RUBICON, devised by David Astle, is a hybrid of crossword, jigsaw and acrostic. First, solve as many clues as you can and begin to fit the answers inside the grid. (The scattered letters of RUBICON should give you a toehold.) When the grid is completed, arrange the clues from the first Across to the last Down – their 28 initial letters will hint at a rare quality that only six of your solution words possess.

Yuman, Mayan or Aztec (6,8)
Enervating disappointment experienced on the Titanic? (7,7)
New Latin for a diplomat acceptable to a foreign government (7,5)
Talked ad lib (12)
Fellow tangled in apron strings? (7,3)
GP’s prescribed capsule (10)
Grand term for concert producer (10)
Ignominiously suffering embarrassment (6,4)
Finish the stronger in an oratory contest (8)
Heavenly confections combining nuts and caramelised sugar (8)
Historic two-winged aircraft (8)
Ratio can distort Mac? (8)
Restaurant’s overseers of waiting staff (8)
VII-related (8)
A guest of Her Majesty, euphemistically (7)
Nerd lit twisted vine’s offshoot (7)
Phenomenon performed by Jesus (7)
Transmitting light (7)
Bedlam; refuge (6)
Diaphragm spasm (6)
Excessively sweet (6)
Excruciating experience (6)
Olle of Australian media (6)
Ye old term for a rowboat’s bench (6)
Oxford or brogue (4)
Sink alternative? (4)
Impaired by lack of hearing (4)
Nation; dash (4)