Repeat by rote (6)
- 17 Deceive (4)
- 18 Upholster (5)
- 19 Eponymous sleeved flannel scarf (11)
- 20 Faint-hearted (7)

May 1-2010: Half 'n Half by Jesso (Noel Jesso)

- Excellent starter as usual from Jesso. *Catherine Hambling*
- An enjoyable Half 'n Half to start the May Crozworld. *Joan Smith*
- Thanks Noel for your Half 'n Half. Was 13ac FLAILS, FLICKS or FLINGS? FLAILS fitted with 7dn PAISANO as the Spanish friend, different from the normal AMIGO. *Alan Walter*
- 11ac: MNEMONIC – “an aid to memory” or “a help to memory” would be better. 30dn: A+N+GOLAN (Heights). *Graeme Cole*
- 41dn: URTI is an acronym and not in references as a single word. *Margaret Davis*
- SYNROC and PICEA were unfamiliar. The usual well-crafted puzzle from Jesso. *Peter C Dearie*
- A conventional Jesso with a few new words (KOELS, SYNROC, PAISANO, PICEA) but no real problems. *Barb Ibbott*
- A very enjoyable slot with, to me, many new words. *Brian Symons*

May 2-2010: Cryptic by The Eager Beaver (Bev Cockburn)

- Liked 13dn. Up to thirteen uses of “the”, “a”, and “an” in the clues could be omitted. Good cryptic except for 6dn – another S needed for the anagram. *Catherine Hambling*
- Another enjoyable puzzle. Especially liked 1 and 19ac, 4 and 13dn. *Joan Smith*
- Thanks for a most enjoyable cryptic Bev. 6dn: “Paul sat” gives SPATULA when unscrambled. Required answer in plural – SPATULAS (gecko fanciers know their finger-pads as SPATULAE. – dB). *Alan Walter*
- The extra “S” comes from the possessive “his”. *Graeme Cole*
- Had to text son in New Zealand for 46ac. *Rosemary Dorrell*
- Again no real problems, although COTTONCAKE messed me up for a while as I had CATTLECAKE. *Barb Ibbott*
- I’m not sure that “corrupt” means VICIOUS – there are better definitions. *Doreen Jones*

May 3-2010: Cryptic by Pindar (John Brotherton)

- I appreciated the praiseworthy surface readings. Favourites are 9ac and 21ac. A query concerning 4ac. *Len Colgan*
- Another good cryptic, though in 4ac perhaps “is” should be “as”. *Catherine Hambling*
- A challenging puzzle with good clues. I liked 21, 27 and 28ac, 2, 3 and 20dn. Could you please explain the clues for PARASITIC and COCHAIRMAN (if they are right)? *Joan Smith*
- This had some delightful clues, particularly Aussie Battler, Nose bleed and Co-Chairman! *Nea Storey*
- 4ac: Parasitic must be correct but I cannot manipulate the clue to quite make it work. *Jim Fowler*
- Answer 4ac has to be spelt PARASITIC but clue indicates PARISITIC (many comments to that effect – dB). 15ac: Spelling has to be TRANSLATOR not – ER. *Alan Walter*
- 1dn had me bluffed for a while. *Geoff Campbell*
- 1dn: Wasted a lot of time looking for a 10-letter word. The hyphen should have been indicated. *Graeme Cole*
- Searched everywhere for 1dn. *Ted O’Brien*
- 1dn presented difficulties as I believe CO-CHAIRMAN is hyphenated which was not indicated. Had trouble getting AUSSIE BATTLER as I had BATTER PUDDING (quite clever I thought). *Barb Ibbott*
- When the light dawned it all made sense. *Peter C Dearie*
- ... solved every word but 1dn. *Sally Knight*

May 4-2010 A-J by St Jude (Andrew Meek)

- No problems with this one – a nice example of my favourite AJs. *Catherine Hambling*
- I was so sure the “G” clue was Geminis that it took me some time

to change my mind (especially when it wouldn't fit into the grid). Liked the K clue (it was in the running for COTM) and the T clue.

