



Vic Skeptics July 2020

The Covid-19 Crossword

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ACROSS:

1. & 3 across: Hollywood mega-star who contracted Covid-19 and was quarantined in Australia in March [3, 5]
3. See 1 across
5. Northern European country. Murdoch media pundits urged Australians to copy its "herd immunity" response to the pandemic; poor advice, in retrospect [6]
9. See 50 across
10. & 11 across & 12 across: This is defined in Wikipedia as *a cognitive bias in which people with low ability at a task overestimate their ability*. It has been much in evidence during the pandemic; from Fox gurus, social media and particularly the POTUS [7, 6, 6] (See <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/B9780123855220000056>)
11. See 10 across
12. See 10 across
16. Roman fifty-one [2]
21. This single-issue conspiracy movement has made a bewilderingly strong showing on social media despite the increasingly obvious irrationality of its case in the light of the evidence of the effects of a real pandemic [7]
24. & 27 across & 28 across: The theme of a series of international public protests usually in contravention of "lockdown" restrictions, sparked by a death during an arrest in Minneapolis on May 25 [5, 5, 6]
27. See 24 across
28. See 24 across
30. Preposition used to identify the agent performing an action (e.g. the writer of a particular piece) [2]
31. Disease such as Covid-19; OR in reference to a meme being circulated rapidly and widely from one Internet user to another [5]
32. Wilt [3]
33. By way of [3]
34. Mass self-isolation [8]
36. Ordure [3]
37. Greatly dismay or horrify [5]
39. Symbol for element # 12 [2]
41. Legume's seed [3]
42. A new word, coined to describe someone who for example:
 - bought one hundred rolls of toilet paper in March
 - hugs and/or shakes hands with everyone he or she meets during the pandemic

- advocates destroying 5G towers on suspicion that they aid disease transmission
- blames the Covid-19 pandemic on an evil scheme by Bill Gates or the Chinese (or both)
- publicly demonstrates their belief that the pandemic is a hoax while wearing a surgical mask

[8]

46. A type of person or thing similar to one recently referred to [3]
47. Musical performance by two people [4]
48. Adult female bird [3]
49. Extreme, ardent, earnest [7]
50. & 9 across: Technology which, according to conspiracy theorists, causes or exacerbates Covid-19 infection [4, 1]; also relevant to 50 across
51. The right to ingress [6]
54. Of a disease which becomes prevalent over a whole country or the world [8]
58. The action or state of not functioning successfully [7]
59. The alternative vote to "yea" [3]
60. & 62 across: International sporting series, cancelled at short notice in Melbourne in March [5, 4]
62. See 60 across
64. & 65 across: The "must-have" accessory of March 2020 [6, 5]
65. See 64 across
67. a small object from outer space that burns up in the earth's atmosphere [6]
68. Is / are / am indebted [3]
69. Plural of 2 down [3]
70. & 71 across: The name of the man who died in the incident referred to in 24 across [6, 5]
71. See 70 across

DOWN:

1. 19th letter of the Greek alphabet [3]
2. Adult male human [3]
3. Nectar-derived sweetener [5]
4. Contagious and sometimes fatal respiratory illness caused by a coronavirus, which gave rise to a pandemic during 2002 – 2004 [4]
5. Actions or sounds used to convey information, according to prearranged agreement between the parties concerned [7]

6. Heron-like bird [5]
7. To make a resource last longer by consuming it frugally [3]
8. & 36 down & 50 across: The minimum recommendation for social distancing in Australia in metres [3, 5, 4]
10. Ineffectual person or device [3]
13. & 45 down & 56 down: Three-word slogan representing the campaign to keep the number of active Covid-19 cases over time within the ability of the medical establishment to cope. [7, 3, 5]
14. Repair [3]
15. & 29 down & 52 down: Much-loved 79-year-old English comedian who succumbed to Covid-19 in April [3, 6, 6]
18. & 38 down: The cruise ship which was controversially allowed to disembark 2,700 passengers into the community in Sydney, including known Covid-19 sufferers [4, 8]
19. & 47 down: Mandated physical separation between individuals as a means of preventing transmission of Covid-19 [6, 10]
20. & 40 down: He warned in 2015 of an impending global pandemic and is himself now the subject of weird conspiracy theories [4, 5]
22. The last (or adult) stage an insect attains during its metamorphosis [5]
23. Wicked [4]
25. Bird-like [5]
26. Element 36's symbol (Element 36 is an inert gas) [2]
28. Insane [3]
29. See 15 down
30. Large snake [3]
32. Bunched-up length of thread or yarn [5]
33. Mike Pence, for example [2]
35. International public health agency, accused by Donald Trump of incompetence and bias [3]
36. See 8 down
38. See 18 down
39. To come into the presence of one or more others by arrangement or happenstance [4]
40. See 20 down
43. Dramatic work set to music [5]
44. A phrase whose meaning is generally understood, despite the individual words

in the phrase having no apparent relevance (e.g. "fingers crossed" and "break a leg" both signify "good luck" [5]

45. See 13 down

47. See 19 down

52. See 15 down

53. Medical treatment with psychological rather than physiological benefit [7]

54. Securing device, e.g. for bracing a tent [3]

55. Northern sea duck renowned for the fine soft down used by the female for lining the nest [5]

56. See 13 down

57. Worry, concern, apprehension [7]

61. Small viper [3]

63. American company whose peer-to-peer communications software uptake greatly increased following the quarantine measures adopted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic [4]

64. The value of X in the Roman numeral system [3]

65. Enclosed pastry dish [3]

66. Slippery fish [3]

67. Earth/water mix [3]

SOLUTION

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