

THYME (35), the newszine that is so crammed with information that it sometimes can't even afford a decent heading, comes to you from the cramped but comfortable offices of Post Office Box 273, Fitzroy 3065, AUSTRALIA. It is accountable to few but available to many for news or other information or for MONEY at the following rates:
AUSTRALIA: 8 issues for \$5; NORTH AMERICA/NEW ZEALAND: 10 issues for \$10;
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Don't forget, y'all, a big silver cross next to your name on your mailing label means that you've probably done your dash unless you... DO SOMETHING! Aust.Post reg.#VBH2625
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The DITMAR AWARDS (and some but not all of the fuss that ensued)

The 1984 Australian Science Fiction Achievement Awards (to give them their full name) were presented at Eureka!con over Easter, and the winners are as follows:

AUSTRALIAN SF or FANTASY (LONG): Yesterday's Men - George Turner

AUSTRALIAN SF or FANTASY (SHORT): Above Atlas His Shoulders - Andrew Whitmore

INTERNATIONAL SF or FANTASY: no award

AUSTRALIAN FANZINE: Rataplan/Ornithopter - Leigh Edmonds

AUSTRALIAN FANWRITER: Leigh Edmonds

AUSTRALIAN SF or FANTASY ARTIST: Nick Stathopoulos

AUSTRALIAN SF or FANTASY CARTOONIST: John Packer

AUSTRALIAN SF or FANTASY EDITOR: Van Ikin

There was no 'William Atheling Award' for criticism given this year, but some other awards were also presented - the Golden Caterpillar Awards. Managed by Paul Stevens, some would say they are more significant - if not a lot more fun - than the Ditmars. Given this year to...

Michael Hailstone - for his letters to ASFN

John Alderson - for putting the 'ist' into 'sexist'

Cath McDonnell - for her contributions to equal opportunity

Daniel Heep - for carrying on the Jeff Harris tradition of misuse
of rubber chickens

a Common Marmoset - for proving that Terry Frost is worth pissing on

Diana Hawthorn - for uncovering the cover ((sorry???)

Paul also presented one "nice" Golden Caterpillar award to 'Transfinite AudioVisuals' for their selfless contribution to Australian conventions; expressing the thought that recognition for their contribution to Australian conventions was overdue. This was certainly the most loudly applauded and possibly the most popular award for the evening.

The Ditmar Awards have been much maligned in the past, but they still attract a fair share of comment: Marc Ortlieb writes:

'As a member of the Ditmar sub-committee, allow me to state that the committee followed precedent, and the constitution, as far as was possible in preparing this year's ballot. Thus, with regards to the Best International Fiction category, those items that appeared on the ballot were those that were nominated on the nomination forms. We didn't add any that were not nominated, nor did we delete any that had the ceiling number of nominations. We ran the ballot form as the nominators determined. The fact that some rather strange items appeared should surely say more about the nominators' feelings about the category than anything else. True, there was talk of stacking the nominations in order to get *Out of the Silence* onto the ballot form, thus pointing out a certain laxity in the awards constitution, but we resisted that temptation, thinking that the nominators themselves had, through their nominations, pointed out those laxities far better than we could have. If enough people felt strongly about the

international fiction award, it would be reflected in the nominations. Let's have the blame placed with the apathy of the nominators - where it belongs.

'Russell does at least place the blame for the lack of Athelings in the correct area. Certainly there was good criticism published in 1983, but no-one bothered to nominate it, and, of the three possibilities for the ballot paper*, in the opinion of the committee, none clearly fitted the category of criticism, and so the sub-committee exercised its right not to include the Atheling on the ballot paper.