- Joan Smith*
- I enjoyed the clues for Gumnuts and Xmas decorations. But it was not an easy AJ, and I have made a few guesses. *Nea Storey*
- “S” word. Surely gotta be sugarfree but cannot see a fit with locals. What am I missing? Brains? Unless it's lo-cal – if so it's amazing what a “?” lets you get away with. Not sure the English purists would accept it – it's a bit like “4 sale”. *Jim Fowler*
- EIDOLIC was a difficult word to verify, as adjectival form of EIDOLON. “S”: why does “among the locals” equate to “sugar free”? (“lo-cal” is shorthand for “low calorie” – dB). *Alan Walter*
- I thought all the puzzles were good, but loved the clues for “M” and “X”. *Robyn Caine*
- I can't verify MERKINS, PLACEMAN (see under “place” in Chambers), TOMORROW (“Tom” is slang for prostitute as “John” is for her client), UPPER (a stimulant, as DOWNER is for something or someone depressing), ZULU (phonetic code for letter “Z”). *Graeme Cole*

- George W Bush was always using the “M” word, as in “My fellow Merkins”. Most dictionaries do not list EIDOLIC. I found it in my 40-year old *World Book Dictionary*. Can't find any reference to GUMNUTS as former Guides. I hope YAPOCK is correct. *Peter C Dearie*
- Again some new words to drop into conversation (YAPOCK, VERJUICE, MERKINS, JEJUICE). *Barb Ibbott*
- I don't quite get the YAPOCK clue. *Doreen Jones*
- Thanks, *St Jude*. LICKERISH is a fine word! I will never look at liquorice the same way again! *Andrew Miles*
- Unsure of L & S. Will await solution with interest. *Anne Simons*
- A very hard, but satisfying A-J. Especially liked SUGAR-FREE. *Brian Symons*
- Well blow me down – “B” is magnetic flux density (properly “β” –dB). *Roy Taylor*

May 5-2010 Cryptic by Crowsman (Len Colgan)

- A fairly difficult cryptic although made easier by the inclusion of 15 letter solutions. Most enjoyable. *Catherine Hambling*
- Quite a challenging puzzle for me, really making the old grey matter work hard. ‘PARTS’ was one of the last words I put into the puzzle. I was sure the answer was right but could not work out the clue. When the penny finally dropped I gave it my COTM ahead of 22ac. 8,11 and 14dn were among some of the other clues I liked. *Joan Smith*
- Off-hand, Operating budget, Tautology, Down Under and Fauna were all contenders for my COTM vote. *Nea Storey*
- 13ac: your “calling”=your “trade”. 6dn (W)HINGE. 14dn: Unlimited funds=UND, Liberal minister=DOWN+ER. In Australia=DOWN UNDER. 18dn: Fasten seat belt=STRAP (up) entered as PARTS to equate to “components”. 2dn: TO+LOG+Y=record breaking game! *Alan Walter*
- Couldn't resolve PARTS – then Jack pointed out it was “belt up”. Definitely my COTM. *Shirl O'Brien*
- Enjoyed NEAT, DOWN UNDER. *Graeme Cole*
- I'm sure PRAYING is the answer to 15ac, but does it mean “craving”? *Doreen Jones*
- Enjoyed this, *Crowsman* – esp. FLIBBERTIGIBBET and DOWN UNDER. *Andrew Miles*
- Hard – last two were NEAT and FAUNA – the latter with a friend's help. *Anne Simons*
- PARTS gets my COTM – just ahead of NEAT. *Brian Symons*
- Lots of good clues here, but for some reason FUTURE appealed to me and got my COTM. *Roy Taylor*

April 2010 Bonus Puzzles solutions: Note: Lack of space prevents the publication of the explanations of the solutions. Ian will happily e-mail them to anyone interested and will post them on DEEF.

