

HORRORSCOPE FOR THE AUTUMN MONTHS 2013:

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

ARIES

What's left to lose. Try gambling this month. How about this for a fool-proof method of winning. Instead of buying scratchies, put the money in a jar each week and then at the end of the year toss the whole lot up in the air and yell, "Yippee!"

TAURUS

Be prepared to pander to the profit-induced whims of others. Move over when you see that ore truck bearing down on you. Be aware of he who casts the first stone especially if it hits your windscreen.

GEMINI

Say hello to your neighbours over the fence which, thanks to the new LEP increasing the minimum lot size in town to 1000m², will now be less likely to become a driveway leading to another house next to your back yard.

CANCER

This is a month for dealing with hang-ups. Suppose you want to change your data plan with your service provider. You will need to adopt an inhuman calmness to avoid the inevitable hang-ups that result from listening to vile scratchy music for half an hour or more.

LEO

Before you criticise another person, walk a mile in their shoes. Then, no matter what you yell out, they won't catch up with you in bare feet.

VIRGO

Blessed are those born on a cusp. You lucky ones can choose which star sign best suits your plans for the day. In fact it might well have been the obstetrician's

plans to play golf the next day that led to you being induced out of one sign and slap on the bum into the previous one.

LIBRA

As an alternative to taking any notice of what the stars say, you might try psychic TV. There for \$10 per minute you can have a personal (well, as personal as communicating by SMS can be) reading along the lines of: "I see someone new in your life. Would that be right? Are you looking for something new?" Really, why else would you bother?



SCORPIO

You could be heading for money troubles. So could we all. Cyprus is a warning of what will happen when the whole shebang goes splat. You might think that being a depositor gives you first dibs on the dough, but alas, no.

SAGITTARIUS

I see you driving sedately through an avenue of trees, past a refurbished and advertised tourist park, through the s-bends and up the main street. "Oh look; there's Mrs Jones waiting to cross for a coffee and a croissant." Stop at the marked pedestrian crossing, twenty second delay, "Oh goody. There's a parking spot just vacated." Easy.

CAPRICORN

Another month for feeling highly-charged. This time it's the power bill. How can this be? Your consumption is going down but the bill is going up. Don't believe the red-type propaganda, now on the envelope as well as inside, about it all being the fault of the carbon tax and renewable energy. It's shameless politics.

AQUARIUS

I'm sure you're all aware that the zodiac can be interpreted as sidereal or tropical and is, in fact, drifting around several degrees each century. My mind though, perhaps yours too, is drifting around all over the place more or less constantly.

PISCES

So that takes us to the end of the show for these predictions. Just to recap. Life is what you make it and the ideas expressed here are indicative only, just like the wool colours in a knitting catalogue. Really, you're on your own but that's the whole point and joy of life.

There's good news and bad news

First the good:

Australia now has one million solar rooftop arrays, according to data released by the Clean Energy Regulator.

The key message in the million solar rooftops story is that solar is a great way for consumers to protect themselves against the rising costs of electricity, and that solar PV remains a solid household investment option despite government rebates being wound back.

More than two million Australians are now getting cheaper power and saving some half a billion dollars a year on their electricity bills, because of their switch to solar energy.

The number of homes with solar power systems passed the one million mark in March this year.

Clean Energy Council Chief Executive David Green said this meant that approximately 2.5 million Australians now lived in a home with a set of solar panels on the roof — more than the entire population of Western Australia.

"It is remarkable when you think that just five years ago in 2008 there were only about 20,000 systems installed across the entire country," Mr Green said.

"For some years solar has been most enthusiastically embraced by those in mortgage-belt suburbs, retirement areas and regional parts of the country. People from all walks of life have been installing solar as a way of protecting themselves from power price pain over the long term."

Mr Green said the solar industry had gone from the domain of backyard enthusiasts to a major business opportunity within a decade.

"The solar industry currently employs over 8,000 Australians, and has led to billions of dollars in investment getting behind Australia's 20 per cent Renewable Energy Target. Solar is the Hills Hoist of the 21st Century," he said.

"As consumers take back control of

their power bills through cleaner, smarter energy technology, solar power is clearly something that has been at the forefront of their minds. "Solar power also has a variety of other added benefits, including help-



Story compiled by Richard Elliott

ing the entire electricity network cope with periods of high demand on very hot days."

