

Double Glaze Matters

JANUARY 2015

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What a Night!

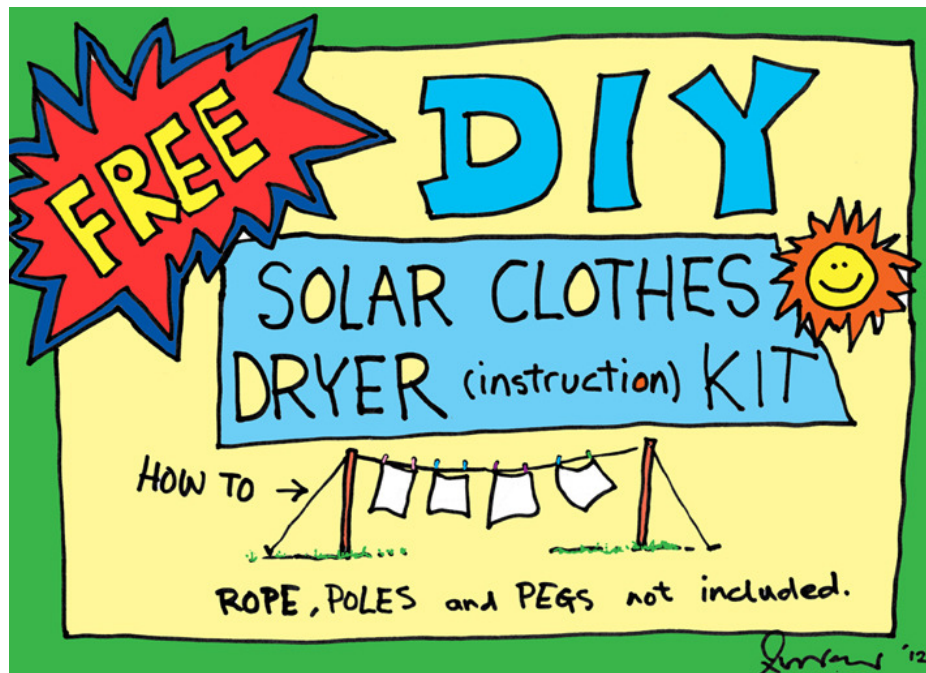
Instead of writing my newsletter I have been distracted by the soccer. I have never been terribly interested in it, but I was on the edge of my seat. With 2 minutes to go we seemed to have won, then the equalizer. Then the goal in extra time and a scramble in the end to keep South Korea out. A great match.

Returned to my computer to find that it appears Labour has won in Qld. Now there is talk of Brough standing against Abbott. We live in interesting times! Perhaps by the time you read this we may have a new prime minister.

The worst result would be if Morrison took over, but if it was Turnbull we may at least have a chance for action on Climate Change. Maybe the unthinkable will happen and all parties will get together to agree a price on carbon. I could almost vote for Turnbull if that happened!

It has been a bizarre week in politics. The one thing that I don't understand is why Tony gave the Duke an award. What political advantage could he have thought would result? Anyway, politics is a funny game.

I think this was the best cartoon I saw of Abbott playing for team Australia.



Franciscus Henri's contribution. (I didn't receive one this month, so I have recycled this from 3 years ago)

Update on Battery Storage

After last month's article on using batteries for store energy from solar panels for later use, there have been some developments.

Firstly I quoted the price for batteries at \$750 per kwh. The ATA magazine had batteries on sale for \$150 per kwh. I suspect they are the lead acid type batteries, but they should be OK for stationary storage. That makes battery storage cost effective to store excess daytime power for overnight usage, but not for storing summer energy for winter use.

Secondly the ATA magazine also talked of an "Instant Energy Storage System" from a company called Winaico that provided up to 42 kwh of battery storage. This is intended to store excess daytime power for night use. However they didn't provide a price and when I emailed them I got no response.

Thirdly, there was reports of a \$1 million battery system installed in Thomastown by a power company. However this had a different purpose. The power lines in Thomastown cannot deliver enough power in peak periods. It is cheaper to install \$1 million worth of batteries that can help with peak demand, rather than upgrade the power lines.

Update on Electric cars

Tesla is about to release its latest electric car in Australia. One of my readers took a test drive in it and fell in love with it. It is a proper sports car with a range of 400 km.

Tesla is implementing charging stations at strategic locations along the Hume highway so that when the car is released in Australia you will be able to drive from Melbourne to Sydney, stopping every 400 km for a 20 minute battery recharge.

The only problem is the price. At \$120,000 it is not your normal runaround! Fortunately Tesla is releasing a cheaper model mid year at around \$40,000. It could prove very interesting.

Below is a table showing Electric cars registered in Australia. This does not include hybrid cars, but cars that principally run by charging from the mains. The figures are low (less than .1%), but they are at least increasing!

Norway has the biggest uptake of electric cars (more than 6% of the market), just ahead of Netherlands with 5%, then other countries drop of to less than 1%.

Registration of highway-capable plug-in electric cars by model in Australia between 2010 and December 2014 ^{[44][50][61][62][63]}						
Model	Total 2010–2014	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Mitsubishi Outlander P-HEV	895	895				
Nissan Leaf	457	173	188	77	19	
Mitsubishi i MiEV	252	0	15	95	30	112
Holden Volt	239	58	101	80		
BMW i3	33	33				
Tesla Model S	~22	~22				
Tesla Roadster	11	0	0	5	6	
Total registrations	1,909	1,181	304	257	55	112