In our August edition of Crossword we mentioned that Wordplay Wizard David Astle — well-known to crossworders as ‘DA’ — has written a book titled Puzzled which the book publishers Allen & Unwin released on 26 August (rrp $29.95, pb 424pp). David said that the book is ‘a cocktail of a kind, where every clue of a central puzzle is the next chapter, and every chapter throws open a new door [anagram of one word!] onto an aspect of wordplay, puzzle history or even my own puzzling history — how I ended up captive to the black-and-white squares.’ David in his engaging prose tells his own puzzling history – how I ended up captive to the black-and-white squares. "David in his engaging prose tells his own puzzling history – how I ended up captive to the black-and-white squares.”

Our accomplished Puzzle set-up person, Ian Williams, has selected another challenging set of excellent puzzles and quizzes for you this month. Perennial favourites like Timid Terrier, Jesso, Manveru, Penobscot and midships are there for your ongoing enjoyment plus another skilful offering from The Eager Beaver in Slot 6. In Slot 7 titled Perimetric Jigsaw the challenging Beteguse has devised a skilful offering which no doubt will give solvers a great deal of pleasure. We have Quizzes from the expert Brian Symons and another beauty from the irrepressible DB this time asking solvers to spell out the names of pop song titles. Our new Clue Writing Competition Adjudicator Michael Kennedy has challenged clue-writers to devise a clue for the word CHASTE (6) and his results can be found on p16. Many thanks Michael for taking on the adjudication of this important feature of Crossword. Best of Luck with your solving this month. —Patrick

Prizewinner: August 2010 Slots 1-5: Ted O'Brien

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

Puzzle No. | 1       | 2       | 3       | 4       | 5       | Total
---|---|---|---|---|---|---
Entries received | 120 | 119 | 113 | 110 | 95 | 557
Correct entries | 78 | 105 | 93 | 105 | 65 | 446
Success rate (%) | 65.0 | 88.2 | 82.3 | 95.5 | 68.4 | 80.1
Prizewinners | L Spicer | H Perrow | M Galli | J Kitto | M Veress | from 120 members

Prizewinners: August 2010 Slots 1-5: Ted O'Brien

President | Patrick Street | 395 Canning St, North Carlton Vic 3054 | Ph (03) 9347 1216 | pstreet@bigpond.net.au
Secretary | Bev Cockburn | 12 Norman St, Merrylands West NSW 2160 | Ph (02) 9635 7802 | bevo4@bigpond.com
Puzzle/Quiz submission | Ian Williams | 12 Lindrum Cres, Holt ACT 2615 | Ph (02) 6254 6860 | ianw@webone.com.au

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### Members Results for August 2010 Slots 1-5 & July Slot 6

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Half 'n Half
by Timid Terrier

Prizes: $50

Win!

MACQUARIE CROSSWORD DICTIONARY

[2007 edn]

Across
1 Accept, capture (4)
4 Hedge, shrub (4)
7 Servant (4)
10 Plus, in addition (4)
11 Tantrum, mood (6)
13 Operates, dashes (4)
14 Bitter, tart (4)
15 Mistake (5)
16 Achieves (4)
18 Level, stage (6)
19 Female pronoun (3)
21 Arrangement (9)
24 Thespian (5)
25 Transverses (7)
27 Bombarded (7)
30 Punctuation mark (5)
32 Natives of Egypt (9)
34 Dined (3)
35 Part of garment (6)
38 Song of praise (4)
40 A sink (5)
41 Rest (4)
42 Greases (4)
43 Submits (6)
44 Merit (4)
45 Beak (4)
46 Shout (4)
47 Ova (4)

Down
1 Amazing small dog with no hesitation heads off female in charge (8)
2 Maori village gives up one small marsupial for another? (8)
3 Other eels rotten (4)
4 Bully from Branch Office on ship (4)
5 Projecting boss starts off informal open workshop (6)
6 Some Apache refugees at this point (4)
7 French sea east of lake (4)
8 Stop painter from going up before break (6)
9 Trader: Dicky Bird (6)
12 Endlessly, steadfast lady denies having Alzheimer’s Disease (11)
17 Signifying a cross mother is obvious? (11)
20 Bob to dance with energy (4)
22 Concern for Island girl (5)
23 Filthy North American pen (5)
26 Spoiled trio run wild (4)
28 Discovering ale brewed by sailors in front of gate (8)
29 Girl’s composure initially stifles complaints (8)
30 Non-metallic element on vehicle for good French (6)
31 Actual existence in Mississippi’s communal dining rooms (6)
33 Re sage mixture in oil (6)
36 Penicillin experiments in course (4)
37 Five starts off ensemble by railway light (4)
38 Rotter starts off harassing eminent elderly ladies (4)
39 Additional NSW town not English (4)
**GENERAL COMMENTS**

- In the August CroZworld p4, Graeme Cole asked for an explanation of the following clue: Pet becomes injured when sleeping in shed (3) CAT. Michael Vnuk sends us this explanation: Which pet? Only a cat, because if you put CAT in SHED (ie CAT is ‘sleeping’ in SHED) you get SCATHED, which means ‘injured’. Actually, I didn’t know the verb ‘scathe’, but it seemed likely based on the more common word ‘unscathed’, so I was pleasantly surprised to find that ‘scathe’ existed with my expected meaning. I think I would have written the clue as: ‘Pet kept in shed is injured’.
  
  **Michael Vnuk**

- Thank you so much for my prize, the newest edition of Chambers! I was thrilled to find it in the post, and to open the exciting parcel. It has come at a very good time because my old Chambers is definitely falling to bits. It is funny how all my dictionaries do that. I must admit I have dropped it once or twice, and that isn’t good for such a weighty tome. I shan’t throw the old one out though: it is an old friend and has seen me through hundreds – thousands? – of crosswords.
  
  **Margaret Galbreath**

- Thank you for the $50 cheque; a very pleasant surprise, indeed.
  
  **Roy Wilson**

- Thank you Patrick for your beautiful calligraphy and to the Club for two recent book prizes. Although I have many reference books, I had not got either of the prizes Oxford Crossword Dictionary and Chambers Word Lists and I love them. I was delighted to get a lovely book prize for Nea’s quiz particularly as I think that is the first prize that I have received for a quiz.