Cryptic by InGrid

Winner: Hilary Cromer

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

Cryptic by Manveru

Winner: David Bennett

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

Cryptic by zinzan

Winner: Dallas Window

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

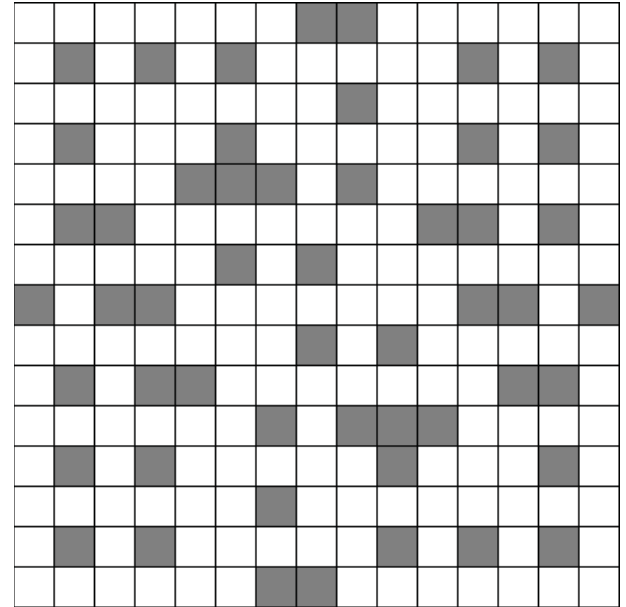
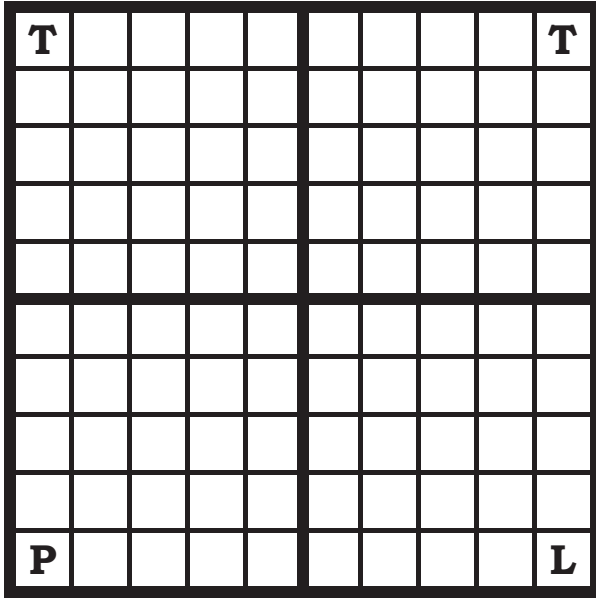
|J|U|N|E| |2|0|1|0|

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

|J|U|N|E| |6| |2|0|1|0|

|J|U|N| |1| |2|0|1|0| NAME.....

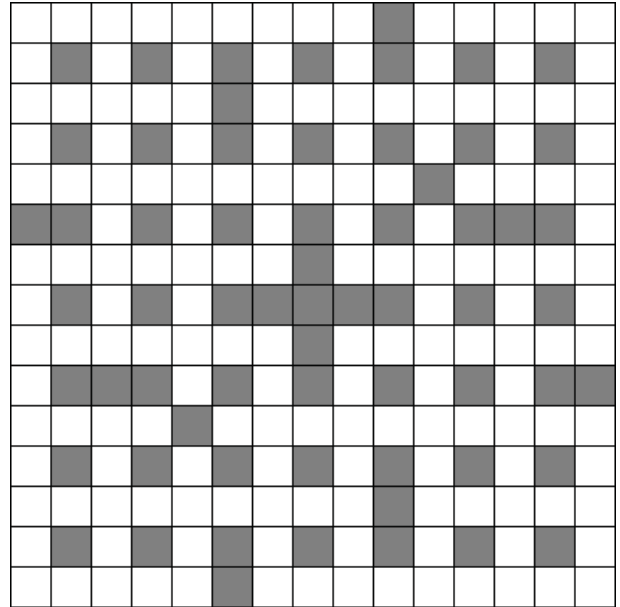
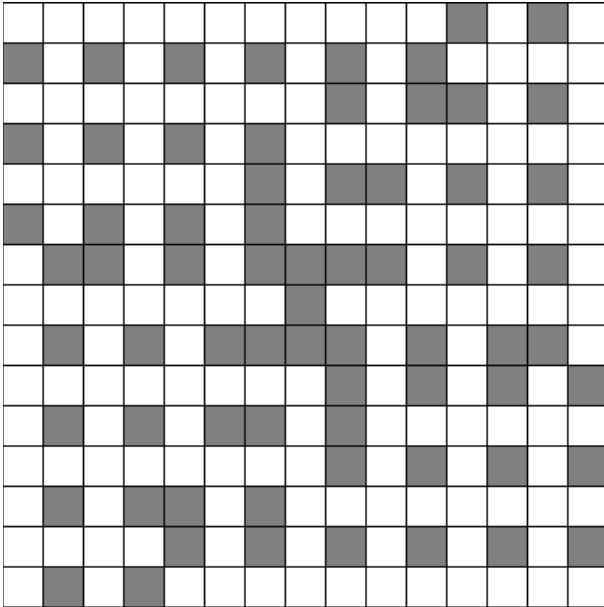
Send solution to: Jeremy Barnes
4 Iriga Ave Wollongong West NSW 2500.
Closing mail date: 9 July 2010.
NAME:



