

**HORRORSCOPE FOR THE AUTUMN MONTHS 2014:**

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

**TAURUS**

Avoid controversy with authority figures. The highway robber patrol with the eye-level camera hiding in the bushes is one to avoid. Then again, when he comes to the window a brisk exchange of ideas might lead to a fiscal disaster caused by pride over prudence.

**GEMINI**

Other figures of immense authority are the four digits that stand between you and impercuniousness. They will make mockery of your intellectual prowess as you stand at the auto-teller, at the head of a queue of impatient pie junkies on a Saturday morning, with a complete lack of conjunction between your mind and your pin number.

**CANCER**

Life produces many obstacles to overcome. How about Lancelles Street outside Jeremy's? Those unexpected, but quite rare, smooth bits of road between the potholes can be tricky. Or intersection lotto as you navigate between caution, derring-doo and boat bogans towing liners, indefatigably turning right in an unbreakable caterpillar chain.

**LEO**

Transiting to Venus in your eleventh house is a darn sight easier than transiting to Canberra from your first house — especially if you don't have a car. You may sit up by the courthouse, thoughts strongly influenced by fleeting memories, pondering the new Murray's timetable.

**VIRGO**

Time to try a new way to have others make suggestions for your life. Log in to Ask.fm and post something innocuous.

Within seconds you'll be bombarded with helpful suggestions about sticking your head in a bucket of water or why you don't have any real friends.

**LIBRA**

If you're young, restless and feeling a bit 'romantically' inclined, caution may take a backseat in someone's car. Remember, ten minutes of pleasure transiting the sextile natal sun might lead to driving over the ascendant range to antenatal discoveries and post-natal perambulations.

**SCORPIO**

Cut your losses by trimming out the deadwood, stacking the firewood, looking at how others would or even getting out of Braidwood. Perhaps you should.

**SAGITTARIUS**

Communications are good between you and others — see, it was good to get out of the cyber shadow of Mt Gillamatong. While you're in the big smoke, pop into a store that sells mobiles and have them check your phone plan. You might be paying for services you don't use. The people you pay your hard-earned money to each month won't tell you!

**CAPRICORN**

But if it's time to trine your strine, get on to your telco and ask them with outrage, "Emmachissit eggin?" We were brought up to pay the asking price, as if haggling is, "not quite cricket old boy". Ask for a better deal and complain that you've had a cheaper offer. You'll be surprised.

**AQUARIUS**

There'll be no earth-shattering developments at the Creek. While the world economy lies in intensive care, being pumped with fiscal steroids, speculative ventures remain on hold. Will the patient recover? Maybe. Cosmic memory suggests that it may sit up, eyes wild, take a last look around, make sure all the attendant managers' bills are well paid — then just cark it.

**PISCES**

A galactical spiral towards penury might prompt you to seek a pay rise from the boss. If you are the boss and you see a minion approaching, holding *BWD*, it might be time to nick out for a cuppa.

**ARIES**

Be proud of the 'good old days' as the tractors chuck up Wallace on Foundation Day. An appreciation of what we had is good, but a determination to keep what we've got is better.



**E**LECTRICITY IS ALL ABOUT excitement. You excite a bunch of electrons in one place and use the power of their excitement somewhere else.

The big issues of the day are what can be electrified to make it more efficient, and how to generate electricity in the cleanest, safest way.

Surely we've agreed that burning coal to heat steam engines is the technology of two centuries ago. Gas is less polluting than coal but comes with its own problems if it is mined in areas that are needed for food production.

But now for another kind of excitement or, at least, excitability. It all started when a press release from Angus Taylor, the Federal member for Hume, lobbed into my inbox.

"MEDIA ALERT: NSW MPS TELL ACT GOVT WHERE TO PLACE ITS TURBINES". A painful innuendo for sure.

Along for the ride with Angus were Pru Goward (Goulburn), Katrina Hodgkinson (Burrinjuck) and our own local representative John Barilaro (Monaro). The mayor of Goulburn Geoff Kettle joined in to encourage any Canberrans, unsettled by a move towards renewable energy, to move to Goulburn where, he said, they will be welcomed with open arms.

I had to go along to see first hand what was going through their minds. To swim so vehemently against the tide of technological advancement seems such an odd thing to do, I wanted to know if it was all their own work.

But it's not. It's the party machine sending through a directive to toe the party line — 'renewable targets bad'.

That's about it really. There was no other message. Nothing about how we should make our electricity, nothing about employment opportunities in the renewables sector, nothing about giving landholders with a spare field or two a way to turn a quid, nothing at all about the future.