  **Doreen Jones**

- My thanks for the $50 prize in July – a lovely surprise and so attractively written by Patrick.

  **Ro Ducker**

- Many, many thanks for the prize of the 11th edition Chambers. We can now retire the venerable and much-thumbed, much earlier edition.

  **Al & Dave Callan**

- Great puzzles this month – 1st time I have completed all 6!

  **Lynne Spicer**
SELECTED EXCERPTS FROM PUZZLED by David Astle ('Mr Dictionary')

• 'Shirl O’Brien is an anagram of HORRIBLE SIN, but you won’t meet a sweeter crossword compiler. The Brisbane mum of five has made more than 1200 puzzles for that city’s Courier-Mail under the alias of Southern Cross. Now in her eighties, Shirl has quit the local gig to spend more time with her grandkids ... Notably, Shirl belongs to a select group of females making cryptic puzzles at the top level, as well as being a very rare Australian who compiles for an English audience, her work appearing once a month or so in The Guardian, under the code-name of Auster.’ p67

• ‘Hugh Stephenson, the puzzle editor at The Guardian, recently did a head-count to learn that a third of his contributors are female, including Australia’s own Shirl O’Brien. Nearer home, three of the seven Fairfax setters are daughters of Eve, namely Nancy Sibtain, Rose McGinnis and Elisabeth Palmer, better known to solvers as NS, RM and EP.’ p90

• ‘In Australia, the online trend is accelerating. Two active blogs chew over Fairfax puzzles most days, the first a long-running forum called Deef (or Feedback), the web annex of the Australian Crossword Club.’ p115

• ‘... a special mention to Shirl O’Brien and David Stickley. Reversing the import trend, these two locals both fashion clues for UK papers as Auster and Styx respectively... Here in Australia, the crews at Deef and Trippers keep a vital chat ongoing.’ pp409-410

• ‘Crosswords are built for breakthrough, that piñata euphoria.’ p350

• ‘Every puzzle is a mystery tour, every clue a head-trip promising any number of destinations. Now that you know these things, you have my permission to get lost.’ p383
NEOLOGISMS:
The new edition of the *Oxford Dictionary of English* reveals, as the latest crop of new words to be added to its pages is published. Soccer fans will perhaps be unsurprised to learn that the *vuvuzela* has blared its way into the dictionary’s pages. By being ushered into the dictionary, which is based on how language is used, the metre-long plastic horn has cemented its immortality, as well as its ubiquity.

*Climate change*, an issue only marginally less controversial than soccer refereeing, has also made its mark. Even the most ardent sceptics will no longer be able to deny the existence of “carbon capture and storage” — the process of trapping and storing carbon dioxide produced by burning fossil fuels — or “*geo-engineering*”, better known as the manipulation of environmental processes to counteract the effects of global warming. The new words appear in the third edition of the single-volume dictionary, which was first published in 1998. Two of the buzzwords of this economically squeezed epoch also figure: *toxic debt*, used to describe a debt that has a high default risk, and the rather less snappy *quantitative easing*, the introduction of new money into the national supply by a central bank. The virtual world, as ever, offers plenty of its own jargon.

The new edition has finally cottoned on to *social media* and *micro-blogging*. Slightly less quotidian is the phrase “*dictionary attack*”, which describes an attempt to gain illicit access to a computer system by using an enormous set of words to generate potential passwords. The new edition also dusts off and polishes a couple of terms — *staycation* (a holiday spent in one’s home country), *national treasure* (someone or something regarded as emblematic of a nation’s cultural heritage) — that feel as though they have been in common usage for some while.

— The Guardian

ANOTHER BLOOPER UNEARTHED BY DOUG BUTLER
The author of this crossword book (pictured right) is the famous UK crossword compiler Don *Manley* not Don *Manly*.
### Cryptic by midships

**Prizes: $50**

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**Explanations to August 2010 grids, where provided by the compiler:** Thanks to Catherine.

**Slot 2 by Cha-Cha:**

**Across:**
1. CON+SCIENCE
2. WERE+R
3. anag SMOOCH MORE
4. LODE=SEAM+homophone
5. dbl defn
6. anag TASTIER
7. C(ED)ILLA
8. BAR(COD)E
9. N+anag COUPLE
10. dbl defn
11. anag RISK
12. ANEWIDIO T+N
13. NEDDY-N
14. dbl defn
15. 50(L) HELP(AID) back
16. HO(MEOW)NER.

**Down:**
1. Article having beer glass upended over
2. Transport for wild race to Tromso. Ace goes for second of ports (12, two words)
3. Frequently characterised by two over the eight (5)
4. Stranger, more affected by alcohol, losing head (6)
5. Speculative building Elvis has left – in China, perhaps (6)
6. Drink delivered to South West Australia not available to South African society (6)
7. Sue shone on last of Asti, with spectators (8)
8. Race to whiskey? (5)
9. G’n’r rum tum tum beaten? I’d a clue! (12, two words)
10. Bard gave testimony, awkwardly seated on the wagon (8)
11. Lab equipment used to analyse Australian beer can (8, two words)
12. Masses able to drink. Forty-nine involved (8)
13. Dryness of wine leads man on drug to withdraw (6)
14. Race to fermented Tia Maria. Leave the lady out? Non, outside! (6)
15. Outcome of shout is somewhere near? (6)
16. Fool, not included in drinking songs, cries (5)
17. Company pub in NSW (5)
18. Herb may be found in revolutionary bodegas (4)
Fiction Favourites by The Eager Beaver

Prize $50 x2

12 solutions are consistent with the theme and are not otherwise defined

Across
1 Useful in a white-out? (8)
4 He’s athwart before tea, I hear (5)
8 Promissory notes are vicious and stateless (4)
9 Therefore lawful love makes us considerate (10)
11 Listen, it’s an American woodpecker (6)
12 Melt Arab ghee (8)
14 Tropical fruit to a lesser degree? (4)
16 Can Flo psychoanalyse this obscure character? (6)
17 I simulate the seed-bud of a potato (3)
18 Torment not wrong for the chaps (3)
19 Informed feline recognises a hipster (6)
20 Able to miss the card game (4)
23 It’s historically delicious! (8)
24 Spanish cutter’s handle (6)
27 Climaxes make dense crocs go to pieces (10)
28 Sycophant loses unknown quantity (4)
29 Character found at Fawlty Towers. (5)
30 A wish for good fortune with Jehovah’s celerity (8)