The Clean Energy Council is the peak body for the renewable energy and energy efficiency sector. It is an industry body that provides a unified voice for more than 550 solar, wind, geothermal, hydro, wave, bioenergy, cogeneration, storage and energy efficiency companies. You can find more information at:

cleanenergycouncil.org.au.

Then the not-so-good:

Extreme Weather Report. The Climate Commission released a report this week stating that Australia is to face an increase in extreme weather events over the coming decades.

The report indicates these extreme weather events, such as extreme temperatures, rainfall, drought, bushfires, cyclones and storms, are brought on by the effects of climate change.

According to the Climate Commission, Australians are consistently experiencing record-breaking weather, with the 2012/2013 summer setting over one hundred heat-related records, including the hottest summer, hottest month, and hottest day ever recorded.

The report looks at extreme weather events in relation to climate change and outlines how each state suffers its own extreme weather and the effects this has on its people and environment.

For example, the aftermath of the 2010/2011 Queensland floods reported 33 people lost their lives and 29,000 homes and businesses were completely flooded.

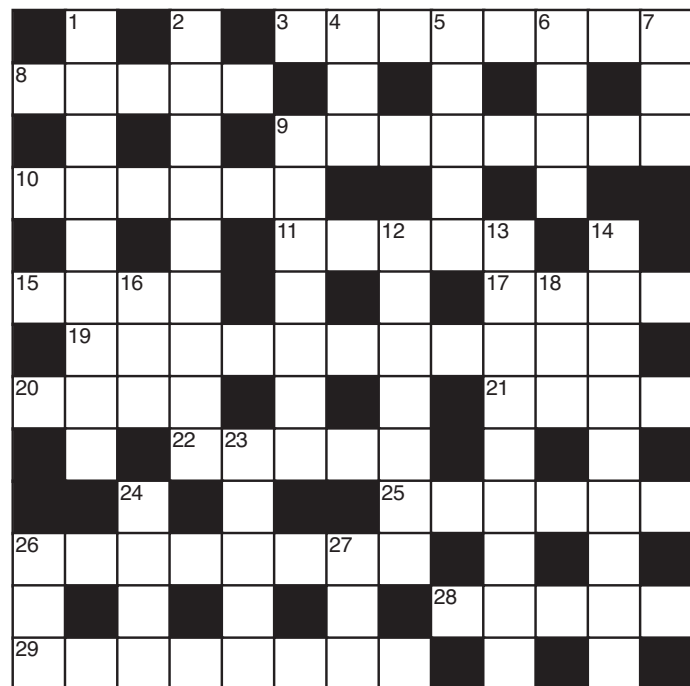
Economically the state also suffered a loss of around five billion dollars.

The need for preventative action on climate change has never been stronger and the Climate Commission's report urges Australians to act now.

You can find the whole story on the Climate Commission website at:

http://climatecommission.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/ExtremeWeatherReport_web.pdf

BRAIDWOOD? BAFFLER #3



ACROSS

- 3. 28 across, 3 across. What 19 across in Braidwood want? (5,8)
- 8. Chatty types talk on, and on, etc (3,2)
- 9. Nightshade family bush.(8)
- 10. What the well dressed gent wears; the suit and.. (3,3)
- 11. Indian governor; captain of industry (5)
- 15. Position (abbrev) (4)
- 17. Enfolds; sips (4)
- 19. Foot-travellers (11)
- 20. Stead (4)
- 21. School for girls and boys (Abbrev) (2-2)
- 22. Theatrical entertainment, mainly at Christmas (colloq) (5)
- 25. Might be read during 26 across? (6)
- 26. Local festival (3,5)
- 28. see 3 across
- 29. Displaced people — not 'illegals' (8)

DOWN

- 1. Relating to human beings or the period of their existence on earth (9)

- 2. Do this for the elderly on the bus? (2,5,2)
- 4. Native marsupial (abbrev) (3)
- 5. Argy-bargy (3-2)
- 6. Religious object (4)
- 7. Firearm (3)
- 9. Benediction (7)
- 12. Goes from pub to pub
- 13. Substance used to darken metal (9)
- 14. Torr set up, to stop fraud (anag) (5,4)
- 16. View (3)
- 23. Copying (5)
- 24. Part of the horse (4)
- 26. Sailor (colloq) (3)
- 27. Organ of sight (3)

SOLUTION TO BAFFLER #2