'Roger, your comments after Russell's letter suggest that the committee themselves should determine the ballot form, perhaps allowing the nominations to influence them. Certainly we suggested that, according to the constitution, that was possible, but we weren't being particularly serious in that suggestion. Indeed, such an action would be contrary to the nature of the Ditmar. The Ditmar has been a popular award, along the lines of the Hugo. What it comes down to is that the wording on both Ditmar and Atheling awards needs to be firmed up, so as to give guidelines to future sub-committees.' *Marc Ortlieb*

((My statement in #33 - which I invite the reader to closely examine - was not meant to imply that the committee should determine the ballot, or [perhaps more importantly] that this year's sub-committee was lax in not doing so, although I can understand how a casual read of what I said could result in that impression. Further to this, I have been told that one year, previously, for the Atheling Award, a 'recommended reading' list was circulated by the sub-committee, but they or rather the person responsible for the list were accused of trying to influence the list. Sigh - so much for good intentions.)) *Paul Hoffman* also wrote in:

'I'd like to comment some way on the Ditmar Mess, but after so many years of witnessing feeble-minded attempts at pulling the thing together, it's obvious, at least to me, that the sub-committee wear the honour of administering the Ditmars like the proverbial albatross. These sub-committees change each year, I take it, with the convention ((correct)). Is anyone thinking out there that the sub-committee should rather be a co-mittee that does not change, that is made up of literate persons, who know what is published, and what is worth nominating? *Paul Hoffman*

((Could well be, but then as *Marc Observerd* the Ditmars are, in essence, a popular award - and who would run such a thing? On the other hand, Australian fandom is still of the size where it would be impossible, I think, to have such a thing as a truly impartial board of judges.)) *Shayne McCormack* also had a word or two to say:

'Well, honestly, I think the Ditmars are pretty silly anyhow, and I'm sure lots of other people do, too. Calling the thing a National Award when it's voted on by around 12 people has got to be the closest thing going around at the moment to nonsense. I doubt very much that many people take them at all seriously, and it seems clear to me that a small number of nominators have decided to show everyone a) that they can be just as silly as the awards themselves, and b) that they think the International Award is a waste of time and should be scrapped...((and yet))... anyone who has won an award (be it for writing or cake baking) knows that it is a very pleasant feeling to realise that someone out there thinks the child of your labour is worth something. It costs us little and makes someone happy, which is a nice thing, in itself.'

((And there you have the reason for the Ditmars being a popular award. Intrinsic merit may be nice, but so is simple appreciation.)) Finally, the Awards Sub-Committee itself had this to say, about the 'Atheling Award for sf criticism':

* 'It appears that some nomination forms did not reach the Awards Sub-VCommittee. We have no idea how this occurred but we would like to recommend that in future all nomination forms be posted directly to the relevant Sub-Committee. Unfortunately, on the basis of the number of nominations we did receive, the Sub-Committee did not feel that offering a William Atheling Award for 1984 was justified.' *Awards Sub-Committee.*

Meanwhile, the bush lawyers were at work again, during the Eureka!con Business Session, with the following results: although a motion to dismiss the entire constitution was narrowly lost (12-13), one clever (ie."yea team!") soul moved a motion which

was passed and which now requires that 25% of the membership of the national convention, at close of voting, have voted in any category for which an award is to be given for an award to be presented. That is, if 25% don't vote, then no-one wins an award in the category affected. Predictions are that no more awards will be given; I suppose we'll have to wait and see, won't we?

The ratification of this motion notwithstanding, further changes have been made to the awards to be given, and they are as follows:

- a) there is a new category of award: 'Best Australian SF or Fantasy Dramatic Presentation;
- b) the committee may, at its discretion, also create a further award;
- c) the 'Artist' and 'Cartoonist' categories have been combined and the thing is to be called: 'Best Australian SF or Fantasy Artist, Cartoonist or Illustrator'.
- d) to be eligible for the Society's awards, a piece of fiction must have been first readily available in Australia in the year covered by the awards; a person must have produced work in that category in that year; and a fanzine must have had at least an issue ((appear)) in that year. ((The \$64 question to be covered next year, of course, is what the year is that is covered by the awards? 1984? 1983? 1987?))