In fact, the current strategy of most governments in Australia today is to do nothing about global warming. Nothing is the cheapest option when government policy extends no further than counting the takings at the end of each day with the captains of industry, down at the club, over a nice port.

Even with the best will, when a society makes over three-quarters of its electricity from the burning of coal, change requires a huge effort. But it's worth the effort — and if the people we've elected to look after our best interests won't put that effort into the job, then they need to go and make room for others who will.

Underneath all the poles and wires



# No excitement here

Four MPs and one mayor went up the hill to send an unexciting message to the residents of the ACT

that criss-cross the landscape live the people who need that electricity. That's not all we need though. We need an environment that is not being degraded in the real world just so we can sit inside, with all the lights on, watching a make-believe world on television, the computer or the smart phone.



Into the future by Paul Cockram

The good news is that technologists are, almost daily, coming up with new developments in renewable and less polluting ways to make our energy.

If we invested a little less time studying 'Game of Thrones' and got a bit more into 'Game of Ohms', there would be a lot less resistance to the idea of shifting to renewables.

Here is the real excitement. We know that the power of the sun is inexhaustible and free, it's merely a question of how to collect it and store it for night-time use.

Nature shows the way with photosynthesis. Making solid matter out of thin air using the power of the sun is a class act. Molecular scientists are looking at this process as a model for

generating electricity. The same goes for battery storage.

This is not science fiction, not in the sense of being impossible anyway, but merely an extension of our understanding and application of the power of excited electrons.

There is no energy usage gospel. Neither religion nor evolution theory provides us with a path that must be followed. The only future to be bound to is the one where we do whatever is necessary to leave the place in as good a condition as possible.

It is not written in stone, or on anything else, that living in little boxes powered by wires emanating from a centralised energy provider and then paying up quarterly, is our inevitable human destiny. We can do better.

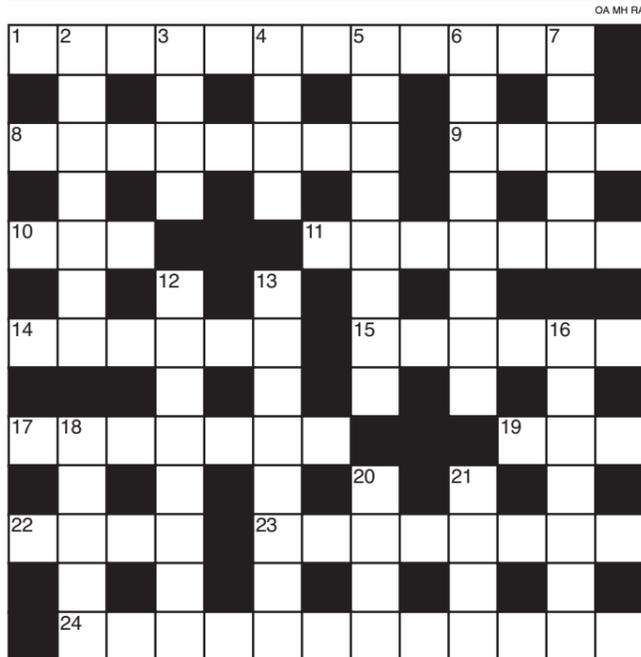
Actually, we have to get on with it and show the developing world what can come after centralised power when its cost to the environment makes coal and gas prohibitively expensive.

The point is, if we increase the uptake of solar and wind technology, we have nothing to lose and plenty to gain. If a politician stands upon a hill and cries wolf about having any wind turbines at all, they're being willfully ignorant.

There is a lot of land about these parts where wind turbines and solar arrays will not bother anyone. Government policy might well be directed to identifying these opportunities and providing assistance and encouragement.

To the future: be excited, not terrified.

## BRAIDWOOD BAFFLER #6



**ACROSS**

1. Braidwood Mardi Gras (6,6)
8. Dispute (8)
9. Rim (4)
10. Enjoyment (3)
11. Distorted (7)
14. Latin dance (3,3)
15. Dwell (6)
17. Type of icing (7)
19. XXXX? (3)
22. Company (4)
23. 175 years of Braidwood (8)
24. Running from unwanted admirer? (8,4)

**DOWN**

2. By means of (7)
3. Flightless birds (4)
4. Youngster (4)
5. Prize for a painter (3,5)

6. Scarlet woman's belt? (1,3,4)
7. Large raptor (5)
12. Scholarly (8)
13. Hock goods here (4,4)
16. Turkish sweet? (7)
18. Popeye's squeeze? (5)
20. Beam (4)
21. Hunk (4)

**SOLUTION TO BAFFLER #5**