Down
1 Brace oneself for a quarrel between the south, east and north (7)
2 Puzzled Lucio operated the eyepieces (5)
3 Encircle the puddle in reverse (4)
4 To start with, a pretty idiotic situation has lasted years and continues foolishly (7)
5 Self-indulgent behaviour on a detached headland (9)
6 Well-known as nasty tennis player? (7)
7 Pluto, to materialise, then vanish from sight (9)
10 Lengthen this odd necklet (3)
13 A nightclub that could trim your hip (pocket)! (4,5)
15 Nine of them! Socially unacceptable pressure allows! (9)
18 Transport using a very little taxi (7)
19 Twisted accountants in the underworld (7)
21 Sidestepped a chasm with Sullivan (7)
22 Primarily work in tandem to take the prize (3)
25 Bugsy’s lost his millions and is forsaken (5)
26 Entirely without indium (4)

Post Solution to:

Bev Cockburn 12 Norman St, Merrylands West NSW 2160
email: bevco4@bigpond.com
Closing mail date: Friday 8 October 2010
Banausic by pds
This is one of my favourite obscure words:

The OED v4.0 (2009) defines it thus:

banausic, a. [adj. Gr. βαναυσικός or for mechanics, f. βάναυσος working by fire, mechanical, f. βάναυσος furnace, forge.] Merely mechanical, proper to a mechanic.

Historical references: 1845 G. Smythe in Oxford & Cambridge Review Aug. 206 When the Banausic principle (we must coin a word from the most expressive languages of English to express all its intense vulgarity) began to obtain. 1876 Grote Eth. Fragm. vi. 227 Alleged that the teaching music as a manual art was banausic and degrading. 1901 J. C. Collins in Ephemera Critica 68 The one instinct in them which is not quite banausic being the conscientious thoroughness with which they impart what they have been taught. 1957 P. C. Rogers in Cambridge Eng. J. 4, 254 a handicraftsman.

Chambers Dictionary defines it:

banausic, adj [also banausian] merely mechanical; really or apparently appropriate to an artisan; vulgar; materialistic. [Gr banausikos, from banausos a handicraftsman].

The Macquarie Dictionary defines it:

banausic adj. 1. Suitable for manual workers; uncultivated. 2. Materialistic; utilitarian. [Greek banausikos for mechanics].

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary v 2.5 (2000) defines it:

banausic, adj. Etymology: Greek banausikos of artisans, from banausos artisan + -ikos -ic. 1a: governed by or suggestive of utilitarian purposes: PRACTICAL <my approach to this literature was ... banausic. I wanted advice, instruction, not aids to reflection John Buchan> b: common in taste, thought, or intention: dull and menial <this sort of banausic performance is not mitigated by the striking of a few brave attitudes John Wain> 2: MONEymaking, BREADWinning: VOCATIONAL <a class freed from banausic pursuits and enjoying its leisure>: commercially minded: MATERIALISTIC <a banausic civilization>.

I first came across the word banausic in The Epicurean, vol 12, April 1968 at p3 while the well-known wine merchant Doug Seabrook said: "I am intrigued by Max Lake's latest literary effort. That an FRCS whose particular skill, if slightly banausic, is recognised by the profession as one requiring meticulous care, should be so careless is puzzling, and I can only assume that the work has been produced too hastily."

This produced a reaction from readers. In The Epicurean, vol 13, June 1968, p39, food writer and word lover, Oscar Mendelsohn wrote: "No doubt many readers will be surprised by the tone of Mr Seabrook's attack on Dr Max Lake's book. Unless, however, he is anxious to parade an archaic word, one may wonder why he also sneers at the author's profession as a surgeon."

Margaret Kidd wrote: "I have been a reader of your magazine since the first issue, and never have I seen such a personalised attack by one contributor on another. And banausic as relating to a surgeon's skill, really, Mr Seabrook!" Mr Seabrook, who suffered from the effects of poliomyelitis, sold the family wine merchant business in 1976 and died in 1984. I have not seen the word banausic in print since 1968.

Membership renewals: We extend a warm welcome back to Paul Derrington from Cairns, Qld. Paul was a valued member of the ACC for many years but let the membership lapse. And a subs renewal from Margaret Banks. Delighted to have them back in the Team.

Sincere thanks to Maurice Cowan for his generous donation to the ACC Prize Fund 2010.

PUZZLED! NEW BOOK by DAVID ASTLE:
If you’re interested in purchasing PUZZLED! NEW BOOK by DAVID ASTLE: from the ACC Prize Fund 2010. Closing date 8 October 2010. Book prize.

PUZZLED! BONUS QUIZ dB
Each of these pop song titles consists of two rhyming words. Only clue is the artist’s and punctuation is ignored. The solutions are in alphabetic order. Send your entries (it’s doubtful anyone will find all 30) to Doug Butler, PO Box 303 Oaklands SA 5046. e-mail to d.butler@internode.on.net Closing date 8 October 2010. Book prize.

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<td>29 4.5 (IP)</td>
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<td>30 6.5 (STS)</td>
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August 1-2010: Half‘n Half by Jess (Noel Jessop)

As usual a great puzzle and good clues from Noel to start.

