



CroZworld

|N|o.|3|3|7| |M|A|Y| |2|0|1|8|



www.crosswordclub.org



[Lady Lurewell] Grant me some wild expressions, Heavens, or I shall burst . . . Words, words, or I shall burst!
George Farquhar, 1699, *The Constant Couple*, V. iii.

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

It was three years ago that we introduced the online solving initiative from Roy Low called **ACCOLADE** which stands for **Australian Crossword Club On-Line ADjudication and Evaluation**. What a successful sensation this has been for the ACC. A large percentage of puzzle solutions are now submitted via ACCOLADE and we sincerely thank Roy for his valued assistance in making this system available to us all and making it so popular and rewarding.

Our prominent Puzzle Editor — **Ian Williams** — has selected another variety of excellent and challenging puzzles and quiz for you this month. The slot 1 is a Half and Half by *Virgo*. Favourites like *Fortuna 48*, *Crowsman*, *Manveru* and *Blue King* are there for your ongoing delight plus a skilful offering from *The Mythtics* in Slot 6 titled *The Body in Question*. The inventive *Flowerman* has contributed another challenging cryptic in the Slot 7 spot called *5-415*. *The Eager Beaver* has given us another one of her enjoyable Quizzes titled *Peppered Puzzle*.

Michael Kennedy has provided the results of the Clue Writing Competition No 3/2018 together with his expert Comments on the clues submitted. See p16. Sincere thanks to Michael for his selection of the winning clue compiled by **Doreen Jones**. Hardy? Laurel has equal value (7). Michael wrote: I'm sure most of you would recognise the comedy film duo, Laurel & Hardy, from way back when. It was well-spotted to see that not only can the definition, *hardy*, be well disguised, but Stan (Laurel's first name) is a convenient part of the word fodder. In this instance the remaining letters, PAR, come from *equal value*. I like the way the clue is phrased to suggest one of them was favoured over the other. —Patrick

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

Hello to 'my Crozworld family'. Another year is passing – seems like it will be Christmas soon – and adjudication complete for April. With ACCOLADE alive and well, I have marked puzzles for 17 members only – and a pleasure it was.

Slot 1: While GENTLEMEN was the correct answer, GENTLEMAN (x6) was also accepted as correct. WHIPPERSNIPPER for WHIPPERSNAPPER was given by 6 members but the other 12 incorrect entries were all individual ones.

Slot 2: This puzzle tripped up the least number of solvers. All incorrect entries were unique. However, it was disappointing to see HHOTHED/REDSHTTER – an obvious transcription error.

Slot 3: Oh dear, oh dear. *Barney Naga* tripped up 39 members with 'The Sound of Music score' – SCAT (x12) and SONG (x11) were the most common errors. Of course this combined with EMOTION for EROTICA. The answer SCAR (score) is a homophone for SKA which, according to *Chambers*, is 'a form of Jamaican music similar to reggae'. I suspect it was the capital letters within the clue which had members thinking of the popular musical. Another transcription error: DIVV/ABNORMVL.

Slot 4: KAZAKHS caused some grief here for 7 members – KARACHI (x5), KATAKHS and KALAKHI. HURRAH (x6) and JAVANESE (x6) were the also offered.

Slot 5: Incorrect answers for STAR were SLAM, SOCK, SEAM, SCAR and SOAP. Other errors were STARTINGUP (x3), WAIT (x2) & RAPT for CANT and REIN (x2) & ACID for RAIN.

COTM: 21 clues were nominated for April's COTM but the outstanding winner was EVENS OUT with 17 votes for *Barney Naga*. Well done Jeremy Barnes and Bob Hagan! A novel clue! COX PLATE, AT ISSUE and CANT were in equal 2nd place with 4 nominations each.

Wishing everyone the best for the remainder of 2018. —Veniece

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

Puzzle No.	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Entries received	107	108	100	94	81	490
Correct entries	95	101	56	72	59	383
Success rate (%)	88.8	93.5	56	76.6	72.8	78.2
Prizewinners	Judy Schulz	Anne Rendell	Peter Dearie	Jenny Madden	David Parsons	from 112 members


Prizewinner: April 2018 Slots 1-5: Philip Coote. Congratulations!

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

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

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M A Y 2 0 1 8 S L O T 1
Half and Half by Virgo


1			2		3		4			5		6		7
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28		29		30				31			32			33
							34							
35						36								
37									38					

Across

- 1 Singers (6)
- 4 Game (8)
- 8 Charming (9)
- 9 Basket (5)
- 10 Safety equipment actuator (7)
- 14 Shades (7)
- 17 Plant (4)
- 18 Single small seed (5)
- 19 Incited by encouragement (7)
- 22 Woman's name (5)
- 23 Material (7)
- 25 Fur (5)
- 26 Eye impertinently (4)
- 28 Large rock (7)
- 31 Feature (7)
- 35 Fight (5)
- 36 Produced in one's country (4-5)
- 37 Musical device (8)
- 38 Club (6)

Down

- 1 Cried out for drink (5)
- 2 Priest is a Companion of national Order (5)
- 3 Hats off, Ros - it's serious! (6)
- 4 Guy getting across to a cat! (4)
- 5 Received instruction to tattoo one royal bone (5)
- 6 Steer to look at wild chrysanthemum (2-3)
- 7 Gives in to loud parents (5)
- 11 A run-of-the-mill type desert (5)
- 12 Have won round (3)
- 13 Brought up excavated material (5)
- 15 Palindromic pop group (4)
- 16 Every other player makes soap ingredient (3)
- 18 Choke on a wisecrack (3)
- 19 Saw in the commercial era (5)
- 20 Petra Nova to diminish! (5)
- 21 A flower to put on (3)
- 22 Hail initially, then hail 12! (4)
- 24 The vow of a cropped celebrity (1,2)
- 25 Shelter from male energy (3)
- 27 Place for lecturing abused mule - cry heartless! (6)
- 28 Rocking pobble ignoring Latin dance (5)
- 29 Decree - employ soul inwardly (5)
- 30 Glazed pottery old Penny left out (5)
- 32 Poet is on fire! (5)
- 33 First of wars in church - ouch! (5)
- 34 Author of the macabre may start a verse (4)

Slots 1-5: David Grainger, 3/19 Lucerne Ave, Mornington Vic 3931.
e-mail: djgrainger@gmail.com
Closing mail date: Wednesday 23 May 2018.

Slot 6: Ulla Axelsen, 6 Maud Street, Donnybrook Qld 4510.
email: ullaaxelsen@hotmail.com
Closing mail date: Friday 8 June 2018.

For Online entry, submission and adjudication of all puzzles
via ACCOLADE click on www.crosswordclub.org/accolade/

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

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

M	A	Y			
2	0	1	8		
S	L	O	T		2

Pangrammatic
by
Fortuna 48



Each answer begins with a different letter.

	1		2		3				4		5		6	
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										24				
25									26					

Across


- 7 Right intake needed to produce nails (7)
- 8 Fur described in short, short poem (7)
- 10 Unknown sabre destroyed African ruminants (6)
- 11 Popular rioter toys with domestic (8)
- 12 Exercise centre said to hold singular energy (4)
- 13 Big waves – or mountains on ocean floor? (3,6)
- 15 A French mate before a board, found nothing to his taste (11)
- 19 Tea! Two teas announced for two queens and a talker (9)
- 21 Two strangers meet saint in covered portico (4)
- 23 Can Edgar Alan contain mixed bliss? (8)
- 24 Part of play at the time of fighting (6)
- 25 Ingénue surprisingly true (7)
- 26 Mainly tough item of clothing needed for gathering (7)

Down

- 1 Fine bet will produce an advantage (7)
- 2 Antiquated horse for male Melburnian? (8)
- 3 Drunkard pawns ring (5)
- 4 Two men, one from SE Australia (9)
- 5 Great Hunter? Not In My Register Of Dogs! (6)
- 6 Leo and Nemo mix wine and honey (7)
- 9 Blyton characters celebrated holding a carbon cut of a pentagonal gemstone (4-7)
- 14 Party! Half bonbon hidden in course of gristle (9)
- 16 Purge returns Ms Peron to Los Angeles Airport (8)
- 17 What you may make on this cushion! (7)
- 18 Embrace sixth sense by English river (7)
- 20 US site produces paper (6)
- 22 Half of airline lost at underground tunnel (5)

GENERAL COMMENTS:

