I know I’m on record for growling at solvers who lose dots because of blank spaces (because they’re so easily checked). This was my third adjudication and can I say at the outset how good it was to get so few errors caused by blanks – in fact I thought I was going to get through the whole set of answers without finding any. In the end there were a couple but you should take a collective bow this month for addressing this issue. Thank you too for the greetings and cards, (seasonally adjusted) – that’s the bonus the December adjudication provides!

Slot 1: The intersecting PRE and UNE meant that getting one wrong got you two errors, as nearly 10 solvers found. Otherwise, no real problems, typos mainly – FRANKINSTEIN, CANE AH, EARTMOBHERS for example. Slot 2: Three answers in particular tripped up solvers here – FJORD submitted for FJORD, WITHHOLD for WITHHOLD and OSIES/ASTERS for ASPENS. The remaining errors were either typos, blanks or creative attempts (SORIZORITY for JOCOSITY).

Slot 3: Isn’t always the case that one answer in one slot causes the most grief? More than 25 solvers tried HOME GAME for HOME BASE (with one happy variant of LOVE GAME) and lost the dot. Other slips were interesting (PIRACY for BIGAMY – a Freudian slip perhaps, SIRNAME for SURNAME) or constructive (KEEP ON for KEEP UP) or creative (LEASEE for LESSEE) but wrong nevertheless.

Slot 4: Lots of comments from solvers about the difficulty of slot 4 this month but amid the plethora of interesting variations and spellings HOPPLING tripped up more than most with HOPPLANT, HOBBLING, HOP ALONG being tripped up. Other errors were obvious typos (SKYSEAPE, YOGOSLAV) or desperate attempts to find any letters to make an intelligible word (so ZOFTIG and UPLOCK and NYOBE). Entertaining but wrong. Slot 4 though provided the runaway winner was the T clue in slot 4 (TAPER) with 10 votes, and one other player.

Slot 5: Some interesting variations on the spelling of VICOMTE, and GALLOONED was obviously a new word to many (self included) with GASCOYNED and GADROONED being tripped up. FAWN became FAWM (typo perhaps) but also DAMN and BANN which might have indicated personal feelings. I was surprised that STREEL – another unusual word – trapped only one player.

COTM: A good spread of suggestions this month, with firm favourites emerging early. Slot 2, 1ac (WITHHOLD) and Slot 3 15ac (BIGAMY) were well-liked, but the runaway winner was the T clue in slot 4 (TAPER) with 10 votes, and one other player (“clue of the century!”) summing up neatly how many solvers felt. Congratulations to Len Colgan (Crowswman).

—David Grainger

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

**Puzzle No.**

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**Correct entries**

| 67 | 54 | 52 | 45 | 55 | 273 |

**Success rate (%)**

| 79.7 | 72.0 | 61.9 | 67.1 | 75.3 | 86.2 |

**Prizewinners**

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<th>D Bennett</th>
<th>A Simons</th>
<th>F Martin</th>
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<tr>
<td>O’Brien</td>
<td>W Villiers</td>
<td>M Pyc</td>
<td>G McDaid</td>
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**Prize Schedule 2011**

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**CROZworld**

When old words die out on the tongue, new melodies break forth from the heart; and where the old tracks are lost, new country is revealed with its wonders. Rabindranath Tagore, 1912, Gotanjali (trans.) p37.
Across
1  Parvenus (8)
5  Belly (6)
9  Wimp (8)
10 Stockpiles (6)
12 Chaos (5)
13 Cross between tangerine, grapefruit and orange (4,5)
14 As opposed to one direction only (3,3,6)
18 Assembly (12)
21 Accurse better as speak profanely? (9)
23 Carrion-feeding carnivore (5)
24 Instruments (6)
25 Sameness in colour (8)
26 Avidly (6)
27 Orbicular (8)

Down
1  Silly to have begun wisent-herding inside! (6)
2  Symbol of solar deity found with wrecked barcas (6)
3  Maximum hostility after end of innings battle (3-3,3)
4  Language oscillator creates perpetrator of idle gossip (6-6)
6  Indifferent loofa is different! (5)
7  Nourished mistreated rued runt (8)
8  I see that doctor shillyshally (8)
11 He competes against an idiot and clowns around (5,3,4)
15 Chewing implement on fowl’s head used for parasite removal (9)
16 Cold confection found in twice blockaded area (3,5)
17 Enmesh the small fly as it flies upwards in the shady north lee (8)
19 Abridged recipe uses grease for a kick (6)
20 Rush wildly into life’s work (6)
22 Nepal arrangements relating to discipline (5)
Slot 4: Explanations for December Slots 1-5 (where provided by setters) – thanks to Len and Drew.

Sulis. When Bev and I co-operated, we called ourselves ‘Two grey owls’, and I thought I would continue the tradition. He left a note for Pooh and Rabbit saying “Gon out Backson Wol.” I’ve always loved owls, my favourite is Minerva’s owl from Aquae.

Compiler Profile: Wol (Margaret Galbreath)
Born England in 1925. War/teenage years at Orpington, Kent. 1946, married Ron. 1948, first child. 1949, emigrated to Australia – £10 Poms. Started Aussie life at Gypsy on cousin’s dairy farm; very hard work. 1950, to Melbourne for 6 years, acquired 2 more children. 1955, to Hobart, one more child. 1958, to Canberra, Ron working at Mt Stromlo for 3 years. A girl this time. 1961, moved to Elizabeth SA, built a house, still live in it. Robin, our baby was born. When he started school I became a library lady - the best job in the world: 1985, retired. Hobbies, play recorder and penny whistle in a folk group, Tai Chi, gardening, reading, crosswords. We have been married now for 64 years and have 6 grandchildren and 4¾ great-grandchildren. The greats are all boys! “Wol” is how Owl in Winnie the Pooh spelled his name. He could spell Tuesday too so you knew it wasn’t Wednesday!

He left a note for Pooh and Rabbit saying “Gon out Backson Wol.” I’ve always loved owls, my favourite is Minerva’s owl from Aquae. Sulis. When Bev and I co-operated, we called ourselves ‘Two grey owls’, and I thought I would continue the tradition.

Explanations for December Slots 1-5 (where provided by setters) – thanks to Len and Drew.

Slot 4: The Crowsman A: anag (àlit); B: double def; C: counter/àtack(èd); D: Den(ying); E: en(case)de; F: F(loor)ed; G: double def; H: hop/plung (î is a plung); I: I(vor)ian; J: jet/liner; K: homonym; L: leg(ations); M: maxim/a; N: NY/mph; O: overt/urns; P: plea/sure/see/king; Q: qu(AGM)ires; R: re(pro)bate; S: sky/s/cape; T: double def; U: un/lock; V: verge(ing); W: W/heel; X: [lonely/X] rev; Y: guy[rev]/also[rev]/v; Z: z(on)ing. Slot 5: St Jude: Across 1 anagind) 5 ST + REEL 9 Double defn 10 ST[REAK] 12 MAC + ADAM + IA 14 ArGUE

Across
1 Ring the stall to pay for your trip here (9)
6 Crop bring credit and a lot of awe (4)
8 Magicians on the outskirts of London worried about the principles of the C of E (11)
9 Finish mend without starting machine (3)
11 Surroundings of alien in deception (7)
12 Ancient Egyptian dead. Beat that. (3,4)
13 Plenty of room for brains, but do such people use them (3-6)
15 A peculiar island drink (3)
17 A measure to sell short (3)
18 Publish too many? Excess to impress (9)
22 Immediate stain messed up the NT (7)
24 Getting out was stirring, though without a hundred (7)
25 One new prefix (3)
26 The day of choice for the first woman? No, the day before (8,3)
27 Only a lake boundary (4)
28 I defy lash wielded on parts of farm (9)

Down
1 With limited allowance, I run in torn pants, giving off vapour (13)
2 Small change from first to last gives illumination (6)
3 Strike contains trouble for agent (7)
4 End of fruit? It’s the European butterfly (6-3)
5 Raise washing. Is hot, mangled (5)
6 In short arrive, repair, praise (7)
7 Capital queen (8)
8 Insect parent not short on supports (5-4-4)
9 Wicked unknown hides depression, obviously (9)
16 Primitive plant went upward, produced fine flowers (4,4)
19 Age tree to make display stand (7)
20 Spilled oil after journey to capital (7)
21 One panel shaped like a cone (6)
23 Note the mongrel canines (5)

Prize $75 x2
Another Sydney Get-Together Triumph!

