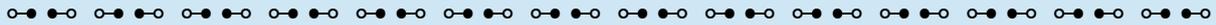


# LITTLE BLUE NUMBER 3



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## INTRODUCTION

For those who wanted blue paper to go with the title...

### Comments on Mailing 318

#### OBO – David Grigg

Congratulations on now being the acting OBE., and congratulation to Bruce for doing such a great job for so long. And no problem with the cover, sir! ■

#### The Every-Day Book 5 – Derrick Ashby

RYCTo Me: the podcast quality has improved but we're still finding some echo at my end. I think this is due to me having to move to a new room of the house now that the living/work arrangements here have changed. Robyn is working out of Will's old bedroom which is next door to the lounge, where I was recording. Robyn is on the phone a lot and is, dare I say it, a tad loud. So loud that she'd be appearing on the final recording more than I would. So I've had to shift to another room, which is still close enough to the modem to get consistent wi-fi reception but tends to result in a bit of an echo. The problems of new technology in old houses. ■

#### Quoz 74 – Claire Brialey and Mark Plummer

**Claire** – Good luck with the new restrictions, whatever they may be. Our strict lock-down worked for us but I wouldn't want to wish that on anyone else – circumstances are different everywhere and what may work in one place/country may not work in another. ■

**Mark** – Your John Bangsund bibliography strikes me as being a very worthwhile exercise. I'm not sure if anyone else has attempted one. I'd be happy if you could include it in an ANZAPA mailing at some time in the future. ■

I set myself reading targets and sub-targets as a means of attempting to keep myself on track. I do like to read for fun but can find myself sliding off into one or two major areas all year if I'm not careful. Forcing myself to look at reading lists occasionally brings up some real gems. I believe I can say that I genuinely start a book thinking, or maybe that should be "hoping", it will be of interest. Doesn't always work. ■

John Hertz wrote to me (see one of last mailing's *Perryscopes*) about my capsule review of *Glory Road*. He tried to make the point that Heinlein had quoted from Shaw's *Caesar and Cleopatra* as if this might a mitigating factor in the novel's favour. I was tempted to say that I thought it was like "putting lipstick on a pig", until I realised that that Aussie expression might very well be misunderstood. ■

#### In Vere Scribo CIV – Leigh Edmonds

RYCTo Marc: I think it far better to be listening to us on the podcast and NOT thinking. It is something we encourage. ■

You ask me, re my marking of books and films: "Do you apply the same standards to other facets of your life?"

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The short answer is “no”, and the long answer is also “no”. My life wouldn’t be worth living if I were to rate my family’s cooking out of 5.0. I’d last about 2 minutes I reckon. ■

The top end of train travel in Australia, eg the Ghan, is fantastic. The basic long-distance commuters between cities is woeful, as I recall. I must admit that I’m using data from 20 years ago and thinking of Adelaide to Melbourne. The train from Melbourne to Bendigo is fine – two hours or a bit less, with the terminals at both ends right in the middle of the city. ■

I certainly don’t envy the early Australian fans as they began to build up convention-going fandom on their own, with little knowledge of how it was done. Looking back on it you can figure out what they needed to do but I can see that their initial plans may well have overwhelmed their abilities. So we should be doubly grateful that the mid-sixties Melbourne fans figured it out. I’m guessing my life would have been very different if they hadn’t. ■

RYCToMe re the podcast: It is always a matter of contention as to whether we disclose endings, or spoilers. Generally if a book, such as Lem’s *Solaris*, have been around for 60 years then I reckon we are far better off talking about it and revealing all. More recent books such as those in contention for awards are probably best left unrevealed. ■

The cover photo of *Perryscope 3* was taken by Robyn and caught me slightly unawares. I was probably thinking about the very interesting immigration process we had just been through. ■

The poem of Dennis’s that you are referring to is “The Play”, which forms a part of *The Songs of a Sentimental Bloke*. It’s the one where Bill takes Doreen out for a date to go see Romeo and Juliet and Bill gets a bit carried away with yelling out “Put the boot in!” during the fight scenes. It is very funny and one of my favourites of Dennis’s. Lucy Sussex has Mary Fortune and I have C. J. Dennis, and some others which you will read about over the coming months. ■

### Rhubard 87 – John and Diane Fox

**Diane** : Your admission that you ego-scan each mailing of ANZAPA immediately have you have a copy in hand is an admission that the bulk of us would make I suspect. I do exactly the same and then sit down to work on mailing comments rather quickly. I have a number of other writing projects on the go at any one time and I have this feeling that if I don’t get to the comments quickly enough they will never appear. This approach seems to be working though I do get some weird comments from David Grigg along the lines of: “You do know the deadline is not for 4 weeks don’t you?” “Yes, David, I do. But that little piece is now finished and I can move on to something else.” ■

