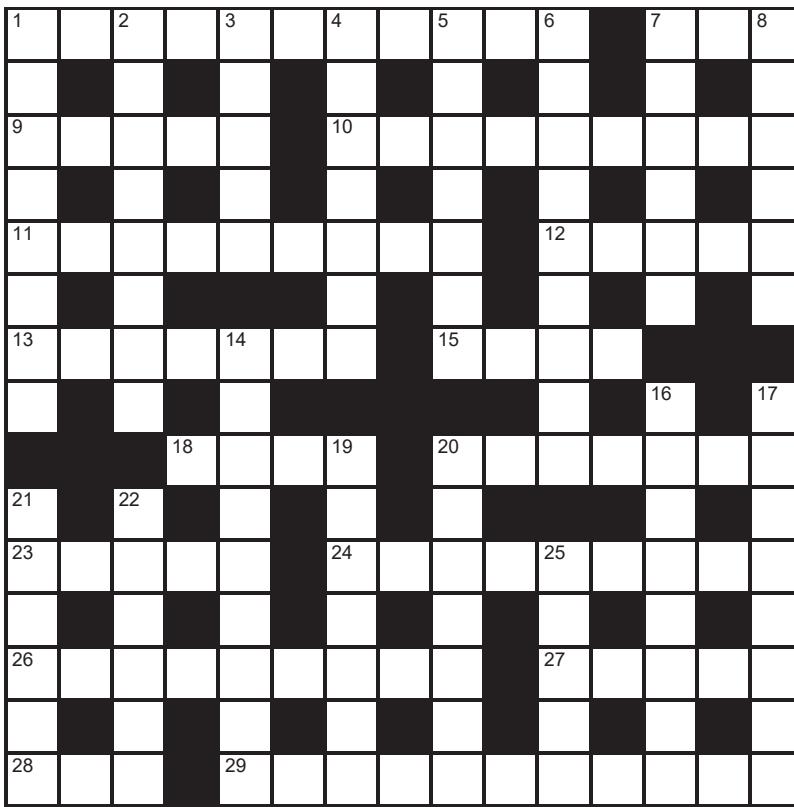
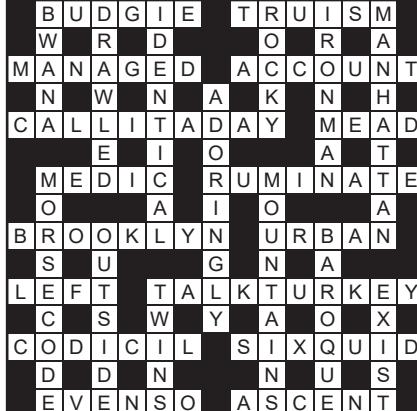


CROSSWORD No 17,876 by XELA



Solution 17,875



Scan the QR code to access FT crosswords over the last 30 days — cryptic, Polymath, Weekend and Sunday puzzles — or go to ft.com/crosswordapp

ACROSS

- Unit in hotel in west Melbourne getting renovated (5,6)
- Quarrel over former government (3)
- Smells initially need investigating? You've got 2 b kidding me! (5)
- Raises wiped out for retrained workers (9)
- Gibberish line about oddly dismal boy (4,5)
- Tiny bit of smoked ham (5)
- Strip of ground home to a wild horse (7)
- Small beat poetry competition (4)
- Equipment good for one of The Avengers (4)
- Almost all nuts mixed with a dried fruit (7)
- Some breathing exercises for part of one's chest? (5)
- Weird uniform just about covers the tops of the hips (9)
- After bold poker bet, that guy will create trouble (5,4)
- City food shop stocking sourdough, finally (5)
- Had lunch in canteen regularly (3)
- Kid's book seeing hateful frog undergoing a transformation (3,8)

DOWN

- Snake fighting bird ultimately exposed to blows? (8)
- Gift not available online with phone (8)
- Stops ignoring Conservative moderates (5)
- Associate supported by American university, by and large (7)
- Energy is invested in songs that aren't usually hits as well (7)
- Put back in controls? Not likely! (9)
- Story penned by whistle-blower provides comfort (6)
- Dan possibly cut Judy short with satisfactory answer (6)
- Chicken, or maybe turkey piece stuffed in certain type of bread (5,4)
- Meeting room with a toilet set up outside? That's heaven! (8)
- Cabin-boy whipped up drink for the little 'uns (8)
- Swiss dairy expanded? Uh-huh, so we're told (7)
- Cycling reports are mostly excellent (7)
- Tibetan turn of phrase (6)
- Hint at leaving eventually (2,4)
- Free from resistance, I tended to faff at the end (3,2)

JOTTER PAD