Have you fallen asleep yet? Those limbs feeling heavy, the eyelids tired? Never mind, only one more piece of constitutionalising to go: it was moved that the bit of the constitution which allowed the Australian SF Convention to be held outside the Commonwealth of Australia be dropped. It succeeded. This means that the 1985 NatCon cannot be held in Seattle (huge sighs of relief from SpwnCn Administrators Jerry Kaufman & Cliff Wind), and it is now being held in Adelaide. Jeff Harris, only known representative of the Adelaide bid, was last seen cheerily taking \$15 notes off people - Jeff probably wouldn't complain if you sent unmarked dollar bills (in large, wrapped bundles) to 95 Second Avenue, Joslin 5070.... Future publicity? Forthcoming....

Now seems like as good a time as any to mention that if you're looking forward to a Eurekacon! (or something like that) conreport, you'll have to wait until the next issue. These thingstake time, dontcha know. Likewise for a report on the Rowany festival held at a mediaeval location, also over Easter. That being said, what else could it mean but that it's time for a few...

CHANGES of ADDRESS (and other, assorted gossip)

PERTH: (an unnamed and unnameable correspondent writes...) Dave Luckett & Sally Beasley got married on the 7th of January but didn't tell anyone about it till afterwards.

Wagers are being made on when offspring may appear. Stephen Gunnell & Maureen Gell are engaged, and an engagement cocktail party was held at the end of March. They may plan to marry in Spring this year, but have no firm plans yet. Greg Turkich and Stephanie Crofts have had an engagement party on March the 17th and plan to marry next year. Gifts of dog collars and leads could be appreciated. Julian Warner has moved out but could still probably be contacted Mark Loney & Michell Muysert at 39 Norfolk Street, South Perth. Joanna Masters is planning to move to ~~XXXX/XXXXX~~ ~~XXXXXX~~ the same address shortly. WASFA has been resurrected as a social meeting on the first Wednesday of the month at 8:30pm in the Pool Affair café in Fremantle. SAFFA and UNISFA continue. Ian Nichols, bon vivant & ladies' man extraordinaire, has taken up shootin' & fishin' (though not, we believe, huntin') in Esperance. He claims that his sanity rests upon the prospect of wargaming in Perth over the school holidays. Swancon fundraising is going on apace with two games days organised on the 13th of May and the 20th of May. One is for Swancon 10 and one is for Swancon 11, but it is not certain which is which. Julia Ferguson has changed her name to Julia Bateman, and has moved to a flat in Claremont. Stephen Mephistopheles Dedman has also moved but is still living - and looking for work - in the Claremont CES area. A play of his, a sequel to 'Faust', is shortly to be performed at the Chimaera theatre in Perth. End of mystery correspondent's report, but speaking of Perth, and conventions, why not turn the page and find out all there is to know about Swancon 10 and Swancon 11?

SWANCON 10

Dates: as ever for a Swancon - the Australia Day Weekend (26th etc/Jan) 1985

Swancon 10 the relaxacon looking back. An event of this tenth convention is to look back at the other nine conventions in Western Australia. In other words, a convention to embarrass certain members of sf fandom. The theme for Swancon 10 will be pre-lunar sf; that is, sf before the Americans landed on the moon.

At this particular moment Swancon 10 has not established if they will have a guest of honour. A fan guest of Honour seems to be a popular idea. The actual fan guest will be kept a secret as a surprise.

Rates: Supporting membership: \$5; Attending membership until 1st October: \$15; after that \$20 and then \$25 at the door. For those who are financially disadvantaged, that is students/pensioners/unemployed, deduct \$5 from attending membership rates.