- Thank-you so much for the beautiful certificate and cheque for Slot 4. We are so fortunate to have so many great compilers and officials, and I love being a member of this special Club. *Robyn Caine*
- I was delighted to receive the prize for Slot 3 last month. It doesn't quite feel right accepting payment for something that gives me such an enormous amount of pleasure! The prize did help to make up for my total annoyance with myself for messing up my Slot 4 entry. I found this puzzle quite difficult, and then entered a typo (arena for areca)!! Many thanks to you all for the enormous effort you all put in to keep the rest of us happy! *Julie Crowe*
- Having arrived home after a 6-week UK house swap, was thrilled to receive my quiz prize cheque. Will help defray the cost of some brilliant pub lunches! Thank you. *Patricia Abbott*
- Strictly following the clued word-lengths, we have the answers GOOD-FOR-NOTHING and GOOD FOR NOTHING. A duplication; or not? *Max Roddick*
- Thank you very much for my Slot 2 Prize. Very exciting. *Ann Millard*
- Good for nothing is popular this month! *Nea Storey*
- So there's two "Good for nothings" this month!! *Marian Procter*
- Plenty of challenges to keep us all alert this month. Well done to all compilers. *Kath Harper*
- Difficult and a stretcher.....was needed. *Gabriel Fuller*
- Thankyou everyone for another interesting set of puzzles. *Jean Evans*

M A Y 2 0 1 8 S L O T 3
Include or Exclude? by Crowsman


1		2		3			4	5		6		7		8
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Each clue contains two definitions, in either order. One defines the answer to be entered. The subsidiary defines another word equivalent to removing one letter from the answer. For example, "Game people working the land (9)" yields "game = PHEASANTS" to be entered, while the subsidiary is "people working the land = PEASANTS", the letter H being removed. The 32 removed letters, when rearranged, spell MISTER STREET HELPED SOLE POOR PAUPER.

Across


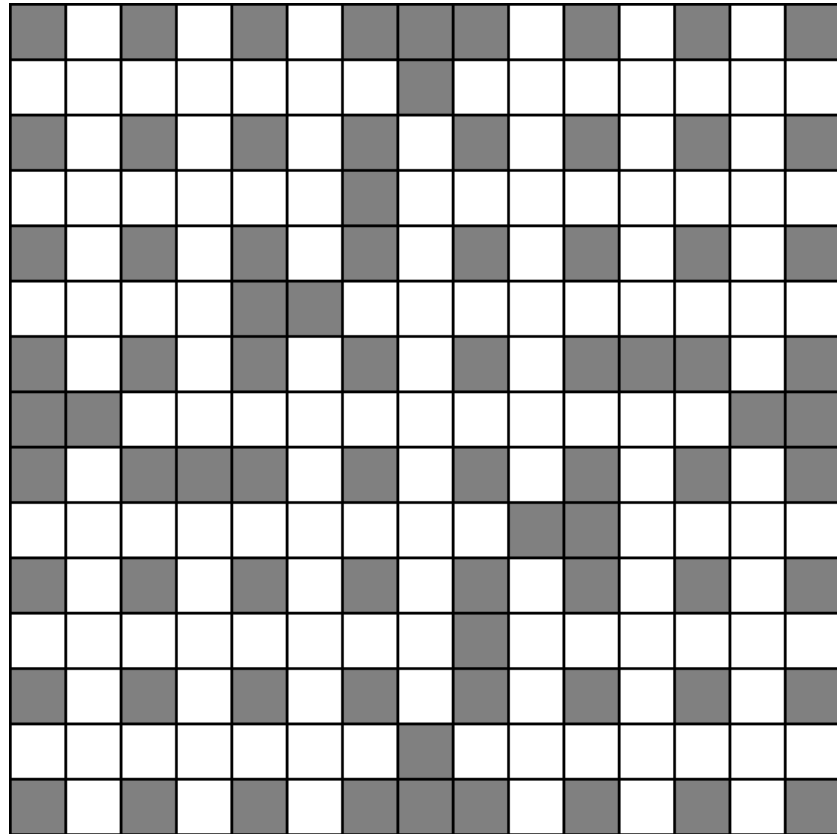
- 1 Sickly small cake (6)
- 4 Top of a column section (8)
- 10 Friendly relation (5)
- 11 Fresh rash (9)
- 12 Fishing group is provocative (7)
- 13 Leaves off believers of God (7)
- 14 Caught barbarian (4)
- 15 Moderate learnt a new skill (10)
- 19 End payment of one's dues (10)
- 21 Remove elsewhere (4)
- 24 Holds up believers of God (7)
- 26 Shock suspension of operation (7)
- 27 Forming creases tightening one's belt (9)
- 28 Shade spot (5)
- 29 Throw mud at book-like box (8)
- 30 Packed it in, having checked out (6)

Down

- 1 Mix up symbol on Moroccan flag (9)
- 2 Cunning minor (7)
- 3 Assign where to hold dope (6)
- 5 Dreamt about tilled land (5)
- 6 Blues? (8)
- 7 Conclude violation of trust (7)
- 8 Charges people who betray (5)
- 9 Posted to a wrong location – wasted! (8)
- 16 Finished up full (8)
- 17 Changed sides, bent! (9)
- 18 Reinvigorate uni students (8)
- 20 More than one referring to the membranes around the lungs (7)
- 22 Changes egg-producers (7)
- 23 National memorial (6)
- 24 Commissions petitions (5)
- 25 Get hold of measurements (5)

M	A	Y			
2	0	1	8		
S	L	O	T		4

AJ
by
Manveru

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

- A** Birds, badgers, seals or bats (11)
- B** An old fortress foundation erected around farm (8)
- C** Caught malaria, strangely, from seafood (8)
- D** Study notes to attempt ivory art? (9)
- E** Ingredient served up with some duck (5)
- F** Chow choking on frayed leash – now that's a story! (9)
- G** Dugong upset after ingesting head of eel and carp-like fish (7)
- H** Answer is hidden in clue for a body part (6)
- I** Partially hide a tendency to daydream (6)
- J** Raise new fort to protect capital of Sweden from the freezing weather (4,5)
- K** Flyer taking time to land with new inexperienced Tiger (6)
- L** Inertia and gravity intrinsic to earthly revolution (8)
- M** Nervously resit university exam after missing *Energy & Advanced Alloys* (8)
- N** Ostriches, an unknown number, love to ultimately bury in sand when disturbed (7)
- O** Play scoreless draw hosting the two sides from Liverpool (7)
- P** Plots pressure curve with elevated line on entropy (7)
- Q** Arabian nationals from Southern Iraq retreating to entrap voluntary military force (7)
- R** Return from sports ground following rugby's opener against England (7)
- S** Winged messenger, perhaps, mistakenly exorcising priest (6)
- T** Stab a retailer stocking a range of silk (7)
- U** Over the top protection against cats and dogs? (9)
- V** Old English tavern in need of refurbishment (7)
- W** Albino whale (humpback) is travelling east, initially (5)
- X** Kiss heard on the radio? (4)
- Y** Film star rejected every second character in hard copy (4)
- Z** Step by step guide for mobile activation? (6,5)

Some Playable First Names

Alan: a breed of hunting dog.
Alec: a herring.
Anna: a former Indian coin.
Ben: an inner room.
Benny: an amphetamine pill.
Bertha: a style of wide collar.
Bill: to charge for goods.
Clarence: an enclosed carriage.
Florence: a former European gold coin.
Graham: whole-wheat flour.
Kerry: a breed of cattle.

Louie: a lieutenant.
Matilda: a hobo's bundle.
Merle: a blackbird.
Rex: a king.
Rob: to steal.
Rod: to provide with or use a rod.
Sally: to make a brief trip or sudden start.
Sonny: a boy or young man.
Terry: a soft, absorbent type of cloth.
Warren: an area where rabbits live.
Willy: to clean fibers with a certain machine.
—*Is That a Word?* by David Bukszpan, 2012.

M A Y 2 0 1 8 S L O T 5
Cryptic <i>by</i> Blue King


1		2		3		4				5		6		7
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11						12								
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16				17				18		19				20
21										22		23		
24										25				
26										27				

Across

- 1 Take in Teacher exploits (7)
- 5 Jailbreaker after cake is delivered perhaps (5)
- 8 Almost half of Everton within Liverpool's boundaries is flattened (5)
- 9 Leaves in oil and wine in a stream of turbulence (9)
- 11 Fish in charge for a costume (5)
- 12 Guessed, lost head and kept to ones self (9)
- 13 Tourist sex in shady cover (7)
- 15 From the east temples are unhappy over a hiatus to the west (7)
- 16 Soups of weed at times (7)
- 18 Faces up to child abduction (5,2)
- 21 Behind like a beautiful fairy's early weeks? (9)
- 22 Tempted to see old city in the light (5)
- 24 American black chews icicles or chops (9)
- 25 An Indian carpet from the east leading the Italian (5)
- 26 Jewish priest dominated by Catholic remains (5)
- 27 Bridge opponents block returning schedules for lawmaker (7)