Clue of the Month

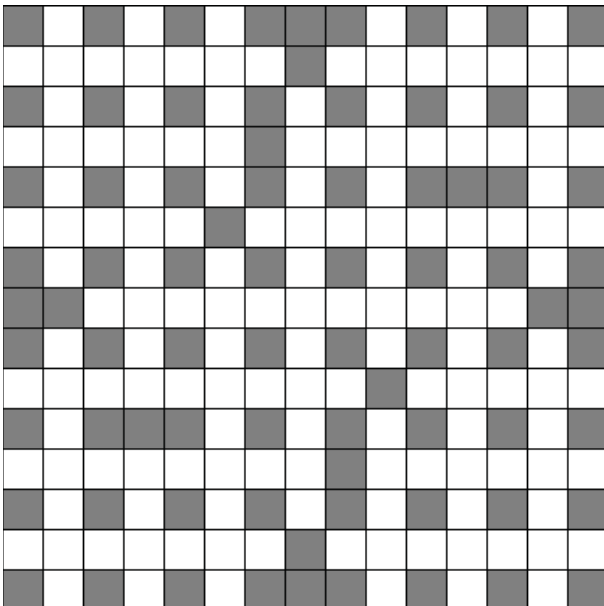
|J|U|N|E| |2| |2|0|1|0|

|J|U|N|E| |3| |2|0|1|0|



|J|U|N|E| |4| |2|0|1|0|

|J|U|N|E| |5| |2|0|1|0|



1	I	2	D	3	F	4	M	5	K	6	E	7	G	8	M	9	C	10	E	11	J	12	D	13	S	14	N
15	G	16	K	17	R	18	P	19	N	20	J	21	S	22	P	23	P	24	O	25	F	26	H	27	C	28	Q
29	N	30	H	31	P	32	G	33	N	34	E	35	Q	36	R	37	S	38	A	39	D	40	H	41	L	42	P
43	F	44	P	45	N	46	D	47	C	48	F	49	K	50	I	51	R	52	N	53	Q	54	R	55	B	56	S
57	P	58	Q	59	E	60	O	61	E	62	B	63	M	64	C	65	E	66	J	67	F	68	F	69	L	70	O
71	A	72	N	73	K	74	B	75	N	76	F	77	M	78	K	79	S	80	R	81	O	82	E	83	H	84	M
85	G	86	A	87	I	88	B	89	Q	90	O	91	E	92	A	93	H	94	Q	95	M	96	S	97	M	98	L
99	B	100	Q	101	P	102	L	103	N	104	A	105	O	106	C	107	O	108	C	109	C	110	L	111	G	112	K
113	F	114	H	115	F	116	J	117	O	118	I	119	S	120	S	121	A	122	D	123	M	124	J	125	F	126	A
127	L	128	F	129	D	130	J	131	E	132	A	133	B	134	G	135	Q	136	J	137	R	138	K	139	D	140	C
141	F	142	O	143	Q	144	E	145	A	146	S	147	D	148	R	149	K	150	B	151	Q	152	R	153	M	154	F

April 6-2010: Left, Right and Centre by Praxis (Roy Wilson)

Entries: 53. Correct: 49. Success Rate: 92.5%.

Prizewinner: Bob Hagan. Congratulations!

Adjudicator's Comments: Again, several typos and blank spaces. A big thankyou for all the lovely cards and letters. —Praxis (Roy Wilson)

Explanatory Notes: Across: 1 CANDID: Candid(a); 8 EROS: sore<; 13 OVERDO: over/do; 14 ENDED: anag/d; 15 VIOL: anag; 16 STIPAS: st/I/pas; 17 COOL: co(ol); 18 CORALS: anag; 19 EUCLID: cue</lid; 22 ORACLE anag; 26 TEASER: teas/er; 27 ENTERA: en/anag; 28 RAMBLE: ram/ble(w); 31 HEAR; he(a)r; 33 ATOPIC: a/topic; 34 EHED: he</ed(ition); 35 ESCOT E/scot; 36 CENOTE: CE/note; 37 ENEW: E/new; 38 OREXIS; or/ex/is; **Down:** 1 CONCENTRATE: double def; 2 AVRO: av(enue)/or<; 3 DRILLS: double def; 4 IDOLISE; idoli(s)e; 5 DOLE: d(rizzle)/ole; 7 RESCORE: re/score; 8 INTO: W(into)n; 10 REPACK: re/pack; 11 ODALLER: do</all/ER; 12 SISSERARIES: anag minus r/Aries; 20 UNEATEN: une/a ten; 21 DIRECTS: anag; 23 RANCHER: ran/Cher; 24 VAMOSE: Va/anag; 25 ATHENE: a(then)e; 29 LION: LI/on; 30 SECO: SE/co; 32 ASTI: as/it (rev); CENTRE: A DIRTIED: rid (rev)/tied; B DROWNED: Dr/owned; C OILIEST: NY idiom homonym (earlie); D CORNELL: cor/Nell; E DILATOR: lid< /a tor; F ASSYRIA: ass/airy<; G STYRENE: anag/ne; H BELCHES: Phoe(be L Ches)her; I CHEAPIE: anag/i.e.; J CONCERT: Con/cert; K WORSENS: w/anag; 6 down: TWENTY YEARS.