Joan Smith

TOHEROA was the only unfamiliar word in Noel’s excellent ‘starter’.
Margaret Davis

Re 5dn, I had no idea that ‘affle’ had so many meanings. The usual well crafted puzzle from Jesso.
Peter Dearie

Good general knowledge required.
Carole Noble

Another enjoyable puzzle. I liked PU9A-CA{SE.}
Max Roddick

7dn ‘opposing aspect’ here is OBVERSE in ‘verbose’ anagram – ADVERSE is not appropriate. 10ac tree = ARBOR (esp in scientific use). Those tempted to put AMBER as a tree should consult Collins and Oxford where ‘amber’ is defined as a ‘fossilised resin’. Apparently ‘amber’ is incorrectly defined in Hamlyn. 29dn a gem clue URUG+U+AY.
Alan Walter

August 2-2010: Cryptic by Cha-Cha (Catherine Hambling)

Thank you Catherine for a great puzzle. Many good clues especially 6, 16, 17 and 25ac and 13 and 19dn. More please, Joan Smith

Quite interesting puzzle. Favourite clue is COMMISSIONER. Some superfluous ‘a’ and ‘an’ words. For example, ‘An animal has a right to a water container (4)’ could (should?) be “Animal has right to water container (4)”
Len Colgan

An excellent crossword. Bedwire was such a clever way of defining innerspring (13dn) and I also liked barcode (17ac).
Carole Noble

Nice to see Cha-Cha again. I’ve given her my COTM, Margaret Davis

Happy 80th birthday, Cha-Cha. A most enjoyable puzzle.
Peter Dearie

So many good clues. Loved 7dn. Welcome back, Cha-Cha. More please.
Carole Noble

Some very ingenious clues: CEDILLA, BAR CODE, STARK NAKED and BLOW BY BLOW.
Anne Simons

Wow! Catherine, you are an inspiration to all of us. I really enjoyed this – especially ‘innerspring’ to get the ‘bedwire’ in BARBED WIRE.
Alan Walter

August 3-2010: Cryptic by Southern Cross (Shirli O’Brien)

Nice puzzle from Shirli though I do not like this grid for a cryptic. 6ac and 8 and 15dn were my pick of the clues.
Joan Smith

Another classy puzzle, Shirli. Precise clues.
Len Colgan

Flea circus was my favourite here.
Nea Storey

I hope she won’t be offended if I call this ‘Ear-piercing’ (3,4). It would be unfair if I call Southern Cross our ‘Old Faithful’. She can always be relied upon for a good, fair puzzle.
Margaret Davis

11ac – six-footers equals ‘ant’ – very crafty.
Peter Dearie

Wanted to put ‘sum tertume’ but reread the clue luckily.
Pheil Heath

I particularly liked Shot 3; some very good cluing, which caused me a few headaches.
Gabrielle Leedse

All good as usual. Loved 25ac, WAFLE.
Carole Noble

SUPERTIME – what a great clue!
Max Roddick

Struggled with MIDDLE EARTH (not having read Tolkien) [Manzuru will be most disappointed – Adj] and could not confirm SAPOTE.
Anne Simons

Great clues as usual from Shirli. I first read Tolkiien almost fifty years ago and I have returned to his works many times since but I never saw ‘middle ear’ in Middle Earth. I also liked the clues for ‘suppertime’ and ‘ear-piercing’.
Brian Tickle

6ac: ‘A, L G X U P = A L E P U G < d r i n k > b o x e r. 1 2 a c : S U M M E R T I M E > S U M P E R T I M E.’ 13ac audio component = MIDDLE EAR+TH 1dn clues should have ‘informal finale’ as ‘HARIA KARI’ is informal but a popular usage of HARA KIRI, the correct Japanese finale. 7dn P+S+IR+MS. Thanks Shirli for your challenging cryptic.
Peter Dearie

August 4-2010: AJ by Virgo (Audrey Austin)

An enjoyable AJ, the A and L clue were my favourites. Joan Smith

Virgo’s AJ had a number of good clues. I liked G, L and T particularly.
Margaret Davis

The A clue was one of the best solved. ‘Put’ had me totally misled. I hope ENSHRINE is correct. It doesn’t fit the clue but I can’t think of anything else. The O clue appears to consist of two indicators and no definition.
Peter Dearie

• The answers fitted two ways. Horizontals could be verticals or vice versa. Neat!
Carole Noble

• Brains can be BLOCKHEADED (doesn’t it?) but the using more and don’t support it meaning ‘stubborn’.
Max Roddick

• This was a challenge – took ages to twig to ATTACHE CASE and had A and B wrong way round!
Anne Simons

• I had to work backwards – the last two clues I got were A and B.
Roy Taylor

• Some tricky clues (especially the A word) and trickily jigsaw placement.

• Interesting that this puzzle could be solved regardless of which way the two 11-letter words were placed. I submitted entries for both orientations. Do I get an extra tick?
Brian Tickle

• Thanks Virgo for your pleasurable AJ which can be entered into your grid in 2 ways!
Alan Walter

August 5-2010: The only game in town by Fortuna 48 (Nea Storey)

The theme was helpful for this challenging puzzle which really had the grey matter working overtime. Liked clues for 20, 23 and 25.

Carole Noble

• A special thank you for the clever & sparkling spiral Slot 5 puzzle containing many clues relevant to current politics. The four diagonals, RE-ELECT, SPEAKER, RE-COUNT and ELECTOR were very neatly woven into your grid, and I much liked the clues for BIS+HOP, TURN+BULL, BROWN, HUSTLINGS-L, GILL+ARD & SPEC... although thought-provoking and entertaining.
Jim Keating

• This puzzle was the one original and enjoyable aspect of this election. Several good COTM candidates but I put my ‘1’ alongside SIT.
Doug Butler

• Congratulations to Fortuna 48 for a most topical puzzle this month with Slot 5. Clue 1: Trade Union gets my vote for COTM. I wonder if Bob Hawke would understand the symbolism of this clue? Seems appropriate with his past and present involvements! Frank Martin

• A very clever puzzle, thankfully fairly early in the campaign. I have now reached saturation point with all things political!
Brian Tickle

• A cleverly themed slot. ‘Button’ at no.5 took a while to work out.
Peter Dearie

• A great puzzle – well done.
Phyl Heath

• A lot of difficulties here but well-designed. I took me a long time to find TRADE UNION.
Gabrielle Leeds

• Brownie points for an up-to-date topic.
Carole Noble

• Some great clues, Sis! Hope I’ve got it all right. I gave myself serious consideration for COTM.
Anne Simons

• I don’t usually like these ‘square spiral’ grids. Perhaps because they don’t give you extra letters you can find in ‘checked’ squares in conventional grids. However, the theme was both amusing and helpful, so I found solving it to be very enjoyable. [These types ideally have diagonal theme words amid the answers. Look again, Adj]
Peter Dearie

