

THE STARS ARE DEFINITELY CRAZY

HORRORSCOPE FOR THE AUTUMN MONTHS OF 2018:

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

ARIES

This month you may feel hemmed in on all sides. Perhaps you're a quilt, but as Jock said, "I doona think tha's funny laddie". Anyway, we only have patchwork net coverage in Braidwood and out where I live we nearly always get the sheets with the whole web fabric when it's eiderdown or darn slow.

TAURUS

Superman, as you will recall, feared naught but Kryptonite. If you dabble in virtual money then you have nothing to fear but crypto-fright. That is when your life savings can go from blockchain to pull-chain and down drain overnight.

GEMINI

Hickory dickory dock, guess who's got a new clock? On the landing pad; mum, kids and dad — in ones, twos or a flock. Now you'll strike nine in the bakery line, hickory dickory dock.

CANCER

The eighth segment of an astrological chart governs natural changes in life such as birth and death, self-revelations, marriage and business assets, partner's funds, inheritance, end-of-life matters, sex, death and taxes. A bit like your Facebook data record though not as detailed. It's a worry that no matter how well you think you know yourself or those you love, Zuckerberg, BallotRig™ and possibly the FBI, know more.

LEO

If your life has become sluggish then no doubt you'd rather be a hammer than a snail and a zephyr would be nicer than a gale. If you want to feel the earth beneath your feet, keep Duncan Street, at least in part, before they start.

VIRGO

You will hear much Olenka from Moscow who is data hoping that it respond to man, 28 years old optimistic and positive wanting to clarify correspondence for serious relationship and looking to kids have and find happiness. Photo included for you favourite male.

LIBRA

Dot your 'I's and cross your 'T's this week. You might also try cat-tailing your 'Q's, tend your bees but watch your 'R's if you make them angry. If T, A and B are your favourite letters you might want to nick down to the Royal or the Club and have an alphabet each way.



SCORPIO

Just when you thought voice-overs could go no lower, Seven and Nine start a race to the bottom. This season's new programs can go three octaves below middle C and do you want vocal fries with that? Before you go Kardashian off to consult a dictionary just try saying, "this will change the way we talk forevvvrrrrrr!".

SAGITTARIUS

Travel is indicated this month. Be wary of the world's trouble spots and check DFAT for the latest trip advisories. The USA, for instance, is at code comb-over and the Big Apple has been gazumped by the Big Button. These days America is less Woodstock and more bumpstock.

CAPRICORN

If you're a fan of women's cricket you'd be heartened to know that ball tampering is unheard of. "If the boys feel the need to rough up their balls on the field that's their choice," said a top woman bowler. "It's not something I feel any need to do."

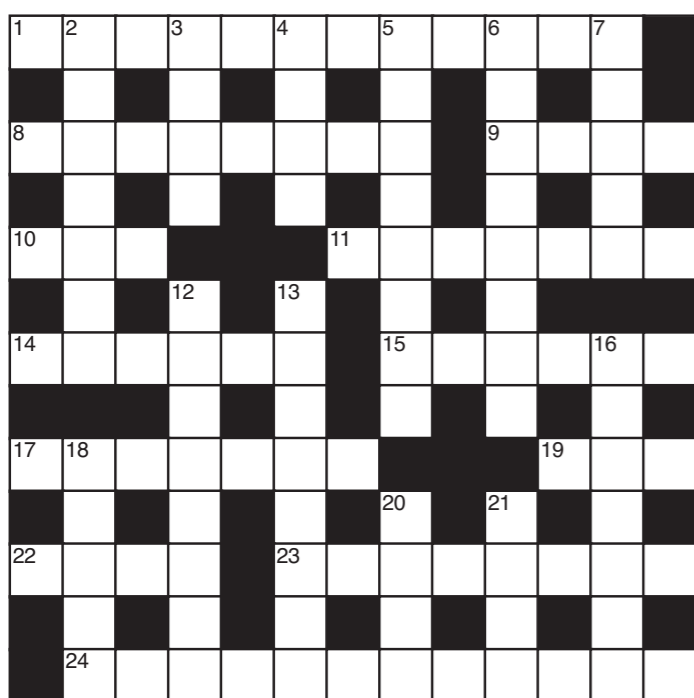
AQUARIUS

You're looking at yourself in a different way this month. It must be that new phone with the twenty megapixel selfie setting. Tourists and travellers everywhere can now stand with their backs to the many wonders of the world so that when they get home, the whole trip can be enjoyed looking at themselves smiling in front of whatever it was.

PISCES

It'll be pigs and troughs this week ... what? No, sorry, that's peaks and troughs. I must have the big banks on my mind again. Tomorrow you might be feeling over rorted ... what? Darn, done it again. I meant overwrought.

BRAIDWOOD BAFFLER BWD 16



ACROSS

- 1. Sanctimonious, false (12)
- 8. Salutation (8)
- 9. It wasn't built in a day! (4)
- 10. Prohibition (3)
- 11. Integrity, rectitude (7)
- 14. Lament, complain (6)
- 15. Clever clogs! (6)
- 17. Writes hurriedly or illegibly (7)
- 19. Male offspring (3)
- 22. Testament (4)
- 23. Loyal, constant (8)
- 24. Affiliations, alliances (12)

DOWN

- 2. Non-metric measurement (7)
- 3. Unlocked: honest (4)
- 4. Destroy (4)
- 5. Fierce and determined (8)
- 6. Multi coloured animal character first used on greeting cards and later for toys and TV programs. (4,4)

7. Restrain, curb (5)

- 12. This landlubber has never been to sea. He's - (2,6) !
- 13. One keen on the Brits? (5,3) informal
- 16. The Bactrian is a (3,4) camel.
- 18. A single note from a bird or insect (5)
- 20. Stand for a coffin (4)
- 21. Title given to Iranian nobleman (4)

SOLUTION TO BAFFLER BWD 15



COAL CAN NEVER COME CLEAN

Sandpaper down their trousers

We call out our cricketers but the government allows its own Ministers to attempt to hide the evidence?