Down

- 1 Doctor see to volume for old red (7)
- 2 Polish directors embrace Lady Gardener for a number! (5)
- 3 Incite and consequently set light round African's heart (7)
- 4 First of invading soldiers in a middle eastern environment like a part-time bludger (13)
- 5 Financial imposition on location of flannelled fool? (4,3)
- 6 The French bird under direct emotional stress at first rings around the world (9)
- 7 Lives on edges (7)
- 10 Refunds from Karachi to Islamabad! (13)
- 14 Racist confused with divine goat's traits perhaps? (9)
- 16 High up in high six, down with the people (7)
- 17 Dope the red drug not brandy! (7)
- 19 Book girl who did sounds like a bomb (7)
- 20 A bit knotty, to agree to universal Roman god! (7)
- 23 Watch rising responsibility (5)

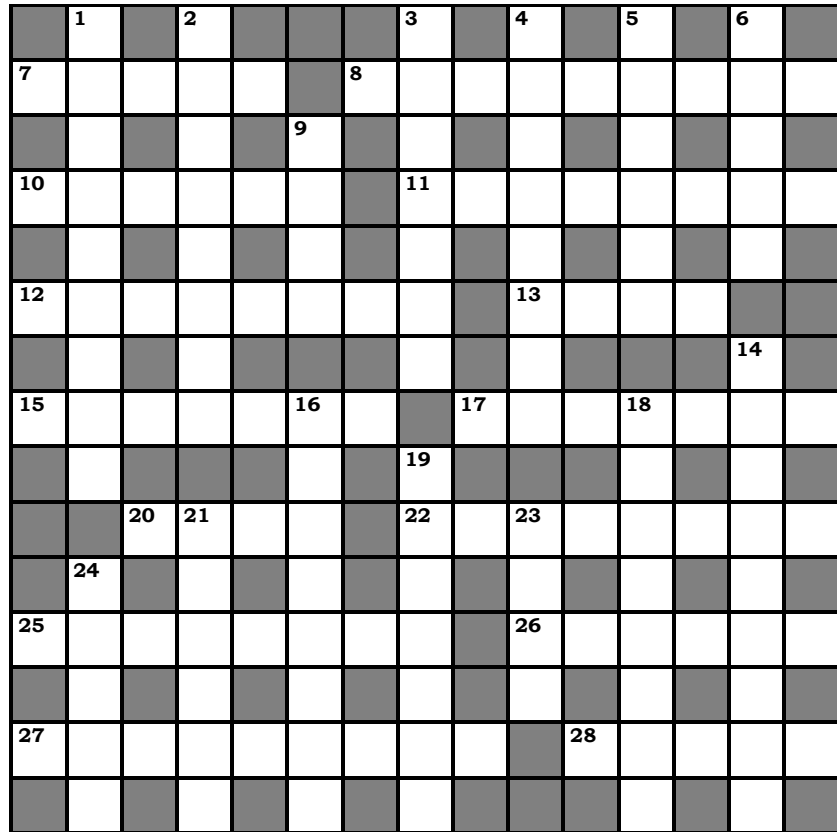
Occupational Hazards

Violinists are unstrung.
 Bankers are disinterested.
 Butchers are delivered.
 Models are denuded.
 Songwriters are decomposed.
 Castle owners are demoted.
 Surveyors are dislocated.
 Accountants are disfigured.
 Witch doctors are dispelled.
 Train drivers are derailed.
 Symphony conductors are disconcerted.
 Orchestra leaders are disheartened.
 Diplomats are disconsolate.

.....
 Cannibal victims are disheartened.
 Winemakers are deported.
 Mathematicians are discounted.
 Advertisers are declassified.
 Admirals are abridged.
 Tailors are unsuited.
 Neurologists are unnerved.
 Brides are dismissed.
 Committee members are disappointed.
 Electricians get discharged.
 Choristers are unsung.
 Politicians are devoted.
 Hairdressers are distressed.
 —from *Word Play* by Gyles Brandreth, 2016.

M	A	Y			
2	0	1	8		
S	L	O	T		6

The Body in Question by The Mythics



Across

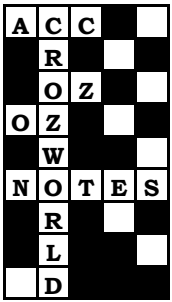
- 7 Seed is at first screened by hand, then finally sown (5)
- 8 Back of ankle support assessed externally and placed in lower position (9)
- 10 Stomach jab contains analgesics primarily (6)
- 11 Demonstrators in step submerged by the seas in Calais perhaps! (8)
- 12 State of panic when leg troubles model? On the contrary (8)
- 13 Frenchman, perhaps, content in belly vestment (4)
- 15 Homes are the core to his lacking guts (7)
- 17 Vehicle transaction by player – ham maybe? (7)
- 20 *The Kings Arms*, for example, is a recurrent part of drinking issue (4)
- 22 Important news causing a crease on the brow? (8)
- 25 Small tarsi oddly cast (8)
- 26 Delivered seafood flesh (6)
- 27 Eyewitness volunteers following short detailed description – "tense old Republican" (9)
- 28 Peg! To horse! (5)

Down

- 1 Australian face seen in side taking on small dependent territories (9)
- 2 Star double starts to keep lustful eyes raised (8)
- 3 East Ender hands to Europeans (7)
- 4 Back-stabber concealed head of toxic fish in drink (8)
- 5 Lady rumoured to take cut flower on knee (6)
- 6 Whiskers bring forth dermatitis originally (5)
- 9 Slice cold joint (4)
- 14 Minimal body covering – behold popular clergy (9)
- 16 Impede worker with ego, almost all head (8)
- 18 Cow, perhaps, providing lower limb covering (8)
- 19 Greek character? No, French, adopting pigtail hairstyle (7)
- 21 Introduce pathogenic microorganisms into six-footer with force for a second (6)
- 23 Related to leggy host? (4)
- 24 Garbage tip on the nose? Complain! (5)

Post
Solution
to:

Ulla Axelsen,
6 Maud Street, Donnybrook Qld 4510.
email: ullaaxelsen@hotmail.com
Closing mail date: Friday 8 June 2018.
(or submit via www.crosswordclub.org/accolade/)



Explanations for clues in April slots 1-5

Slot 1 InGrid. Cryptic clues. Down: 2 anag, **3** dd, **4** anag, **5** hidden, **6** t (role)* able, **7** dd, **8** (ghost + et)*, **9** e+s+teem, **15** flash+l+amp, **18** anag, **19** matt+hew, **21** in+mate, **23** capTOR Silently, **24** ski(t)er, **26** tot+up.

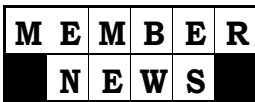
Slot 2 Murphyslore. Across: 1 AM + PERE, **4** anag, **10** anag from MAD TAILOR, **11** hidden, **12** cd, **13** anag from I LEER AT, **14** IN + EP + T, **15** cryptic, **23** A + DAM + ANT, **25** hidden, **26** (LOItER)*, **29** anag. **Down: 1** ARM + CH + AIR, **2** PAL + ET + ET<, **3** RED + SETTER, **5** anag, **6** hidden, **8** ATT + IRE, **9** double dd, **16** ILL + GOT + TEN, **19** O + RATION, **24** (EARThEd)*.

Slot 3 Barney Naga. Across: 1 homoph "cocks" + P + LATE, **6** heads, **10** CAT + (enERgy) twice, **11** mathematical function 10 to the power 9, **12** E + GG, **13** pun clothing size, **14** dd, **15** ANT + ARC + T + I + C, **17** AVID<, **21** hidden, **22** anag, **24** dd, **26** MACrON, **28** dd, **30** dd, **31** rev hidden, **32** homoph "guessed", **33** Spooner "true cons". **Down: 2** dd, **3** anag, **4** (UR + I) in AC, **5** (BLEMISH)* round EL, **6** TALL + elbOW, **7** dd, **8**

hidden, **9** hidden, **16** (ENIGMATIC - G + C)*, **18** dd, **19** dd, **20** odds, **23** homoph "true ant", **25** dd, **27** C (RED) O, **29** homoph "ska".

Slot 4 Crowsman. A AUSTRAlIAN, **B** BUR (G) UNDIANS, **C** C (FURy) ACAO, **D** cd, **E** GYP in (TIE)* + AN, **F** homoph "feinting", **G** G + zAMBIANS, **H** HUR + RAY, **I** IRIS H MEN, **J** JAVANESE with P for V, **K** KAZAKHStan, **L** AIL< around BY, **M** MAL (SET)< E, **N** (RAN)< + WHALe, **O** ONT(AIR)*O, **P** PER + SON + IF + IE + R, **Q** (S + IR (AT) AQ)<, **R** dd, **S** SWA [SW Africa] + RAJ, **T** dd, **U** homoph "unchased", **V** V + (U in INCAS*), **W** dd, **X** NIX< + JI (AN) G, **Y** (ENEMY)* + IS, **Z** ZA + GREBe.

