

HORRORSCOPE FOR THE AUTUMN MONTHS OF 2017:

To allow for the vagaries of the universe and interpretive inexactitude, it might pay to read everyone else's stars as well.

ARIES

A good month to get into solfège, or solfeggio if you want to do it with a close friend. Do re mi etc. ... or perhaps you should get solar panels on the roof. You know like, sun ray, save doh, me happy living in harmony with the universe.

TAURUS

Tall lonely man needs company with cross-dressing ... what? No, never! That should have read cross-benching. If you think permitting same-sex marriage will lead to Nemo and Fido demanding equal rights then he needs to hear from you. Reply c/- Tony the shirtfronter.

GEMINI

Some of you will have a sudden urge to visit, or revisit, foreign shores — especially those of you who've made an absolute motza from scamming the system. Vocational education courses are the flavour of the month. Properly funding TAFE to upskill our youth didn't fit the privatisation mantra so the government gave millions to shysters instead.

CANCER

You may find you have an out-of-sigh conjunction of Mars and Venus, when Mars is in 28° Libra and Venus is in 2° Scorpio. This is fairly serious but not as bad as an out-of-wine function caused by Pops drinking the lot and hitting 0° against the Earth.

LEO

Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. Feisty redhead is learning that supporters more angry than analytical can sometimes be as hard to find as bones in calamari from a fish and

chip shop. One notion may not always be enough.

VIRGO

Be yourself. Especially, do not feign affection. Check out the *Daily Pantograph* just after the middle pages where it has a whole page of, "all our ladies provide a genuine intimate, unrushed, passionate 'girlfriend experience' including kissing, cuddling, mutual pleasure and much more at no extra cost". No extra cost than what? You might well ask.

LIBRA

Go placidly amid the noise and the haste and remember though your life may go full circle in the coming year, it'll not be at the corner of Wallace and Lascelles.



We might have seen that pesky round-about off for good.

SCORPIO

A good day to tie up loose ends. Caution is indicated though, so perhaps start with your shoelaces just to see how you go. A good time to seek that promotion unless your boss is a Scorpio, reads this and sees you coming.

SAGITTARIUS

Are you subject to mood swings, see your approach life in a roundabout way and find yourself on a slippery slope? Getting out of the theme park would be a start. Everything will just fall into your lap this month. Perhaps fettuccine is a bit too multicultural for you.

CAPRICORN

Avoid chopping and changing all the time. This might not apply to you transvestite forestry workers because some of you look absolutely divine. You will be highly attractive to those on the same wavelength, or if you're into hair, those with the same wavelength.

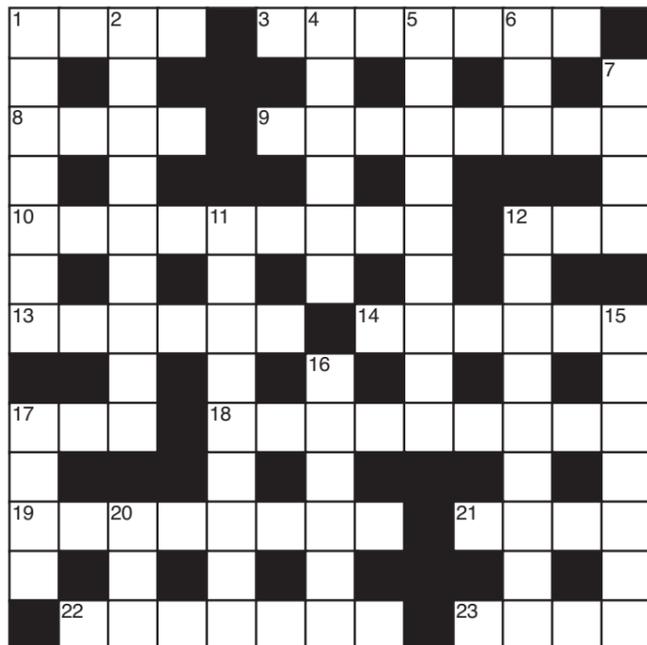
AQUARIUS

Twinkle, twinkle little star, how I wonder where I are. You're right where they want you. Today is a good day to be fearful of things you can't see and people you don't know. Trust us, we have your interests at heart, or no interest and years to pay, whatever, but don't stop consuming.

PISCES

Well, it's one for the money, two for the show, three to get ready — now move real slow. That's the government's solar song and it's on an endless loop. A solar farm with pumped hydro, perhaps using the escarpment, could provide energy independence for Braidwood.

BRAIDWOOD BAFFLER #12



ACROSS

- 1 Nasty tumble or an American season
- 3 Across, 16 Down, Crap or Man made?
- 8 Paste of flour and fat
- 9 This summer!
- 10 Symptomatic of 11 Down?
- 12 Indian dish made from dried pulses
- 13 Nucleus, unborn child
- 14 Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness
- 17 Charge
- 18 Very hard rock
- 19 Pre-Colombian people of S. America
- 21 Object of worship
- 22 Favoured
- 23 Consume, support

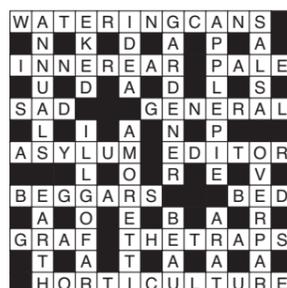
DOWN

- 1 Luck, wealth
- 2 Derisively amusing
- 4 Hold back (in a race), stay a

distance away from another ship

- 5 You can make plastic weapons with a 3D copier but not these ones!
- 6 A nice cup of ...
- 7 Touch or experience
- 11 Lazybones!
- 12 Grumpy old man or woman
- 15 Deliberately irritated another
- 16 see 3 across
- 17 Seizures
- 20 Slippery as an ...?

