

HORRORSCOPE FOR THE AUTUMN MONTHS 2015:

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

TAURUS

You might struggle to be funny today. Is desperation the father of humour? Is mother the necessity of invention? Hear the patter of tiny jokes.

GEMINI

All that glitters is not gold, do what you're told or you'll get rolled. If the hills above Majors Creek become inundated with a downpouring of Aquarius from the heavens, everything down stream might go under the influence of Ξανθός, more commonly known as Xanthates god of yellow grass and agricultural despair.

CANCER

Ay-te-en-tee, first god of communications is playing havoc out Snowball way. Really, there's nothing cosmic about failing infrastructure. Ploutos, god of wealth has long determined that Doofus, dog of NBN Co will not waste money where Votus hath no power.

LEO

Hayz is when a Masculine and Diurnal planet is above the Earth. Haze on the other hand, or in your eyes, is when the air is crook — just like in Beijing. But what nearly everyone can see is that burning coal has to stop. Energy boffins in Canberra are not heliocentric.

VIRGO

First there was the grunt, then words formed, complex ideas followed — stick figures spearing cows developed into the written word. A few hundred thousand years of evolution later comes FaceBook and social media. :-) OMG what's happened ... LMAO? 🐼🐼. Back to the cave walls I spose.

LIBRA

Relationships between the planets are called aspects. People who dress differently to us are called suspects. What a tragedy that so much strife is caused by arguing over whose imaginary protector is the one true.

SCORPIO

Be open in all that you do today. You might as well because the government is watching you. Feel free to browse but be mindful that somewhere in a monstrously expensive building in Canberra, prying eyes are tracking your every interest.



SAGITTARIUS

Get in to the waves today. Is that the rhythmic energetic pattern that does not have mass as generally understood, but is rather an oscillation in or of a medium, you ask? Or do I mean grab your board and head for the surf? Then there's wave length. Is it 3G or 4G or maybe just gee I wish I could finish my download.

CAPRICORN

According to science, billions of galaxies thousands of light-years in diameter are scattered across the universe. That reminds me of comedian Peter Cook who said when he gazed at the night sky it made him realise how insignificant he felt it all was.

AQUARIUS

Your day may be waxing, an aspect made from the faster to the slower planets in the order of the signs. Not to be confused with ripping that unsightly hair off your whatsits. Ouch!

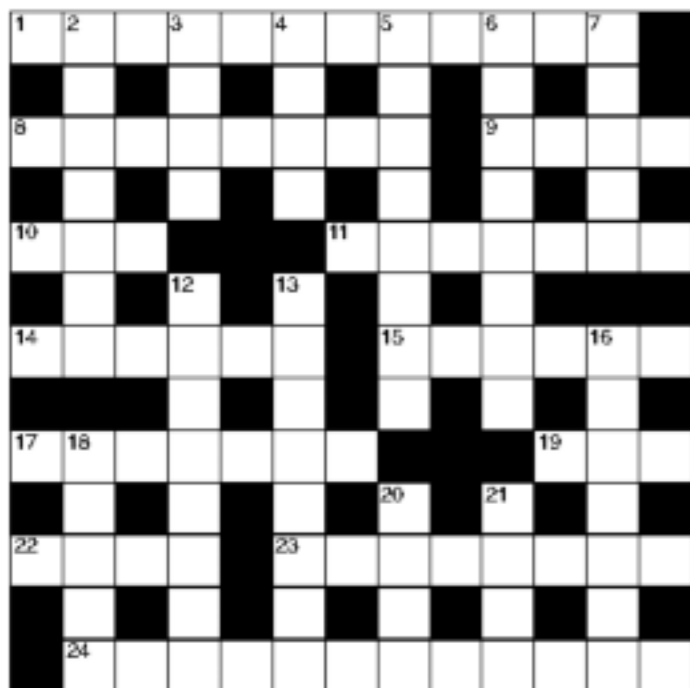
PISCES

Be on the lookout for the Quincunx, with an aspect of 150°, creating stress, unhappiness and sorrow. Be glad that in this country we aren't under the influence of Dopeycunx who lurch about the place in stolen utes, brandishing heavy weaponry and acting with indiscriminate violence.

ARIES

A waning Moon is not to be confused with waning interest. It gets clearer by the day that it's up to us. The golden rule that, 'he who has the gold makes the rules' is the price we pay for indifference or complacency. It would be nice to live in a world run by normal people.

