

Crossed Wires

A light hearted look at language

Cryptic Pics

It's wild and it really digs!
That describes the word made
by these two singers



Who Am I?

Five hundred begins it,
five hundred ends it
Five in the middle is seen;
First of all figures,
the first of all letters
Take up their stations between.
Join all together, and then
you will bring
Before you the name of
an eminent king.
What was the King's name?

Greek Influence

Sycophant, meaning a servile flatterer, comes from the Greek *sukophantes* 'showing the fig'. It once meant an informer, and there are two etymological versions.

One refers to the time when the export of figs from Athens was forbidden. One who informed on people who sold figs abroad was known as a **sycophant**. The **sycophant** would make the sign of the fig, a clandestine gesture with one hand, pointing to the guilty person, thus hoping to gain favours with authorities.

The second version comes from the time when fig trees were considered sacred and ordinary people were not allowed to pick figs off the trees. The **sycophant** would inform on the pickers, and hope to be rewarded.

No longer an informer, **sycophant** (pronounced psycho-fant) now means a bootlicker, a toady, a yes-man or a backscratcher.

Casting A Spell

A near shipwreck was blamed on the confusion between the ports called Port Victor and Port Victoria in South Australia in 1921 so Port Victor's name was changed to **Victor Harbor** in 1921, despite the fact that Australian English uses the 'u' normally in harbour. The use of American shipping charts were to blame, apparently.

A clerk typing the registration form for the town of **Middlesbrough** in NE England apparently missed the first 'o' in Middlesborough and it has remained that way. The people of Middlesbrough now get quite irate when it's spelled any other way.



Meet The Lovatts Team

"Art is the signature of a civilisation." Beverly Sills, soprano

This month, we're introducing the **Art Department**, our talented artists who turn a bunch of puzzles into an eye-catching magazine.

Tina: As Production Manager I oversee the running of the art department. I also deal with external printing companies, the export and distribution of our magazines over four countries. I'm the one who dashes about the office making sure every one keeps to deadlines. My husband Colin and I have a son Tristan. I am a passionate collector of 20th century knick-knacks and love to read, visit galleries and go to the movies.



From left: Angela, Tina, Sheridan, James and Wayne (foreground)

Angela: My job as Art Director is to oversee the design and layout of all our magazines while doing the odd marketing job for promotions. I also create and come up with the cover concepts. I've been with Lovatts for 11½ years and have loved every moment. I am a mad keen artist, love painting and being creative in every aspect of my life.

James: I've been with Lovatts for over 2 years in the art department

working on the magazine artwork in particular with the Handy range of magazines. I'm also involved with syndication doing the artwork for the many other companies that we supply puzzles to. Outside of work I love running, tennis and generally anything to do with keeping fit and healthy.

Sheridan: My role as Graphic Designer in the Art Department involves putting all the graphic elements together to form the pages within the magazines. I have been with the lovely Lovatts crew for over 2 years now, apart from work I enjoy cooking, art, pilates, training and reading.

Wayne: I'm a Graphic Designer who works on most of our puzzle magazines. I enjoy the variety of work at Lovatts. I'm married to Rhonda and have two young children, Ebony and Blake.

Lovatts is proud to support Australian Red Cross and New Zealand Red Cross.

As part of our commitment to helping vulnerable people, we will donate 5c to the Red Cross from every issue of Christine's BIG Crossword sold, to help those in crisis.