

Give Us A Clue

Thank you once again for all the clue contributions, this time for **BATT** and **HOUSEWIFE**. The prize for **BATT** this month goes to **A J Argent** for the clue **fluffy ceiling pillow**. Other good clues were **thermal wall pad** and **unit of insulation** sent in by **Kerry Bengier** as well as **insulation panel** from **David Stenson**. **A warm fuzzy in the wall** by **Bronwyn Zander** was a favourite and **Anne Wilhelm's A flying fox with a stutter!** gave me a good chuckle.

We received some varied clues for **HOUSEWIFE** with **Jill-of-all-trades**, **domestic engineer**, **homemaker** and **chief cook and bottle washer** being the most popular. **F Brocklehurst** came up with **purveyor of domesticity** and **Lainie Mercieca** gave us **Dame Edna's occupation** but I'm not sure I'd like to be called a **dust buster** or a **dishy missy**. We also received some clues for **HOUSEWIFE** that refer to the case containing buttons, thread, needles, pins and a button cleaner stick which were standard issue to British servicemen until sometime around the 1950s. **Barbara Ingram** gave us **small sewing kit** and **Peta McMullen** sent in **Old fashioned sailor's hussif**. Other clues included **soldier's sewing kit** and **travelling sewing kit**.

To see all the entries, go to our website www.lovatts.com.au and follow the link to Christine's Desk.

Your next challenge is to come up with clues for the words **STEAM** and **LOINCLOTH**.

Happy Clueing!

Food For Thought Competition

We received a wonderful response to our **Food for Thought** competition, in the August Big. The answers can be seen on the page opposite, but we also had some interesting variations. For instance, instead of 'bringing home the bacon' quite a few of you wrote 'putting bread on the table' or 'being the breadwinner' which are both valid.

The winner is **Julie Hanns** – a book prize is on its way to you, Julie.

Accidental Inventions

In 1908, **Swiss textile engineer, Jacques Brandenburger**, was trying to create a stain-resistant tablecloth. He applied several different coatings to the surface of the textile.

One of the coatings peeled off, clear, flexible and waterproof. Cellophane was discovered. He hadn't found a way of making a stain-resistant tablecloth but he had discovered something that would last much longer.



A thief fell and broke his leg in wet cement and became a hardened criminal.

Puzzle Prophets

Success does not consist in never making mistakes but in never making the same one a second time



George Bernard Shaw

Hiss And Pant?

With all the coughing and sneezing going on in the office, I looked into the origins of these words, and found that **cough** comes from German *keuchen* 'to pant' and **wheeze** from Old Norse *hvaesa* 'to hiss'.



Hiccup, once called *hicket* or *hyckock*, is named after the sound of the hiccup. It was previously known by the Old English *aelfsogoda* because hiccups were once thought to be caused by elves.

Reader **Merle Ellis** recently queried our spelling of hiccup, because she thought it should be spelled *hiccough*. Both spellings are correct, but the latter came about by being mistakenly associated with 'cough'.

Hiccup has a secondary meaning, a temporary setback. To cough it up also means to own up or to pay up.

To **sneeze** at, as well as saying *atishoo*, also means to regard as of little value.



Hello!

You can't cure a cold or 'flu' but everyone has their own method for relieving the symptoms. In fact, ask fifty people and you'll get fifty different answers.

When our family came down with colds recently, we were given all sorts of advice regarding home remedies, but we find the old family favourite always works - honey, lemon juice and vinegar with hot water and a few cloves. Both vinegar and cloves have anti-bacterial properties, lemon juice has Vitamin C and honey also contains vitamins and natural enzymes as well as making it taste better - guaranteed to soothe the throat and clear the head.

I'm sure you readers have your own cold and 'flu' remedy, there are many variations - maybe adding ginger, garlic, brandy or even cayenne pepper. Chicken soup, hot tea,

gargling with salt, breathing in steam with eucalyptus oil or even a mustard footbath are all popular ways to relieve the congestion or sore throat.

Less popular remedies are eating snakeskin, once used in ancient China. My aunt had an old-fashioned remedy for a sore throat - tie a sock (preferably unwashed) around your throat.



I've since discovered this method was used by British soldiers. Perhaps they should have used it on their enemies instead.

Every family has their own comfort foods and when I was growing up in London, during the 50s and 60s, our favourite treat was goody, which my mother made by pouring boiling milk and spices onto brown bread. I wonder if we were the only ones who enjoyed this dessert?

Write and tell me your favourite comfort foods.

Happy puzzling!

Christine Lovatt

* The word lemon comes from the Arabic **limun**, honey from the German **honig** and vinegar from the Old French **vyn egre** from Latin vinum 'wine' + **acer** 'sour'

Don't put all your eggs in one basket; One man's meat is another man's poison; Mutton dressed as lamb; You can't have your cake and eat it too; The proof of the pudding is in the eating; Bring home the bacon; Pie in the sky.

Food For Thought August Big Competition:

Lucky Subscribers \$50 Draw

If you are one of our lucky subscribers whose names appear below, contact us before the contest closing date and we'll send you a cheque for \$50.

- AUS - Malcolm Golightly, North Rockhampton, Qld. Phone: 1800 254 199
NZ - Mrs Suzanne Cook, Feilding. Phone: 0800 254 177

Phone us before October 30, 2008 to claim your \$50.

Christine's BIG CROSSWORD OCTOBER 2008

Cover pic: Rebecca Gibney & Jessica Marais Packed To The Rafters (Tues 8.30pm Channel 7)

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