

LITTLE BLUE

NUMBER 14

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This fanzine acknowledges the members of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners of the land on which it is produced in Hawthorn, Victoria, and pays respect to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

INTRODUCTION

For various reasons, mostly to do with my wife's recent hip replacement operation, this issue will be short and, consequently, some people will be missed in my mailing comments. So it goes. For the record Robyn is doing as expected a week after the op (as I write) and is moving around quite well on crutches and doing her exercises. So it all bodes well for her full recovery.

I may write-up Robyn's operation in a future *Perryscope*, but then again, I may not. I seem to be making promises to myself lately and then failing to keep them. Must stop that, the making of the promises that is. Not that anyone suffers.

GOINGS-ON IN THE GROVE

It's been a very quiet time in Elphin Grove over the past couple of months. About the most I can say is that the annual pile of rubbish littering the streets at the end of a year is starting to return.

Some explanation is required.

I live about 5-6 minutes' walk away from Swinburne University, a 10,000 student tertiary educational near Glenferrie Station. As with most unis a lot of students live in the immediate surrounding areas in small flats or apartments. At the end of each year a number of those students move out and return home, many overseas. When their leases run out they need to get rid of a lot of old furniture and belongings and tend to dump them on the street, assuming the local council will come past and pick them up during their weekly rubbish collection runs.

Unfortunately that isn't the way our council handles such things. Each household is allowed two "hard rubbish" pickups each year, which have to be booked ahead of time. It seems, however, that these overseas or interstate students aren't aware of this, or, if they are, just ignore it. As a result, come December, we tend to find a lot of rubbish left on the local nature strips. The owners of this stuff don't care, of course, because they've moved

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out and are sure to have removed any identifying material from the pile. The council sends inspectors around the area who string tape around the errant piles and attach notices saying how illegal it all is and how they are working to identify the culprits.

This is a total waste of time of course. The council would be far better off designating our local area around the university as a special zone when it comes to hard rubbish and scheduling pickup runs for November and December. But naturally they don't.

During the plague years Swinburne didn't have many non-local students so the rubbish problem was nearly non-existent. This past year it has started to return. It's not back to the normal amounts but you can notice the increase.

Life returning to normal?

Comments on Mailing 330

OBO – David Grigg

I think the decision you have made, on whether or not something should be in the main part of the apa or not, are completely reasonable. I'm of the view that we are entering a new of fanzine production and distribution and hence how we view things like publication-types will need to change.

If you wanted to be pedantic about things you could rule that *Perryscope* is NOT initially published for ANZAPA due to its general distribution, and I'd be happy with that. It makes sense in many ways. That's one of the reasons why I keep this little title separate from the *Perryscope* issues – I can safely say that this really is only intended for an ANZAPA audience. If I can't keep up with these mailing comments then my interest in the apa will be dropping off and I should consider resigning.

But different strokes...etc, etc. ●

Daja Voo 1 – Derrick Ashby

ReYC about mask-wearing on public transport: It's come down to a sense of complacency I fear. I'm travelling on trains and trams less and less often these days but still aim to wear a mask when travelling. It doesn't seem that much of a burden to wear one for 20 minutes or so at a time.

I did think I should have been wearing a mask when I visited Chadstone Shopping Centre the other day. (For non-Melbournites: this is, supposedly, the largest shopping centre in the Southern Hemisphere.) The crowds started to build up at a few crush-points and I regretted not having a mask with me. There was one in the car, I just forgot to carry it into the centre. Must change that behaviour in future. ●

ReYCtoMe about renovations: Good luck with the work you hope to get done. I fear the major problem you face is actually finding a builder that can fit you in. That and materials of course which are in short supply. ●

Re your reading: If you aim to read the new Arkady Martine then I suggest you do so

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quickly. I had too much of a gap between the volumes and I think it adversely affected my view of the second. ●

Quoz 86 – Claire Brialey and Mark Plummer

Mark – ReYC about ANZAPA President: No, Mark, Leigh is by far the better choice for President. Your quote, re someone else: “..frequently castigated for general incompetence and a less than wholehearted commitment to the job.” Says it all really. ●

“Part-time Perry” also seems to be about right. If anything that’s a little too generous; being retired it’s more like “almost-never-there Perry”. And I’m fine with that. ●