At William Ryan’s modern Harold Park Hotel on 28 November members and significant others enjoyed a day of cruciverbal conversation, conundrum cracking and cogitation over puzzles and quiz questions. Approx. 45 members and friends gathered in the salubrious upstairs surroundings for a memorable occasion. The Sydneysiders were well represented including Roy Wilson, David Stickley, Del Kennedy, Joan McGrath, Corryn Anderson, Marian Procter, Dale McManus, Robyn Wimbush, Margaret Davis, John Brotherton, Andrew Patterson and Michael Kennedy and Veniece Lobsey from Dubbo, just to name a few. Victorians were in attendance also including Patrick Street, Alison Shield, Kath Harper and Alison Martin. The ACT members included our puzzle-set-up man and adjudicators Ian and Kay Williams, Nea and Charles Storey and David and Hazel Grainger. South Australians included Doug and Paulina Butler and Len Colgan. A couple of ‘easy’ puzzles were tabled by stroz and our Secretary Bev Cockburn devised a challenging Quiz. Len Colgan gave us a couple of fascinating clues on the whiteboard and there were numerous prizes given away to skilful solvers and lucky door prizes. The food supplied by William was first-class and the day was a stunning success. Photos of some of those in attendance kindly supplied by Doug Butler can be admired on p20. We sincerely thank William for making his Pride and Joy available to us for our ongoing enjoyment and we have all resolved to come back again in 2011! Also, we appreciate all the work done by our Secretary Bev Cockburn. Her painstaking preparation and organisation contributed to the overall success of the occasion.

Across
1 Rip rust off this iron support (7)
5 Melody requires royal pipe (7)
9 Physician is after vineyard for a small amount (5)
10 Crumpled blackout drapes lost colour when stretched wide (9)
11 Scruffy junk – empty contents! (7)
12 Batman dressed as little fowl (6)
15 Conceal in leather (4)
16 Cheeky retriever playfully swallowing last of ptarmigan (10)
19 In tavern on drink? Ernie’s one who only drinks lemonade! (3-7)
20 Principally lusts over gold on emblem (4)
22 Respect paid to silver in our house (6)
24 Small carpet with a beetle (7)
27 Celts ran author ragged! (9)
28 Twist together in wet dance (5)
29 Inspiration of 19, say, outside Nimes, treated loss of memory (7)
30 True height ... (7)

Down
1 ... of Young Conservative in the Society of Engineers (4)
2 Bird manure put on island fronting old reptile! (9)
3 Wandering brown bear lacking beard (6)
4 Flourishing expert’s exercise hoop (10)
5 Joints reversed in stucco (4)
6 Greek letters lacking a writing system (8)
7 Negotiate with Mad Hatter, but not Henry (5)
8 Embarrassed English Parliamentarian into nonconformist salvation (10)
13 Furry rodent cold in panda country (10)
14 Been manipulating agent. He gives donations! (10)
17 English Chamber Orchestra! See the point? (9)
18 Gert’s rig shuddering, starts off (8)
21 Put arm casually around worker in religious chant (6)
23 Simpleton partly infirm or only lame? (5)
25 Eager for a comeback? (4)
26 Agent returns holding a fruit (4)
Solutions begin with the given letter. Place them in the grid, jigsaw-wise, where they fit.

**Prize:**

**Tornado Crossword Pencil**

[rrp $77.00]

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**GENERAL COMMENTS:**

- “I have just received my prize of the Oxford Crossword Dictionary, and I am thrilled. I have always said you can’t have too many dictionaries and this edition is most welcome.”
  - Joan McGrath
- “Many thanks for the prize for November’s Slot 5. An early Christmas present!”
  - Denis Coates
- “In the comments on my November 5 puzzle it was mentioned: "solves had some reservations regarding PILOSES." Brian Symons, in fact, going so far as to say: "I don’t think that there is such a word as PILOSES (it is PILOSIS)." The Merriam-Webster. Unabridged Dictionary defines ‘Psiloses’ as the plural of ‘PSILOSIS’. Perhaps I could more accurately have defined it as ‘hair losses’.”
  - Roy Wilson
- “Many thanks to ACC for the November prize – I go into hospital soon, and the cheque will help ease the pain.”
  - Margaret Steinberger
- “Very enjoyable bunch of crosswords – I post them off with confidence – probably unwarranted!”
  - Merc Collins
- “Another great lot of puzzles.”
  - Betty Siegman
- “… thankfully there were no headache-causing ‘pesky’ four letter words this month …”
  - Odette Greenberger
- “A lovely lot of puzzles once again, with new words added to my vocabulary. I found slot 4 very challenging but with a bit of help from new friends at the Annual Get-together finally managed to piece it all together … [I]t was so nice to meet the members of Crozworld and put faces to names or should I say names to faces! Thank you so much for the book prize – the Chambers Thesaurus is being used constantly and is a real help to puzzle solving! Not sure of ‘streel’ in slot 5 but at least a completed puzzle to enter.”
  - Lynne Spicer
Cryptic
by
The EmCee

Prizes: $75

[2006 edn]

Win!

Across
1 Conflict’s fashionable for old trireme (7)
5 A triumph hard to articulate for one who 8-downs! (7)
9 A garland? OK, that’d make for a fun time (7)
10 The classy ringer displayed a lot of needle (7)
11 He had a saline partnership – and plenty of it (3)
12 I fled in confusion from the disbeliever (7)
13 Look in the field, Rick, for the tiger, of course! (7)
14 Publicise the cockney girl’s tresses (3)
16 The sheep went backwards to the trap near the edge (6)
18 Wow! Everyone can come in and indulge in the pleasure (6)
20 A town on the Nullarbor? That’s a clue, strangely (5)
21 Rip off and run to the church (6)
22 The move was a risk; the French left it (6)
23 Times are moving backwards (3)
25 Practical views are, firstly, rarely expressed as living in silly make-believe (7)
28 ‘Fever!’ – bad French song (7)
30 Hey, little brother! See you round when you come back (3)
31 Electing? No, I bungle it and overlook the opportunity (7)
32 I heard the foully cursin’ princess was once a Turkish official (7)
33 On the surface, the leaves may seem red (7)
34 Fruit produced sore, dislocated joint (7)

Down
1 Wage for a million changed a King of England (7,2,6)
2 The cavalry, perhaps, will strengthen! (9)
3 He who understands only in part, is still a great nose for news (5)
4 Father Fitzgerald makes Spanish fare (6)
5 None heard sibling (6)
6 Better preserved (5)
7 When Nui Dat market closed, boredom set in (5)
8 Effect of pronounced problem which makes sausages hard to spit out! (6,4,1,4)
15 Suffer like a popular pooch (5)
17 Nearly every necessity for a maiden name (3)
18 Posh sportsman’s wife is a cheeky one! (3)
19 ‘The room next to Laboratory X needs a wash’, said one who 8-downs. The bull lived there (9)
23 Ed swallowed a speck of dust and over-reacted (6)
24 Ale before noon produces tobacco juice (6)
26 A glen yields a viewpoint (5)
27 New theories can reinvigorate a side (5)
29 Encourages strongmen’s achievements (5)

GENERAL COMMENTS (cont’d):

• What excitement when the December issue lobbed in my Inbox. First, Slots 1-5 all OK, then a prize for me for Slot 4 and the icing on the cake – one of my clues got the COTM! My grateful thanks to everyone responsible for this bonanza. Catherine Hambling

• For clue of the month, I vote for the AJ clue O – ‘overturns’ with Slot 2, 25ac ‘purchases’ as a runner up. Both clues are marvels of brevity with great surface readings. Well done to the setters.