• 4 helpful diagonals REELECT, SPEAKER, RECOUNT and ELECTOR. Nearly put NAYS but NOES needed. Much liked clues 11, 16, 19, 24, 26 and 34. Thanks Fortuna 48 for a clever puzzle relevant to current politics.
Alan Walter

GENERAL COMMENTS:

• The puzzles were all excellent with many good clues. My COTM was Cha-Cha’s ESSENCE – a nice neat clue. I was particularly impressed with all Fortuna 48’s cluing which enabled me to complete the puzzle satisfactorily and I hope correctly.
Bev Cockburn

• Dhar colleagues, with some of the puzzles becoming more taxing in recent months, I had considered giving up my membership, but my unexpected win last month has given me the encouragement to carry on. A wonderful surprise.
Verna Dinhm

• As always a few new words to add to the vocabulary. There were some very clever puzzles, hard but rewarding when completed.
Bob Hagan

• I don’t understand how this type of puzzle (Slot 5) qualifies as a ‘crossword’. Puzzles they be but certainly not crosswords. If they are to be included in CrOZworld they should be at no.7. [There should be crossing words through the diagonals, ideally of some related theme, as this puzzle had. Adj]
Veniee Lobsey

• Thank you for such very interesting puzzles this month, particularly the 2-way and the Ajv (‘Only Game In Town’). Also thanks for the most enjoyable Christmas in July at the Royal Oak. Great meal and great fun as usual.
Wendy Villiers

August 5-2010: The only game in town by Fortuna 48 (Nea Storey)
Post entries for puzzles 1-5 to Joan Smith, 4 Morley Avenue, Rosebery NSW 2018.

The closing mail date for puzzles 1 to 5 is Friday 24 September 2010.
July 6-2010: Thematic by The EmCee (Merv Collins)

Entries: 64. Correct: 28. Success rate 43.75%.


Setter's Comments:
Thanks for all the cards and notes in response to my thematic July #6. It was inspired by my grandson’s love of colourful birds particularly, but not exclusively, from the parrot family. He thanks you for the parrots on the cards some of you thoughtfully used for your greetings. Solvers, almost without exception, had most trouble with 4ac ‘Kayakers by the sound of it’. The answer required was ‘conures’ (kayakers = canoers/conures – geddit?) – South American parakeets. It’s in both my Chambers and Oxford dictionaries and, since I use it frequently in conversation with my 4 year old, I didn’t think it was a particularly obscure word. It also popped up when I put ‘?o??r?s:birds’ into the on-line wordfinder site One Look Dictionary which is a useful resource for crossword solvers. There was some discussion as to whether ‘canoers’ and ‘conures’ sound alike. My Chambers shows the pronunciation of the bird as ‘koniz’ with the ‘’i’ symbol indicating pronunciation as in ‘endure’ or, in this case, ‘manure’ if you think that’s more appropriate! Alan Walter suggests quite rightly that the syllables ‘can’ and ‘con’ should sound different. For some they do, but as Ted O’Brien does, below, most of us say ‘’n’ for both (unless the accent falls on the first syllable as in ‘candid’ and ‘concert.’) So ‘kororas’ (16 times), ‘roberds’ (5x), ‘robirds’ (robor birds one solver suggested) (5x) and fiacres, polaris, bitterns, icterus, sabirius, jabirius, pilorius and rowards (once each) weren’t acceptable. None of them are ‘kayakers by the sound of it’ to me! I take Alan Walter’s point that the clue should have had an exclamation mark. Other included ‘conurus’ and ‘eth’ (instead of ‘nth’ at 19dn), both of which could have been transcription errors. If so, sorry about that! Sadly, two twitching solvers spotted all the birds but both fell over a faulty ‘trestle’ in the corner spelling it ‘tressle’ and ‘trestel.

—Merv Collins

Solvers’ comments:
• I almost did not send this in as I could not find an answer for 4ac. At last, and I hope not too late, ‘conures! It could have been my COTM had the puzzle been eligible. Keep up the good work and thank you.
Gabrielle Leeds

• I enjoyed the puzzle but was stumped by the ‘kayakers’ clue. All I could come up with was ‘kororas’ for fairy penguins – ‘core parees?’
many thanks for your maiden contribution to our magazine and, since I use it frequently in conversation with my 4 year old, I didn’t think it was a particularly obscure word. It also popped up when I put ‘?o??r?s:birds’ into the on-line wordfinder site One Look Dictionary which is a useful resource for crossword solvers. There was some discussion as to whether ‘canoers’ and ‘conures’ sound alike. My Chambers shows the pronunciation of the bird as ‘koniz’ with the ‘’i’ symbol indicating pronunciation as in ‘endure’ or, in this case, ‘manure’ if you think that’s more appropriate! Alan Walter suggests quite rightly that the syllables ‘can’ and ‘con’ should sound different. For some they do, but as Ted O’Brien does, below, most of us say ‘’n’ for both (unless the accent falls on the first syllable as in ‘candid’ and ‘concert.’) So ‘kororas’ (16 times), ‘roberds’ (5x), ‘robirds’ (robor birds one solver suggested) (5x) and fiacres, polaris, bitterns, icterus, sabirius, jabirius, pilorius and rowards (once each) weren’t acceptable. None of them are ‘kayakers by the sound of it’ to me! I take Alan Walter’s point that the clue should have had an exclamation mark. Other included ‘conurus’ and ‘eth’ (instead of ‘nth’ at 19dn), both of which could have been transcription errors. If so, sorry about that! Sadly, two twitching solvers spotted all the birds but both fell over a faulty ‘trestle’ in the corner spelling it ‘tressle’ and ‘trestel.

