

HORRORSCOPE FOR THE WINTER 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.

LEO
A plumb jog mite come your way this week. A major dailey newspaper needs sub edotirs and proof reade3ers for the on-linr edition. Fyew have gud literacuy skills, grate-grandma and an eegle eye fur speling: this might be the job for yoyu. our last subble lrft us in the lerch when she said sheed afftergo or sheed miss the school bus.

VIRGO
Beware the yob speedsters hurtling past the preschool. If that's you, beware the parents campaigning for a road structure to send your front end into early disfunctionality. Good things will happen if outrage and road rage both can be brought into the gamut of celestial understanding and cooperation.

LIBRA
Lunacy double faults in your Court. For a bigot-free experience Qantas looks a good bet. Just follow the great Martina Navratilova's lead who, when asked by a male journalist, "are you still a lesbian?" replied, "are you still the alternative?"

SCORPIO
Porphyry, as you know, was an influential 3rd century pythagorean mathematician and neoplatonist philosopher. Not to be confused with Porphyry Pearl, a Bazza McKenzie sort of drop much used by teenagers at drive-in movies who entirely failed to later remember what was on the screen.

SAGITTARIUS
You could go through the month in a trance, or if you happen to be a penultimate prime minister, a recalcitrance. Old king coal was a dirty old mole who tried to pollute for free. It is a fiddlers' spree.

CAPRICORN
Saturn loves the rhythm of life and Biothanatus digs the blues. Mercury hides at the base of the tube and Venus can't seem to lose. Getting to the bottom of the matter this month might lead you all over the place but if you have a baby going nappy-free it might be the other way around.

AQUARIUS
Ebay becomes, "Oh Boy", this month when you accidentally add an extra zero to your maximum bid. Perturbation is not as much fun as it sounds as you watch the bids creep up to, but not quite over, the ridiculous amount you have agreed to pay for what you now realise you never really wanted anyway.

PISCES
Issues from the past may suddenly return. Perhaps the new dog will unearth the old dog. Or could it be that, in a moment of exhaustion brought on by those Everest-like steps, you mixed up the outbound and sender's address zones on the parcel, struggling as you were, both for breath and with a string-strung ink-intermittent pen.



ARIES
The tower on Mount Gilla matong is up to itsus.....ual tricks. The first part of your do.....wnload, a super-funny YouTube clip for instance, starts;then "Ah stuffit!" [sigh].

TAURUS
Roses are red and violets are blue; when said on line might make it not true. Mary had a little lamb, on FaceBook she had to post, "If it follows me one more time I swear to God it's toast". Of course she then received 45 likes, 4 rude comments from vegetarians and 300 shares in the Australian Wool Corporation.

GEMINI
You might be feel strained this month like pasta through a colander. If you're down the pub looking for a new friend, make sure you understand the difference between mutable and rootable. One is capable of change and the other (you know I was referring to the ability to stay planted in one spot) might look a bit wilted in the morning light.

CANCER
Then on the other hand, or on the other foot if it's socks before gloves on this bleak winter's day, ideas might ferment like undies gone down behind the washing machine. In an all-to-common confluence these days, your clothes, the newspaper and the television might all reach the spin cycle simultaneously. The whole lot of us are then hung out to dry.

LET the sun shine in

An acronym-led strategy is not in our best interests

You could be forgiven for thinking the whole political process has gone mad when reading the latest move to replace the RET (renewable energy target) with the LET (low emissions target).

What's in a name you may well ask? Quite a lot as it turns out. The LET is going to get more support in parliament because it LETs the coal industry off the hook.

The take from various new sources: "It is vastly more likely to get a coal-fired power station built to provide baseload power under something like an LET," the Nationals leader told reporters in Canberra on Tuesday.

OK, that's what we expect from Barnaby Joyce in the 'nothing must hurt the coal industry' camp.

"We haven't dismissed it, what we've done is to characterise it as a second best option," opposition environment spokesman Mark Butler told ABC radio.

That's the good old Labor Party now proudly accepting second best options as the safest strategy to slip quietly (maybe) into government.

"If gas and even new coal-fired power stations now count as 'clean', we might as well all pack up and go home, because it's game over for the climate and the planet," Mr Bandt said.

So of course it's left once again to the Greens to say something sensible; to say what so many people believe is the right thing to do as opposed to what is likely, or possible, in our logic constrained cuckoo parliament.

Read the serious press or go on line yourself and you'll find commentators from industry, science, commerce et al lamenting the fact that this is the best we can hope for. Most sensible people still see a price on carbon emissions as the simplest way to steer our energy sector towards a lower-cost, reliable future.

Readers of the *Daily Pantograph* and the *Ozzy* know that 'renewable' energy is now rebranded as 'intermittent' to cast it as unreliable. A better over-

arching description would be 'inexhaustable' energy.

Loyal and long-term readers of *Time & Energy* might remember this:

As it becomes clearer that 'clean coal' is just a nonsense made up by coal companies to buy time for new mines to open, the nuclear option will start to appeal to more people. It's true that nuclear power stations do not emit carbon into the atmosphere but they do produce deadly waste products that must be stored safely for thousands of years.

Nuclear powered electricity, like coal-fired power, is just another way of propping up today's wasteful energy use by leaving a large debt to be paid by our children.

