

Feathered Figments

Phoenix - a bird that lived for five centuries in the Arabian desert, burning itself on a funeral pyre and rising from the ashes with renewed vigour to live through another cycle. The name may come from 'Phoenicia' or from the Greek *phoinos* 'blood-red.'



Halcyon - a mythical kingfisher said to breed in a nest floating at sea during the winter solstice, which ensured a calmness of wind and waves. The name comes from the Greek *hals* 'sea' and *kuon* 'conceiving' and is also the name of a tropical kingfisher. Halcyon means 'happy and peaceful'.

Griffin - (or gryphon) a gigantic bird with the head of an eagle and the body of a lion, the griffin combines the strength of a lion with the speed of an eagle. His shaggy legs have sharp claws and he's believed to inhabit Scythia and guard its gold. The name comes from the Greek *gryps* 'hook-nosed'.

Roc - a huge bird mentioned in *The Arabian Nights* which could pick up elephants and which destroyed Sinbad the Sailor's ship by dropping a boulder onto it. The name comes from the Persian *rukh*.

Puzzle Prophets

Don't gain the world and lose your soul, wisdom is better than silver and gold



Bob Marley

Accidental Inventions

In 1903, French scientist **Edouard Benedictus**, working in his lab, knocked a glass flask to the floor, but was amazed to find that all the broken pieces still hung together. The flask had been full of a liquid plastic which had evaporated, but a thin coating was still lining the glass and holding the flask together. Edouard saw an immediate use for his discovery - to stop car windshields shattering, but unfortunately the car industry rejected this life-saving safety feature on the grounds of expense. It wasn't until WWI, when his invention proved a great success for lenses in gas masks, that the automobile industry reversed its position and safety glass's major application became car windshields.



Give Us A Clue

Thanks to everyone who sent in clues for last month's words. The prize this month goes to Bev Robb for her suggestion for alarm clock '**noisy timepiece**'. Another great clue for alarm clock was '**dream-breaker**' from Lynne Atkins.

Crouton gave us some interesting entries. Margaret Paul's clue '**mini toast cube**' was a favourite, and '**sippet**' was a popular clue. I'm sure we can all relate to Cynthia Barrow's clue '**politicians and petrol prices**' for the word tiresome and there were quite a few suggestions of '**ho-hum**'. Apostrophe proved a bit tricky, the most popular clue was '**punctuation mark**', and '**possession indicator**' was a good one. We received some lovely clues for children including '**fruitful blessing**' and '**whipper snappers**'.

You can read more of our readers' clue contributions on our website www.lovatts.com.au - follow the link to 'Christine's Desk'.

Your next challenge is to find clues for these two words;
INSTRUMENT and **FREEDOM**.

THANK YOU TO OUR READERS

Since July 2006 Lovatts has proudly supported the Australian, New Zealand and British Red Cross by donating 5c from every magazine sold and 3c from our Handy range and 5p from our magazines in the UK. Over the past two years we have donated more than \$300,000 worldwide to this worthy charity to help those in crisis.

It has been exciting and rewarding working in partnership with the Red Cross and we will continue to provide support through magazine donations and other initiatives.

There are numerous charities and welfare organisations in need of a helping hand. We are pleased to announce that from July 2008 we will be taking a new direction and supporting the work of a broader range of charitable groups.

I hope that future charities we support will hold a special importance to many of you, as the Red Cross does.

Christine Lovatt



Hello!

Imagine yourself in Vienna for an evening... the most romantic city in the world. That's how it will feel for two of our lucky puzzlers who win tickets to André Rieu's 'A Romantic Night in Vienna' concert in Sydney.

This spectacular event will take place against the background of the biggest transportable set ever and feature violin virtuoso André Rieu and his Johann Strauss Orchestra and Choir, many well-known soloists, the Platinum Tenors, the Vienna State Opera Ballet, 80 Vienna Debutantes, the golden coach with the Empress Sisi and Emperor Franz-Joseph, the Vienna Figure Skating Association, famous skating champions, traditional Viennese horse-

drawn carriages with horses and footmen, a complete golden ballroom with real golden chandeliers, fabulous costumes, gorgeous music, magical waltzes and so much more.

Known as the Waltz King of Europe, Dutch violinist and conductor André Rieu began learning the violin at the age of five.

He was born in Holland in 1949 into a very musical family. His father was a conductor, and most of his brothers and sisters are professional musicians.



André disliked the formality of orchestral performance and started to create a festive atmosphere, encouraging his audiences to enjoy the music by waltzing in the aisles.

If you'd like to be in the running, turn to page 40 and tackle the Goliathon for your chance to win.

Good luck and ... Happy puzzling!

Christine Lovatt

WIN TICKETS TO SEE THE AMAZING ANDRÉ RIEU Solve the Goliathon crossword contest on page 40 to be in the draw to win our fantastic prize package. Prize includes two tickets to Andre Rieu's November Sydney spectacular, plus airfares, accommodation at the Hilton and transport to and from the event.

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 - Mrs Sue Dawe, Wannanup, WA.

Phone: 1800 254 199

NZ - Mrs Kim Rau, Papakura.

Phone: 0800 254 177

Phone us before September 25, 2008 to claim your \$50.

Christine's BIG CROSSWORD

SEPTEMBER 2008

Cover pic: Virtuoso André Rieu

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