



Vic Skeptics January 2021

2020 in Review

by Ken Greatorex

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ACROSS:

2. & 3 across: The 538 people who directly vote for the American President [9, 7]
3. See 2 across
8. Denotes the entire period prior to AD [2]
10. Graphic symbol used to promote public identification and recognition [4]
12. May mean "excessively", "overly" OR "also", "as well" [3]
13. Simple plants, including seaweeds [5]
14. & 15 across: The cruise ship which was controversially allowed to disembark 2,700 passengers into the community in Sydney, including known Covid-19 sufferers [4, 8]
15. See 14 across
16. Possess [3]
17. Roman 400 [2]
19. Fail to hit [4]
20. A derogatory term much used in 2020 by conspiracy theorists to describe those who remained unconvinced [7]
21. (Unlike, for example, evangelical Christian support for Donald Trump's presidency), not at all odd [4]
22. Ordure [4]
24. Fish eggs [3]
25. Commercial resin derived from insects [3]
29. America's Fauci, or Victoria's Vyom Sharma, for example [6]
30. Area of a hospital devoted to treatment of patients in danger of imminently succumbing to a potentially fatal condition [3]
31. The _____ of power to Joe Biden's incoming team has been made more difficult by Trump's {18 down} to concede defeat [10]
32. Donkey [3]
34. Swiss mathematician: The mathematical constant e (~ 2.71828), is named after him [5]
35. Expert, adept or accomplished [7]
37. Popular current slang term which means "alert, on guard, prepared for" and was in 2020 typically used by conspiracy theorists to describe their belief that utterances made by scientists, doctors, the pharmaceutical establishment, etc are part of an insidious plot [4]
39. & 73 across & 76 across: The US Supreme Court replacement for Ruth Bader Ginsburg in the dying days of the Trump administration [3, 5, 7]
41. & 42 across & 44 across: This is defined in Wikipedia as a cognitive bias in which people with low ability at a task overestimate their ability. It was much in evidence during 2020; from Fox gurus, social media and particularly the POTUS [7, 6, 6] (See <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/B9780123855220000056>)

42. See 41 across
44. See 41 across
49. Penn's performing partner [6]
50. Means both patronage, support or sponsorship AND favourable prophecy [8]
52. Make ineffective; nullify [6]
53. Piece of turf [3]
55. International public health agency, accused by Donald Trump of incompetence and bias [3]
56. To exchange [5]
57. Spent leisure-time expending minimal energy [5]
59. Discerned, felt [6]
62. Trumpites managed to be both strident and confused about whether this post-electoral activity should take place or not; eventually opting for "yes" in states where their man was narrowly losing and "no" if he was narrowly winning [7]
64. The minimum recommendation for social distancing in Australia in metres [3, 5, 4]
65. See 64 across
67. See 64 across
68. Chamber [4]
70. In 2020, this method of purchasing goods increased markedly [6]
71. In physics, a periodic oscillation. Its use in 2020 referred to successive stages in {frequency of Covid-19 infection} vs {time} [4]
73. See 39 across
75. A word coined in early 2020 to describe someone who for example:
- bought one hundred rolls of toilet paper in March
 - hugged and/or shook hands with everyone he or she met during the pandemic
 - advocated destroying 5G towers on suspicion that they aid disease transmission
 - blamed the Covid-19 pandemic on an evil scheme by Bill Gates or the Chinese (or both)
 - publicly demonstrated a belief that the pandemic was a hoax while wearing a surgical mask
- [8]
76. See 39 across

DOWN:

1. & 25 down & 48 down: The theme of a series of international public protests usually in contravention of "lockdown" restrictions, sparked by a death during an arrest in Minneapolis on May 25 [5, 5, 6]
2. Ovum [3]
3. Detest [6]

4. Abrade [3]
5. *FLATTEN THE _____*: Three-word slogan representing the campaign to keep the number of active Covid-19 cases over time within the ability of the medical establishment to cope. [5]
6. Mass self-isolation [8]
7. State of matter [3]
8. Adjuncts to the playing of stringed instruments [4]
9. & 47 down: shared, often irrational beliefs that covert but influential agencies are responsible for unexplained events; e.g in 2020: That the presidential election was rigged against Donald Trump (with key republicans and all nine members of the Supreme Court being involved in the necessary subterfuge); that the Covid-19 pandemic is a hoax; that Bill Gates initiated the Covid-19 virus as a way of making money; etc. [10, 8]
11. Aged, ancient [3]
12. & 33 down: The "must-have" accessory of March 2020 [6, 5]
14. Does this does this [7]
18. The incumbent President's _____ to concede defeat has made {31 across} to the Biden administration more difficult [7]
20. & 41 down: Mandated physical separation between individuals as a means of preventing transmission of Covid-19 [6, 10]
23. & 45 down: The name of the man who died in the incident referred to in 24 across [6, 5]
24. Sun god of Egypt [2]
25. See 1 down
26. The name of this term for a period of mandatory infection-related isolation derives from the Italian for "40 days" [10]
27. The "must-have" fashion statement of 2020 [4]
28. & 43 down: He warned in 2015 of an impending global pandemic and is himself now the subject of weird conspiracy theories [4, 5]
33. See 12 down
36. To search for provisions [6]
37. Ground grain and sugar infusion used in making beer and some spirits [4]
38. Ships bottoms [5]
40. This number "G" instilled irrational panic during 2020 [4]
41. See 20 down
43. See 28 down
45. See 23 down
46. Gave sustenance to [3]
47. See 9 down
48. See 1 down

51. The Sun personalised [3]
54. This single-issue conspiracy movement has made a bewilderingly strong showing on social media despite the increasingly obvious irrationality of its case in the light of the evidence of the effects of a real pandemic [7]
55. Dry river course in the middle-east [4]
58. American company whose peer-to-peer communications software uptake greatly increased following the quarantine measures adopted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic [4]
60. Elongate, extend [7]
61. The 2020 Presidential election votes were counted three times in this state [7]
63. 74 million people were _____ in voting for President Trump; _____ 81 million were _____ in voting against him [6]
66. Body digit [3]
69. Stone fruit used as a savoury garnish and source of oil [5]
72. One time only [4]
73. Mongrel [3]
74. So far; still; even now [3]

SOLUTION

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