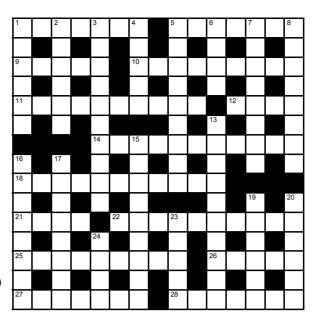
Across

- 1 Forward, backward? Love is short of being full to the brim (7)
- **5** Precarious freedoms lack energy in slavery (7)
- **9** Friend ends with fire (vuur) lighter (5)
- 10 Scaled seafood and prepared beer (initial drink) (9)
- 11 Idea of eggs broken in suction lacks credibility to start with (10)
- 12 1st eye not opening is a visual impediment (4)
- 14 Organ's pitch it's an absolute pain! (6,5)
- **18** Compromise is good I've got naked at swims (4-3-4)
- **21** Dweeb is loner depressed inside (4)
- 22 Young girls at hand offer close shaves (4,6)
- **25** Belief in training (9)
- **26** Sign with no expectations at first for money (5)
- **27** Small tree in drain left in final cleaning (7)
- 28 Naughty habit to pull back (7)

Down

- 1 Roman Catholic gets porridge first (6)
- 2 Boil bursts, gunge empties help! (6)
- **3** Cheat, then criticise huge flat Northern Cape area for extreme sports (10)
- 4 Lawful like cities? Not half (5)
- 5 Sunlight musical on 7^{de} Laan? (4,5)
- 6 Gown to steal the finale (4)
- 7 Doug regularly helping to spell (8)
- **8** Annoyed and recklessly damned journo (8)
- 13 Sixth sense Euclid oddly associated with friend mainly (10)
- 15 Daughter making stranger infirm? (9)
- **16** Bureaus become nice in time (8)
- 17 Old cats and dogs and minister come back or go beyond (8)
- 19 Disappear in Vinitsh on assignment (6)
- 20 Climb a small last serac to finish (6)
- 23 Continue in Zimbabwe nerve-wracking retirement (5)



24 Country rose, provided with judicious and industrious leaders (4)