Slot 5 Zplig. Across: 8 LEGATO , swap L & G, **9** DD, **10** LIT around O, **11** (treatfacts)*, **12** homoph "reign", **13** (CEJ in ATE)<, **16** (resume)* around IT, **17** (big role)*, **18** CD, **22** APPAREL minus L + NT, **25** EX + POSE, **26** DD (tie-r), **27** &lit, POSIT + I V I S T, **30** potaTO FUnGus, **31** auspiciOUs, **32** NEC(K) + TAR. **Down: 1** DD, **2** CAN + T, **3** poLe inside CONCAVE (noun = vault), **4** APE inside CANS, **5** SEE + THE, **6** STIRRING + UP, **7** I+LIE inside MU, **14** DD, **15** CH + (valour is)*, **19** (triangle)*, **20** DD, **21** homoph "atishoo", **23** P + homophone of risen, **24** (priest)*, **28** DD, **29** RATS<.



Membership: On 9 April 2018, the amount of \$35 was transferred into our Bank Account by **KERRIE BUHAGIAR**. There were no details of her address or email contact. Does anyone know this person?

CROSSMAS CRUCIVERBAL 2018

Our Annual Victorian Get-together this year will be **Christmas in July** and will be held this year from 11:30am to 3pm on Sunday **29 July 2018** at the Royal Oak Hotel, 442 Nicholson Street, North Fitzroy. The Dining Room has given us excellent food and service in the past few years and we are looking forward to renewing acquaintances again in July. So let's do it again. Make a note in your Cruciverbal Diary now!

Rob Moline (*Isla*) has sent us these fascinating details about **David Stickley** and his skill as a well-respected compiler of cryptic crossword puzzles. Here are some details about his cruciverbal fame in New York and the UK.

Stickler famous in New York and London

David Stickley has been all over the internet in the past few weeks. Linked to in today's 'Times for The Times' blog by the blogger in New York:

<https://times-xwd-times.livejournal.com/1930028.html>

Interviewed by *The Guardian* newspaper in UK two weeks ago:

<https://www.theguardian.com/crosswords/crossword-blog/2018/apr/09/crossword-blog-meet-the-setter-styx>

You can access David's wonderful puzzles on his fascinating website: <http://www.australiancrosswords.com.au/WPblog/>

Roger McGough mentions the urge to time your solve:
Got up
Had shave
Did Times crossword
Had another shave

Fiancee discovers proposal in crossword puzzle by Dan Bain The News-Review 3 Apr 2018.

When Matt Landever decided to ask his girlfriend, Anna Porter, to marry him, he wanted to do something different than a traditional proposal. When Landever took Porter to Baltimore for Thanksgiving last year to meet his grandparents, he was doing a crossword puzzle with them when it hit him.

He and Porter are avid crossword puzzle enthusiasts, so he got to thinking about how he could use that to convince her to marry him. Landever began creating the puzzle to put in *The News-Review* so that when his girlfriend solved the puzzle, it would show the proposal. He worked on it for about two months. The hardest thing, he said, was getting the design, and finding programs where he could put it together so that marry-me (and hopefully) yes, would be together.

There were some tough clues in the crossword, but Landever had dropped bits of crossword-type of information to Porter periodically over the previous months, with the answers to some of the questions that he planned to use in the puzzle.

Landever also had a clue "he is used to carrying a strong drink" and the answer was porter (her last name). So he had her first and last names in the puzzle. Hints included: "flying or guitar," and the answer was Solo, the name of his dog. The next one was "a stone fruit pressed for oil," which was olive, the name of Porter's cat. The couple met in June, so one answer was June Carter.

While the couple were doing the crossword puzzle, Landever pulled out the engagement ring to present to her. It was put together by Frank Bartley at Hansen Jewelers in Roseburg shortly before he passed away in February.

Landever and Porter plan to be married on July 6 of next year at Mount Pisgah in Eugene.

Landever is a biologist with the Bureau of Land Management, and Porter is a speech language pathologist at CHI Mercy Medical Center.

Meanwhile, the couple is still doing daily crossword puzzles together in *The News-Review*.

April 1-2018: Half 'n Half by InGrid (Jean Barbour)

- A nice slot 1. 17dn caused me some anxiety, as I feel both GENTLEMAN and GENTLEMEN work with the clue. Eventually I decided the plural form was the best fit. Fingers crossed!
Julie Crowe
- Liked ESTEEM and DRY UP.
Max Roddick
- Both GENTLEMAN and GENTLEMEN should be accepted for 17dn.
Andrew Miles
- I enjoyed this but have question marks against a number of down clues.
Tony Dobebe
- Worried about 17dn. Hope I picked the correct option.
Bev Cockburn
- Whew!
Lynne Coulton
- Bottom left corner had me for a while but I finally got there. Thanks.
Ulla Axelsen
- 17dn. GENTLEMAN or GENTLEMEN. I cannot understand the clue.
Doreen Jones
- Unsure about 17dn: singular or plural?
Lynn Jarman
- The bottom left-hand corner nearly drove me insane, but the penny finally dropped.
Barbara Ibbott
- A reasonably easy start to the month.
Robyn Wimbush

April 2-2018: Cryptic by Murphyslore (Ken Callan)

- I liked the clues for ARMCHAIR and CONVERGE.
Brian Tickle
- Liked RED SETTER and HOT WATER BOTTLE.
Max Roddick
- A very enjoyable puzzle, thank you.
Barbara Ibbott
- Not too taxing but a nice effort.
Tony Dobebe
- Plenty of good, honest clues.
Bev Cockburn
- A good assortment of clues.
Ulla Axelsen
- 22: Not a particularly good surface.
George Rolfe
- Setters of Slots 1 and 2 on the same wavelength??
Lynn Jarman
- Inept? Inappropriate?
Robyn Wimbush
- Here we are; a pack of GOOD-FOR-NOTHINGS – well, two anyway in consecutive Slots.
Susan Howells
- A double dose of "good-for-nothing" – luckily this worthlessness is not reflected in the calibre of the crosswords.
Kath Harper

April 3-2018: Cryptic by Barney Naga (Jeremy Barnes and Bob Hagan)

- An enjoyable puzzle. MACON and SCAR (hopefully correct) were the best of the clues I thought.
Ian Thompson
- Some really great clues here, including some maddening ones which I am still unsure of eg SCAT. MACON is one, but isn't it a white? [white or red according to Chambers – Adj] EVENS OUT gets my COTM.
Kathy Horadam
- Great puzzle. Loved COX PLATE, COS and SUPER.
Bev Cockburn
- Thought 'evens out' very clever. Also liked 'billion'.
Ulla Axelsen
- Still thinking about 29dn which for some reason seems to elude us. Frustrating!
Richard Skinner
- Some very clever clues which I enjoyed solving. However, "The Sound of Music score" remains a mystery. BEAT made sense but didn't work.
Ann Millard
- In 20dn I get that it's EVENS OUT but wouldn't 'level playing field' have to be 'levels'? I liked BILLION.
Tony Dobebe
- 11ac: BILLION I do not understand the clue presuming I have it correct. I do not like 29dn SCAR.
Doreen Jones
- Some wonderful clues in this puzzle. Lots were worth COTM.
Robyn McKenzie
- Too many VERY cryptic clues!
Lynn Jarman
- 29dn is a complete mystery to me.
Robyn Wimbush
- Some great clues but still not sure about 29dn??
Ann Millard

- Great clues with a few in mind for COTM. Finally settled on EVENS OUT.
Joan Smith
- Lovely range of clue types here.
Kath Harper
- This puzzle was unpredictable and that's what I liked about it – couldn't get into Barney's mind. No doubt that was his aim. Lots of excellent clues. Thank you.
Gabriel Fuller
- Loved TRUANT. BILLION fits but I can't understand the clue.
Max Roddick
- A diverse range from racing to reggae!
Judy Schulz

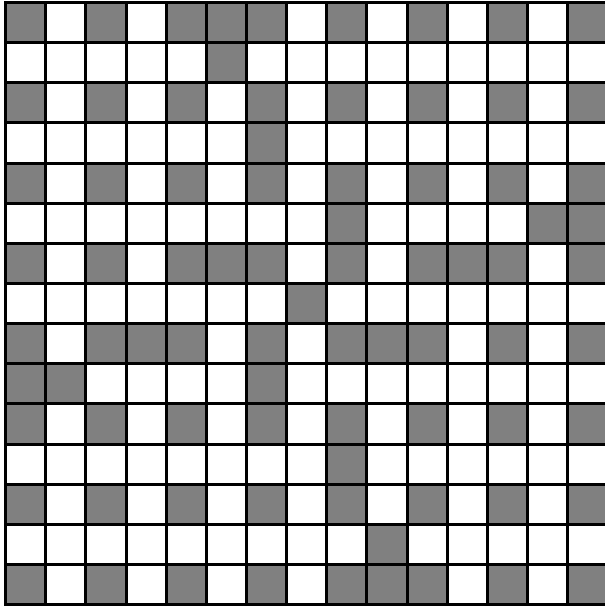
April 4-2018: Geo-AJ by Crowsman (Len Colgan)