• I was tempted by St Jude’s 6dn and 11dn (Slot 5), but finally went for Virgo’s 4dn in Slot 4 – brief and beautifully misleading. Thank you for the lovely prizes I was lucky enough to be presented with at the end-of-year lunch, especially the terrific Chambers Dictionary. Sadly, William Ryan’s generously donated bottle of wine didn’t make it home – we felt obliged to drink it so that our luggage wouldn’t be too heavy on the return trip! Kath Harper

Mal Cockburn
Solve the anagrams and place them in the grid, where they fit:

ATTIRE RULE (10)  LET PEER (7)
CAREER INTO (10)  MEN TROT (7)
READ LABEL (9)    SAD MEN (6)
ARGUE ONCE (9)     LET TEN (6)
TRIM HALOS (9)     TO RENT (6)
TIN CADDIE (9)     MANTAS (6)
TEN SITARS (9)     ALE VAT (6)
EMOTE SINS (9)     TW ther (6)
STAR ITEM (8)      COAST (5)
PERUSERS (8)       TAXER (5)
RENT RAGS (8)      ONE SO (5)
HEARD VAN (8)      STENO (5)
ASS SEAM (7)       SHAMS (5)
CAN E HEN (7)      POKES (5)
LOSE PIN (7)       GRAB (4)
RAN SPEC (7)       SIDE (4)

Jean Barbour,
PO Box 290, Wonthaggi Vic 3995.
email: william.barbour@bigpond.com
Closing mail date: Friday 11 February 2011.
ACC COMPILED OF 2010: We have had plenty of crossword compilers featured in CROZworld during 2010. No doubt you have your favourite ACC compiler. If so, then we would like you to vote for him/her as the ACC Compiler of 2010. See p11 for the voting form.

CLUE OF THE MONTH: We continued the COTM in 2010 and it has been keenly embraced by the solvers. We will continue it in 2011. During 2010, the results were as follows. We respectfully recognise the late Noel Jessop with 3 COTMs, Jenny Wenham and Len Colgan with 2 COTMs and John Brotherton, Tony Dobele, Catherine Hambling, Michael Kennedy, Nea Storey, Ian Williams, Roy Wilson and Andrew Patterson 1 each. Well done!

SIGN UP A NEW MEMBER! If you sign up a new member for 2011, the cost is only $30. Unbeatable value! A wonderful present for your friends! We have a number of new members already for 2011! Let’s make a lot of people happy by signing up your cruciverbal friends. It only costs $30 for the whole year. Great value!


Donations to the ACC Prize Fund 2011 are gratefully received from: Corryn Anderson, Margaret Banks, Jean Barbour, Doug Butler, Lesley Carroll, Gillian Champion, Chester Chance, Merv Collins, Fay Copland, John Davey, Tony Dobele, Jill Freeland, Don Hemsley, Pat Horan, Jacqui King, Vennie Lobsey, Greg McAdoo, McGrath J, Trish McPherson, Sandra May, Drew Meek, Andrew Miles, Judith Mitchell, Andrew Patterson, David Procter, Therese Savanah, Joan Smith, Bev Solomon, Steve Trollope, Margaret Watzinger and Cheryl Wilcox.

E-LODGMENT: Would you like to lodge your solutions in an electronic format rather than relying on the post? If so, then e-lodgment is for you: it’s quick, reliable and inexpensive. Ian has been skilfully managing e-lodgment entries since July 2005 and we express our sincere thanks to him for the time and energy he has devoted to this worthwhile project. Kindly send your e-lodgment entries to Ian whose e-mail address is: ianu@uwebone.com.au

Appeals: If you feel aggrieved about any decision made by an Adjudicator, then contact the Adjudicator and put your case. If your appeal to the Adjudicator is unsuccessful, you may contact the Executive Committee who will then finally determine the appeal.

New Members: Nicolas Liberman from South Yarra, Vic and Matthew Jury from Rowville Vic (a Gift Membership from Alison Hocking). Welcome to the Wonderful World of CROZworld!

Errata and Corrigenda for January 2011 CROZworld. Alison Shield received dots for November slots 1 and 4.

December Slot 6: the word length indicator for 10ac would more normally read (4-3)

Providing your comments on puzzles: While we aim to publish all comments made by members on puzzles (space in CROZworld permitting), the volume of some of the comments that are published in manuscript form creates a significant workload for our long-suffering adjudicators. To help us to help you to have your comments published, where you have e-mail would you kindly provide your comments by e-mail so that the adjudicator only has to cut and paste the comments rather than spend a considerable amount of their valuable time in typing them? Thank you.

The Australian Oxford Dictionary

WORD OF THE MONTH
rubricate v.tr. 1. mark with red; print or write in red. 2. provide with rubrics. [ORIGIN: Latin rubicicare from rubrica (terra) ‘red (earth or ochre)’ as writing material, related to rubeus ‘red’.]

The Australian National Dictionary Centre was established in 1988 with the twin purposes of conducting research into Australian English and providing Oxford University Press with editorial expertise for its range of Australian dictionaries. It is jointly funded by the Australian National University and Oxford University Press Australia. WS Ramson was director of the Centre from 1988 to 1994. Bruce Moore became director in 1994. The Centre takes its name from The Australian National Dictionary: A Dictionary of Australianisms on Historical Principles, ed. WS Ramson, which was published by Oxford University Press in 1988.

PRIZE SCHEDULE for 2011
Subject to the overriding discretion of the Executive Committee, the monthly prizes for Slots 2, 3, and 6: $50 x 2 each. Slots 4 & 7 and all quizzes: Book prize. Puzzle No 1: The Macquarie Crossword Dictionary (2007 edition) or other book as selected plus one x $50. Puzzle No 5: The Oxford Crossword Dictionary (2006 edn) or other book as selected plus one x $50. Slots 1-5 correct selected winner each month: $100. Cumulative slots 1-6, Jan-Dec, trophy. Numbered Quizzes Jan-Dec, trophy.

NOTES: (1) “Closing mail date” means that entries eligible for a prize must be received by the Adjudicator at or before the time of the postal mail delivery on the date specified each month in CROZworld. This includes any entries which may be sent electronically via e-mail. Any entries received after that time and date will not be eligible to gain a ‘dot’ or to qualify for a prize.
(2) Only current financial members of the Australian Crossword Club are eligible to win prizes in 2011.

A Note about the Prizes for 2011
Thanks to the generosity of members, we are able to maintain the prize schedule for 2011 and are continuing with Cumulative Prizes for the best solvers in 2011. We recognise that we should reward the Club’s champion solvers with something tangible to mark this achievement. And so, in 2010, we will award trophies for the Club’s champion solvers and each trophy will carry a plaque setting out the details of the winner’s name and the particular competition. Trophies will be awarded for Cumulative Slots 1-6 Jan-Dec 2011 and the top scorer for the numbered Quizzes Jan-Dec 2011. These special trophies will look great on anybody’s mantelpiece so go to it! Commencing from this edition of CROZworld, the clock starts to run. Best of luck with your solving in 2011!

Note: In 2011, only one entry per person per puzzle or Quiz is allowed. In cases where e-lodged submissions of completed grids are corrupted, or are otherwise unable to be read or opened, a repeat submission may be allowed following consultation with Ian Williams.
December 1-2010: Quite Candid by Fortuna 48 (Nea Storey)

A generation or two or three I thoroughly enjoyed Slot 1. SuIVic answers were so simple they didn’t even register at first, but when the penny dropped, they did make me laugh. Thanks for some great fun.

• An unusually low percentage of unclues gave a number of clues (56) which unfortunately included 4 ‘naughty’ 2-letter answer words. Nice theme.
• Thanks Fortuna 48 for your quick ‘Frank’ opening puzzle. ‘Elle’ gets two mentions: 33ac and 8dn.
• What happened to the days when Slot 1 was an orthodox puzzle? This one was no ‘gimme’.

Frankly, shouldn’t be Slot 1. Is BLT clue cryptic?
Peter Dearie

• Fluked 6ac which was a good start! Cannot confirm 33ac or 36dn so am hoping the ‘through’ answers are correct.


Anne Simons

• Nice title, which I didn’t notice till I’d finished and there were some reasonable clues for short words which can be difficult. 18ac: hope to hear what “voter for an Archibald Prize” has to do with Frank Packer. Not a final-chord slot, like a double deinition referring to the other picture prize awarded by the galaxy packers. 25ac: behaviour is a noun not a verb, so “describing lustful behaviour” would be ‘horny’ not ‘hornily’. 1dn: Frankenstein was the scientist not the monster.

• Clever theme – candid/frank.


Frankly, my dear ... I loved the quirky playfulness of many of these clues.

Anne Simons

• Quite a few new words for me in this one with TAR BABIES being my favourite. Favourite clue was 5dn. I don’t like the split definition in 39dn, though.

Jenny Wenham

December 2-2010: Cryptic by Virgo (Audrey Austin)

In 1ac using Water’ to mean BBQ is a little naughty but oh, so clever. I felt a minor irritation when I saw ‘(Spenser)’ in 23dn as I am not a big fan of the use of Spenserian words. Once again Audrey was much too clever for me. Spens formed the bulk of the answer’s aspens.