SWANCON 11 - the 1986 Australian SF Convention

'Swancon 11 will be over the Easter weekend of 1986. The Guest of Honour will be A.E. van Vogt, with well-known hat fan Jack Herman as Fan Guest of Honour. The venue is likely to be the new Merlin Hotel in Central Perth (& yes, we will try to get hold of videos of Camelot and Excalibur to suit the occasion!). Membership is \$10 Supporting, \$15 Attending till the 30th of June '84. Our address is P.O.Box 313, Nedlands 6009 ((as for all Swancons, including number 10, above)), and all cheques are to be made payable to the W.A. Science Fiction Club. (Not 'Swancon 11 - the bank won't recognize that!) Con Char((er, sorry, I mean))Chairman is Erik Warding, and the committee will be advised later.

'You may have heard of Swancons that We Do Things Differently, and this Swancon will be no exception. We expect to have an emphasis on live performance & audience involvement as well as serious talks & panels. The Fan Olympics trophy will be the Swancon Cup (a replica of that Royal Perth Yacht Club's well-known piece of crock-ry). The film programme will probably be a video programme (there's no time for films at a Swancon....). Pack your costumes ready for the First Night Out on a Galactic Cruiser with in-flight entertainment & steward-beings (mundanely known as the masquerade).

'In short, attend Swancon 11! (Or spend years in vain regrets.)'

((Well, don't look now, but I think they've done it again: the fans of Perth aren't just waiting for Aussiecon Two to happen; they're off and running with another, exciting con. Definitely stay tuned for details.))

Meanwhile, ASFN reports that 'A.E. van Vogt has written a third Null A book for a French publisher, who asked him to write it because of the great popularity of the first two books there.' There's no apparent sign of it appearing in AEnglish, but perhaps in time for Swancon 11....

Melbourne: apart from the recently held Eureka!con, things have been reasonably quiet in Melbourne... Sue & Vince Martin-Smith, recently married, are out here for Vince's work and currently staying at Room 11, Carlisle Motor Lodge, 32 Carlisle Street, St Kilda. And speaking of St Kilda, don't forget this week's Nova Mob Meeting at 21 Shakespeare Grove, St. Kilda, which is open to one and all and which this month is hearing from Marie McLean on the subject of 'Natural and Unnatural Language'. Discussion meetings start around 8pm at the Foyster/Bryce residence, but those interested in eating gather at the Danube restaurant in Acland Street, just around the corner, from 6pm. Jan McDonnell recently and unexpectedly went into hospital, just before Easter, suffering from violent, unexplained headaches. Get well, Jan - also Mandy Horbury-Smith who had a disagreement over Easter with the ground, and sits bandaged in Belgrave. Get well, Mandy. And then there was the car accident Mandy Herriot was involved in... it was that sort of Easter, it seems. Luckily, Mandy H is okay now. □□□ The MUSFA elections were held recently: President - Bruce Fraser; Veep - Peter Socialist Maher; Secretary - Elizabeth "I'm not violent I just like the sight of blood" Bromham; Treasurer - John MacDonald; Librarian - Elena Leong; and Editors of Yggdrasil - Roger Weddall and the inestimable (people have been trying for years) Dennis Callegari. Sarah Crawshaw was elected unopposed to the position of Immediate Past President. □□□ On a completely different note, glance across at the next page and feast your eyes on a wealth of details concerning the next gathering of the clan, KINKON. See you there? Great!

KINKON!!!

9th 10th 11th June

The Victoria Hotel
215 Little Collins St.
Melbourne
....

GUESTS:

Alan Finney
John("John")Flaus
George Turner
....

FILMS!

WARGAMES!

PANEL DISCUSSIONS!

VIDEOS!

MASQUERADES!

PARTIES!

MUCH MUCH MORE!

MEMBERSHIP-

\$20.00 UNTIL 7/6/84

\$25.00 AFTERWARDS

For details contact

Ruth Murphy
29 Alexander Rd.
Dandenong 3175
Ph. 793 1706

Angus Caffrey

Ph. B/H 697 6438



EVERYONE WHO'S ANYONE WILL BE AT

KINKON!