- Only Crowsman could create a themed AJ containing words like XINJIANG, SWARAJ, KAZAKHS and ZAGREB. Hard work, but great fun to solve.
Brian Tickle
- I love these types of puzzle.
Jenny Madden
- Len, you were worried the other month about getting a reputation of being a tricky setter. After this Slot 4 you definitely get the crown.
Julie Leigh
- As the x clue needs to be a down clue [one] orientation is more correct [than the other].
Brian Symons
- Good idea with some nice letter swaps/inclusions. SWARAJ was new to me and CURACAO slowed me down. Thanks Crowsman!
Kathy Horadam
- Some tricky ones, but all clues clever and fair.
Roy Taylor
- 70% thematic clues in an AJ. Remarkable!
Ray Gooderick
- Thank goodness for the "Geo-AJ" titled clue.
Cheryl Wilcox
- I think this is the best AJ puzzle I have done since becoming a member four years ago. Well done, Crowsman.
Ian Thompson
- What an extraordinary achievement by Len – a geographically-themed AJ! As well as the intended GYP in TIE* + AN, the E clue almost parses as ERITREAN too, where "cheat" = ERR wears TIE* + AN.
Andrew Miles
- The AJ is always a favourite, even more enjoyable with a trip around the world. Many thanks Crowsman.
Betty Siegman
- Congrats to the setter. A themed AJ is no easy task. Most enjoyable.
Bev Cockburn
- More difficult than I had first anticipated. Very enjoyable.
Ulla Axelsen
- So many wonderful clues, it is difficult to pick out the most special. Len, you never cease to amaze me with the variety you produce. The SOTM, the Slot of the Month!
Ann Millard
- The geography added a layer of complexity to the usual AJ.
Nea Storey
- A great challenge and learning opportunity. Thank you, Crowsman.
Robyn McKenzie
- How did you manage all those capitals and countries?
Anne Simons
- I enjoyed the trip around the world. Thanks Len.
Robyn Wimbush
- Great clues and loved the theme.
Joan Smith
- Initially this was an "Oh; gee!" rather than a Geo-AJ; but I eventually made it around the world in less than 80 days.
Kath Harper
- Nice geographical aspect. Look forward to the explanation for Q.
Gabriel Fuller

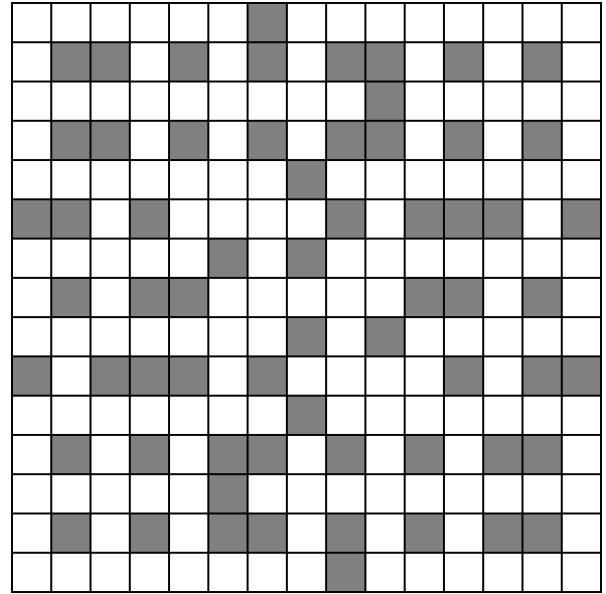
Send solution to: Ulla Axelsen,
6 Maud Street, Donnybrook Qld 4510.
Closing mail date: Friday 8 June 2018.
NAME:



|M|A|Y| |6| |2|0|1|8|

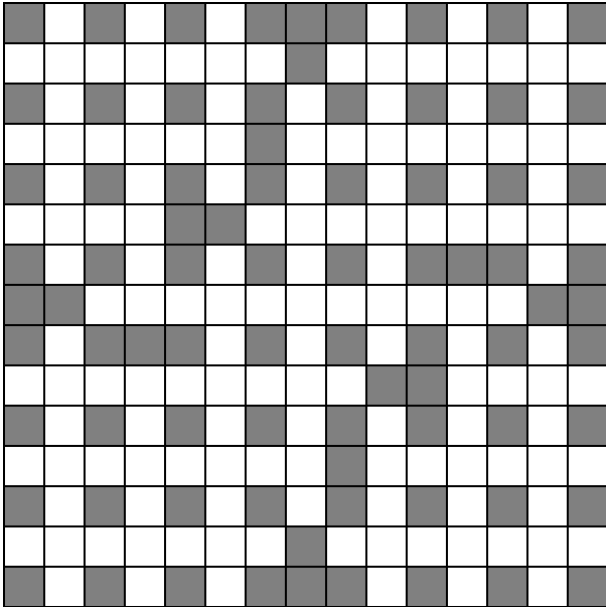


|M|A|Y| |1| |2|0|1|8| NAME.....

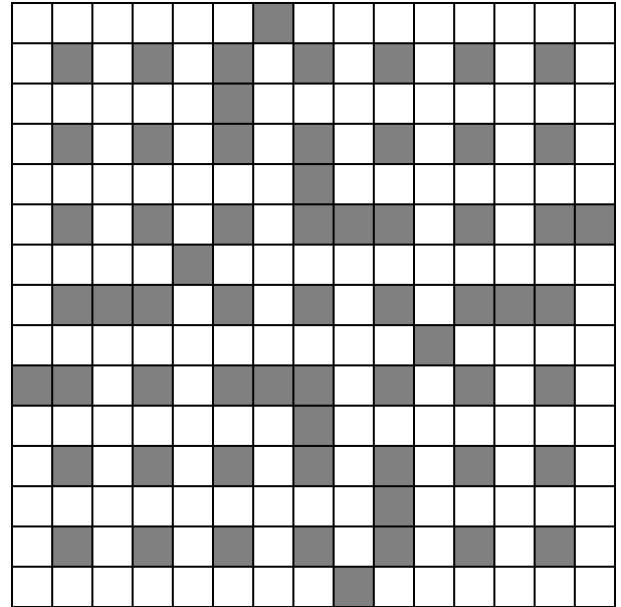


Clue of the Month

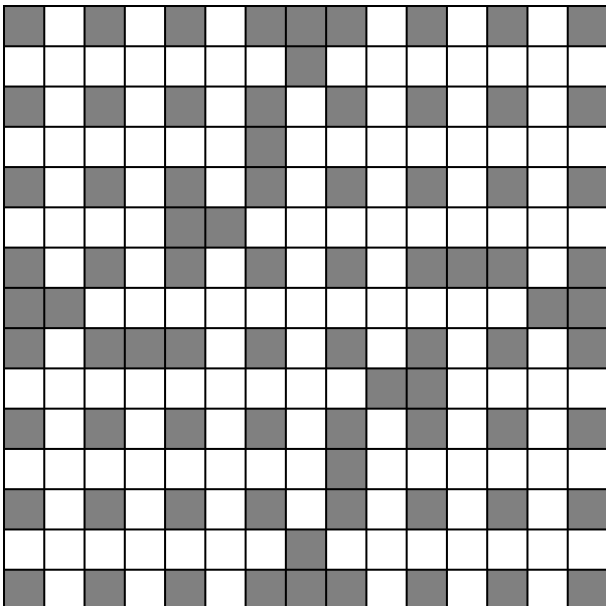
|M|A|Y| |2| |2|0|1|8|



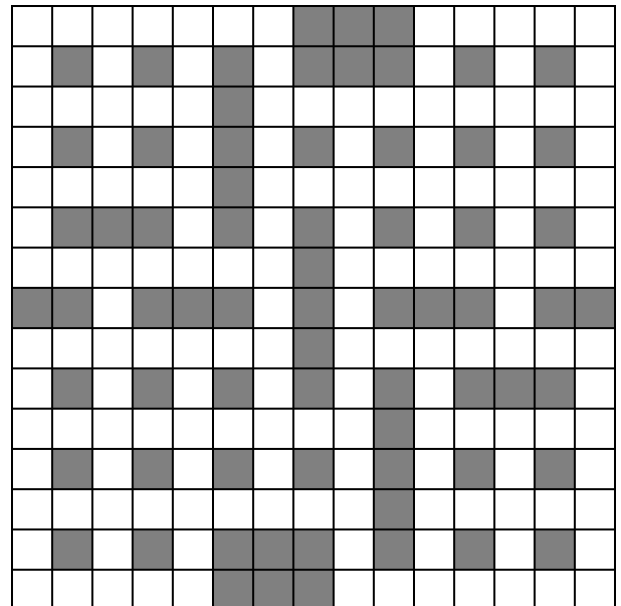
|M|A|Y| |3| |2|0|1|8|



|M|A|Y| |4| |2|0|1|8|



|M|A|Y| |5| |2|0|1|8|



March 6-2018: Setters Special by Buzzer (Bhavan Kasivajjula)

Entries 72. Correct 57. Success rate 79.2%.