Peter Dearie

• 18dn: FLYPAPER – an insect trap. Presumably Flying paper is a kite. Thanks Virgo for a good cryptic.


Alan Walter

• Nice one thanks Audrey.


Col Archibald

• WITHOLD nearly got my COTM.


Roy Taylor

• A generally fair and high standard puzzle. I’m not keen on ‘description’ of 7ac. 6dn: ‘movie’ is a bit of a stretch for an anagind!


Tony Dobele

• Some great clues here especially 13ac, 31ac and 18dn.Anne Simons

• 5ac: nice surface reading but the double definition is in fact the same definition 15ac: Chambers indicates testimony – vt (Shakespeare) to test, prove or judge by evidence – trial but what does “change” indicate? 4ad??: movie: is a bit of a stretch for an anagind?


Tony Dobele

• I have AVON for 17ac but not sure how German leads to VON. ‘Von’ in German is ‘of’ or ‘from’, not ‘a’. Unless I’ve misread the clue and got it wrong. Couple of iffy anaginds – ‘movie’ and ‘settle’. Tony Dobele

• A generally fair and high standard puzzle. I’m not keen on ‘description’ of 7ac. 6dn: ‘movie’ is a bit of a stretch for an anagind!


Tony Dobele

• I don’t know Surinam could be spelt with a S.


Len Colgan

December 3-2010: Cryptic by Southern Cross (Shirl O’Brien)

• Dave Ashton has some warm and well deserved compliments about Shirl on p67 of his new book Puzzled. He also writes about some overzealous PC concerning clues like 9ac and 24ac on p141. Your clues didn’t make me ‘mad’ Shirl. Loved 15ac.


Brian Tickle

• 10ac: L:ESS+EE = He rents, LEE = sheltered spot which is placed around the ‘ESS’ bend. 25ac: SH+ODD+Y eccentric = ODD, without being inhibited = SH+Y = neat clue. Much liked 15ac: BIG+AMY, 2dn: O+PALS = zero friends for ‘The Stones’ and your 2 x 15 letter themes in 9ac and 24ac. Thanks Shirl.


Alan Walter

• Ahhh bliss the mistress of the Slot 3 spot, our Shirl! Col Archibald

• As always, a pleasure to solve. ‘Bigamy’ was neatly clued.


Peter Dearie

• Enjoyed this one although it took a while to twig to ‘BATS’ ... ‘Bigamy’ was neatly clued.


Peter Dearie

December 4-2010: AJ by Crowsman (Len Colgan)

• What a great grid! My favourite clue was M: saw a number of peaks = ‘maxima’.


Brian Tickle

• H-HOPPING, why a ‘dance’? HOPPING or HOP is a dance, but is HOPPING a dance? T=TAPER=an Wick-ed thing? Z+Z+ON+ING where Energ+Y = Y+YUG+OSLA+V where YUG=upset chap?, OSLA=turning ‘further’ + V=versus (against). This was a challenging AJ, not easy to fit into the grid. Thanks Crowsman.


Alan Walter

• Hated the grid: not very conducive to solving an AJ with some clues that had me scratching my noggin, but when solved almost made sense to me! Having said that my COTM goes to the ‘T’ clue – ‘wicked’ indeed! Should have been a Slot 6!


Col Archibald

• Slot 4 grid was different. Then I managed to get 2 interlocking 6-letter words and the rest managed to fit in. Hope they are right!


Betty Siegman

• A very puzzling jigsaw! MAXIMA nearly COTM.


Jim Fowler

• This style of grid is more of a challenge than usual. The T clue was a gem – wicked indeed! Regarding the F clue, I wonder if the Fred Basset cartoon strip is still being syndicated? I haven’t seen him for years.


Tony Dobele

• Another challenging AJ, COUNTERATTACKED and IVORIAN being the last ones to fall into place.


Anne Simons

• H: the definition is clear but secind is not clear to me. If “dance” indicates “hopping” the insertion of “1” doesn’t seem to be indicated. R: clues suggests rep(IFOR) rebate (ALLOWANCE) = reprebate but the only place I could find that word was in online urban dictionary with reprebate: A person who can’t spell reprove (miscreant), so I put in reprove [see explanations on p4].


Drew Meek

• A different grid pattern from the usual, leading to only four initial letters included in other words, none longer than 9 letters. Tony Dobele

• Len is definitely not easing off with his clues which range from fairly hard to phwaia. The ‘H’ clue Hopping has to be my COTM. Getting on towards the completion of the puzzle – it had to be hopping. In desperate forlorn hope I turned to Pling in Chambers and there it was! – “The answer is Pling”, he exclaimed. Also a curious (or intended) interlinking of BOLTED and UNLOCK in the bottom right hand corner.


Len Colgan

• Definitely not easy! I had never heard of ‘hoppling’ before. The J clue threw me for a long time, because I was thinking of jetplane rather than jetliner.


Nea Storey

• Tricky! Quite a challenge with so few starting letters readily accessible, and occasional unusual word to up to degree of difficulty.


Kate Harper

• A double challenge with Len’s clues and the AJ format. Favourites were 10 & 15ac and 13dn.


Anne Simons

December 5-2010: Cryptic by St Jude (Drew Meek)

I really enjoyed the way ‘titillated’ was transformed into ‘titivated’ in 6dn.


Brian Tickle

• 18dn: PORRIDGE. If you are in the ‘porridge’ you do ‘time’. 22dn: ZEA+LOT. 23dn: and 13ac – first thought a ‘rabbit killer’ was a ‘rabbit’ killer. Then I managed to get 2 interlocking 6-letter words and the rest managed to fit in. Hope they are right!


Len Colgan

• I enjoyed 17ac, 28ac, 4dn and 14dn. Does the ‘Street’ in 21ac refer to Patrick? Nea Storey

• Was it deliberate, I wonder, to include a description of the setter in 22dn?


Kate Harper

• I liked 28ac & 16dn. In 29ac, does F=French? I can’t find any reference to this.


Jenny Wenham

• Ideal Slot 2. Favourite clues were 1ac and 14dn.


Len Colgan

December 6-2010: Quite Candid by Fortuna 48 (Nea Storey)

A generation or two or three I thoroughly enjoyed Slot 1. SuIVic answers were so simple they didn’t even register at first, but when the penny dropped, they did make me laugh. Thanks for some great fun.

• An unusually low percentage of unclues gave a number of clues (56) which unfortunately included 4 ‘naughty’ 2-letter answer words. Nice theme.
• Thanks Fortuna 48 for your quick ‘Frank’ opening puzzle. ‘Elle’ gets two mentions: 33ac and 8dn.
• What happened to the days when Slot 1 was an orthodox puzzle? This one was no ‘gimme’.

Frankly, shouldn’t be Slot 1. Is BLT clue cryptic?
Peter Dearie

• Fluked 6ac which was a good start! Cannot confirm 33ac or 36dn so am hoping the ‘through’ answers are correct.


Anne Simons

• A nice cryptic from Southern Cross Tony Dobele

• Not only is the ‘slip’ but not hard and displaying Shirley’s customary producing well constructed puzzles (hope that doesn’t sound pompous – it’s not intended).


Jim Fowler

• I thought 13dn very clever.


Nea Storey

• A solid mental workout with no nasty surprises to spoil the fun.


Kath Harper

• I didn’t know Surinam could be spelt with a S. Favourite clues were 18ac and 13dn.


Jenny Wenham

• Quality clueing and no weird words. Keep them coming, Shirl. Len Colgan
November 2010 Slot 6 Mr Pug’s Eviction by Hot and Cold
(Jenny Wenham and Ian Williams)
Entries: 77. Correct: 45. Success rate: 58%.

Prize Winner: Fay Copland. Congratulations!

Explanations
[Film titles in capitals]: Across: 1/15 anag GONE WITH THE WIND, 5 AD + REAM, 10 E + ROD + E, 11 EYE + RAPTER, 12 A carpometacarpus - Rotarua = SPACE CAMP, 13 HEN + N(A)l(t), 14 IL rev + MAIL, 18 steam coal - SA = CAMELOT, 20 ROOT + LE, 22 NSW FT = TWINS, 24 Painted Mares = SPIDERMAN, 25 DD, 26 lw, 27 Gig Ted = GIGET

18 moves from this list as anagrams were not needed for 12 movies requiring anagrams that were not indicated. I omitted • Your Slot 6 Nov Cryptic was a mind-bender to solve with its 17dn, with its answer SCATHING the last one entered.

