

# Etherline.



ISSUE NUMBER 101½

## EDITORIAL.....

For a number of reasons I think it is a good time to resurrect old ETHERLINE. For those who have never heard of it before, it was the first fanzine published by the Melbourne Science Fiction Club. It kept members and fans in other states in touch in the 1950s and thanks to the editor Ian Crozier, helped lay the foundations of the present SF Fandom in Australia.

A couple of half-hearted attempts have been made to start ETHERLINE again, but as I consider this the first serious go at it I will start the numbering off from the last issue done by Ian Crozier. This is just a preliminary notice to all my friends and acquaintances that things are happening.

For the last couple of years, since I opened SPACE AGE BOOKSHOP I have had to neglect the MELBOURNE SF CLUB, but now I hope that I will be able to at least devote a little bit of time to keeping members in touch with fandom in general. I use the term members loosely as we have very few members at the moment, but I still regard all the people who I know through having run the MSFC for so many years as members. Many of you call into Space Age regularly and others meet at the Degraeves Tavern each Wednesday evening for a meal.

Those of you that have kept in contact know that we have run a number of conventions over the last few years and so have a number of the groups in other states. The EASTERCON this year was our best ever, the highlight being the musical play JOE PHAUST. Although the MSFC itself has been inactive recently Melbourne fans certainly have not. Melbourne and Australian fans all over have been working very hard on a very special project. They have been keeping in constant touch with overseas fans through fanzines, letters and by attending the Conventions overseas.

Their efforts have been richly rewarded. An event is to take place in Melbourne soon which no Australian fan would have even dreamed of a few years ago. We have won the bid to hold the AUSSIECON. The 33rd WORLD SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION at the Southern Cross Hotel in August 1975. This is a once in a lifetime achievement for Australian fandom. It will be probably a long time after before we get the chance to ever run a world convention again.

You will be hearing more about this momentous event as time passes and this is part of my reason for producing Etherline again. There are a number of things I would like to see happen and I sincerely hope that everybody reading this will in some way try and

co-operate with us.

First of all we intend to hold meetings of the MSFC ,6PM TUESDAY evening commencing in January next year .At the moment we are meeting on Wednesdays and we will continue to do so this year. The Library will be available to all members and we will be playing tapes of the proceedings of the WORLD SF CONVENTION in TORONTO this year,with people like Isaac Asimov,Poul Anderson,Robert Bloch,Robert Silverberg,Judith Merrill ,John Brunner ,Larry Niven and Fred Pohl , to name a few ,speaking. Most of these and many more will be here in person in 1975.

A little bit of work needs doing in the club such as re-organising shelving and sorting out and cataloging books.If you think you can help please come along any Wednesday evening between now and the end of the year.

Other conventions planned between now and AUSSIECON are to be held in Melbourne in August 1974 and in Sydney I believe at New Year 75.More details about these later.The FANTASY FILM SOCIETY which is the film side of the old MSFC has been screening regularly at a city restaurant,but next year they will be screening probably every week at a theatre not in the City proper,but very close.They also plan to hold a FANTASY FILM FESTIVAL next Easter and if this is sucessful every Easter from then on.

Both the MSFC and the FFS need help with the organising of memberships and mailing .If anybody is interested in spending a few hours each week getting things in order I will be very grateful. The organising committee for AUSSIECON will want lots of help in 1975 but there are things to be done now ,so come along and talk to Robin Johnson co-chairman any Wednesday this year or Tuesday next year.We are usually open from 8 PM on Wednesdays,but hope to make it say from 6PM next year.

Details of membership of the AUSSIECON are obtainable from Secretary;AUSSIECON,Box 4039, G.P.O Melbourne , 3001 but will also appear in ETHERLINE in future issues. I will also be keeping you informed of other events both here and overseas and I will be doing a brief report of my trip to the World Convention in Toronto.

Members of the MSFC will receive Etherline as part of their membership of \$2.00 annually, but I will be sending copies to lots of other people also. I am uncertain what subscription to charge as I will not be coming out on any regular schedule ,but you can join the club as an associate member for \$1.00 or make any donation to the MSFC funds you wish. Naturally we will except other zines in trade.

## TASSIECON '74

For a long time I have been promising myself a trip to Tasmania. This coming year would seem to be the most appropriate time. Don Tuck who lives at Lindisfarne, Tasmania is recognised the world over as one of the leading bibliographers of Science Fiction and Fantasy literature. Very soon the first volume of his momentous ENCYCLOPAEDIA of SCIENCE FICTION will be published by ADVENT Publishers in the USA. I thought it would be a good time to go down and pay tribute to Don, as he never seems to be able to make it to any conventions on the mainland. Eric Rayner and Bert Chandler have already shown much interest in this idea so if anybody else is interested please contact me soon. We will make a time probably a long weekend early in the new year.

## FANZINES

Space Age Books sells a few of the more popular fanzines though as you are probably aware, most fanzines are sold on subscription or exchanged for other fanzines. We stock: THE ALIEN CRITIC by Richard Geis, ERBDOM from 'Caz' Cazedessus, RIVERSIDE QUARTERLY from Leland Sapiro and we can obtain copies of SF COMMENTARY from Bruce Gillespie or arrange subscriptions to LOCUS the main Newszine in the USA, published by Charlie and Dena Brown and practically any other fanzine you require. Jack Chalker in the USA we believe is also about to publish a Newszine. What about some info Jack?

We are Australian Agents for ALGOL published by Andy Porter and we have copies in stock at 80c per copy. A subscription costs \$2.50 for 4 issues. 80c will get you a sample copy post free.

I am awaiting confirmation of an agreement made with Frank and Ann Dietz that we take over from Gary Mason as Agents for LUNA Monthly. We hope to have some back issues of these available soon as sample copies, but from then on it will be by subscription only. Details will appear in later issues of ETHERLINE

ETHERLINE is published by Mervyn Binns for the MELBOURNE SCIENCE FICTION CLUB, 317 Swanston Street, Melbourne, 3000. The entrance is at the rear of Space Age Books, up the stairs.

VOTE FOR PAUL STEVENS FOR DUFF . SEND HIM TO THE DISCON IN WASHINGTON IN 1974 . WE DON'T WANT HIM.

Cover illustration featuring Robin Johnson and Peter House by Colin Stevens -lifted from EASTERCON 73 Booklet