Prizewinner: Rosemary Ducker. Congratulations!

Setter's comments:

The theme for this puzzle came to me when my 4 year old daughter was playing/singing:

*Doggy Doggy where's your bone?
Somebody stole it from your home
Wake up doggy!*

RYA and INNER WALL seem to have been the ones that tripped up most. As did GRIPE and DAK. Overall the participation and success rates suggest the puzzle was quite well received and solved. Thank you all for the participation and encouraging comments.

—Buzzer (Bhavan Kasivajjula)

Explanations for clues:

Across: 1 (RECKON SPECIAL)*, 8 P(-l)UG, 10 SAILORING* + IN, 11 RIP inside EG<=, 12 SPAR outside 'UN + S(-mall) + .U.G., 13 Hidden, 14 Y(-ears) + SPED outside HA, 16 LA outside HAS, 17RYA, 18 G(-ood) + (y-)UAN + O(-ver), 19 SH + LAW*, 20 D(-ead) + HOLE, 22 LAB(-our), 24 1S inside ALT, 25 SE(-e) + DATES, 27 MEDI(-c)ATE, 28 RE + CE + PT + I'VE, 30 SOUND with H(-usb)and for S(-on), 31 (RECALL HOW IT)*, 32 .D.A.K, 33 (KEY IN SUSHI BAR)*

Down: 1 CH(-ief) + OM + SKY, 2 CHI + HU(-l)A HU(-l)A, 3 EXIST with TS for ST, 4 SLED outside A GG, 5 (IS A NATURAL)* + TIER outside ERR, 6 (w-)INNER(+W) + ALL, 7 LIGHT + HANDED, 8 TD, 9 GR(-oss) + EAT + AND* + (unpalatabl-)E, 15 PRO + PAGAN + SAD<=, 18 (LEG HAD)* outside UMP(-ire), 19 SP(-ecial) + ID + WEBER*, 21 (LOUDEST IF)*, 23 BUCK outside LAD*, 25 Hidden<=, 26 SEAR outside W(-omen) + BY, 29 H(-en) + COOP <=

Members' comments:

- A good challenging puzzle, but I am disappointed that Miniature Schnauzer didn't feature! *Ian Thompson*
- Presumably the 17x17 grid was used to enable the long core dog answer and to provide flexibility elsewhere. It certainly provided several longish answers. I rated 6dn INNER WALL as having the best clue. *Len Colgan*
- Took a while for the penny to drop – but once I had solved the Siberian Husky anagram I was away. *Trish McPherson*
- I looked in vain for a set of 12 things but no, just dogs (again). *Tony Dobe*
- Enjoyable puzzle, required a lot of thought. 11ac: clever use of repulsive to indicate reversal of EG. Didn't get my dog's breed in there! *Roy Taylor*
- Great fun and learnt a few new words. Thank you, Buzzer. *Ann Millard*
- Nice idea, Bhavan. Not really confident about 11ac or 32ac. Thanks. *Eileen O'Brien*
- Two crosswords about dog; very appropriate timing. Liked 15dn. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Neat! Year of the dog, eh? Clues for 25ac and 30ac still puzzle me. *Kathy Horadam*
- Still can't parse 11ac GRIPE. That's assuming it's correct of course! *Richard Skinner*
- Ah! The Year of the Dog! *Nea Storey*

- Good job fitting all those dogs in. *Anne Simons*
- I really enjoyed many of the clues and wonder still why no.6 can't be used for COTM. [It's a matter of different closing dates and the need to publish the COTM at the same time as the slot 1-5 results, Robyn – Ed] *Robyn McKenzie*
- Thanks, Buzzer, for a good brain workout. *Bev Cockburn*

- A good puzzle and one to doggedly get your canines into. *Jim Fowler*
- By the time I'd finished, my rough copy looked like a dog's dinner! *Kath Harper*
- Lots of puppies, but where is the Blue Heeler? *Mike Potts*
- Liked SHAWL, RECEPTIVE, EXISTS. And PUG — Best Dog in Show! *Max Roddick*
- Not sure about 11ac, but had to submit this as I so seldom manage to get out a Slot 6! *Judy Randall*
- An interesting and challenging exercise. *Bob Hagan*
- A wonderful puzzle *Odette Greenberger*

Members' Comments cont'd from p10.

April 5-2018: Cryptic by Zplig (Dover Dubosarsky)

- Took a while to realise cans are headphones and cant is talked by thieves and concave is vault and... Satisfying to finish. *Roy Taylor*
- Excellent! A great puzzle. Many very clever clues. I had trouble with 4dn (who knew cans were headphones!), and the SE corner, but eventually got there. I loved 1ac (once I finally figured it out!), but my COTM goes to 21dn. *Julie Crowe*
- Some excellent clues: GELATO and AT ISSUE are contenders for COTM, but some of my answers are not based on any comprehension I fear -eg: 3dn, 10ac and 23dn. *Kathy Horadam*
- Some tricky stuff. 2dn too tricky, no idea. *Rob Moline*
- Quite a tough puzzle. CANT and STAR were among my last ones in – difficult but good, fair clues I thought. *Ian Thompson*
- I look forward to explanations. *Brian Symons*
- Some great clues in this puzzle, not least STATECRAFT and NECTAR. *Andrew Miles*
- A difficult puzzle with several hard to justify answers (for me anyway) eg GELATO and PRISON, but it did get my COTM – AT ISSUE! *Bev Cockburn*
- A good challenging slot 5. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Some very challenging clues. *Ann Millard*
- I really liked 8ac GELATO. *Tony Dobe*
- I have my fingers crossed for a few answers here! *Nea Storey*
- 8ac: not sure how "gelato" answers the question!! *Marian Procter*
- I thought the clue for CANT was the pick of the bunch. *Brian Tickle*
- An unusual collection of words. *Lynn Jarman*
- Unsure about 8ac – Gelato and 23dn – Prison. Perhaps I got them wrong. *Jim Fowler*
- Some very tricky clues – especially CANAPES! *Laurence Kennedy*
- A bit of a "stinker". Had to "best-guess" several answers but some very clever if devious clues. *Stephen Matthews*
- Some agreeably twisted clues here. *Kath Harper*

M A Y 2 0 1 8 S L O T 7
5-415 by Flowerman
Prize \$75

Post solution to:

Ian Thompson
 1904 Malvern Road
 Malvern East Vic 3145

email:
irt_botanist@hotmail.com

Closing mail date:
 8 June 2018

Nine thematic names are to be placed in the grid (7,7,4,8,7,5,6,7,5) running clockwise from the top left-hand corner of the grid. Twelve clues (6 across and 6 down) contain a superfluous word that must be removed before solving. Collectively, these words (two of them only meaningful if together) identify the theme. Apart from the thematic names, two answers are not in *Chambers*, or at least not as main entries.

Across

- 7 Cover article about biologist's case (5)
- 8 New plastic clothes extremely comfortable? Doubtful (9)
- 9 Master stumped by difficult dog (7)
- 10 People on flight look at college women carrying on (7)
- 11 Fish captured with a hooked wreath (9)
- 14 African in Luxor generously returned duck (5)
- 15 Figure in corner isn't prepared to accept Earl (5)
- 17 School assuming strange boy's a rugby player (5,4)
- 19 Supply Indian captain on vacation with large hookah (7)
- 20 Roughly zero solar energy in fog, say (7)
- 22 Group of people put forward can play games on this (4,5)
- 23 Declare Titan finally cut down (5)

Down

- 1 No special payment initially for those bringing up containers (5)
- 2 Test instrument beginning to observe vehicle in area (7)
- 3 Initially young upstart seriously underestimated fanatical Arabic man (5)
- 4 Ancient king bitter at times with the queen (9)
- 5 Relation fearful after I went bowling down the track (5,2)
- 6 Ground iguana circling about river country (9)
- 12 Store tailor reviewed its baggy trousers but not tweed suits curiously (9)
- 13 Tear apart one in a society supporting green drips regularly (9)
- 16 Have a couple of babies just set up home appliance? (4-3)
- 18 Chinaman confounded principal eating curry heartily (7)
- 20 Bail out near a theatre (5)
- 21 Son's retaining kind lawyers (5)

ROUGH COPY

GOOD COPY - Name

G	1	2	3	4	5	6		H
7			8					
9				10				
11	12		13		14			
15		16	17		18			
19				20		21		
22					23			
E								M

G								H
E								M

Quiz No 5/2018

Quiz No 5/2018. PEPPERED PUZZLE by *The Eager Beaver*.



by *The Eager Beaver*

All answers have something in common, are eight letters long and are not in alphabetical order.

Send your entries to Bev Cockburn 12 Norman Street, Merrylands West NSW 2160. e-mail to bevco4@bigpond.com.