Re *Heatwave in Berlin*: I’m kind of hoping that Text Publishing might pick it up. They’ve suspended their Australian Classics reprints this year due to the virus but I am hopeful they will re-start in 2021. My friend Chong works for them and I have mentioned the book to him. It’s up to him as to whether he passes that info on or not. Hopefully he will. ■

I doubt very much that Dennis is being taught in schools. And *The Glugs of Gosh* is also a delightful verse novel. ■

**John** : My iPhone 6 is getting near the end of its days – or rather, near the end of the time when Apple will support it. Pity, it’s a good phone and does everything I want it to do without much fuss. As the battery is still in good order I’m not interested in upgrading to anything new. Though I am fully aware that this will become a necessity before too long. ■

### brg 113 – Bruce Gillespie

I don’t see each podcast appearing as its own separate fanzine at any time. The amount of work that needs to be done is just too great. Various individual pieces may but not whole episodes. I’m actually working on one now which will appear probably around Easter next year. More on that later when it actually looks imminent. I’m estimating that it takes around 30 minutes per page at present, which equates to about 5 minutes of talking time. That may come down somewhat as I get used to the work, and if I find a guest who speaks in a more mannered tone and in better sentences than I do. ■

The Argentinian restaurant I had in mind was San Telmo, which is a few doors south of the Waiters Restaurant in

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the city. Given the number of restaurant closures during 2020 during the pandemic I'll have to check it out soon to see if it's still there. [Later – it was as of mid-December.] ■

C. J. Dennis published a very large amount of material in his writing life but I don't think he was the most prolific. There are a couple of others that will give him a run for his money. Future articles in *Perryscope* will cover them to some degree. It's all about their connection to Dennis. Some of those connections will be strong and some very tenuous indeed. ■

Re the Terry Gilliam films: we are starting to get an idea of how long we will be talking about a film or book before we start and we quickly realised that three films by the one director was going to be plenty to cover in the hour. The whole idea here was to give an overview of the director's work rather than trying to be all-inclusive. We may go back to him some time in the future. There is *The Zero Theorem* as you mentioned, and also *The Adventure of Baron Munchhausen* and *The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus*. Time will tell. ■

Award winners etc: Your misunderstanding about my email was quite apparent and it happens to all of us from time to time. No need to apologise for it. The Hugo Time machine segment on our podcast has allowed me the opportunity to go back and read, or re-read, a lot of early Hugo winners. Some of which has been enjoyable and some not so much. I still have a lot of gaps in the Hugos over the years, especially in the 1980s and 1990s. I have read some of the ones I'm listing as unread but then I'm only looking at books I've read since 2012 when I started cataloguing my reading again. ■

### The Fretful Porpentine 35 – David Grigg

Thanks for adding the little symbols to your book reviews, it gives me the chance to pick and choose what I can read. That sounds weird but it makes sense to me. Maybe you could add an upside-down headphones symbol for the ones I review? Okay, stupid idea. ■

Re Tarkovsky's *Solaris*: I agree with your criticisms of his film version. The director used one of the main themes of the book and pretty much neglected the other. What we didn't talk about on the podcast was the large number of associated material there is available on YouTube regarding this version. Will Self's intro to a screening in London in the mid-2010s is worth having a look at. ■

Re Tarkovsky's *Stalker*: I really should write up my experience of watching the film while also reading Dyer's commentary on it, side-by-side. That was certainly very weird, and also rewarding, and I'm sure it totally changed my view of the film. I now find that Dyer has done the same thing with the 1960s film *Where Eagles Dare*. Must watch that again at some time. ■

RYCTo Derrick Ashby: I'm coming to the conclusion that interrupted sleep is just a product of old age. Like you I rarely get over 6 to 7 hours sleep a night even though I may well be in bed for a period of 8-9. I occasionally get up in the middle of the night to write apa mailing comments or fanzine pieces or just to stuff about on the internet for a while until I feel sleepy. I really should use that time for reading. Ah well. By the way, I hate alarm clocks. Always prefer waking up in my own time. Only use them when I'm on holidays or have a definite appointment to meet – such as an airline departure. A medical reason also seems a good enough excuse, though not one I'd like that much. ■

### Necessity 157 – Jack Herman

"The wealthiest 1 per cent of the world's population is responsible for more than double the carbon emissions of the poorest 50 per cent." In his latest novel, which I heartily recommend you read, Stan Robinson has an India-based terrorist group carrying out strategic assassinations of the wealthiest people for this very reason. If it is possible to even out the income disparity it appears that there is enough to go round for everyone. It's how you get from here and now to there that's the interesting bit. ■