—Merv Collins

• Many thanks for your greetings. Solvers, almost without exception, had most trouble with 4ac ‘Kayakers by the sound of it.’ The answer required was ‘conures’ (kayakers = canoers/conures – geddit?) – South American parakeets. It’s in both my Chambers and Oxford dictionaries and, since I use it frequently in conversation with my 4 year old, I didn’t think it was a particularly obscure word. It also popped up when I put ‘?o??r?s:birds’ into the on-line wordfinder site One Look Dictionary which is a useful resource for crossword solvers. There was some discussion as to whether ‘canoers’ and ‘conures’ sound alike. My Chambers shows the pronunciation of the bird as ‘koniz’ with the ‘’i’ symbol indicating pronunciation as in ‘endure’ or, in this case, ‘manure’ if you think that’s more appropriate! Alan Walter suggests quite rightly that the syllables ‘can’ and ‘con’ should sound different. For some they do, but as Ted O’Brien does, below, most of us say ‘’n’ for both (unless the accent falls on the first syllable as in ‘candid’ and ‘concert.’) So ‘kororas’ (16 times), ‘roberds’ (5x), ‘robirds’ (robor birds one solver suggested) (5x) and fiacres, polaris, bitterns, icterus, sabirius, jabirius, pilorius and rowards (once each) weren’t acceptable. None of them are ‘kayakers by the sound of it’ to me! I take Alan Walter’s point that the clue should have had an exclamation mark. Other included ‘conurus’ and ‘eth’ (instead of ‘nth’ at 19dn), both of which could have been transcription errors. If so, sorry about that! Sadly, two twitching solvers spotted all the birds but both fell over a faulty ‘trestle’ in the corner spelling it ‘tressle’ and ‘trestel.

—Merv Collins

• Thanks for your mind-bending puzzle. It was a stunner, particularly 4ac. Bird clues took a long time to solve this one, especially 4ac. Bird clues

• Thanks for your bird puzzle – just hope I got it right! It helped keep me marginally sane for a while as I feel I am going nuttier than ever, as I am in the midst of a massive house clean-up and move.

Del Kennedy

• Thanks for your thematic puzzle. It was a stunner, particularly 4ac. Bird clues

• Thanks, Merv, for a great crossword.

• Thanks for a wonderful cryptic – lots of great clues. 4ac is very good even though the bird is obscure (to me). (How long since you’ve been to Taronga Zoo, Brian? Lots of them there. EmCee)

• Thanks, Merv, a good puzzle. Not sure about 4ac.

• It’s not that often I can complete the #6 puzzle so early! I really enjoyed the theme and at the moment there are rainbow lorikeets on my balcony. Many thanks for making ACC such an enjoyable club.

Yvonne McKayland

• Hope I’ve spotted all the birds!

• Thank you for supplying such a challenging and different crossword. It certainly kept me occupied. I liked 1ac ‘rosella’ and 10ac ‘shrimp’ particularly. I thought 6dn ‘raiment’ was a bit suss. I think I have 2dn ‘superb fairy wren’ and 8dn ‘hyacinth macaw’ but not in my reference books; probably can be found on the internet. Re 27dn, I assume ‘Argyle’ is a Plymouth football team? (Not just a Plymouth football team, Graeme, the Plymouth football team, my boyhood heroes! EmCee)

• An enjoyable challenging puzzle with great clues. Especially 18, 20 and 30ac and 3 and 8 dn.

Joe A

• I found this a most enjoyable puzzle.

Ro. Duck

• A very nice puzzle with a theme that was attainable. ‘Conures’ was my last issue to resolve. Won’t be many times we’ll see ‘Uriarra’ in a puzzle!

Andrew Patterson

• Thanks for your puzzle. I did not find it too difficult except for 4ac which I hope I have correct, though I cannot find it in any reference book. I understood that if any word not readily found appeared in a puzzle there had to be some allusion to it in the instructions, even if only in very general terms. Sorry to quibble, but perhaps you could explain what or who ‘robirds’ are when the solution is published. That is assuming I am correct, of course! I could be way off the track, though I cannot for the life of me see what else it can be. Thank you again for the theme and please keep them coming. (Hope my note above and Alan Walter’s comments clear things up for you, Margaret. EmCee)

Margaret Davis

• Kororas has been the great hold-up and I was feeling so frustrated to have just one blank space, so now at least I can post it in. Jack found it for me. Hope you’re working on another one, Robyn.

Shirt O’Brien

• Thanks for your bird HIDE. Had Rosella for Corella (rose as in centre from which a light is hung or from which a ceiling decoration radiates) and took a while to discover the trick. Have trouble reconciling pronunciation of KORORAS with K wrens if indeed this is the intended solution.Liked CHICK and UTH.

• It took me a while to work out the fairy penguins for 4ac. A good puzzle, thanks.

Hilary Cromer
In this perimetric puzzle, the letters taken from the top left hand corner of the puzzle clockwise around the periphery spell out some verbal advice given by a Spaniard on how to play the game. Clues are listed in alphabetical order of the solutions and are to be entered jigsaw-wise, where they fit.

Post solution to: Gillian Champion, c/o Post Office, Metung Vic 3904.
or by email: gchampion@westnet.com.au

Closing mail date: 8 October 2010.

Note describing First Officer at sea (6)
With suspicion, question Caen tripe (7)
Animals’ sounds of obedience (3-4)
Source of camels' germs but not primarily Escherichia (7)
Exercise support for run during display (5)
Sculpture of sabre-rattling old dear (3,6)
Object about beer (heard to include volume? (5)
Meals on wheels cause of noise in first gas vehicles? (6,4)
Festival takes time-out – one inside finds it less strenuous (6)
Returnable island? (4)
Aired dubious message, which can be got rid of (10)
Male extremity with partial sprain gets old-fashioned compensation (4)
Floods of cheeky aliens (8)
Greeting expressed reverence (6)
Passionate game first developed in exciting plot (3-7)
One dress in fashion for those in the know (8)
Underwent chemical reaction and created tin alloy (10)
Envelop disastrously in hot water (8)
Went right and stopped (4,3)
Island where French retain a hotel
Take quarter out of savings but put in cent for helpful transport (9)
Border on a new boat (6)
Took after Ruby – collecting musicians short of space (9)
Costume gives affected airs (4)
Covering certain talk on line? (5)
Surreptitiously charmed snake, one outwardly lively (8)
Suffering woman’s gone for past support (5)
Overcomes bird characteristic, for example? (5,4)
Quiz No 9/2010

Quiz 9/2010 Speed Test by Brian Symons

All answers contain the sequence MPH. Word lengths are given. All answers are in Chambers apart from proper nouns. Answers are in alphabetical order of their LAST letter. Where answers share the same last letter the order is alphabetical according to their FIRST letter.