Closing date: Friday 8 June 2018. \$75 prize.

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------------|----|--|
| 1 | storyteller | 13 | everlasting |
| 2 | pipe-like | 14 | most amusing |
| 3 | fried pancake | 15 | neighbourhood |
| 4 | composition writer | 16 | progressively (3 words) |
| 5 | fleet | 17 | having short, sharp alternate turns |
| 6 | Elderly relative | 18 | Inuit sorcerer |
| 7 | product of hemp | 19 | Spanish gold coin |
| 8 | trifling | 20 | conferred |
| 9 | axolotl (US) | 21 | brief and precise |
| 10 | card game | 22 | exam (2 words) |
| 11 | commotion | 23 | Combinations of flamboyance in behaviour |
| 12 | fimsy and easily broken | | |

Results of Quiz 3/2018. Centrally located top spot by *Valkyrie* (Ulla Axelsen).

Entries: 38.

Winner: **Maureen Blake. Congratulations!**

27: Allen W, Blake M, Caine R, Colgan L, Crowe J, Ducker R, Fowler J, Gooderick R, Harper K, Hogan B, Leigh J, Lemon G, Lord P, Mason I, McClelland C, McKenzie R, Miles A, Millard A, O'Brien E, Pinder S, Storey N, Symons B, Thompson I, Wenham J and Wimbush R. **26:** Audrins K, Glissan B, Jones D, Perrow H, Skinner R and Wilcox C. **25:** Cockburn B, Pearce J and Procter M. **24:** Ferguson J and Randall J. **21:** Siegman B. **20:** Williams K.

Answers: 1 Alcoholic 2 Bagpipers 3 Brewery 4 Candidate 5 Discombobulated 6 Dyspepsia 7 Engaged 8 Firmament 9 Flypapers 10 Greyest 11Hullabaloo 12 Imbided 13 Inconsistency 14 Litotes 15 Multitude 16 Niagara 17 Powwowing 18 Pronuncio 19 Qualitatively 20 Revet 21 Shaha 22 Skedaddle 23 Thermometer 24 Uninteresting 25 Vox populi 26 Weekend 27 Zenanas.

Adjudicator's Comments: Thanks to all the people who submitted an entry and all the kind words. There were a few answers that didn't have a palindromic centre and so were discounted, a couple of 'improbability' instead of 'inconsistency', a 'hueless' for 'greyest'. I did accept the more modern 'rexes' for 'kings' although as a couple of people noted, the correct plural is 'reges' which then didn't fit the alphabetical order. I am already looking for new ideas to keep you entertained.

Solvers' Comments:

- Will you inventive quizzers ever run out of unique topics?
Ray Gooderick
- To begin with I thought that 24 was unimaginative, but that was because I had gin on my mind!
Julie Leigh
- Thank you for your enjoyable Quiz 3. It's interesting how many of the centrally located palindromes are terms for family members – MAM, SIS, TOT, DAD, MOM, POP, NAN and, of course, UNCLE BOB!
Andrew Miles
- Thanks for another great and pretty difficult quiz.
Brian Symons
- I enjoyed the task.
Ian Mason
- Thank-you once again, Ulla, for another of your wonderful quizzes.
Doreen Jones
- Thanks for this quiz. Something a bit different.
Jenny Wenham

- Enjoyable quiz, thank you.
Ann Millard
- Thank you for a most challenging quiz, Ulla.
Pat Lord
- Doesn't "discombobulated" sound more annoying than merely "upset"?
Eileen O'Brien
- It took some time to get the words to fit the middle pattern.
Bob Hagan
- Thank-you for a clever puzzle.
Claire McClelland
- I'm always amazed at the seemingly endless variety of themes and ideas for the quizzes!
Julie Crowe
- Most enjoyable!
Barbara Glissan
- Many thanks Ulla. It was lots of fun as usual.
Robyn Wimbush
- Yet another theme. Where do you get them!
Richard Skinner
- I was led astray when the first discovered was 'Brewery' and I presumed all words contained an animal therein! However I eventually realised the common element is that all words contain the same letter each side of the central one.
Maureen Blake
- Even though I found the key quickly, it took a long while to track down some of the answers!
Nea Storey
- Fun and a good challenge.
Robyn McKenzie
- Another clever and unusual quiz.
Marian Procter
- Thanks Ulla for another of your great quizzes.
Betty Siegman
- A VERY challenging quiz. Keep them coming.
Cheryl Wilcox
- A perfect level of challenge – some obvious (once the common element was uncovered), some obscure, a few outright guesses and a lot of brain slog.
Kath Harper
- Many thanks for another fun and challenging quiz. I have wondered about the plural for number 21, whether it is Reges or Rexes. My preference is for Reges as the Latin plural, but that would not be in alphabetical order, so I've opted for Rexes.
Robyn Caine
- Thank you so much for such a fun quiz. I thoroughly enjoyed the brain work. I also discovered some new words in the process.
Judy Randall
- Thank-you for a fascinating puzzle.
Ian Thompson
- Another of your intricate and enjoyable quizzes which took me quite a while.
Bev Cockburn
- Thank you for this Quiz – a novel idea and enjoyable as it wasn't totally straightforward.
Pat Garner
- Hope I got the gist of the "common element". Mind stretching, pun-ishing at times. Dictionary worked overtime. 7 & 16 doozies.
Gary Lemon
- An excellent and tricky quiz that drove me "bananas" – very enjoyable and thank you.
Jim Fowler

March 7-2018: Cryptic by *Nigrum Cattus* (Ray Gooderick)

Entries received: 60. Entries correct: 33. Success rate: 55%.

Prizewinner: Trish McPherson. Congratulations!

Setter's Comments:

The puzzle seems to have been generally well received: the kind comments of the solvers were much appreciated. *Animal Farm* seems to have been a popular read among our entrants; I first read it way back in 1949. The 'ladies' caused a bundle of trouble! LEONE (16 errors) (which is actually the monetary unit of Sierra Leone, not a theme character), MOLLIE (5 errors) and Jessie (1 error). STOB (8 errors), a Scots word for a stump, also proved to be a stumbling block. Interestingly, some of the more difficult (and less well known) characters including Messrs Pilkington, Frederick and Jones gave solvers no problems. —Ray Gooderick

Explanations for clues: Across: 1 #BEN+JAM+IN [# indicates theme clue], **5** #MO(ILL<)E, **9** uP tILL tEn I, **10** DUCE in CIA, **11** #(NOT KIPLING)*, **12** BOTS<, **14** (LEFT OR)*, **15** LE(ON)E, **18** #OX in REB<, **19** #M (IST) ER, **21** Hidden, **22** ANIMAL + FARM, **25** INST + Y + LE, **27** #JO(N)ES, **28** KEEP + UP, **29** PRE(LATE)S. **Down: 1** B + LIMP, **2** #NAP+OLE+ON, **3** (WILL A MOTEL)*, **4** G (NICK)I<, **6** #OLD + MAJOR, **7** COL< + A + TE, **8** * (LIBERIA+RC)*, **10** #CL + OVER, **13** ANTIC+(IN+ALL*), **14** #(DEFER)* + RICK, **16** (CAN SEE)*, **17** Anag, **20** # DD, **24** #MO(SE)S, **26** Homoph "U".

Solvers' Comments:

- Enjoyable puzzle. Derived a name ERIC BLAIR from anagram but had to check if he was an author! *Ian Thompson*
- By coincidence, I recently visited the home of Eric Blair in Katha, northern Myanmar, where he served as a Colonial Police Officer (1926-7). From his experiences, he released *Burmese Days* in 1934, before attaining world fame with his subsequent novels *Animal Farm* and *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. An interesting place and a most interesting puzzle! *Len Colgan*
- Wonderful puzzle. Time to re-read *Animal Farm* again. *Trish McPherson*
- This was a slog until I got the theme. 'Beastly husband' was not a help! I had to Google some answers to get the *Animal Farm* connection. After that it was an enjoyable solve, thanks NC. *Tony Dobele*
- In the interests of fairness, a grid should not contain more than two successive unchecked squares in any word. *George Rolfe*
- Liked the way you worked in the characters from *Animal Farm*. Couple of the other answers were new to me – not that that is remarkable! Thanks. *Eileen O'Brien*
- Clever! Is there an app for composing Themed Crosswords? [*Sadly, no!* - NC] I don't know how you do it! *Pat Lord*
- Solved Clover and Moses quickly but saw no connection. Then on finding Eric Blair was George Orwell it all fell into place. The allegory is still as relevant now as it was in 1945. Challenging but fun. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Excellent; some puzzles are more equal than others, perhaps! *Kathy Horadam*
- It's been a long time since I read *Animal Farm*. Good theme though as names are always harder to parse. *Richard Skinner*
- I have not studied *Animal Farm* but since the research I undertook to complete this puzzle I now know a lot more about it and intend to fill the gap in my education and actually read it at last! *Maureen Blake*
- So long since I read *Animal Farm* that the names I came up with didn't click until I Googled Eric Blair. *Nea Storey*
- Phew! Somehow fluked ANIMAL FARM, which finally made sense of the few undefined answers I already had. *Anne Simons*
- What a beastly puzzle – meant in the nicest possible way, of course! How clever to work in all those names. *Kath Harper*
- Nice to see a Boxer in there, in keeping with the dog theme