Solvers' Comments:

• I found this puzzle challenging and very enjoyable. Lots of new words (for me), and how clever to get the "twenty years" down the middle.

Robyn Caine

• Many thanks for your 'atopical' puzzle with its hidden message – none too easy and I thought the 11 lettered clues were going to be helpful but NO – you had to get the rest to know how to fit them in!! If you were worried about 'losing it', forget it, your puzzles are as ingenious and convoluted as ever!

Bev Cockburn

• Thanks for providing such a beaut Ximenean puzzle. So many well prepared clues – too many to name, but 18 and 28ac are my pick. Superb!

Graeme Cole

• I did enjoy this – a cool teaser needing me to concentrate.

Margaret Galbreath

• Thanks Roy, I really enjoyed this challenge!

Pat Garner

• As always it was tough but fair with excellent clueing and good surface. Bravo!

John Gillis

• Always a challenge but my faith in your fairness carried me through.

Bob Hagan

• Working out your demonically difficult but very satisfying puzzle gave me a warm glow of achievement. Once I twigged to the centre column it was less of "Left, Right and Centre" and more of "falling neatly into place."

Kath Harper

• This was incredibly hard! But I enjoyed the challenge – thank you.

Pat Lord

• Many thanks for an interesting and, as usual, challenging puzzle.

Jim Fowler

• WHAT A SADIST!! (So, I'm finally exposed, eh!)

Dale McManus

• Thank you, Roy – a most enjoyable puzzle, framed by the teacher's injunction to concentrate or you shall be Scolded.

Andrew Miles

• Maybe one day I'll try this sort of grid. Until then, I'll just marvel at yours. Good stuff as ever.

Andrew Patterson

• Daunting at first, enlightening in solving and very satisfying to complete. Now I hope it's correct!

Max Roddick

• Thank you for the workout on my poor old brain, I really enjoyed the challenge. Great clues Roy, hope you are working on another Left, Right and Centre puzzle. (Not just yet, Joan. –Roy)

Joan Smith

• Absolutely fantastic. Such fun. It seemed impossible at first inspection – but finally getting a couple out and working backwards and forwards it came together nicely especially after realizing the central words.

Brian Symons

• This was a very enjoyable ramble backwards and forwards across the grid and through Chambers.

Roy Taylor

• Thanks for a great puzzle that was both challenging and entertaining.

Brian Tickle

• Challenging and very difficult to solve. Loved your central theme which was the culmination to completing your 'knockout' puzzle.

Alan Walter

• Thanks for the puzzle. It was quite a challenge but the clues were fair, so it was also very solvable.

Jenny Wenham

• Thank you for a clever challenge.

Norman Wilson

• I'm not absolutely sure my entry is worth the stamp but I have been delightfully diverted for the last few weeks.

Robyn Wimbush

March 6-2010: Cryptic by Betelgeuse (Gillian Champion)

Entries: 74. Correct: 64. Success rate: 87%.

Winners: William Ryan and Anne Simons. Congratulations!

Compiler's comments: Thank you for all your letters, cards, emails and comments. It was pleasing to see the high success rate for this musically slanted puzzle, although several members thought that the musical orientation was unfamiliar or difficult. The Consort of Musicke is a British group founded in 1996 by the lutenist Anthony Rooley, which

specialises in early music, instrumental and vocal. Somehow along the way an error crept into this puzzle, but thankfully had no effect on the actual clue. In 23dn, for some mysterious reason, I morphed Berlioz into Bizet. Apart from both being French, male and beginning with a B, they have little in common. It was Hector Berlioz who wrote the lovely set of songs *Les nuits d'été*, so my apologies for that, and thanks to those people who pointed this out. There were few errors and these were mainly in: 1dn CAMPANA flower (river CAM + basin PAN +A), 16ac TALEAE, a recurring rhythmic pattern in medieval motets = (anagram of ELATE + A), and 24ac DOUCE sober (Scots) = (monkey DOUC- + bearing E).