Solvers’ comments:
• Two new words for me (LIMAIL, ROOTLE). Favourite clue was 17dn, with its answer SCATHING the last one entered. Len Colgan
• Thoroughly enjoyed the puzzle and especially liked 1ac and 9dn. Not quite sure how someone would know Mr Pug’s Eviction (Is this right)? I was happy with scat but could not work the rest of the clue out. Joan Smith
• Your Slot 6 Nov Cryptic was a mind-bender to solve with its 12 movies requiring anagrams that were not indicated. I omitted 2 more movies from this list as anagrams were not needed for them and the full title was not included in 11ac EVER AFTER (a reference to Mr Pug’s Eviction – quite devious, actually! The outstanding clue with double difficulty was 17dn – SCATHING. Fortunately, the answer was pretty obvious but how the clue worked was much harder... herring less ‘er’ – very clever.

• Great puzzle. Haven’t worked out the title’s connection with the theme.

Mal Cockburn

• 12 movie titles into the grid is a fine effort and enjoyed the clueing as well.

David Grainger

• I really enjoyed this one!

Audrey Austin

• The best slot 6 for a while.

Bob Hagan

• I trust Isard is an alternative form of IZARD. I couldn’t quite come to grips with SCATHING.

Bob Hagan

• Loved the puzzle about moving pictures. Tough anagrams!! Thank you.

Bill Bennett

• Enjoyable theme, but I’m too dumb to know what Mr Pug’s Eviction is about. Couldn’t find ROOTLE (in ours H&C) or ADREAM (in SOED) in Chambers.

Roy Taylor

• I’m posting this off now before I lose it! Three times it’s ended up in a paper of papers off to recycling, only to be rescued at the last moment. It has such survival instincts it may be destined to end up in a higher “plane” or “plain” of life!! Loved it, by the way!

Del Kennedy

• Great puzzle. Haven’t worked out the title’s connection with the theme.

• Thank you for a great puzzle with several favourite movies included. I worked out the anagram too – MOVING PICTURES – from Mr Pug’s Eviction – quite devious, actually! The outstanding clue with double difficulty was 17dn – SCATHING. Fortunately, the answer was pretty obvious but how the clue worked was much harder... herring less ‘er’ – very clever.

• Good Hot and Cold fare! CAMELOT and LIMAIL were a couple of nice morsels.

Max Roddick

• A fun and challenging puzzle. Thank you.

Robyn Caine

• Thanks for another ‘entertaining’ puzzle; took me a while but once I figured the anagram title out I was home and hosed. Keep up the good work.

• Thank you for an interesting puzzle. I’m afraid the significance of the title escapes me. Who or what is “Mr. Pug”? Constructing all those anagrams must have been quite a task. How do you divide the labour? I have huge respect for all you clever people who compile. I have tried but my brain just goes blank!

Maggie Davis

• Thanks for a cinematic beauty.

Ted O’Brien

• Your puzzle proved very difficult for me though, and I had to work out how, I’ve filled in all the white squares. In previous puzzles, Ian has expressed that the use of ‘this’ is inappropriate as the definition part of a clue. Wouldn’t the same apply to ‘here’ in 25ac? [As a rule it’s not best practice, but sometimes need to bend the rules for a word that is hard to clue without reverting to anagrams – and especially when the surface reading appealed to us as a place to find dust. H&C]

• Mr Pug’s Eviction = “Moving Pictures”. This heading had me mystified for a while until the penny dropped. Thanks for an entertaining puzzle.

Peter Dearie

• Most enjoyable. Spent while looking for “Grumps” before it dawned.

Andrew Miles

• A very interesting puzzle. It took me a while to work out the theme but then I’m not a film buff. I really only remember the films of my youth. And I never saw Gone With The Wind. Shame, shame!

Margaret Galbreath

• Did enjoy this Slot 6 – rarely do I complete one! Cheryl Wilcox

• I loved the theme – probably because I’ve seen all the movies.

Yvonne McInday

• It is with heavy heart that I submit a solution without fully knowing how one answer works. I’ve pondered over 17dn for a long time now but I don’t see it. I’ve plumped for SCATHING which has a closer synonym to ‘stinging’ than SCYTHING. A ‘scat’ is a fish but beyond that... well, not much. Please, please explain yourselves!

Andrew Patterson

• Such a clever way to incorporate the theme – thank you for a very pleasurable puzzle. On re-reading the clues, I was struck by the way some of them managed to suggest the answer – Graeme Cole anagram. For example, 1dn – Teenagers without net = GREASE.

Kath Harper

• Thanks for an interesting puzzle. Took ages to find SCATH(ER)ING. Just needed a different ANGLE.

Jack Stocks

• Thanks for an intriguing puzzle. How on earth did you come up with 12ac with carpometacarpus and Rotarua? Just a flight of fancy. Jim, sorry if it was near the bone – H&C)

Jim Fowler
Across
1 Shots at the title require skill from the outset (7)
5 Mate embraces women – good for a chat (7)
9 Relative timepiece installed with inner rewind (5)
10 Ocean silt, perhaps, could wash up here (9)
11 British guilds in merger to produce towers (9)
12 Charges taser to get crook (5)
13 Hit "Return" to secure answer and marks (5)
15 Having knowledge of area before battle makes sense (9)
18 Feat is about the Achaeans ultimately taking ancient city to be razed (9)
19 Reserve bit player (5)
21 Bird is partially disrobing (5)
23 Things made by carbon to form treasure (9)
25 Kinds of trivia modified around English and European shows originally (9)
26 It’s serious to turn up late here (5)
27 Bureau can reject monitor’s working area (7)
28 Special forces to adopt inappropriate topless dresses (7)

Down
1 Attack and strip witch, as reported by Spooner (7)
2 Revamped Reaganomics? – no go for these people (9)
3 Make improvements to ‘European’ army with Roman unit of 500 bringing up the rear (5)
4 Lower back needs vertebra (the most caudal segment) surgery – no rush! (9)
5 This theory is about how, initially, aberrations at the start get large (5)
6 Ref and I enter maul to get in the way (9)
7 Joint has card game where king trumps hearts? (5)
8 The opening of Grinch? – Doctor Seuss takes note and imagines (7)
14 Gross (and net), tailored with time invested will produce the most rich (9)
16 Talks to a religious academic about the origins of sin, satan, evil, and sex (9)
17 Put up interest (9)
18 Suffering from hardship without a penny gained (7)
20 Replies to Robin and Tiger, for example? (7)
22 Pens bylines over the phone? (5)
23 Frosty reception, initially received by Clubs, is to gain power (5)
24 Sportsman in row about girlfriends, primarily (5)
Quiz No 1/2011

by Brian Symons

Winner: Max Roddick. Congratulations
Entries: 29. Success rate: 24%.

Melbourne Cup Winners by

M McClelland, M Roddick and J Wenham.

Adjudicator's Comments: Truly, racing is a mug's game! Most members correctly named the 24 horses, but getting the correct order proved almost as hard as picking the Trifecta in the Cup itself, and for most the results will prove just as heart-breaking. Although several members found a nose-to-tail order, only 7 managed to place an 8-letter name in 13th spot. Most entries fell at the first hurdle (4th position) putting Nightmarch instead of Nimblefoot. Despite the example provided, some members did not understand the nose-to-tail requirement, and listed the horses in chronological order of their wins.

Kaiela originally supplied word-lengths for 5 positions, but our Quiz-Master did not think our members would require any assistance. After much debate, we decided one would suffice. The Quack, Kingsburgh, Haricot, Viewed, Dunlop, Poseidon, Nimblefoot, Nugget, Nightmarch, Rake, Viewed, Dunlop, Poseidon, Nimblefoot, and Carole Noble

And I congratulate those who persevered and got the required order. They obviously know how to pick a winner! A special thanks to Graeme Cole, who provided a very entertaining call of the race (marked NFP so I can't share it with you) and two Book prizes.

Closing date: 11 February 2011. Two Book prizes.