Send your answers to Brian Symons, 1 Kookaburra Place, Grays Point NSW 2232 e-mail bms65@bigpond.com.

Closing mail date 8 October 2010. Book prize.

by Brian Symons

1. girl’s name (7)
2. definite (8)
3. type of vessel (9)
4. Scottish vessel (7)
5. shaped like a hooked beak (9)
6. stride exultantly (7)
7. interjection expressing doubt (5)
8. sprite (5)
9. get-up-and-go (5)
10. axolotl e.g. (9)
11. insect repellent (7)
12. socket for electric light bulb (10)
13. U.S. city (7)
14. centre (8)
15. circular (8)
16. cock-a-hoop (10)
17. skin disease (9)
18. nonsense verse (9)
19. boy’s name (8)
20. harmony (8)
21. Scottish blockhead (6)

Quiz No. 7 Novelists Linkwords by Virgo (Audrey Austin)


Adjudicator’s Comments: 27 entries – a goodly number with a high success rate in that errors were few and related mainly to only one half of the answer. Apologies for William Blake to those who pointed out that although he was many things – writer, poet etc. he never penned a novel. Fortunately, no one failed to work out the answer, so the clue must have been one of the easier ones. Thanks to those who enquired about the weather up here (it’s been freezing most mornings) and to Robyn Caine for her nice postcard.

—Virgo (Audrey Austin)
DEFAMATION IN CROSSWORDS:

Doug Butler sends us a copy of this interesting story from the Sydney Morning Herald 28 July 2005. The headlines were:

Crossword guilty of defaming Abe Saffron

A Queensland newspaper which published a crossword that called Sydney identity Abe Saffron an underworld figure has been found guilty of defamation by a NSW Supreme Court jury.

Gold Coast Publications ran a crossword in the puzzles page of the Gold Coast Bulletin on January 2, 2004, that asked the question:

Who is the Sydney underworld figure nicknamed Mr Sin?

The answer, published in the paper the following day, was Abe Saffron.

Mr Saffron’s counsel Clive Evatt today told the four-person jury the crossword had diminished the 83-year-old’s reputation in the eyes of the community by implying the well-known Kings Cross nightclub operator was connected with “Sydney’s criminal element”. “If it is said that a person is a Sydney underworld figure, it means he is a man of the criminal element in Sydney,” he told the court. “Any imputation that suggests a person has offended the moral code of the community is defamatory ... any imputation that tends to lower that person’s standing in the community is defamatory.”

Mr Evatt said Mr Saffron was entitled to defend his good standing in the community is defamatory. Defence counsel Lucy McCallum said the jury could find the Defamation Act applied to the crossword, and dismissed allegations “Mr Sin” was a man trained a parrot to say three times after meals, “Councillor Wart has not washed his hands”, and “The Down” clues. Take No. 7. “Then there’s the problem of skywriting, as in End of a Nonsense: transitory like speech, because it fades away, but not that transitory.... Nautical flag-signals are employed in Slander at Sea, raising the question of whether it’s defamatory to keep sending – preceded by the distinguishing flags of the target vessel – the signal-group for ‘Have dead rats been found on board?’”

Haddock and other tireless litigants worked their hardest to introduce new complications. Is it libel or slander when the defamation is conveyed by a gramophone record, as the House of Lords is asked to decide in The Lawyer’s Dream? Then there’s the problem of skywriting, as in End of a Nonsense: transitory like speech, because it fades away, but not that transitory.... Nautical flag-signals are employed in Slander at Sea, raising the question of whether it’s defamatory to keep sending – preceded by the distinguishing flags of the target vessel – the signal-group for ‘Have dead rats been found on board?’” Haddock’s finest hour involves libel by crossword (A Cross Action), in which it’s the hapless puzzle-solver who is lured against his will into entering libellous answers to clues about public figures:

Sir Antony Dewlap, K.C. ... Say to me, milord, “A bibulous bishop in four letters”, and I do not think particularly of the Bishop of Montreal, an aged Bishop of Ely, or Lord St Albans. Each of these names will enter my mind, only of course to be indignantly dispelled. [...] But take the thing a stage farther, milord. Take the “Down” clues. Take No. 7. ... which most unfortunately eliminates two of the named bishops, leading the solver to a dreadful hypothesis.

An interesting related judgment is cited in the Gramophone Case (The Lawyer’s Dream): In Silvertop v. The Stepney Guardians a man trained a parrot to say three times after meals, “Councillor Wart has not washed today.” It was held that this was a libel.

Several later Misleading Cases refer to this precedent in terms suggesting that an awful lot of people had searched for it in law libraries, without success, and had sent plaintive enquiries to the author. Herbert eventually inserted a mendacious explanation that the original case report had been destroyed in a fire. He also took extreme measures to leave the Gramophone Case unresolved by the House of Lords. After the Lord Chancellor, Lord Lick, Lord Arrowroot and Lord Sheep have split fifty-fifty on the decision between libel and slander (the latter three all saying “I do not agree ... The law is clear”), it’s up to the final Law Lord to make history:

Lord Goat: The law is clear – (At this point, however, his Lordship suffered a heart-attack, perished, and was removed.)
Results of the Clue Writing Competition No 4/2010. Write a clue for CHASTE (5) Adjudicated by Michael Kennedy
It is with great pleasure that I accept the opportunity to adjudicate this competition. I would like to acknowledge Steve’s efforts over the past few years and I hope I can carry the baton adequately. While I will do my utmost to be objective, it goes without saying that, based upon my own bias, some subjectivity will inevitably creep in.

To be as objective as possible I have incorporated a scoring system that I’ve explained below. It’s a work in progress and constructive criticism is welcome. In essence, I adhere to the adage ‘the whole is greater than the sum of its parts’ when trying to find the winning clue. While the parts are essential and should adhere to Ximenean principles, the clue in its entirety should stand alone.