I wrote that piece ten years ago almost to the day, when T&E was a weekly column in the *Braidwood Times*.

Haven't we come a long way baby!



towards the future by Paul Cockram

It's time to call out this rubbish. There is no such thing as 'clean coal'. Even if it can be shown to work on a power station scale (it hasn't yet) or can be shown to be affordable (which it isn't) there is still a major moral question missing. It is this:

Is it right to pump a vast amount of poisonous gas deep underground and hope it will stay there forever? There is no evidence that it will. It's the same question that many countries are now asking about nuclear power.

Why go for technologically complex and expensive machinery with major waste storage issues when the sun shines inexhaustibly for free? The answer is, of course, that the people who own these resources and expect

to profit by their use are over-represented in the corridors of power.

It's as simple as that. We know it's true because every now and then some of them come a cropper.

The cost of solar and wind power is coming down, the cost of coal power if it has to be 'clean' is going up. Nobody is denying these facts because they're self evident.

How is it that our political emperors can strut about naked, believing in the fine but invisible clothes the carbon tailor has sold them — and yet nobody calls them out? Do some of us secretly want to see the clothes, support the emperor and not make a fuss?

The proposed Adani mine in Queensland is a great example of pandering to the idea of foreign investment — even when the proponent has nothing in the kitty to invest. Then, somehow, because we've already counted the jobs that might be created, the government feels the need to stump up our money to get the show on the road.

If it's our money being invested then there are other projects worthy of public funding that will create many more jobs and lead us to the future rather than tying us to the past. A billion dollars of public funds to build a 600 km railway line across the scrub is quite indefensible when there are so many more worthy places where a rail line could go.

Other future-looking projects are crying out for government assistance. Nissan chairman, Carlos Ghosn, was reported recently in the *SMH* saying that the market for electric vehicles wouldn't grow without a public policy from government that says: "We favour zero emissions cars, electric and plug in hybrids — and [so we're offering] a subsidy to consumers to encourage them to buy these cars".

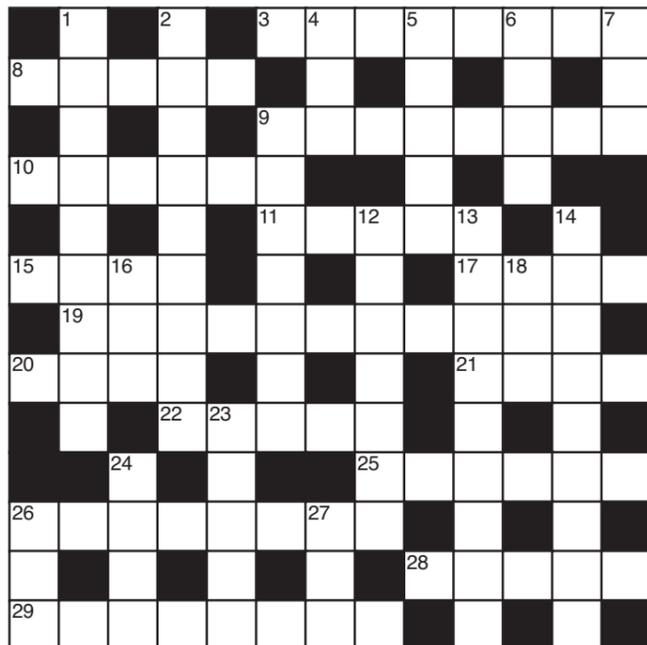
Despite record sales of new cars, just 219 of the 1.2 million new vehicles sold in Australia in 2016 were electric. Why even think that electric cars are on the way if there's no interest from government?

Listen Mr Turnbull, if "Jobs and Growth" is really your mantra then forget coal. Thermal coal is the one resource that is guaranteed to have neither jobs nor growth in its future.

Solar, wind, pumped hydro, electrified public transport; all these will soak up all the dollars you can find, create lasting jobs and point us towards the future.

Or you can join Barnaby, Cory and One Nation and march through the crowd to the next election stark bloody naked.

BRAIDWOOD BAFFLER #13



ACROSS

- 3. Button up your – when the wind blows free" (8)
- 8. Plenty of this around when the temperature drops below zero (5)
- 9. Small green parrot (8)
- 10. Change, alter (6)
- 11. Particular cut of beef (1,4)
- 15. Teenagers room? (4)
- 17. Singular expressed two ways (1,3)
- 19. Friendly and helpful (11)
- 20. Dr Livingstone informally? (4)
- 21. One tiny speck (1,3)
- 22. Grass-like plant (5)
- 25. Uncommon (6)
- 26. The Clarke Brothers? (8)
- 28. Author of the Iliad and a popular cartoon character (5)
- 29. Becoming rancid

DOWN

- 1. Contretemps, reasonings (9)
- 2. Murderers (9)
- 4. By way of (4)

- 5. Kingdom (5)
- 6. Harbinger (4)
- 7. Young child (3)
- 9. Informed on (7)
- 12. Down unders opposite? (2,5)
- 13. A group of parachutists in uniform (9)
- 14. Some favour one political party and some don't like ... (3,2,4)
- 24. Bad in the bush, good in the woodstove? (4)
- 26. Baby, its cold outside! (3)
- 27. Academic or boy's name (3)

SOLUTION TO BAFFLER #12