When does the 'Noble Game of Cricket' become the noble game? A: When it's played with winning as the only acceptable outcome.

But there are other examples of bad behaviour that have brought far less public condemnation than the bollocking our hapless cricketers have recently endured.

The big one — the most dangerous sandpapered ball of all time — is the nobbling of our emissions reductions 'efforts' and targets. To watch this game let's start with a Hansard statement made to the Senate's 'Environment and Communications Legislation Committee' by Mr Roger Whitby, Chief Operating Officer of Snowy Hydro:

"Snowy 2.0 is viable for the future which is coming. As everybody who is informed on this subject will appreciate, we have a situation where the coal-fired generation fleet is ageing, it does not appear that it is going to be replaced, and obviously we have commitments to meet decarbonisation objectives internationally et cetera.

"In that context there are various programs that encourage investment in new renewables, and, indeed, the prices of renewables are falling over time. Accordingly, that is the future market state that we are seeking to address with this project."

There you have it — the industry view of where the market is heading. Snowy Hydro states in its promo brochure for its proposed expansion project:

Snowy 2.0 has significant benefits for consumers. By pairing new dispatchable renewable generation with large scale energy storage, Snowy 2.0 will make renewables reliable and lower future energy prices.

Snowy 2.0, along with the existing Snowy Scheme, will underpin an orderly transition [my emphasis] from coal to renewables and help Australia meet its global climate change targets.

Regardless of what you think about Snowy 2 as opposed to less expensive,

more evenly distributed, smaller-scale generation like that proposed by the CSIRO and others, it shows that an increased renewables supply is seen as inevitable.

Compare that with the statement made by Australia's Resources Minister Matthew Canavan at the National Press Club recently:

"I don't like the term transition, let's be frank. If you want to shut down the coal industry and cost people jobs, say it. Have the guts to say it."

Minister Canavan also said in the same Press Club address:

"Based on International Energy Agency projections up to 2040, the world will have to produce as much coal in the first 40 years of this century as it ever has before in history."

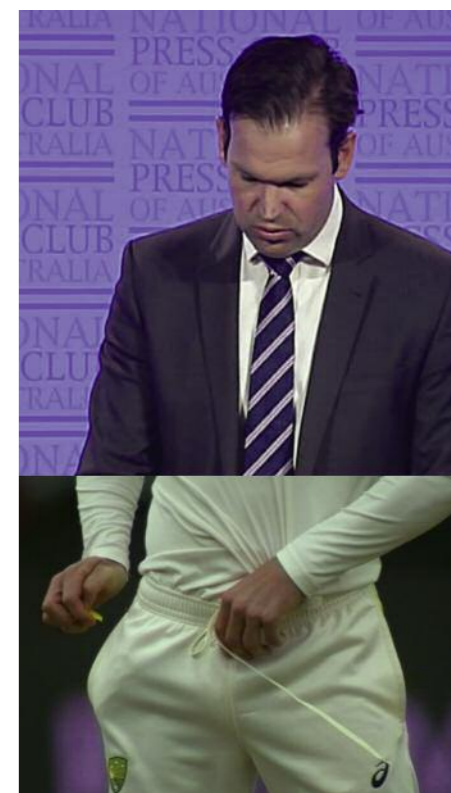
So if that's true and global warming to date is, as most people believe, caused by burning fossil fuel throughout the twentieth century and up to now, we're in for a very warm and nasty future. But I couldn't find Senator Canavan's quoted reference anywhere on the IEA website.

I did, however, find this Wiki entry:

"In 2011, the International Energy Agency said that, 'the development of affordable, inexhaustible and clean solar energy technologies will have huge longer-term benefits. It will increase countries' energy security through reliance on an indigenous, inexhaustible and mostly import-inde-



towards the future by Paul Cockram



pendent resource. [It will] reduce pollution, lower the costs of mitigating, and keep prices lower than otherwise. These advantages are global. Hence the additional costs of the incentives for early deployment should be considered learning investments; they must be wisely spent and need to be widely shared'."

Perhaps our Resources Minister is marching to the beat of a drum different to the one most other people are hearing. There is no conspiracy, left-wing, greeny, overseas funded or any other, that's impacting on the coal industry. It's just the power of the sun.

Renewable energy is cheaper and more equitably available to all countries regardless of their GDP. It's so obvious that the only losers in this scenario are the owners of coal mines. The senator also acknowledged in his address that modern mine technology produces few jobs, with mine operators and logistics partners continually moving towards mechanisation.

Climate change is real and potentially devastating for all life on the planet. It's time to call out apologists for the coal mining industry when it is so obvious that it is bringing not jobs but grief to the whole world.

We'll be burning coal for a few years yet, even with our best efforts but, as with any habit, the fundamental first step is to admit an addiction.

When seen on television shoving the evidence down their pants, our cricket players had the decency to own up.

Our politicians should do no less. ■