

**HORRORSCOPE FOR THE SPRING 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.

**GEMINI**

O gosh, why doesn't it rain. Everything's so dry but not as much as that desiccated old coconut, our ex-Prime Minister. How dare that deranged war criminal lecture us about the dangers of giving everyone an equal right to marry? It's weapons of mass copulation this time I suppose — and of course, they'll turn out to not exist as well.

**CANCER**

When it comes time for the government to show how much it supports renewables, you can rest assured that it will stop at nothing. Look out for Tony of Abscissor, the blocker of light. Remember that all forms of energy have their drawbacks. With solar it's, "will the sun rise tomorrow?"

**LEO**

Samsung has transited from the warehouse to your house this month. It's a time to sit back and let modern all-consuming life wash over you. OMG, just as the effervescent couple see their new bathroom, it's "Oh What a Feeling" and you'll start thinking: Twinkle twinkle little star, how I need a brand new car. I'll fear not the hefty toll, with ABS and cruise control.

**VIRGO**

This month you'll enjoy talking about what interests you and if you're really lucky, what interests your audience. Practice adding pauses to your conversations. That way you can compose what you next want to say after your co-conversationalist has finished rather than while they're speaking. Then when they say, "Isn't that right dear?", you can reply with confidence, "Oh I know".

**LIBRA**

About time too. Mercury reappears in the thermometer in your second solar house — and so the seasons pass like water at the pub. Coopers transits in a trine to your sign. A couple of coldies to end the day, a six-pack, love, to take away. Fumble with the keys, get the old bomb started, look out youse wombats, I ain't faint hearted.

**SCORPIO**

Your motivation to get that hobby project finished goes through the roof. Always read the fine print and you'll see where it says to take your model rocket outside before the launch.

**SAGITTARIUS**

You might be pondering the significance of the existence of an Almighty. Is it God or perhaps Lockheed Martin? The Lord is your shepherd, you shall not want unless of course you're still fearful of Kim Jong Un where, in that case, you might prefer the protection of the \$20m-a-pop Aegis missile system. Just bear in mind, the



chance of intercepting all the incoming nukes that will vapourise all you hold dear is astronomically small. Diplomacy is a much better bet than deterrence.

**CAPRICORN**

There's a lot of negativity about your fifth house, especially around the gearing. It's getting to the stage where you own so many properties you can let the tenants do all the working for you. Fear not, God is too busy with the 'NO' vote to bother any more about avarice.

**AQUARIUS**

The alarm goes off, it's still dark but you must be like mautine and rise before the sun. Oh, how we dream of vesperine. At this time of the year we lurch from daylight mean time to an even meaner time if you must arise to milk the cows or pack your kids off to the school bus.

**PISCES**

Juno what Jupiter's wife's name is? Sure, OK; it's a trick question.

**ARIES**

You might be pondering the religious condemnation of same-sex marriage while remembering that in 1615 Galileo was charged with heresy and spent the rest of his life under house arrest. Although the 'father of science' brought us the understanding of speed and velocity, gravity and free fall, the principle of relativity, inertia and projectile motion, God's self-appointed servants didn't like the way it challenged their world view.

**TAURUS**

You may feel an abbreviated communication phase coming on. OFFS, is that so bad? I'm LMAO here and alternating between LQTM and ROFL. FWIW, your BFF thinks UR GR8 FFS, JK, LOL, EOD.

# They might have no idea, but we do

Our governments are paralysed by indecision and unrelenting lobbying by energy corporations

While ever our energy policy is set by investors who demand a 'reasonable' rate of return we, the consumers, are going to get screwed by a power distribution network that is such a motley patchwork of public and private ownership with unenforced responsibility.

Private owners expect a rate of return on their investment in line with the fanciful, or sometimes even fraudulent, projections made by our governments when they sell off assets, often just for a short-term budget fix. Electricity is a cash cow being, as it is, a non-discretionary purchase.