THE CONVENTION!!

KINKON!

T H E C O N V E N T I O N F O R T H E S O C I A L L Y A W A R E

THE Guests!! ALAN FINNEY. Leading light of Roadshow distributors.
JOHN ("John") FLAUS. A beard with a Radio Show.
GEORGE TURNER. A critic, an author, a wit.

THE venue!! THE VICTORIA HOTEL, 215 Little Collins St., MELBOURNE

THE dates!! JUNE 9th, 10th and 11th-the Queens' Birthday Weekend.

THE cost!! FULL membership until 6/6/84-----\$20.00
FULL membership after 6/6/84-----\$25.00
FULL membership if you like Zardoz-\$1,500.00
SUPPORTING membership at any time--\$10.00
DAY membership (per body per day)--\$10.00

<u>THE</u> Rooms!!	SINGLE \$32.00 per night	SINGLE \$24.00 per night
	DOUBLE \$40.00 per night	DOUBLE \$30.00 per night
	TRIPLE \$48.00 per night	TRIPLE \$36.00 per night
	ALL WITH FACILITIES	ALL WITHOUT FACILITIES

Please lodge your room bookings with the Committee
(see below) with ONE NIGHT'S rental as a deposit,
by APRIL 30th at the latest.

THE Programme!! THERE'S not enough space!! The films...oboyoboy!!
"THE INNOCENTS", "THEM", "THE INVASION OF THE BODY
SNATCHERS" PLUS a film that will PREMIERE at KINKON!
A genuine, 24 carat FIRST RELEASE at the Convention!
(we're keeping the title secret. Hee!Hee!Hee!) a
swag of videos running almost constantly, a make-
up demonstration, a slide show, a three day Role
Playing game, panel discussions on Literature, Horror
Films, Dungeons and Dragons, Science Fiction on T.V.
parties, parties and more parties, AND the RICHEST
(\$300 first prize!!) Masquerade in Victoria!! All
in all this convention will deliver FUN...FUN...FUN!

THE Committee!! RUTH MURPHY 29 Alexander Ave, Dandenong 3175
Telephone (a.h.) 03-7931706

ANDROO MURPHY As above but with less hair.

ANGUS CAFFREY Telephone in business hours:
6976028 OR 6976258 OR 6976438

PETER READ ING DARYL MANNELL AND EDDIE ANDREWS

PARANOIACON FLYER

NUMBER #100042.5

For many months, rumours have been going around about the possible existence of "PARANOIACON"

We, the Committee, categorically deny the existence of any such vile plan. However, should it happen, it would occur from;

28th September to 1st October, 1984

and it would be held at;

The El Toro,
Homepride Ave, (off the Hume Hwy)
Liverpool. N.S.W.

The costs for this non-existent con are;

membership to 23rd April 1984	\$20.00
membership 24th April to 16th Sept 1984	\$25.00
membership at door	\$35.00
membership per day.....	\$20.00
HUCKSTERS membership (may be negotiable for longer).....	\$30.00per day
includes 1 (one) membership and 1 (one) table and all huckster rooms	
will be locked when not in use.	
Hours will be 10.00am to 7.00pm Saturday and Sunday	
10.00am to 1.00pm Monday	

Huckster memberships are only available to 1st Sept 1984.

Room Bookings; \$48.00 per day and \$5.00 per person extra when more than two people are sharing. Please ensure that when rooms are booked that a list of those people sharing the room is enclosed so that double booking or worst still no booking does not occur.

Rooms must be booked with membership to ensure that these prices hold.

A \$48.00 deposit should be included with your membership to show GOOD FAITH.

Childcare facilities may be available, but only on prior notification, and for a limited number of children.

The theme for the MASQUERADE is;

- A) Safest dressed Paranoid
- B) Your favourite race in space. (Space Munchkins?, anyone?)

