

Inklings

Cryptic Pic

Lovatts puzzles wouldn't be described by this expression.

Can you work it out?



Ode To The Lovatts Stinker

Reader **Eileen Byrne** wrote this very clever poem about the Stinker some years ago. Shortage of space has prevented us from printing it, but enough's enough. We've decided to give you the first verse and you can read the rest of the poem online at www.lovatts.com.au/christines-desk/mailbag

*There's a Lovatts for everyone; crosswords for choice.
And some are beginners and some are Rolls-Royce.*

*We feel rampant nostalgia with Memory Lane,
With Weismuller's Tarzan and unlikely Jane ...*

The NAAFI and ITMA induced us to hanker

For "As time goes by" back in old Casablanca;

*And the jazz and the dance bands,
like spruce Henry Hall.*

But we think that the Stinker's the pride of them all.

Thanks Eileen, we love it!

On The Danger List

To show how much words change their meanings, look at these five words that have similar meanings. Only one had the same meaning originally.

Danger comes from 13th C *daunger* 'power', as in 'power to inflict injury'. This in turn came from Latin *dominium* 'ownership'.

Hazard evolved from the Arabic *al zahr*, 'the dice'. Crusaders in the Holy Land learned this word that associated dice games with risk.

Risk is derived from Italian *rischiare* which in turn came from the Greek *rhiza* 'cliff' because of the risk when sailing along rocky coasts.

Jeopardy originates from the Old French *jeu parti* meaning 'divided game', *jeu* from Latin *jocus* 'joke' and *partir* from French 'to divide'.

Peril is the only word that had the same meaning as far back as we can go. It comes from the Latin *periculum*, which actually meant 'danger'.

Threescore And Ten

A reader recently wrote in to tell us that she was 20 years past threescore and ten. Why didn't she just say 'fourscore and ten'? I suspect it's because the prescribed lifespan of an average person was purported to be threescore and ten – 70 years old. And she was telling us that she was proud to have cheated that prediction by reaching 90 years old.

In the Old Testament, Psalms 90 has the line:

"The days of our years are threescore years & ten."

Although we expect to live past 70, the average life expectancy of the world nowadays is only 66.12.

According to United Nations estimates for 2005-10, Australia's life expectancy at birth is ranked fifth among the world's nations for men and sixth for women.

In 2008, the average life expectancy for Australians is 80.73 and for New Zealanders 80.24.

I would love to know how many of our puzzlers have beaten three score and ten?

Phil's Filibuster

Reader Phil Cotterell sent this puzzle in for you to ponder over.

What do the following have in common:-

1. BANANA
2. DRESSER
3. GRAMMAR
4. POTATO
5. UNEVEN
6. REVIVE
7. ASSESS



OzWords

The **Australian National University** in Canberra ran a competition asking readers to send in an Australian place name with a suitable definition. The entrant was allowed to add, remove or change one letter of the place name if desired. Here are some of the witty results:

Barragate a really fishy scandal

Bringarooma BYO accommodation

Bullabulling a bull doing what bulls do

Caniambo a very intelligent ambulance driver

Chillingham a frigid pig

Cignet a device to catch baby swans smoking

Crookwell How are you really?

Maitland Oz

Mangalore a surfeit of males

Mundiwindi Sunday's weather forecast

Nagga Nagga a bigamist's worst nightmare

Tullamarine Try fooling someone else!

Warrawee asked by many a lost tourist



COLOSSUS CROSSWORDS

CONTENTS

COLOSSUS 1.....	4
WIN! 30TH ANNIVERSARY	
CASHWORDS	6
PUZZLE POSTBOX	8
WIN! GIANT CRYPTIC	10
WIZWORDS	12
EDITOR'S CHALLENGE	13
COLOSSUS 2.....	14
ACROSTIC	16
KNOW-HOW	17
COLOSSUS 3.....	18
JUDGE SUMS UP	20
WIN! BAFFLER	21
BEAST 1.....	22
COLOSSUS 4.....	24
WIN! STINKER	26
CLUEDOKU 1-2	28
MEMORY LANE	29
STARHUNTS 1-4	30
LEFTIES' COLOSSUS 5.....	32
COLOSSUS 6.....	34
CRYPTIC CROSS 1-2.....	36
MAXI.....	38
THE SKELETON 1-2.....	40
COLOSSUS 7-8	42
BEAST 2.....	46
COLOSSUS 9.....	48
MEGA	50
CRYPTIC WORDS.....	52
WORLD WORDS.....	53
STARHUNTS 5-8.....	54
LEFTIES' COLOSSUS 10.....	56
BIG CROSSWORD	58
COLOSSUS 11.....	60
STINKER FROM THE VAULT	62
CRYPTIC COLOSSUS.....	64
PRACTICE GRID	66
SOLUTIONS.....	67
SUBSCRIPTIONS	74
PRIZE WINNERS	75



Hello!

This month, we're celebrating the 30th anniversary of Lovatts Colossus Crossword. It's another milestone in our company's history and a great opportunity to look back 30 years ago to our first Colossus crossword, published in January 1979. The Colossus Crossword has always had a special significance for us. As well as being the biggest, it was the very first crossword I made for the public. Previous recipients were my Dad, the school magazine and friends and family.

Back then James and I worked at the kitchen table at home, in Paddington, Sydney. We'd been married less than a year and were very excited about our potential new crossword career. That first crossword was a trial, to see if it reached the high standards required. It was to be a weekly crossword but it took me three weeks from start to finish. I realised I'd have to speed up a bit!

In those days, there were no computers, word processors or even books of word lists. Our tools of trade were a

pencil, rubber, ruler, dictionary and James' trusty old typewriter to write the clues. Nowadays I couldn't imagine having to trawl through the dictionary to find words to fit in, and luckily that situation didn't last long because James and I soon started to make our own database of words, from the dictionary and encyclopedia. It became a real labour of love, sitting up into the small hours every evening while friends were off to parties and barbecues, urging us to come out and play.

But we didn't have to toil forever, and when we'd finished we had our most valuable resource. Today our crosswords are still made from that same database of words and clues, which is always being refined.

A few months later, I became Puzzles Editor for an Australian magazine and branched out making other sorts of word puzzles. It all seems such a long time ago. Hang on ... it was!

Happy puzzling!

Christine Lovatt

To celebrate the 30th Anniversary of Colossus, we're offering a superb set of pearls to the winner of the Cashwords contest on page 6. Plus 30 runners-up will each win \$50 cash.

Inklings Answers

Phil's Filler: Put the first letter to the back and read back to front

Cryptic Pic: Flash in the pan. and the word is the same.

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