

CHUNDER!

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Chunder!, the newszine from Down-under, is published monthly by John Foyster, GPO Box 4039, Melbourne, Victoria 3001, Australia. Then again, maybe not.

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NOVA MOB NEWS The May 1978 meeting of The Nova Mob will be held at 48 Lewisham Rd, Prahran, on Tuesday, May 2. David Grigg will be the speaker and his subject will be 'Why science is more interesting than science fiction'. Meeting starts at 7.30 pm. Later meetings of the mob in '78 will be approximately as follows: June - possibly John Foyster speaking on PLANET STORIES, July - Robin Johnson/George Turner speaking about JAMES BLISH, August - Paul Stevens talking about science fiction in comics, September - Stephen Solomon on physics and science fiction, October - symposium on George Turner's BELLOVED SON, November - Lee Harding on JOHN CARNELL and December - Rob Gerrard on Brian Aldiss. Venues for later meetings, and confirmation of dates/subjects will appear later.

A SHORT HISTORY OF MELBOURNE NEWSZINES Etherline, published by the Melbourne SF Club, folded in the late 'fifties, after publishing 101 issues. In the 1960s most science fiction fan news was carried by word of mouth or similarly safe method. In 1970 Leigh Edmonds and John Foyster began NORSTRILIAN NEWS and before it finished in 1972. Robin Johnson, Bruce Gillespie and David Grigg had also had turns in the editorial chair. In late '72 and early '73 I published half a dozen issues of CHUNDER! (volume 1): this was partly newszine, but also carried several columns (Bangsund, Edmonds, Grigg, Stevens spring to mind). Then Leigh Edmonds began FANW SLETTER, which has run successfully until 1978. Now Leigh is disinclined to continue publication, and CHUNDER! may be started up again to carry on news distribution. I'm encouraged to publish a newszine by the fact that no one cares enough about the Nova Mob to want to receive special notices about the meetings: maybe the notices can take up a paragraph of a newszine, and ride on its back.

THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT CONVENTIONS BAYCON will be held at the Hotel St. Vincent, Glenelg, South Australia on June 3-5, 1978. Guest of Honour is Paul J Stevens, and correspondence should be addressed to BAYCON c/- Paul Anderson, 21 Mulga Rd, Hawthorndene, SA 5051. Membership is now \$10 (\$4 supporting). The program looks very much like earlier Adelaide convention programs. // It would have been handy to have included here some news about the '79 National Convention, but I was unable to attend the voting for the site, and I haven't been in contact with anyone who was. If Sydney won the vote, then presumably you should contact someone in Sydney - but I can't give you an address to contact. The leaflet I was given has an address for the Sydney con later this year, and for the AUSTRALIA IN '83 bidding committee, but apparently the organizers were so busy creaming their jeans over the prospect of getting Robert A Heinlein as Guest of Honour that they neglected to give an address or name to contact. Jack Herman spoke for the bid, so if you know his address you can write to him. On the other hand, maybe Sydney is going to keep quiet about convention publicity, and restrict membership and voting to their friends and neighbours as much as possible. Which reminds me...

THE BAD NEWS ABOUT CONVENTIONS The reaction to UNICON IV has been

depressingly uniform. Brian Thurogood in the current NOUMENON continues some of the criticism he made at the convention, and the April ANZAPA mailing contains plenty of adverse remarks as well. Now while one can ignore isolated expressions of displeasure, one must express some concern when the disapproval is so widespread and the complimentary remarks so few in number (I have not come across any). This is not the place to rehearse the shortcomings of the convention and its organization, but it might be appropriate to look at long-term problems which are beginning to impinge upon our other Eden.

The most obvious lesson is for those who believed that Australian national conventions needed a constitution to keep them in order. The '78 Committee ignored the constitution, and the '79 convention committee (assuming that some group in Sydney is running the '79 Australian convention) started well by succeeding in pushing through at the '78 business session a motion setting aside all constitutional provisions which didn't fit their plans.

The second lesson is that attending a convention is not an adequate preparation for running one. If one attends a well-run convention (and there have been some in living memory) the convention organization is sufficiently efficient that the machinery isn't visible. Fairly obviously some recent convention organizers (not just UNICON IV), having not observed the long hours of hard yakka and not oiled convention machinery, believe that these things look after themselves. They don't. If conventions run smoothly this is either because the convention committee works hard at organization or because some attendees, usually those who have run conventions themselves, step in and do the work the committee should be doing.

The third lesson is that the Australian Science Fiction Foundation, the great white father in the sky, is at least as useless as some people expected, if not more so. The ASFF seems great on hand-waving and cheque signing - but these activities don't have much to do with science fiction fandom.

FANZINES RECEIVED ANZAPA Mailing 61, April 1978. The 61st mailing includes the information that Gary Mason (PO Box 258, Unley, SA 5061) is the new OBE. This information comes not from the official teller, Bill Wright, but from John Bangsund (generally believed to be a close friend of Gary Mason), who assures us that Bill Wright told him Mason won. Would have been nice to have heard it from the teller. This mailing contains 209 pages, and is highlighted by four or five pages of Bangsund and Mason telling the ANZAPA members what kind of convention they are allowed to have. Coming from a pair whose combined experience in running conventions is somewhat inferior to that of Roger Weddall, this is more than a little rich. Mason, the new OBE (alone and unaided, without the benefit of support required for constitutional amendments) proposes a new Special Rule which 'guards against the possibility of someone trying to run a small convention that is not supported by the majority of the members'. I wonder how Eric Lindsay feels about this. This year should be interesting for ANZAPA.// More fanzines next time.

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