

2008 Wrap-up

cisra Puzzle Competition 2008
<http://puzzle.cisra.com.au>

One year after the invasion, in the city's largest park, surrounded by a throng of foreign politicians and reporters, you stand shoulder to shoulder with a group of fellow veterans. As they in turn tell their tales of survival and how they each contributed to the defeat of the aliens, you look around at the legends you find yourself amongst: the leader who coordinated the surviving humans using hidden newspaper messages; the museum visitor who captured an alien and decoded their transmission protocol; the experimental subjects who turned the tables with the help of a digital camera; and the detective who found the cure for the zombification virus. Finally, it is your turn to talk.

“The aliens used genetic engineering to try to enslave us. The genetic engineering of a deadly virus which converted it into a will-sapping disease instead. This is not the first time biological weapons have been used on this planet, but hopefully, with this new treaty about to be signed today, we humans will never again venture down that insidious path. It is, however, ironic that a humble flower selectively bred through countless generations to look and smell pleasing was ultimately humanity's saviour. Who would have thought the aliens would be so allergic and so incapacitated by its pollen? Not I! Yet when they chased me into my greenhouse, and instantly fell on the ground wheezing hard, I knew I had discovered the key to something important, the final clue to a desperately important puzzle.”

You tell the rest of your story, and the politicians say their words, and when the treaty is signed, the applause is overwhelming. Maybe humanity has gained some wisdom here today, you hope.