Solvers' comments:

• Thanks, Gillian, for your cleverly contained musical references. Hope CONSORT OF MUSICKE is correct. Couldn't find a dictionary reference to it.

Alan Walter

• A challenging and compelling puzzle. MURRAYA also fits the clue for 1dn and the two "A" letters. In 3dn, "before" is better than "when".

Len Colgan

• Thanks for another excellent cryptic – especially liked NOISOME and the DEBUSSY clue. I wonder if, in 23dn, BIZET should be BERLIOZ.

Brian Symons

• What a lovely crossword! I loved FLUTTER-TONGUING and OSCILLATE. Hadn't heard of TALEAE, CONSORT OF MUSICKE or CLAVIER spelt that way. Quite a learning curve for me.

Carole Noble

• Thank you for another challenging puzzle – I see you have a soft spot for the classics.

Bev Cockburn

• Thank you for this interesting puzzle, It contained works that were new to me but clear clues took care of that.

Roy Wilson

• Not an easy one. A bit of research needed for a few clues – hopefully OK.

Bob Hagan

• I would normally never attempt one of your puzzles after the chook one which sent me searching the net looking for obscure breeds, [Sorry about that one! –B] ...and even after spending a week on that puzzle and still getting it wrong as your clues set a standard higher than I'd ever attempted, but seeing your slot 6 this month features music, about which I do know something, I decided to attempt it. You could have clued OASIS with reference to the British pop group, a different style of music, but Hey!

Audrey Austin

• Thanks, Gillian, for your crossword with some unusual answers.

Doreen Jones

• Thanks Gillian – great puzzle – "oscillate" was my favourite.

Bill Bennett

• I feel quite chuffed at being able to finish one of your puzzles for a change! And hope to be rewarded with a dot!

Valerie Howard

• Thank you for another excellent puzzle. A number of the clues are worthy of mention, and it would be invidious to pick any single one out. We are so lucky to have all you clever compilers in the Club. I've been doing crosswords for more years than I care to remember but I can't compile. I've tried but my mind goes blank! So I really appreciate all your efforts. Please keep them coming!

Margaret Davis

• I almost gave up on this several times – would have helped to have a musical background other than rock 'n roll! Anyhow, much thought plus an overworked computer later and I hope it's completed correctly.

Tony Dobe

• Thanks for a very good and enjoyable puzzle. No whinges or adverse comments so I won't be filling the magazine with diatribes. Poor old Orion is getting a bit past its peak these days and will, I guess, soon disappear for a few months. But *Betelgeuse* will continue to shine brightly. [Hopefully! –B]

Jim Fowler

• Thank you for this musical puzzle. I don't think I would have found Consort of Musicke except that I heard them in a choral competition on ABC!

Nea Storey

• Thanks for your challenging Slot 6. A distracting musical interlude. Nice clueing. Particularly liked UNIFIER.

Jack Stocks

• Thanks for the challenge. Fingers crossed.

Shirl O'Brien

• Good clues but difficult for someone who considers herself musically illiterate.

Jill Freeland

• Thanks *Betelgeuse* – nothing 'noisome' about this sweetly-themed puzzle!

Andrew Miles

• Not knowing much about classical music, I don't think I would have completed this without help from the internet. Fortunately, I have *The Works of Shakespeare* on my bookshelf, so found the answer to 13ac quite quickly. The Bard and the works are another area in which I lack much knowledge. Thank you for a challenging puzzle.

Peter Dearie

• I am getting very lazy these days. Yours is the only crossword I have posted this month. I loathe having to do the good copy and keep putting it off! Many thanks for the challenge in March 6 and for your great contributions to the Club. Maybe next month (my 83rd on 13th April) may see me become enthused again.

Ted O'Brien

• Many thanks for another stimulating puzzle. The clues are challenging enough, but the musical references are the hardest to unravel for a musical illiterate like me.

Kath Harper

• Can't single out one clue – except SONIC by a whisker – better than the rest. They're all *Betelgeuse* good!

Max Roddick

• Thanks for your musically themed puzzle: was quite enjoyable.

John Gillis