So our options for the future are:

1. Continue to burn coal.
2. Shift some power stations to gas.
3. Embrace renewables.

Gas-fired power plants are much more efficient than coal burners and don't require such a huge amount of water to operate. But today's gas supply scenario has degenerated into farce.

Both gas and coal-fired power stations must have a continuous supply of fuel and coal burners need an available water supply for cooling. The carbon dioxide emissions need to be brought to the lowest level possible and this requires complex treatment that is not yet commonplace — and coal power is already expensive. Coal mines and gas extraction also create their own environmental hazards.

**The game changer**

Solar energy is different. (So is wind, but let's stick with solar for a bit.) Solar arrays capable of supplying as much power as a coal or gas plant will be vast — hundreds of hectares.

Once constructed though, the running costs are negligible compared to coal or gas. Solar arrays don't need water and don't produce pollution or the waste products and dangers of mining.

**And the fuel arrives for free!**

Let's cut to the chase. It's the free fuel that has the investor sector so opposed to the uptake of renewables. Of course they trot out other arguments like



towards the future by Paul Cockram

intermittency but that's just rubbish — modern electronics and storage has all those variables well and truly covered. Let's go with the scientific approach to energy security rather than the dead-end approach promoted by the Prime Minister's investor-led lobby group.

In our part of Australia, sitting on the

edge of the escarpment as we do, pumped hydro storage will work for us nicely. We have as much land as we need, able to be leased from farmers happy to host the solar arrays, and an ideal drop to run a pipe down hill from, say, Majors Creek to Araluen.

Think of it as a hydro-electric power station using falling water to spin a turbine that can run faster or slower depending on the load (the amount of electricity required at that moment). The solar panels produce power during the day to pump the water back up the hill.

The same water goes up and down, an environmental supply is not needed.

It will happen. Coal power is finished, gas is uncertain and nuclear will never get off the ground. And that's all good! Here in Braidwood we can do it for ourselves. We have a Community Bank that is inventive and caring — and a population small and cohesive enough to think outside the square.

Let's put a bold plan up to government to help them with solutions to their energy dilemma that will also benefit our community.

Solar power is the people's power.

**BRAIDWOOD BAFFLER #14**



**ACROSS**

- 1 Got an opinion on matrimony? Then post this! (8,4)
- 8 Flaming torch (8)
- 9 Sound made by Thomas the Tank Engine? (4)
- 10 Long period of time (3)
- 11 Nothing's happening. Its gone quiet. There's (1,4,2) ... the proceedings.
- 14 Thighbone (6)
- 15 Appetites (6)
- 17 Uncomfortable position; having the responsibility for a difficult decision (3,4)
- 19 Small infant (3)
- 22 You, biblically. (4)
- 23 In the annual Braidwood Festival this is done to the quilts (6,2)

**DOWN**

- 2 Roaming free (2,5)
- 3 Hoar frost cover (4)
- 4 Matured (4)

5 Fairness (8)

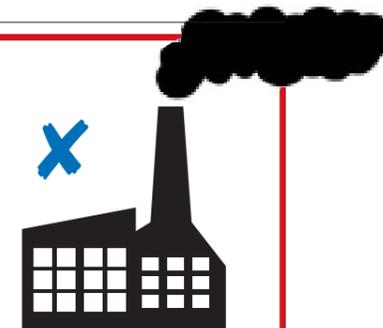
- 6 Beat the rest (8)
- 7 Type of mushroom (5)
- 12 Most overbearing (8)
- 13 Greek city and popular variety of olive (8)
- 16 Restraint, thrift (7)
- 18 Earthy pigment containing ferric oxide (5)
- 20 Shortened form of a dangerous reptile or a type of footwear (4)
- 21 In a different, more positive way (4)

**SOLUTION TO BAFFLER #13**



Are you tired of paying through the nose for that dirty coal-fired power?

Worried about wrecking the planet's climate?



**Switch to cheaper electricity made from the sun.**

**Community solar power: not just for well-off people, but for every one of us.**

**BRAIDWOOD POWER**  
It can be done and we can do it.