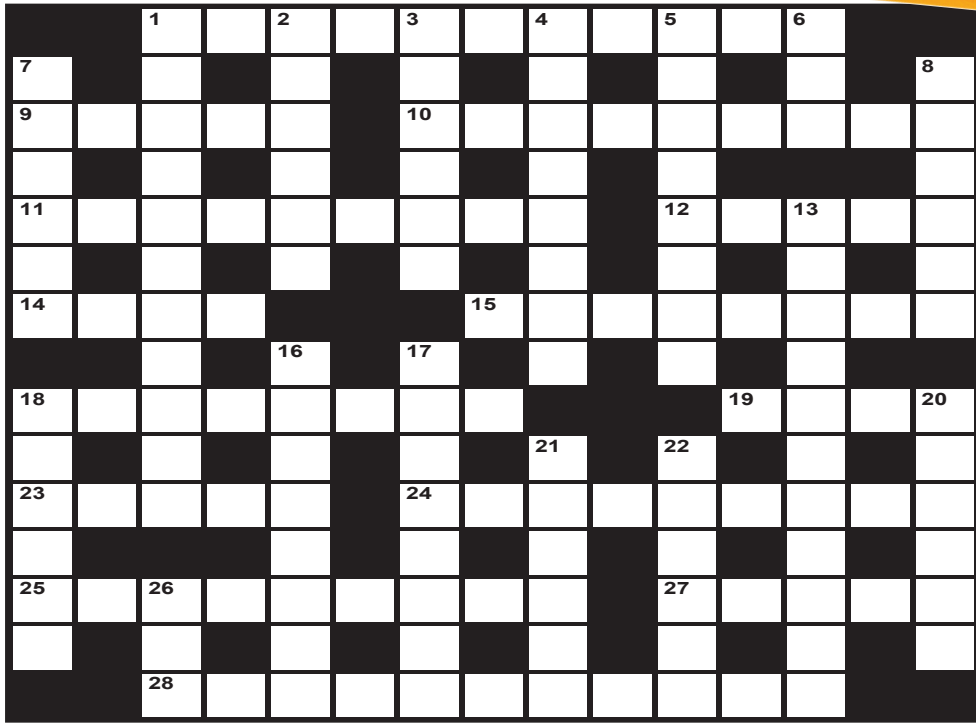


CROSSWORD

OZ-DAR685



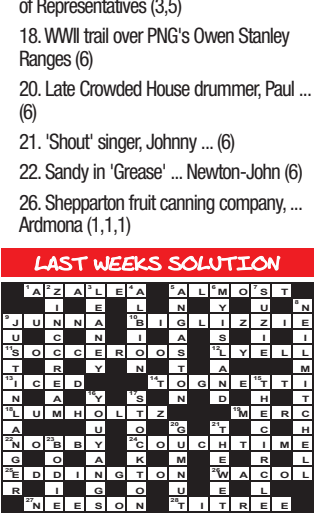
ACROSS

- 1. Type of green apple first grown in Sydney in 1868 (6,5)
- 9. Sigrid Thornton in 'Sea Change', ... Gibson (5)
- 10. Sunshine Coast national park, ... River (9)
- 11. Tasmanian National Park and New England mountain (3,6)
- 12. Adelaide's guided busway (1-4)
- 14. Garden plant with flower spikes, Gymea ... (4)
- 15. Albury-Wodonga's Flying ... Circus (5,3)
- 18. Mark Hammond in 'Skippy' (3,5)
- 19. Springbrook National Park tourist attraction, Natural ... (4)
- 23. Rhonda's Balinese admirer in AAMI ads (5)
- 24. Julian Assange's news group (9)
- 25. Divinyls' album with 'Boys in Town' (9)

DOWN

- 1. Will Anderson's advertising series (5,6)
- 2. Northern Sydney beach where 'Baywatch' was filmed (6)
- 3. Theatre founded in Kings Cross in 1970 (6)
- 4. Ex-Minardi and Ozjet boss, Paul ... (8)
- 5. Peter Allen's 1977 hit, performed with maracas (1,2,2,3)
- 6. 'Watcher on the Cast-Iron Balcony' author, ... Porter (3)
- 7. Silvio Rivier's former SBS show, '... Village' (6)
- 8. Poor quality, unreliable (coll) (6)
- 13. Savage Garden's second album, including 'I Know I Loved You' (11)
- 16. Singer once 'engaged' to Graham Kennedy, Lana ... (8)

LAST WEEKS SOLUTION



SEE NEXT WEEK'S PAPER FOR THIS WEEK'S SOLUTION

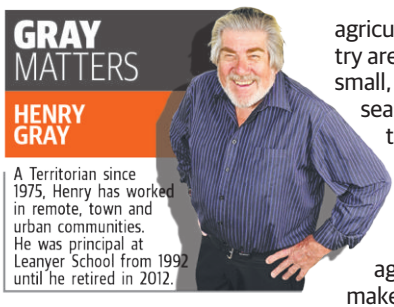
# Our education working well

MEDIA stories that highlight student mediocrity, are brought to the attention of the Australian public with predictable regularity. In recent days, *The Australian* ran a front-page story which bagged Australian students' accomplishments. Our best were described as being on par with Singapore's least accomplished students.

According to International Student Assessment results released in December 2016, students tested in Singapore ranked first in science, reading and maths results for OECD countries.

Among these countries, Australian students ranked 14th in science, 16th in reading and a lowly 25th in mathematics. Comparing Australian with Singaporean students is fallacious. Singapore is an island state of 5.6 million, and the country's prime focus is on commerce and finance.

It is a country that controls the civil and political rights of people and is governed by a semi authoritarian regimen. Australia's vastness, the fact that education is largely



**GRAY MATTERS**  
**HENRY GRAY**  
A Territorian since 1975, Henry has worked in remote, town and urban communities. He was principal at Leanyer School from 1992 until he retired in 2012.

agricultural and pastoral industry are not options for many in small, densely populated overseas countries, so competence in these occupations is not measured.

The fact that our students are encouraged to think freely and make decisions about their occupational futures is also a plus.

There are weaknesses in every educational system. Australian parents and teachers encourage children to make the most of education and school, but career decisions ultimately belong to students.

And study aside, there is a focus on personal and social development and recreational opportunities.

Students in Singapore and other OECD countries are academically focused on what seems to be a full time, whole of life basis. And all for a few extra PISA points. That is not the developmental balance we need for Australian students.

By and large, Australian education meets the holistic needs of our students and generally does it well.

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