Considering the short turnaround this month, it was reassuring to receive twelve entries, including several first timers. The clues are listed in alphabetical order and the definitions are italicised. In a close finish, the winner this month goes to Merv Collins with Born-again cheats become virtuous (6) (See below for the explanation)

**Definition of chaste from Chambers (11th Edition)**
(adj) sexually virtuous, modest; decent and pure in taste and style; restrained

**Born-again cheats become virtuous ****

This winning clue is an anagram of cheats. It is elegantly constructed, particularly the novel anagind (born-again), and it evokes a wonderfully pithy image.

**Decent Chemical Engineer sat awkwardly **

CH plus an anagram of E and SAT. I have not come across CH (chemical) before and I could not find it in Chambers or the SOED. Assuming it is correct, then the mechanics work well. However, the surface reading is lacking.

**Immaculate tea set’s broken ****

A simple and concise clue using an anagram of TEA SET. The surface reading is fine.

**Leading members of church hierarchy and Synod thought Eve to be the ‘Immaculate Conception’ ****

A simple clue that clearly indicates to the solver to take the initial letters. The surface reading is piously excellent. As the Immaculate Conception relates to a specific example of being chaste, a for example, or something similar in the clue would be fairer to the solver. These clues are notoriously difficult to disguise and this clue is no exception.

**Not getting any adulterous cheats ****

If there was a chuckle rating then this clue would win hands down. While it is a simple anagram of CHEATS, it’s the quirky definition and original anagind that makes this clue gratuitously entertaining. However, while the surface reading is solid, I would imagine that it needs to follow on from a previous clue marked by eclipses, as it seems to be only half the story.

**Pure blend of cocaine and speed **** (exp. C + HASTE)

This top grade charade clue uses C and HASTE in a cleverly constructed way that does not make the definition too obvious. One may argue that a blend is no longer pure, but I will leave that to the pharmacologists!

**Pure saint seen in each order ****

ST (saint) inside anagram of EACH. This is a solid clue with sound surface.

**Pursued, I heard, but didn’t fall ****

I hoped someone would have a go at the tempting homophonic characteristics of chaste, and this was a fine attempt. The surface reading is cleverly misleading, if a little inaccurate. Chaste is an adjective, but didn’t fall (i.e. opposite of ‘fallen’ as in a fallen woman) is verbal.

**Rush after light! Speed for what is virtuous! ****

This is quite a good charade type clue. Here we have rush (haste) following light speed (c), cunningly concealed. Through misleading punctuation the reader is led to believe that ‘rush’ and ‘speed’ are verbs (finite, intransitive, imperative), instead of nouns (abstract). It conjures an image of ‘following the light’ after expiration perhaps.

**Simple head of circus has acquired six tame elephants ****

This is an attempt at using initials. Unfortunately, while the surface reading is adequate, the secondary indicator needs to be ‘heads of’ to be accurate. Of course ‘heads of’ would not serve the surface reading as it currently stands.

**Spore cases are pure when adjusted ****

The most difficult clue of those submitted. It’s an indirect anagram of thecas (Spore cases). (NB. Chambers only has thecas as the plural of thecas). In any case, indirect anagrams are not accepted by most crossword publications, including CrOZworld. While there may be a case for simple indirects, I doubt many solvers would easily graduate from spore cases to thecas, even assuming thecas was correct. It’s also worth noting that the definition is found in the middle of the clue.

**With nothing to lose, aches to destroy the virtuous ****

An anagram of ACHESCETO minus O. The surface is slightly strained, as we don’t know who or what aches. I did like with nothing to lose as an indicator to subtract O.

Clue Writing Competition No 5/2010
Write a clue for the word STALEMATE (9)
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 mlk@activ8.net.au
Closing mail date: Friday 8 October 2010. Book prize.

**Comments continued from p14:**
• Couldn’t leaf this alone! Helen Annand
• Enjoyed doing this over a cuppa without having to resort to the Internet. Thank you. Catherine Jones
• Thanks for a nice walk in the forest. Roy Taylor
• Thanks for your entertaining but accessible Tree Quiz. “Homogenised honey” has me baffled so I’ve gone with the only 3 letter ‘E’ tree I can find. Merv Collins
• Enjoyed this quiz. More please. Anne Simons
• Did enjoy this quiz. Made the old brain work. Cheryl Wilcox
• Introduced me to a couple of unknown species. Thanks for the enjoyment of doing your quiz. Peter Dearth
• I enjoyed your quiz although my old toothless dog was very capable of chewing with his gums! Susan Houwells
• Thanks for a great quiz to exercise my grey matter. Betty Siegman
• Enjoyed your quiz – some tough clues which kept me occupied for quite a while. E and N were the last two. (To answer your question, Graeme, it’s qu+s+and+ang from ‘ongoing’: Bev) Graeme Cole
• I enjoyed this quiz. The “bedecked annual” made me think. ELM troubled me – perhaps with good reason! (Not at all. Bev) Andrew Miles
• Thanks for a peach of a puzzle! Ted O’Brien
• Lots of fun! Robyn Wimbush
• A fun quiz. It was good to have a puzzle that required the use of the brain rather than research. Pat Garner
• It was nice for a city dweller to get out among the trees – though there were some I didn’t recognise and had to get expert help on. It’s a pity that my ever growing reference library involves sacrificing trees, but hopefully not the ones listed here. The quiz brought back memories too of a childhood spent ‘among the gum trees’ – and the occasional quandong (which, for some reason I can’t recall now, we called a ‘snottygobble tree’). Childhood has its own rules! Kath Harper
• All good wood. Wood like to thank you for this Bonus Quiz. Alan Walter
• A lovely quiz to do. Lots of these bring back memories for me. I remember going to England after Dutch elm disease had practically wiped out the elms in England, and seeing all the stands of dead trees where once they had been shaping the horizon. I remember collecting quandong stones and growing them according to the instructions from the Land Dept or someone like that. I remember walking past a big old garden when I was very young, and mother pointing out a great ilex tree. Margaret Galbreath
• Another good one for the brain!! Merv Collins
• What a lovely quiz! I sat down and did it on the day I got my puzzles whilst having a welcome cuppa. Barb Ibott
• Another delightful quiz, thank you, Bev. Fancy tracking down N and Z – I’m impressed! Nea Storey

• Another delightful quiz, thank you, Bev. Fancy tracking down N and Z – I’m impressed! Nea Storey