

# Road Warrior

—Corey Plover

The zombie-like growling of the van's engines reminds you of your own growling stomach, and you start to scout the horizon for any signs of restaurants. In particular, ones that read: next McDonalds 1.5 km. For the following quarter of an hour, each road sign alerting you of an oncoming curve or cassowary crossing is a bullet to the stomach, triggering yet another wave of hunger pangs.

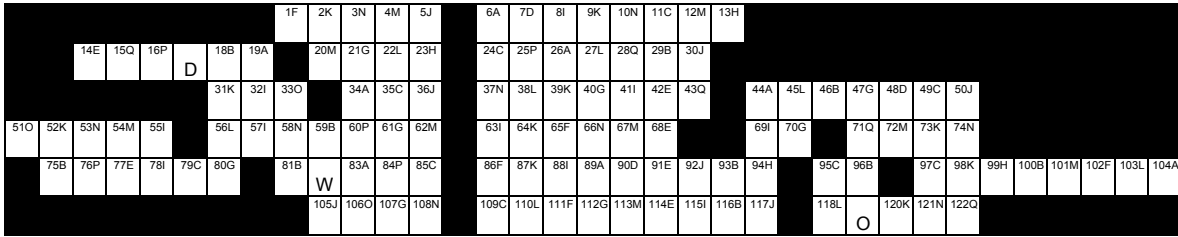
Eventually, you do reach a small and homely looking cafe. You enter via the wooden door to the bright ringing of door chimes. The waitress looks up at you while washing the last of today's dishes, and beams a friendly smile.

"Ello love, I was just closin' up for the day, and the frier's been turned off. But I reckon I could still get you a coffee and a left over muffin if you want, love."

You readily nod your head and fork out the money. She tells you to wait a few minutes while she microwaves the muffin, and you seat yourself along the under-varnished counter, casting a glance over a nearby newspaper.

"It's orrite, love. You can hava read of that if you want. Here's your coffee, be careful though. It's still pretty hot."

The paper is a local affair, and its front page story details the recent sale of the Big Pineapple and its anonymous buyer. Most of the article is typical of country journalism - full of occult descriptions and conspiracies such as how many believe the Big Pineapple to be a space-time sink, thereby granting it the Tardis effect. That is: the inside is greater than what it looks like from the outside. A page and a half into the article, the reporter runs out of material and starts blabbering about the also recent sale of the Big Banana and other properties. Taking small bites out of your pineapple flavoured muffin, you start flipping through the paper, hoping for a comics/puzzles page. You find it wedged between an ad for old arcade game systems and the properties section.



A. Fight between AFL rivals Adelaide Crows and Port Adelaide Power

26	89	83	34	44	6	19	104
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B. Teachers or faculty members at a university

75	93	18	96	116	100	81	59	29	46
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C. Designated internal mediator who assists in resolution of fights and conflicts

95	79	97	109	85	11	24	35	49
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D. Metal represented by the alchemist symbol  $\Omega$

90	48	7
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E. Enjoyment of inflicting pain

14	77	68	114	42	91
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F. Greek marbles currently situated in the Britain Museum

102	111	1	65	86
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G. RPG statistic representing a character's capacity to take damage in fights

21	40	107	80	61	112	47	70
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H. Rank of nobility above a viscount and below a marquess

94	13	23	99
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I. Establishments where you often find bouncers...and fights

41	8	88	32	115	57	55	63	69	78
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J. Electrical charge per mole of electrons

105	30	36	92	117	5	50
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K. What bullies and fighters often do to opponents

87	64	73	98	9	52	120	39	31	2
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L. Branch of biology dealing with heredity and variations in living organisms

38	22	110	45	27	103	118	56
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M. Physical swellings of blood often sustained by fighters (alt.)

12	67	113	72	101	20	4	54	62
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N. Ballarat memorial of remembrance, "\_\_\_ of Honour" (2 words)

66	58	108	37	53	74	3	10	121
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O. Body part bitten off by fighter Mike Tyson

33	106	51
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P. A stag with a 12-pointed antler

84	60	25	16	76
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Q. African-American crime fighter portrayed by Samuel L. Jackson

122	15	28	71	43
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