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 EDITORIAL: A good place to start. We made a terrible mistake a couple of days ago when we re-read some old issues of Norstrilian News, the ones that were edited by John Foyster before Bruce Gillespie and Robin Johnson got their hands on it. What a marvelous publication we thought, just the sort of thing that should be published these days and we thought further about where Norstrilian News is these days and we decided that the next issue is probably still in the mind of Robin Johnson who will get it out as soon as he can take a minute off from running the 1975 Australian WorldCon.

It occurred to us that we might try something along the lines of the original NN, something that would not be an incredible amount of work to get out and would hence come out on a more regular schedule.

So, here is a statement of policy: FANEWSLETTER will be published fortnightly, it will contain all sorts of jolly news about what is happening in Australia. We intend not to worry too much about what is happening in the professional world of science fiction though we won't mind taking a bash at it once in a while, after all what professional science fiction is there in Australia. As with the old NN subscriptions will be a postage stamp to stick on the copy that you get. If you have any news that you think other might like to read about as well just talk to us or drop a line and we'll see if we can find room for it. If all you Australian writers have overseas successes (or defeats) that is the sort of thing that we want to know about, we reckon that if there is ever going to be some sort of science fiction writing community in Australia it is you fellows who are going to be the backbone of it and you may as well inspire us to get to our typewriters too.

If there is anything we've forgotten to mention at the moment it will surely occur to us later on so stay in tune and you'll hear about it.

DUFF NEWS: By now everybody has to know about the Down Under Fan Fund, if you don't write to Shayne McCormack, 49 Orchard Road, Bass Hill, 2197, NSW, who will send you a DUFF Ballot no doubt.

The latest news on this venture is that only 24 Australians have voted, but at least they've put in more than a dollar each. The fund balance stood at \$137.74 on the 23rd of January and this massive sum was only reached by the generosity of the committee of SYNCON'72 who donated \$70. In America they have something like \$200 and 40 votes. Both totals could and should be a lot bigger but soon a DUFF mail auction will be underway, Hank Luttrell (hasband of American Administrator Lesleigh Luttrell) is getting material together and if you reckon you've got anything that might be interesting give him a call (if you can afford it) or send him a letter at 525 W. Main, Madison, WI 53703, USA. One of the really attractive things that has been promised so far are three separate manuscript versions of "The Year of the Quiet Sun" from Bob Tucker. Lesleigh Luttrell is currently writing up her report of the 1972 DUFF trip and it should be ready sometime next month. I will be printing an Australian edition and you will be able to get it from me for a mere dollar which will naturally go to DUFF. Anyhow you'll know when it's ready if you keep on getting this.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY PARTY: Bruce Gillespie and Valma Brown had their joint birthday celebrated last Saturday at the Edmonds/Brown residence in StKilda. Lots of people came, even George Turner and John Litchen and everybody had a good time, at least this conclusion is drawn from the vast amount of bottles left over. Notable by their absence were John Foyster, Lee Harding and John Bangsund but all had viable excuses, John was up on his farm, Lee was at the opera and John still hadn't received his invitation when I spoke to him on the 'phone today. The party was also supposed to celebrate Bruce's arrival back in Australia but this seems a little ridiculous seeing as how he's been back two weeks and that seems to have been a perpetual celebration.



WHERE THE ACTION IS: The Melbourne Science Fiction Club seems to be getting back into the swing of things with meetings every Tuesday up on top of the Space Age Bookshop. These meetings are highly informal and you more or less roll up when you feel like it but don't get there too late or else everybody might have gone home.

On Wednesday you go down to Degraeves Tavern in Degraeves Street where the cream of Melbourne fandom hangs out from about five until when the place closes at about eight.

There are probably meetings of the Melbourne University SF Association but I'm not aware of them at the moment and there just have to be fan meeting in other places and I'd like to know about them so that I can advertise them here.

CONVENTIONS IN THE MAKING: Paul Stevens is muttering about a Convention in Melbourne over Easter but nobody knows too much about it yet and Bruce Gillespie is supposed to be organising the Nation Convention in August, most likely at the Victoria Hotel, but he knows more about that than anybody else at the moment.

There is also a whisper in the wind about a convention in Sydney over the 1974/75 New Year.

FANZINES: ARK 1/Ron & Sue Clarke, 2/159 Herring Road, North Ryde, NSW 2113/75c a copy. A fair enough fanzine, a bit formal but quite enjoyable reading. SOMETHING ELSE 3/ Shayne McCormack - address earlier on. A report of Shayne's trip to the USA and England, quite an enjoyable little fanzine. MITHRIL 6/Del & Dennis Stocks, PO Box 235, Albion, Brisbane, Qld 4010. Fandom's own New Scientist and very enjoyable too, except that this may be the last issue because it appears that paper is too scarce and expensive in Brisbane.

Overseas fanzines: LOCUS/ Charlie & Dena Brown (Australian Agent - Bruce Gillespie, GPO Box 5195AA, Melbourne, Victoria 3001). The subscription rate was something like 8 for \$3 last time I looked but that was some time ago. LOCUS is one of the reasons why this newszine isn't too concerned with professional news and if that sort of thing interests you LOCUS is a must. It's rumored to be bi-weekly so it keeps you right up to date.

REJECTION SLIP DEPARTMENT: David Grigg and I have collected a lovely rejection letter from the Melbourne Theatre Company for our marvelous three act play called UTOPIA. The play is set in Australia after the rest of the world has been devistated by Atomic War so it might even be science fiction. Anybody who has any suggestions where such an oddity might be placed are welcome to step forward.

MOVEMENTS: Robin Johnson and his house mates John & Jan are moving from their beautiful mansion into another neo-grecian construction in beautiful down-town Carlton, just along the street from the Pram Factory, which should be handy for all you play goers. David Grigg has found himself a comfortable flat a mere stones throw from the Harding flat and Bruce Gillespie is moving back into his flat in Carlton. Since all these people have Post Office Boxes there are no changes of address.

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