- elsewhere. *Mike Potts*
- Very good. *Jim Fowler*
- This was hard at times but a lot of fun. I enjoyed the Latin clues especially. *Robyn McKenzie*
- 1st time I have attempted a Slot 7 and it may well be my last. Good fun though. *Judy Schulz*
- Herewith my offering for a very challenging slot 7. It's a long time since I last read *Animal Farm*. I'd almost forgotten many of the characters. I enjoyed the exercise. *Bob Hagan*
- Not sure about 8dn. Is this a cryptic clue? *Claire McClelland*
- Excellent puzzle Ray. The name of the book and the real name of the author were there, but I first got the theme by guessing Mister Pilkington. *Roy Taylor*
- Dear Ray, It's many, many moons since I read *Animal Farm*, but I enjoyed remembering it (though I must confess I've forgotten a lot). Must read it again. *Robyn Caine*
- Sorry for my late entry in such an enjoyable puzzle. (It arrived in good time. (NC)) *Odette Greenberger*

Solution to March 2018 Slot 7

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

Crossword Centre UK by Derek Harrison

We were pleased to see that the March 2018 puzzle published in the UK was by our distinguished puzzler *Flowerman* (Ian Thompson). It was called *Pie Crust* and the title hinted at moving pictures and residual letters in clues gave FORTIES ACTRESSES. Four film actresses from the forties filled the unclued lights.

One member said: "Clever to find four names that fitted symmetrically around the sides of the grid. We were flummoxed by the title until we decided to anagram it at the end of our solve. Doh!"

Another solver said: "Another fine puzzle from the CC. Many thanks to *Flowerman*. Some very clever clues."

There were 50 entries, of which 5 were marked incorrect. The lucky winner, picked from the electronic hat, was Paul Dendy, from Wales, who will soon be receiving a book donated by *Chambers*.

A full solution is available at <https://wp.me/p7qTXm-7S>

Results of the Clue Writing Competition No 2/2018.

Write a clue for SPARTAN (7). Adjudicated by Michael Kennedy

Definition from *Chambers* (12th edition)

Adj simple, hardy, rigorous, frugal, laconic, militaristic, despising culture (thought to be characteristic of the ancient Greek city of Sparta, capital of Laconia); bleak, rigorous, austere. **n** someone or something displaying spartan qualities; (with cap) a citizen or native of Sparta or Laconia [Gr *Sparte* (Doric *Sparta*)]

I chose *spartan*, not because it turned out to be a gem of a word to clue, but because it leapt out to me during an ad for one of those ludicrous game show ideas. Anyway, the word is quite unique as, without anagrams, it can be partitioned into S(PART)AN, SPAR(TAN), SP(ART)AN, or S(PAR)TAN. It also lends itself to becoming a hidden, anagram, or even a spoonerism. And if that isn't enough there are the handy definitions, particularly *hardy*. It was one of these that clinched the prize this month from any number of clues that were also worthy.

Congratulations to **Doreen Jones**.

Hardy? Laurel has equal value (7)

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

Box with reduced tank is frugal ***

A simple charade clue that joins *spar* with *tan*. The definition has been chosen well as it fits nicely with the idea of a smaller receptacle.

Bridge covering graffiti, perhaps, is harsh ***½

This simple clue conjures up a realistic picture of graffiti (art to some) being covered over. Nicely done!

Devil, adopting PR, converted a simple man **

Here *Satan* is literally adopting *PR* to become a *spartan*. In this instance, the 'direct' *Satan* would have been the preferable choice to avoid the indirect anagram when combined with the letters *PR*. As far as the surface sense, I'm assuming *PR* is Public Relations and not one of the various other abbreviations on offer.

Greek officials returned with name for son ***

This was one parsing method I did not foresee, and it's cleverly done. It's simply a reversal of *SATRAPS* with the *S* being replaced by the *N*. However, I think the clue could be improved with some extra information as *satraps* is not an obvious synonym for *officials*. Perhaps something like *Ancient Greek and Persian officials returning with name for second son* (to stress the fact that that are two *S* letters). Happy to discuss!

Hardy & Sinatra (psychologists) retire ***

Here we have the definition disguised as part of a business name, which then goes on to hide the fodder in reverse, as indicated by *retire*. It's a neat idea but just needs a little more work on the indicator as *retire* by itself is too vague. Perhaps *semi-retirement* or *partially retiring* could have been used to indicate the partial nature of the hidden.

Hardy? Laurel has equal value ****

I'm sure most of you would recognise the comedy film duo, Laurel & Hardy, from way back when. It was well-spotted to see that not only can the definition, *hardy*, be well disguised, but Stan (Laurel's first name) is a convenient part of the word fodder. In this instance the remaining letters, *PAR*, come from *equal value*. I like the way the clue is phrased to suggest one of them was favoured over the other.

Having skill in bridge is tough ***½

A simple clue that deftly inserts *art* into *span*, while maintaining a sensible surface reading. It's interesting too, that *spartan* can also mean *simple* – the complete opposite to *tough* in this sense. I can't play bridge, so I will readily accept the compiler's opinion here.

In-sumptuous, part ancient! ****

There is a lot of thought and work behind this seemingly simple clue. In essence, it's a hidden with the answer embedded in the clue. What makes this clue extra special is that the entire clue is not only indicating the hidden, but it's also designed to define *spartan*. This *&lit* style clue does, however, have to rely on almost

an ancient word to get it done – *insumptuous* (the opposite of sumptuous). While it is obscure and not in any dictionary I possess, it does seem relatively intuitive. In addition, the compiler has necessarily hyphenated the word to ensure the indicator is clear. So while not the perfect *&lit*, it comes very close.

Is leaving violent partisans – they're too harsh ***

This is a subtraction anagram with *IS* being taken from *partisans*. I've printed the clue as I received it, but I assume *Is* should be *IS* (as in Islamic State). If that's correct, then the clue reads very well. The only issue is that the padding words '*they're too*' is suggestive of a plural noun.

Militaristic man, armoured in tin, begins preparing automatic rifles to attack ***

This combative clue takes the initial letters of the last five words (*P,A,R,T,A*) and inserts them in *SN* (the chemical symbol for lead). *Begins* (a verb) by itself doesn't work as an initial indicator in my opinion (*Starts to* would have been one option).

Partisan? Not I! – misguided for despising culture ***

This subtraction anagram takes *I* from *partisan*. The *despising culture* definition fits well, and this was the only clue that adopted this definition. The clue is a little stop/start with the busy punctuation but otherwise works well. Perhaps, '*I am not involved in partisan revolt despising culture*' could be one way of smoothing out the clue.

Person of great courage and self-discipline captures revolutionary heart of France ***

This is an interesting clue as the definition alone makes up half this lengthy clue. The parsing is a reversal of *TRAPS* (captures) with *AN*. Tricky, as one immediately thinks *captures* is a literal indicator.

Practice fight to beat the sternly disciplined ***½

This is a wonderful charade that links *spar* with *tan*, while maintaining a sensible surface reading. If I was to quibble, it would be that the definition seems a touch forced. I may have gone with using an example of a famous Spartan, such as Leonidas or Menelaus.

Santa Public Relations Training is rigorous ****

This is a neat anagram of *SANTA* and *PR*. The indicator is a great choice (although I would have opted for a lower case *T* in *training*), and the surface sense is spot on.

Spooner's lifetime of a sailor is austere ****

What a terrific spoonerism! *Spartan* becomes *tar-span* or, as eloquently phrased by the compiler, the lifetime of a sailor! The clue suggests that the *Lifetime of a Sailor* may be the title of something Spooner has penned?

Undaunted silly rat is within nine inches! ***½

We finish with a cute clue that uses an anagram of *RAT* inside *span* (nine inches). I wasn't aware of this metrical definition of *span* but you'll find it in the dictionary. It's nicely done, although I would have been tempted to go with alternative anagram indicators (such as *somehow*) to create more drama.

Scoring System

	Poor	Proper	Perfect
Definition	0	1	2
Secondaries	0	1	2
Fairness	0	1	2
Surface	0	1	2
x-factor	0	1	2

Clue Writing Competition No 4/2018

For the next competition, please write a clue for the word **PERISH** (6) complete with explanation. Note: only one clue per person. Send your clue and explanation to the adjudicator Michael Kennedy, 27 Hennessy Lane, Figtree NSW 2525 or by email to:

manveru@bigpond.com

Closing mail date: Friday 8 June 2018. Prize \$50.