RYCTo Me: The podcast summaries are really there to show you which ones to *avoid*. ■

The silent version of *Sentimental Bloke* is still around but I think the one of *Ginger Mick* has been lost. A pity. I come across references to the film version from time to time in the Trove newspapers and tag them when I can. AustLit is mainly interested in the written or printed word, so reviews of the films and associated background articles are fine. There is quite enough missing material to find to keep myself busy. It's sometimes quite confronting to come across something new. I did this a while back with a Banjo Paterson poem. I couldn't find it in the database nor in the two-volume set from the 1980s that attempted to include all of his writings. That

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worried me a bit so had to check with the good people at the University of Queensland to see if I was deluding myself. Nope. It was a new piece. It happens rarely with the big names. More often with the second rank. ■

### Plague of the Living Dead 5 – Kim Huett

My current problems with my siblings regarding my father's will seem to pale in comparison with your brother. Good luck with that. ■

RYCTo Me: I doubt whether the words of "The Austra-laise" have ever before been reprinted in ANZAPA and here they are twice in the one mailing. Good to see you are also familiar with "Hist!" A good piece. ■

I only met John Brosnan once. Justin Ackroyd and I travelled to the 1987 UK Worldcon together and found ourselves at a pre-con party thrown by Rob Holdstock. I was sitting in a group having a few beers when one accent sounded vaguely familiar. I asked him who he was and where he was from. He seemed genuinely surprised that I knew him by name. ■

### Sketchy 4 – Christina Lake

I did not know that such an animal as "a caravan property tycoon" existed until I read it here. As they say, all knowledge lies in fanzines. I remember a similar hot-water lighting experience once. The instructions might as well have been in Japanese for all the help they were. Even a small diagram might have helped. It was also rather like those movies in a scene of a bomb deactivation: "Cut the blue wire." All buttons look blue in the semi-dark. ■

Good to hear you have work carrying you over the Christmas period. That was always a bad time for contract work in Australia. If you didn't have a job lined up by the end of November you could practically kiss hope goodbye until near the end of January. All of the managers who could make a decision on any hiring were all away over summer on holiday with their kids. I got out a few times by that. ■

You'll know by now that the Tour Down Under has been cancelled for 2021 – quarantine restrictions making it far too difficult to get everyone into South Australia in time. Melbourne is having similar problems with the Australian Open tennis with lots of logistical problems. They seem to have sorted out most of them by putting the Open back by a couple of weeks. ■

### Kingdom of the Bland – Eric Lindsay

I've seen a few of the other Boorman/McGregor motorbike series but not *Long Way Up* as yet. I must rectify that situation some time soon. ■ Surely you can't have quiet Harley. I thought the whole point was the distinctive noise. The loudspeakers on the electric versions must take a fair amount of room. ■

I get very annoyed when I see articles in newspapers like the recent one reporting on the fact that in 2020 Norway had more electric car sales than other fuel types. And here in Australia all we're worried about is tradies on their weekends off. Philistines. ■

### From the Lair of the LYNX 114 – LYNC

Congratulations on the engagement, and good luck with the renovations. ■

### Crash of the Hard Disk 51 – Gary Mason

I think one apa is all I can take at present. Not that the mailing comments take that long but it would be just another thing I'd have to remember to get to. I seem to have enough writing and other fannish projects on my plate at present. Even the missus might start to get a bit annoyed if I took on another one. But I'm guessing that if I did it would be an apa with a very specific interest, much like the old cricket apa that Foyster started back in the 1980s. Though I don't think that there'd be any that would align with my current set of interests. A "Sentimental Bloke" apa maybe? ■

I pretty much skipped the footy season for 2020. Apart from the fact that Adelaide were so woeful I wasn't able to get to the MCG and watch anything. I've now been a Restricted Member of the MCC (Melbourne Cricket Club) for about 18 years now, so, for a fair bit of wallet material each year, I am able to walk up to any game I like and watch it for the fun of it. It actually changes your experience when you have "no skin in the game" and just watch it for the enjoyment it brings. And if it gets a tad boring I can just wander back to the bar and have a few beers. Though I must admit that this pales a bit at the G, especially in the members, as the beers on offer are all Carlton United and all crap. It is better to get the mates together for dinner at the Jim Stynes Grill at the ground: good steak, good red wine, comfortable reserved seat behind glass and generally good company. Though that is really

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only a twice-a-year thing as it tends to be a tad expensive. I missed all that in 2020, just as I was expecting to get to quite a few games in my first full year of retirement. Here's hoping 2021 returns to some level of normality, though I fear it will not be as it was before. ■