A Selection of Members' Comments:

• Thanks for a fun quiz. I had them all listed nose to tail then realised No.13 wasn't 8 letters. I had to scrap that list and start again. — Jenny Wenh

• Thank you for another quiz with an Australian flavour. My No13 has only 7 letters. — Bev Cockburn

• Took quite a bit of solving – some excellent clues. — Pat Garner

• What a great puzzle! I had the most fun getting the answers in the order you wanted and I got a different answer so there must be more than one way unless you miscounted. — Audrey Austin

• I failed to pick this year's winner (in the Melbourne Cup). I hope this is more successful. I really enjoyed the exercise – nice clues. — Bob Hagan

• Fairly easy ... when you access the list of Melbourne Cup Winners. — Tony de Grys

• Pitting the answers in the correct order took a bit of juggling ... an enjoyable quiz. — Susan Howells

• I enjoyed the quiz and have spent an inordinate amount of time on it! — Robyn Wimbush

• I really enjoyed it, especially working out the 'nose to tail' part. (You must be the only one who did! – A) — Gabrielle Leeds

• Finding the horses was a pleasant exercise; getting them to finish in the right sequence was quite a manoeuvre! — Max Roddick

Results of Bonus Quiz November 2010

Melbourne Cup Winners by Kaiela (Anne Simons)

Entries: 29. Success rate: 24%
Winner: Max Roddick. Congratulations


I really enjoyed it, especially working out the ‘nose to tail’ part. (You must be the only one who did! – A) — Gabrielle Leeds

• Finding the horses was a pleasant exercise; getting them to finish in the right sequence was quite a manoeuvre! — Max Roddick

Bonus Quiz January 2010
Who are these people? by The Busybodies (Bev Cockburn and Carole Noble).
The task is to identify the things represented by the following individuals, in no particular order: An additional point is available for providing the category of the things (10,7).

1 Flora Fennwell (7, 6)
2 Naomi (5)
3 Gwen D Telalot (6, 6)
4 Hal Clan (7)
5 Clint Osmale (8, 3)
6 Marta (5)
7 Geran Akapow (8, 3)
8 Lou N Burg (8)
9 Peter Stud Stears (5’1, 6, 3)
10 Ada I Tinman (10)
11 Tara Haw (7)
12 Moll Nogo (8)
13 Ian Skab (7)
14 Ron Bathus (9)
15 Rhett B Bolus (6, 5)
16 Chris Onum (9)
17 Vergil Lea (9)
18 Fred Nils (8)
19 Nora Bio (7)
20 Charles Gate (11)

• Finding the horses was a pleasant exercise; getting them to finish in the right sequence was quite a manoeuvre! — Max Roddick

A Selection of Members’ Comments:

• Thanks for a fun quiz. I had them all listed nose to tail then realised No.13 wasn't 8 letters. I had to scrap that list and start again. — Jenny Wenh

• Thought it would be quite easy ... but it took me a considerable time. — Peter Dearie

• Thank you for another quiz with an Australian flavour. My No13 has only 7 letters. — Bev Cockburn

• Took quite a bit of solving – some excellent clues. — Pat Garner

• What a great puzzle! I had the most fun getting the answers in the order you wanted and I got a different answer so there must be more than one way unless you miscounted. — Audrey Austin

• I failed to pick this year's winner (in the Melbourne Cup). I hope this is more successful. I really enjoyed the exercise – nice clues. — Bob Hagan

• Fairly easy ... when you access the list of Melbourne Cup Winners. — Tony de Grys

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• I enjoyed the quiz and have spent an inordinate amount of time on it! — Robyn Wimbush

• I really enjoyed it, especially working out the ‘nose to tail’ part. (You must be the only one who did! – A) — Gabrielle Leeds

• Finding the horses was a pleasant exercise; getting them to finish in the right sequence was quite a manoeuvre! — Max Roddick

Results of Bonus Quiz November 2010

Melbourne Cup Winners by Kaiela (Anne Simons)

Entries: 29. Success rate: 24%
Winner: Max Roddick. Congratulations


November 7-2010: It’s not all about you! by InGrid (Jean Barbou)


Explanations:

Most of the clues were well received, with the most success going to those who realized that every answer had the word ME in it.

24ac: Music causes men to follow – Mento is a form of Jamaican

3dn: Dispense (def) with express gathering (sounds like meet).

Correct:

Limehouse Blues

pipe, hive, mime and pine. Lime is a tree and Limehouse is both

music.

12ac: Music causes men to follow – Mento is a form of Jamaican

to those who realized that every answer had the word ME in it.

Most of the clues were well received, with the most success going

Explanations:


Solvers’ comments:

• This puzzle had me in a medium meltdown, a meticulously

innovative puzzle. The title revealed the underlying concept very

early, thereby making the puzzle comfortable to solve. Favourite

cue was SEMEE.

Peter Dearie

• I applaud your ingenuity and perseverance to construct such an

innovative puzzle. The title revealed the underlying concept very

early, thereby making the puzzle comfortable to solve. Favourite

cue was SEMEE.

Len Colgan

• It took a while of wondering why there were so many M’s before

I twigged to the meaning of the title. Well done!

Kath Harper

• Meh thinks it’s medication time.

Carole Noble

• Did somebody say “Think of me often”? Someone

was wondering why there were so many M’s before

I twigged to the meaning of the title. Well done!

Kath Harper

• Thank you for your ‘ME TOO’ puzzle. It was a pleasure to try to

see what the theme was!

Ted O’Brien

• Who had fun with this? Me!

Margaret Steinberger

• I was struggling with the last few words and looked up at the

title and realized it was all about ME! That helped.

Roy Taylor

• Me like! But you were wrong when you said. ‘It’s not all about

you.’ It is all about ME. What a clever idea. I really enjoyed it.

Brian Tickle

• Medalworthy, memorable, meritorious, mesmerising, meticulous, and brilliant. Well done!!

Steve Trollope

• Phew, 36 clues containing 38 ‘ME’ entries! Only 3 answers

contain ‘U’ (you said) so this puzzle is certainly ‘not all about you?’

Alan Walter

Solution to November 2010 Slot 7

| METAMERES | MIMES |
| EREERE | OEE |
| AMENTIA | MELDRUM |
| NEEMETLE | DAMEMENTOLIME |
| EEDAIMN | REMEIMMERS |
| DEMENTEDMESS | WEU |
| MELDMELEECAME |
| EKMMNNMRR |
| ALIMENTTEEMERS |
| NTREARSE |
| THEMEDULCIMERS |

Results of Quiz No 11/2010.

Oh dear, oh dear by The Eagle Beaver (Bev Cockburn)

Entries: 38. Winner: Margaret Galbreath. Congratulations!

Solutions:


25: Peter Dearie, Jim Fowler, Lealy Howard, Anne Simons, Nen Storey, Alan Walter and Jenny Wenham.

24: Audrey Austin, Valerie Howard and Jack Stocks.

19: Catherine Jones and Betty Siegman.

Members’ Comments:

• Oh dear, oh dear, it took a while for the penny to drop. A really

good quiz – very clever idea and great clues.

Betty Siegman

• Very different and most enjoyable. Thank you. Valerie Howard

• Thanks for the challenge of your clever quiz.

Jack Stocks

• Thanks for the hours of fun doing your morose quiz! Peter Dearie

• Tricky stuff that consumed a lot of my mental resources that I

can ill-afford!

Jim Fowler

• I had to get a few answers before I figured out the relevance of

the title.

Jenny Wenham

• Thank you for providing such an interesting quiz. My dear old

Mum, in her later years, used to say “Oh dear, oh dear”. I’ve been

known to say it too on occasions!

Graeme Cole

• I haven’t tried an ACC quiz before – thanks for a bit of fun.

Tony Dobele

• This was good fun. X had me tricked for a while – a long time

since I used those.

Rosemary Dorrell

• I always enjoy a quiz I can do without ploughing through Google,

and you are clever to think them up!

Margaret Galbreath

• I thoroughly enjoyed the twist in this quiz – thank you. Pat Garner

• It took a few answers till the penny dropped with your unusual

quiz.

Bob Hagan

• I’m not sure where you

know. I’ve been

skipping the pubs

since I used those.

Anne Simons

• This was good fun. X had me tricked for a while – a long time

since I used those.

Rosemary Dorrell

• I always enjoy a quiz I can do without ploughing through Google,

and you are clever to think them up!

Margaret Galbreath

• I thoroughly enjoyed the twist in this quiz – thank you. Pat Garner

• It took a few answers till the penny dropped with your unusual

quiz.

Bob Hagan

• What an interesting quiz, Bev. It took me quite a while to realize

that my solutions were coming up with ‘oo’ in them. Gabrielle Leeds

• Ooh good’un!