SOLUTION TO BAFFLER #11



Coal is dead

Go the sun — go the wind, you've got it all on your side now. Everything else costs more, even to set up; let alone the on-going price of the fuel.

The spot price for sunlight will be the same tomorrow as it is today — and as it has always been — zero. The price of coal-fired electricity will increase day by day. The gas industry is an absolute shambles of gouging, miscalculation and vested interest.

Here's a quick run down of the alternatives to sun, wind and hydro.

Nuclear

Nuclear power in Australia is nowhere — and just as well. Even without the high-level waste from a power station, Australia has nuclear waste lying all over the place.

The CSIRO has announced in its latest annual report that \$30 million from its budget needs to be spent fixing sloppy past practice.

As the SMH reported:

An Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency spokeswoman said the \$29.7 million estimate would cover the characterisation, handling, re-packaging and storage of the toxic material.

"As a result of an ARPANSA inspection in 2016, it was recognised that additional work was required to scientifically characterise some of the contents of the legacy materials more accurately," she said.

"The work that needs to be undertaken is significant."

That's polite-speak for someone in the past shoving their problematic radioactive waste into forty-four gallon drums, not even labelling it properly, and sending it off to Woomera to rust. So we're spending \$30m of today's budget to pay for the slackness of the past. When it's all done of course, we will have merely put all the stuff into new drums to sit about and ... well, they'll sort it out in the future.

Coal

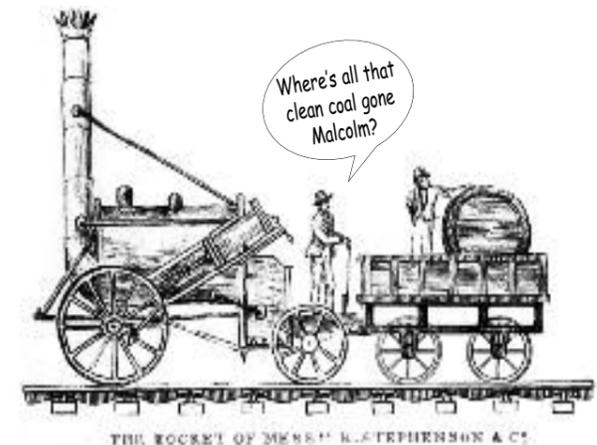
Say what you like about the coal industry — it knows how to lobby. It's all about branding now. "Dirty coal, yuk, it's hard to believe we ever tried to sell that stuff. Not to worry, we've got 'clean coal' now so everything is going to be hunky-dory."

The coal is exactly the same of course, it's the way it's burnt that is changing.

Now we have (or plan to have) supercritical power plants, ultra-supercritical and ... 'ta-da!' advanced ultra-supercritical power stations on the drawing board.

As a *pièce de résistance* there might also be carbon capture and storage if there happens to be a geologically suitable site near the power station where CO₂ can be compressed and injected kilometers below the surface, never to reappear and poison us.

What Josh Frydenberg and other coal spuikers fail to tell us is that electricity from 'supercali' coal will cost fifty percent more than we pay now — and from 'supercalifragilistic' coal it will be three times as expensive. The federal government is lying through its teeth about coal — the pertinent question is, why?



towards the future by Paul Cockram

Gas

The question of whether we are about to have gas shortages on the east coast and why this would be allowed to occur is quite some saga. The answer depends on the time of day and possibly also the alignment of the planets.

Australia has a wealth of gas yet to be released — that much everyone agrees on. By 2020 we, that is, Chevron, ExxonMobil, Shell and others will be exporting as much gas as Qatar.

But, as the SMH reported recently:

In 2021, when each country's production volumes will be virtually identical, Qatar will receive \$26.6 billion while Australia will receive just \$800 million.

And even that paltry return is looking less likely. Other countries are looking to supply the same markets that our boys thought they had stiched up.

The main point in all this is that nearly every other country in the world is challenging the status quo to get the best deal it can for its citizens. Not so here in Dozy land. Our governments negotiate with multinationals using the dexterity of a rabbit caught in the headlights.

As with the farrago of lies used to prop up the coal industry, the question needs to be put; is it really just incompetence or are there sinister and illegal vested interests at work?

The gas industry is being given a free kick to blame it all on the state governments, farmers and greenies. It's true that Santos and others had, in their minds, already banked the fraccable

gas that lies under our farming land.

State governments have been caught on the hop by the near-total opposition to hydraulic fracturing beneath agricultural land. Successful opposition to mining is a rare event in Australia.

But we have oodles of gas. The Japanese consumer will most likely pay less

for our gas than we will if industry projections are to be believed.

For goodness sakes — it's our gas. Have we no sense of common purpose as a people that we still allow the natural resources of the land to be sold away from underneath us?

When the solar revolution gets into full swing we'll only need gas as back-up anyway, and not for so many years, but that's no reason to give it all away.

We live in interesting times. Science and technology are working to solve our energy problems in amazing ways. Electricity production is at the long-playing record stage; with tapes, CDs, mp3s and beyond yet to come.

The next time you hear a politician claiming there is a bright future for coal, show them a picture of George and Robert Stephenson's 1829 coal-fired 'Rocket' and tell them to get real.