I also watched the US election count live on Australian television. This was a first for me as I'm always at work when this happens, or otherwise engaged. What a weird system they have. What a weird way to vote. Why isn't the voter disenfranchisement a human right issues in the US? And don't start on the gerrymanders. ■

"It is hard to resist the impression of civilisation falling apart at a rapid rate in the US." Yep, absolutely agree. Normal political discourse has become a blood-sport over there. Though I do notice that we are moving in a similar direction here as well. The number of people who dump on the Victorian premier Dan Andrews at the first chance they get is rather amazing. Seems that it is all his fault. Everything. ■

RYCtoMe: When we first lived in Laura (at least the time I can remember) we had a police officer living in town. But by about the 1970s he'd been shifted to Gladstone, 10 kilometres south, into a consolidated station. I'm guessing that was because of the problems of one-man stations and the associated suicide rates. So what I'm getting at is that you could quite probably barrel through the town and not get picked up for speeding. Yes, it is a bit bigger than the "blink..." description. ■ The Golden North ice cream factory is still located, as far as I know, down the end of our street – South Terrace, we were the first house on the right as you drive down the street. ■ The "dated" material on the TWO CHAIRS TALKING podcast is VERY dated, especially when we talk about short fiction nominated for the early 1960s Hugo Awards! Robyn and I have taken to listening to podcasts as we drive around Victoria or interstate, and like you, listened to a number when we were driving overseas. ■

### **Sparrowgrass & battle-twigs 71 – Roman Orszanski**

Robyn and I have been listening to the David Tennant podcast during our drives to and from Adelaide, and Bendigo and other parts of Victoria. The Minchin one was a highlight but there are plenty of other good ones from the first season as well. ■

Regarding the crime novel ratings – maybe I'm just a bit choosy. But it is an odd occurrence which I should keep an eye on. ■

David Grigg is the tech guy as far as our podcast goes. I'll check if he is aware of The Levelator app. ■

### **Knot as We Know It – Marc Ortlieb**

ReYCtoMe: Correct title recognition, as I knew you would. ■ John Alderson would have been perfect to talk to for the podcast, as would many others now sadly no longer with us. I do believe he was the Sheep person at Aussiecon. ■

### **You Really Know You're Home When You Find a Wombat In Your Bed – Cath Ortlieb**

Tattooed at last! And for about the best, though still possibly worst, reason. Hope the treatment goes well. ■

### **From the Threshold 1 – Ann Poore**

Welcome back to the apa. You appear to have undertaken the same strange inter-city moves as me – Adelaide to Canberra to Melbourne. Though I did spend a few years in London in the middle of my Melbourne stint. ■

Hopefully the reduction in restrictions later in 2020 has opened up some music venues for you. ■

### **Debussy 11 – Margaret Riep**

One of the major things I attempted to do during the lockdown was to stay away from current affairs and most news programs on either TV or radio. I tend to find that the more I listen to them or watch them the more depressed I get. I found I was able to get a good overview of what was happening from the 7:30pm ABC TV news and by skimming newspaper articles. Occasionally a friend would pass along a link to a specific piece about the virus or what was happening around the world and I would follow that up. A small dose was fine I just didn't want to be fixated by it like some people I know. As I talked to those people over the year I could hear their levels of frustration growing all the time. But that's over now, hopefully. Summer's here and the sun is out. ■

ReYCtoMe: If you ever drive up to Port Augusta from Adelaide again go through the Clare Valley. A much better route. And you'll get to pass through Auburn, Gladstone and Laura, all places where C. J. Dennis lived. ■

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### Oz SF Fan – Lucy Schmeidler

I hope you enjoy the books you purchased. ■

### Les Chattes Parties xxx – Sally Yeoland

It was a very good obituary of John and I'm glad the process worked out as well as it did. ■

My father's ashes are currently sitting in a box back in Willunga waiting until we can all get together to place them next to my mother in a cemetery in the northern suburbs of Adelaide. We will only have them there for another 10 years which will mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mum's death. At that time we'll take them back and probably spread them somewhere in an appropriate place. Just not exactly sure where as yet. ■

ReYCtoMe: Okay, so here I can reveal the ambition behind the covers for *Perryscope*. The way I see that small fanzine is that it's all about and by me so I figured I might as well appear on the cover as well. The photos of me that I have available tend to be from when I'm travelling with my wife and she looks to catch me off-guard with some sort of weird look on my face. They seem to be the best, so... ■ We are not sure when we will be able to travel overseas again, maybe late 2021 (but then probably only to New Zealand), and mid-to-late 2022 before we can travel further afield. We are always hopeful but cautious. ■



Thanks to all the other contributions in this massive mailing. I keep reading them but am not finding anything to comment about.

Stay well.