Carole Noble

• ‘Quad’ is a term for ‘prison’ and ‘cell’ is ‘room’

Kath Harper

• TOO GOOD 4 ME (but I tried and enjoyed it immensely) [and got

26/26. Well done, Bev]

Phyl Heath

• What an interesting quiz, Bev. It took me quite a while to realize

that my solutions were coming up with ‘oo’ in them. Gabrielle Leeds

• Ooh good’un!

Carole Noble

• ‘Quad’ is a term for ‘prison’ and ‘cell’ is ‘room’

Kath Harper

• Thank you for your ‘ME TOO’ puzzle. It was a pleasure to try to

see what the title was!

Ted O’Brien

• At first it seemed to make no sense and I had about 8 answers

before I noticed their similarity. Oops!

Roy Taylor

• So many ‘oo’ words! Q is a complete guess but it has 2 ‘o’s in it!

[Good guess, Robyn. Bev]

Robyn Wimbush

Adjudicator’s Comments:

The title ‘Oh Dear, Oh Dear’ was simply to indicate two ‘o’s or ‘oo’.

Carole Noble pointed out I could have just called it “Oh, Oh” –

[much better, I think.] The Q clue gave the most trouble but many

guessed correctly. ‘Quad’ is a term for ‘prison’ and ‘cell’ is ‘room’

but with a note [n] for ‘money’ = ‘marks’ [m] = ‘Quadroon’. Only 4

had other answers – 2 x quadrats, 1 x quadrate and 1x quadrant.

I counted ‘milkwood’ correct as a clever alternative to ‘mushroom’

but although cute, I couldn’t count ‘scatterproof’ or ‘scrapbooking’

for S. Other inspired answers included ‘jackaroo’, ‘toadstools’,

‘kinghood’, ‘lassoo’, ‘milkroom’, ‘x-spermatazoon’, ‘looney’ and

‘x-priesthood’. One member left out two letters, O and W. Many

thanks for all the Christmas wishes and favourable comments. May

I take this opportunity to wish all my fellow crossword aficionados a

very enjoyable Christmas and the very best of health and successful

cross-wording and quiz-solving for 2011.

Bev Cockburn
Results of the Clue Writing Competition No 6/2010
Adjudicated by Michael Kennedy

There was a high calibre collection of clues for MUSSEL this month and choosing a winner was none too easy. For the entrants who missed out on first prize I’m more than happy to pass along a terrific recipe for hot chilli mussels in pasta. Just drop me a line. There was a solid sixteen mussels to adjudicate this month and I’ve gone with Peter Dearie with his near perfect clue: Seamus sells shucked shellfish on the seashore (6) (See below for the explanation)

The clues are listed in alphabetical order and the definitions are italicised.

Definition of MUSSEL from Chambers (11th Edition): 
[a edible marine lamellibranch shellfish of the family Mytilidae with a brownish-black elongated oval shell; a freshwater lamellibranch of the Unionidae with a slightly flatter shell; the shell of any of these; a mussel-plum.]

A shellfish found living in Malone’s wheelbarrow ***

Probably the best way to explain this clue is to quote you the first verse of Molly Malone (also known as Cockles and Mussels), which is apparently the unofficial anthem of Dublin.

In Dublin’s fair city, 
where the girls are so pretty,
I first set my eyes on sweet Molly Malone,
As she wheeled her wheel-barrow, 
Through streets broad and narrow, 
Crying, ‘Cockles and mussels, alive, alive, oh!’

Great surface reading. Obviously one would need to be familiar with this ballad to have a chance of solving, but it is a relatively familiar one. However, you would also need checked letters to help you as the answer could also be ‘cockle’.

Bearded relation to clam up without hesitation ***

A charade type clue (LESS + UM) turned up. This down clue has a cleverly hidden definition where ‘clam’ the noun reads as ‘clam’ the verb. We are only left wondering why the bearded relation may be clamping up.

Clam up in muscles summit ***

A succinct clue that hides the answer ‘up’ in the middle of ‘mussLES SUMmit’. The definition is well hidden and the surface reading works well. My only criticism is that ‘muscles’ echoes the answer a little too closely.

Emus seldom are content with this to eat ***

Another containment clue, and one of two using the same fodder. While ‘content’ is meant to indicate containment, ‘are content’ does not literally indicate containment as it’s the wrong tense. The surface reading is excellent and I have little doubt that emus seldom dine on mussels.

Emus seldom ingest shellfish ***

Same idea as above, but the containment indicator ‘ingest’ is perfectly placed. The surface reading is completely plausible and it has been achieved with only four words.

Get rid of beard before eating this! ****

A lovely cryptic definition, playing on the fact that mussels have beards (actually byssal threads), which need to be removed before cooking. These clues are particularly useful when the answer is limited in its definitions.

Greek character goes from Melbourne to Phillip Island, for example, to get 50 shellfish ***

MU is the Greek character and SSE is the direction from Melbourne to Phillip Island. Adding on L(50) gives you your MUSSEL. The use of local geography to get SSE is novel and ‘for example’ is essential here. Even so, it would be difficult for solvers not familiar with the area to know. The surface reading is fine.

Greek character serves up less seafood ***

Again, MU makes an appearance. To make up the rest LESS is turned up. This is a very good clue and one can easily associate a Greek with seafood.

Make a mess of the Spanish seafood ****

A simple, but elegant charade using MUSS + EL. This clue reminds me how it doesn’t need to be complex and verbose to be a great clue. This is a clue with the solver in mind.

Marine creature audibly demonstrates power ****

This simple homophone clue is a little gem. Having read Moby Dick recently, the surface reading conjures up an image of an angry whale, and indeed the clicking sound of a sperm whale is the loudest sound produced by any animal.

Plum type to ruffle the backward French ***

A fair attempt at using the lesser known plum definition. Also new to me is ‘muss’ for ‘ruffle’ but indeed Chambers contains this. To be pedantic, I don’t think ‘the backward French’ is adequate for EL, as ‘the’ and ‘French’ ought to be together.

Seamus sells shucked shellfish on the seashore ****½

This is a containment clue, with the answer revealed when you remove the shell (i.e. shuck) of ‘Seamus sells’. The definition provides more information by adding that it’s a shellfish found on the seashore. If the shell removed was symmetrical I would have given this clue five stars for its sound mechanics, and its wonderfully poetic and alliterative flow.

Shellfish that might be taken back without delay ***

The definition here is an expanded one indicating edible shellfish. The secondaries set out to reverse ‘without’ (LESS) and ‘delay’ (UM). ‘Um’ is an interjection used to indicate hesitation, but I am not convinced that it can be defined solely by the word ‘delay’. ‘Back’ certainly indicates reversal for LESS, but the solver would have to speculate as to whether UM is reversed or not. The surface reading works very well.

“Slippery Elm” swallowed; most of Soviet “C” food followed **

This is an anagram of ELM around USS (most of USSR), resulting in ‘C’ food. ‘Slippery’ is a clever anagram indicator. However, the definition of ‘C’ food (i.e. seafood) would need some sort of homophonic indicator to be fair. The surface reading is also a little strained, even allowing for the quaint sentence rhyme.

This main delicacy is a bit fishy Mr Gibson says Spooner ***

A spoonerism based on ‘Suss Mel’. The definition is a real treat, as it cleverly misleads by using the definition of ‘main’ as ‘sea’. The spoonerism is a fair attempt but one normally wouldn’t pronounce MUSSEL (MUSS SELL) as suggested.

Throw back tasteless umbrella-shaped shellfish **

An attempt at a containment-type clue that almost works. Unfortunately, it is missing an indication that the answer is contained within ‘tasteless umbrella-shaped’, as ‘throw back’ only indicates reversal. All it would need is a word like ‘some’. The surface reading is fine.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Poor</th>
<th>Satisfactory</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clarity</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Example</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>Fairness</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>Surface</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>x-factor</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Star Rating: No star; 1-2 *; 3-4 **; 5-7 ***; 8-9 ****; 10 *****

Clue Writing Competition No. 1/2011.

Adjudicated by Michael Kennedy.