The Fiery Participle 32 – Leigh Edmonds

I have had the “privilege” of reading parts of the Molesworth fannish history, and can safely agree with you as to its high level of turgidity. It is not far short of being described as boring. I have no qualms in believing you will do a far better job. I’d also like to state here that if you are intending to request pre-order payments for the publication in order to facilitate the production of a final volume, then count me in. ●

I too have heard of the problems of some people I being able to access the medical cannabis program. I think more than a few people decided to stick to the tried and true method of growing their own or buying it on the open market. And I agree, it should really be legalized for personal use. Victoria now has the capacity to test vehicle drivers for drug use so I see no impediment to its legalisation. My wife will tell me that it can act as a gateway drug for some people (so can prescribed pain-killers) and that some people may have an underlying psychosis activated or exacerbated by cannabis use. I’d say the same for most other drugs as well. ●

***brg* 126 – Bruce Gillespie**

Thanks for the reminiscences of Roger. His funeral was held the day before my daughter Catherine was born. It seems peculiar that both events happened over thirty years ago now. Sometimes it seems like it was just last week. ●

ReYCtoMe about C. J. Dennis: I am aware of the C. J. Dennis society but have never been a member. I note that they have only been in existence since 2010, a year when I was very distracted. Since you have reminded me of the Society’s existence I have looked them up and may well put in for a membership. I will not, however, put my hand up for a position on any committee. My time is completely passed for that sort of nonsense. ●

Bus or Bust – Kim Huett

Many thanks for the reprints from John Brosnan and Ron Clarke. I only got the chance to meet Brosnan once. Though I’m guessing I could have made more of an effort to catch up with him when we both lived in London in the early 1990s. But I was starting anew life and a marriage so thought it best to keep my fannish endeavours under some sort of control back then. ●

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Gaston J. Feeblehare 28 – Kim Huett

ReYctoMe regarding Dennis and Norman Lindsay: Firstly Lindsay didn't think Dennis was that funny a writer, certainly not as good as W. T. Goodge – which was probably right. But he also had it against Dennis for making so many sales, and therefore money, from his tales of the larrikin push. Lindsay had the view that Dennis had nicked the idea from Louis Stone's novel *Jonah*, which was first published in 1911 and is set in Sydney. The difficulty with this is that Dennis published his first poem about the Sentimental Bloke in *The Bulletin* in April 1909.

Lindsay may not have liked Dennis but he still included a poem by Dennis in his anthology *Norman Lindsay's Book : No 1* published in 1912. You have to think some of this was rather contrived by Lindsay. I don't think Dennis had anything much to say about it at all. Probably just didn't care. ●

Sketchy 16 – Christina Lake

I don't think it is possible to suffer from "Iceland fatigue". At least I don't believe I will ever be so afflicted. On the contrary, I tend to be rather obsessed by the place. I look forward to future accounts. ●

Crash of the Hard Disk 63 – Gary Mason

ReYctoMe about Cambodia/Kampuchea: No, not trying to make any sort of political comment. Just trying to be accurate, and failing as usual. ●

John Bangsund kept carbons of a lot of his letters, though I wouldn't like to say "all". ●

MOZ 35 – Murray Moore

ReYctoMe regarding Dennis sales: I'm sure that some authors, such as "Nino Carlotta" and maybe Colleen McCullough with her novel *The Thorn Birds*, may well have had more sales than Dennis. I hope, though, that I was referring to his work as a poet. Though I may have said "writer" or "author". I'd have to go back and check but frankly don't have the energy. ●

Is this Leicester Square? 4 – Nigel Rowe

I am sorry I missed the 2022 Corflu but it just wasn't to be. I may well have been able to wave Robyn off on the cruise but then my life wouldn't have been worth living later on! ●

The Erotic Wombat 26 – Gerald Smith

Interesting choices for your best PMs, and, I'd have to say, that I probably agree with you on the three you've chosen and also on their ranking. I enjoyed Keating's time as PM but he really didn't have long enough in the job and he is mostly remembered as being Hawke's right-hand-man rather than as PM. ●

And that's it for mailing 330: thanks to everyone else for their contributions. Read and enjoyed but...