For those who still believe that it will be held, you might try contacting;

PARANOIACON
G.P.O. Box 429
Sydney 2001 (dah dah dah !!! dah-dah!!! (bom bom))

Please send cheques to PARANOIACON or money orders (we don't promise to reply, but we do like money.)

Sydney: so there you are (he says, referring to the previous page), now you have it all official-like on Paranoiacon.

An Announcement Concerning the Future of the SYDNEY SCIENCE FICTION FOUNDATION

'On the 6th of April, 1984, a meeting of interested groups and individuals was convened to decide the future of the Sydney SF Foundation. After discussion, it was decided that the Foundation was to continue, but in a new role. Its new purpose would be to act as a resources and information organisation for the various sf/sf media groups in the Sydney (and New South Wales) area. 'An interim committee has been chosen to work out a new constitution for the foundation. An editor was appointed to bring out a New Forerunner (the Foundation club magazine) containing listings and a calendar of events for all participating groups. It is also intended that Forerunner will continue to foster the discussing and interest in sf topics.

'A subscription to Forerunner will entitle the group or individual to take part in the decision-making processes of the Foundation with regard to the allocation and expansion of its funds and resources.

'For details of subscriptions for groups and individuals contact:

The Sydney Science Fiction Foundation
Post Office Box A491
Sydney South 2000
NSW

or 'phone: (02) 764 2114.

Members of the Transitional Committee
for the Sydney SF Foundation:

President: Dea O'Brien

Treasurer: G. Dalrymple

Secretary: Terry Frost

Librarians: Karen Vaughn

Jennifer Bursloin

Others: Ray Gleeson, Gordon Lingard,

Denise Cunningham, Joanna O'Neill.

Editor of Forerunner: Terry Frost

□
(still speaking of Sydney) Gordon Lingard & Joy Window have moved to 88 Young Street, Annandale 2038. Rod Hanna has moved to 460 Pacific Highway, St Leonards 2065.

Canberra: Joe Schluter's postal address is P.O.Box 2155, Queen Victoria Tce., 2602

Adelaide: Megan Dansie is temporarily at 1 Arafura Court, Hallett Cove 5049 - until the wedding. Karin Janezic, meanwhile, has moved out of home to Unit 2, No.17 Wackett Terrace, Marmyatville 5068, but please all mail goes to:

P.O.Box 138, Kensington Park 5068.

□ □

FAN FUND FOLLIES - GUFF, DUFF & the SHAW FUND.

With the help of the Eureka!con auction(s) the fan funds are all looking quite healthy: GUFF-Australia is loaded to the level of approx. \$300, likewise the Shaw Fund. \$260 was raised for DUFF as well. □ □ □ Concerning DUFF, this year's winner Jack Herman was heard at Eureka!con confidently predicting the appearance of his DUFF winner's report by or before Christmas. Seeing as how he hasn't even left yet one can only wonder if Jack realises what he's put himself in for. Nevertheless, he may well!!!... Do it. Leaving from Sydney of the 15th of August, Jack will attend the 42nd WorldCon, LA Con II, and has issued a detailed list of travel aims, including a visit to Dallas and the Grand Canyon, and also Pubonicon, in Albuquerque. Duff Administrator (in USA) Jerry Kaufman suggests there is a possibility Jack may be invited to be one of the Guests of Honour at a Minneapolis convention shortly after the WorldCon, and is expected to put in an appearance at 'Vanguard', the monthly Seattle party. At the WorldCon he will apparently be sharing a room with GUFF winner Justin Ackroyd (who will be on his way home at that stage); for last-minute details of Jack's plans, once in America, contact Jerry Kaufman at 4326 Winslow Place North, Seattle, WA 98103, U.S.A. Jack's itinerary after the LA Con II is quite loose, except for the fact that he returns to Australia on the 24th of Sept., so if you have any travel suggestions, feel free to suggest away....