Write a clue for the word MEDIOCRE (8)

Note: only one clue per person. Send your clue and explanation to the adjudicator Michael Kennedy, 27 Hennessy Lane, Fitzgare NSW 2525 or by email to: mk@activ8.net.au

Closing mail date: Friday 11 February 2011. Book prize.
Bonus Puzzle 1 — Cryptic by Betelgeuse

Across
1 Young players pay for plant (9)
6 Restored state of river bird (5)
9 Rumour is working, French said (2,3)
10 Implements second question on old pop group when leading band has left (9)
11 Rascal dressed in daytime fabric (7)
12 Is successful, but when not so loud, shows his origins (5,2)
14 Theologian with acceptable male convert (5)
15 Provide sound barrier against unholy noise (9)
16 Animals entertain Kojak in U.S. (9)
18 Likely limits on rate of body fluid (5)
20 Man from Hell restricted parking in disorderly house (7)
21 Ancient city where small capital fell is lost (7)
22 Cancelled broad programme with crowd access (9)
24 Animals entertain Kojak in U.S. (9)
25 Likely limits on rate of body fluid (5)
26 Measure cat container before grand burial (9)

Down
1 Raucous, unhinged family's about. Delete situation created by 8 (5-6-4)
2 The French lazy, good-for-nothing robber (7)
3 Pot has to raise conscious state overall! (7,4)
4 Start new collection after old (5)
5 Can't change in actual society, so cuts short) (9)
6 She's married, age not first given (3)
7 In the middle of case-work he left for a bun (7)
8 Dreaming within, transports quiet, near-drunk ruler (7,8)
9 and 21 and 22 Lawyers once cut boy's hair and create confusion, reportedly (6,3,4)
10 Christmas goose mislaid via Arras (4,4)
11 Seedy character? (3)
12 Member of gang of thieves drops off with leader disappearing (5)
13 Self-reflective monarchs? (5)
15 Boston doctor takes pulse around five (5)
16 Study supports second description of Sir Leicester's gout (5)
17 Relation loses directions but keeps right on with filtering unit (7)
19 Bookmark in the fashion of cold greeting! (7)
21 I'd wager about old, small nag (5)
23 Costume, note, follows string singlet (3)

Bonus Puzzle 2 — Cryptic by Crowsman

All clues, bar 13 across, are consistent with a theme.

Across
6 Escaped convict with false wig wearing suit (8)
8 New schoolmaster returns without public transport (6)
9 and 21 and 22 Lawyers once cut boy's hair and create confusion, reportedly (6,3,4)
10 Christmas goose mislaid via Arras (4,4)
11 Seedy character? (3)
12 Member of gang of thieves drops off with leader disappearing (5)
13 Self-reflective monarchs? (5)
15 Boston doctor takes pulse around five (5)
16 Study supports second description of Sir Leicester's gout (5)
19 Glory rejected by rival of 3, 17 (5)
20 Ignoring pressure, secretly introduces drug into vicious criminal (5)
21 See 9
24 General Assembly congregated around annex (8)
25 and 2 Novel martini garnish, right with common mixed drink (6,5)
26 Old boy's enduring description of solicitor's silver snuff box and Dick's music-book (6)
27 He unknowingly rescued his cousin from low cost work group, it is said (8)

Down
1 Sing in English, with sweet accompaniment by neglected daughter (8,7)
2 See 25 Across
3 and 17 With devil in support, burn the French writer! (7,7)
4 Rock group's fawning clerk (5,4)
5 Kid hangs around one, a scoundrel close to factory owner (6,9)
7 Butt – jolly school caretaker with wooden leg (6)
8 Pretty housemaid in the Barmy Army? (4)
14 Autumn event has left out what clerk could do for 27 (9)
17 See 3
18 Girl's unrestricted voice is like 11, perhaps (6)
22 See 9 Across
23 Crushes Julia's father (5)
Across
1 A small white flower (9)
6 A small blue flower (6-2-3)
11 A long blue and white flower (3,5,4)
12 To give strength (8)
14 Bedraggled like a rodent? (3-6)
15 Found fault with (11)
16 Completely novel environment (5,3,5)
19 Atomise cooking salt! (7)
20 "Cabaret" star (4,4)
22 Metal strips that secure carpets on steps (5,4)
23 Once lard with weapons? (5)
24 Actor and comedian – one-time offside to Sid James (4,5)
27 Capital of the Netherlands (9)
29 Frequently softening without squeal (5)
30 Gamin avoided short hairstyle (6,3)
31 Not real (8)
35 Short-sighted cartoon character (2,5)
36 Lands once ruled by the Czar (7,6)

40 Final body preparation? (4,7)
42 Pain-relieving (9)
43 Short spotted dog on the Adriatic coast (8)
44 Silence! It’s a Michael Douglas movie (4,3,1,4)
45 Owners of exotic prowlers? (3,8)
46 Eccentrically, tsar doted on practical vehicle examinations (4,5)

Down
1 Swallow one’s pride (3,4)
2 Conductor (9)
3 Land under cultivation needs mature vehicle first (7)
4 A drifter from the North (or South) (3,4)
5 Expelled from college (4,4)
6 Clerk doing her nails? (5)
7 Ask over nice, grotesque American comedian (5,6)
8 The late French mime artist (6,7)
9 America singer and composer (Sweet Caroline, etc.) (4,7)
10 Dum and Dee are con men? (9)
13 A digger (9)
17 And not in drunken orgies (3)
18 Authors’ and songwriters’ returns (9)
20 Name a G.I.? (3)
21 Trying desperately to breathe (7,3,3)
23 Mystic teachings (9)
25 Division of wages for tax purposes (6,5)
26 Commencement point indicated by ref’s whistle (4,3,4)
28 Stewart’s Maggie – the fifth perhaps? (3)
30 Atonal, perhaps (9)
32 Caustic soap ingredient (3)
33 A number of cuts (9)
34 “Terrible thing, this flower”, said Paddy (8)
37 Falls at the border! (7)
38 New arrival on the road – Hugh, perhaps? (7)
39 Former Portuguese currency (7)
41 Demonstrates live performances (5)
David mentioned that the first crossword was published in 1913 by Arthur Wynne in the form of a diamond. He was a Liverpudlian ex-patriot. It was the first crossword published with clue numbers in the grid. The centenary of this publication occurs in 2013. Centuries previously, the first engraved crossword appeared on the Pompeii Sator Stone. It was a 5x5 Latin square translated to state “Arepo, the helmsman, has his hand on the wheel” eg R O T A S, O P E R A, T E N E T, A R E P O, S A T O R, arranged as a word square, gives R O T A S, O P E R A, T E N E T, A R E P O, the helmsman, has his hand on the wheel” eg a 5x5 Latin square translated to state “Arepo, the helmsman, has his hand on the wheel”. David was asked by Margaret to supply a clue for EVASIVE. He gave “Slippery vase I’ve repaired” & also suggested that CAP could be clued “Small explosive hat”. In compiling a grid he would start at the bottom right-hand corner with say an 8-letter word WATERLOO & work upwards from there then continue from the top left hand corner with another 8-letter word heading downwards towards the grid centre to complete the ‘gobbledygook’ amalgamation. Although computers can compile a grid they did not have any ‘maverick’ sense of humour like a human compiler in constructing clues.

His favourite compiler is Bunthorne, who is a Guardian setter, Bob Smithies & whose favourite clue was that of Araucaria’s “Amundsen’s forwarding address” (4) (Answer: MUSH) which is a pun clue with an oblique definition. Similarly ALIMONY can be defined as a “Splitting headache!” David also said he liked the Pïñata Principle where the donkey needs to be burst open, so he likes to include some clues that can be ‘cracked’ together with the harder ones.

When he was 6 years old he had an early affinity with words, particularly when his parents gave him a copy of Mother Goose nursery rhymes. He remarked to their surprise that this title included the word OGRE (spelt backwards), the hidden monster! He said that as a young lad he grew up in Balgowlah & much liked riddles & Knock-knock jokes, such as Knock-Knock, Who’s there? Sara. Sara Who? Sara point to this?! He also worked in hotels pulling beers & much liked fiction & observing word changes such as NOTICING changes to GIN + TONIC or that WATERLOO is a song, a suburb & a battle or that MANDIBLE gave rise to MANDIBULAR. When he was 6 years old he had an early affinity with words, particularly when his parents gave him a copy of Mother Goose nursery rhymes.

David selected the music of “Flame Trees” from Cold Chisel. Margaret then mentioned his recent book: PUZZLED by David Astle published by Allen & Unwin. — Alan Walter
GET-TOGETHER
SYDNEY 2010

Mine Host
William Ryan

Marian Procter

Nea Storey

Joan McGrath

Margaret Davis

Dale McManus

Veniece Lobsey

Del Kennedy

Len Colgan

David Stickley

Alison Martin

Kath Harper

Alison Shield

John Brotherton

All Photos by
Doug (above)
and Paulina
Butler