BRAIDWOOD BAFFLER #8



ACROSS

- 1 (3,3,6) Best in the bunch
- 8 (7) Heavenly musicians?
- 9 (4) Chisel-like tool
- 10 (3) Timid
- 11 (1,6) Single carbohydrate
- 14 (6) Colour; fruit
- 15 (6) Decrees
- 17 (7) Regular market in Braidwood
- 19 (3) You won't get one of these in Braidwood now!
- 22 (4) Announce
- 23 (8) Wet or fat!
- 24 (8,4) You get this at the 17 Across market

DOWN

- 2 (7) Avoid bad luck! buy it from a gypsy.
- 3 (4) Band
- 4 (4) It costs more to send a message this way!
- 5 (8) Estimated
- 6 (8) Citizen of one USA Southern State

- 7 (9) A special commemoration day in April each year
- 12 (8) Illustrated children's book by Graeme Base
- 13 (3,5) Informative American programme broadcast on the ABC
- 16 (7) Instructor: sports shoe
- 18 (5) Aids and ...
- 20 (4) Australian Graphic Design Association (init)
- 21 (4) Sales Performance Incentive Fund (init)

SOLUTION TO BAFFLER #7



Paper for where the sun doesn't shine

What a disappointment! The Australian Government's Energy White Paper is like a blast from the past.

"But what about the coal industry?" must have been pencilled in the margin of the early draft. It's page after page of caution over renewables and nothing but gung-ho on coal and gas.

According to the White Paper, a shortage of cheap domestic gas is likely and the reason is the 'unnecessary policy barriers' imposed by the States. That's a bland dismissal of wide-spread community concern over the compromising of agricultural, food-producing land for the short-term profits of gas companies.

"The Australian Government is committed to achieving co-existence outcomes that balance the need for new gas development with the rights of landholders and the integrity of prime agricultural land and water resources."

What's with the bulldust about 'balance'? It's not a question of deciding how much we value the integrity of prime agricultural land and water resources. We have so much gas that the gas extractors can still make money by compressing it into a liquid and shipping up to Japan. But we only have one land.

If that's not bad enough, some of the White Paper's statements make us out to be self-serving and immoral.

"Recent decisions by the World Bank, European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to limit investment in coal-fired power plants limit the ability of countries to access finance for least cost and low emissions energy technologies."

OK, so what's a low-emission technology that we should be encouraging the developing world to buy from Australia? The Report provides this clue.

"Currently, geological storage is the only way to permanently remove large amounts of CO2 from the atmosphere. The capacity to store CO2 will be critical to Australia's continued reliance on coal-fired

power stations and our capacity to reduce emissions from our LNG sector."

Of course the whole thing is a monstrous fraud. Back in 2009, Time & Energy, then in the *Braidwood Times*, quoted Martin Ferguson, Labor's Energy Minister, saying he was: "clearing the way for greenhouse gases collected from coal-fired power stations to be injected through the seabed and captured in geological formations similar to those in which oil and gas are found".

Since then, nothing's been done to capture emissions from any of our coal-fired power stations. The reason? It's vastly expensive, technologically challenging and nobody has any idea where to put the stuff.



Into the future by Paul Cockram

The cost of running a pipeline from the power station chimney to an injection pumping station, either on land or at sea, would make coal-fired electricity prohibitively expensive.

That's on top of the immorality of pressuring the planet with a poisonous gas and hoping it will stay put. Another 'live it up today and let the future figure it out' ethically bereft, expedient 'solution'.

Worst of all it's a technology with no long-term working models from which to assess its feasibility or safety. It's a



FOREWORD TO THE PAPER:

"Australia is a growing energy superpower."

HON IAN MACFARLANE MP
MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY AND SCIENCE

rubbish 'throw-away' line that has no place in a nation's serious future energy strategy.

The White Paper does, however, understand the danger to Australia:

"Without commercially available and cost competitive low emissions fossil fuel technologies, there is a growing long-term risk for our fossil fuel export industry in an emissions constrained future."

So while the Government might take advice from climate sceptics and fossil fuel advocates, in its policy paper it agrees that we are facing an 'emissions constrained future'.

But once again the thinking of the Government and its advisors shows through:

"The Australian Government supports a technology neutral approach to our future electricity and transport fuel supply and will continue to support research, development and demonstration of new energy technologies, while removing unnecessary regulatory and other non-market barriers to future technologies."

For 'technology neutral' I think we can safely assume that to mean no special support for renewables. Removing 'non-market barriers' means not regulating carbon emissions.

Read the Energy White Paper for yourself. I don't think it's just me trying to score points off a government that appears to have no idea for the future. There is some good stuff in there too. Encouraging the rollout of smart electricity meters, support for more efficient appliances and so on; all that is in there as well.

But it's a backward-looking document on all the big structural challenges facing us, not only in Australia, but right across the world. It fails to see, or has been encouraged to turn a blind eye to, the biggest opportunities in energy reform.

It is a sad reflection on us as a caring, intelligent people that our government can so openly support the coal industry's attempts to secure new markets in the developing world.

Solar and wind energy for electricity generation is the way of the future. It is by far the best system to introduce in countries that do not already have wires and poles criss-crossing the countryside with a multi-national corporation on one end and a regular bill payer on the other.

It's true that Australia has a vast amount of cheap energy available to us but what we urgently need is a government capable of seeing the obvious by looking up and not down.