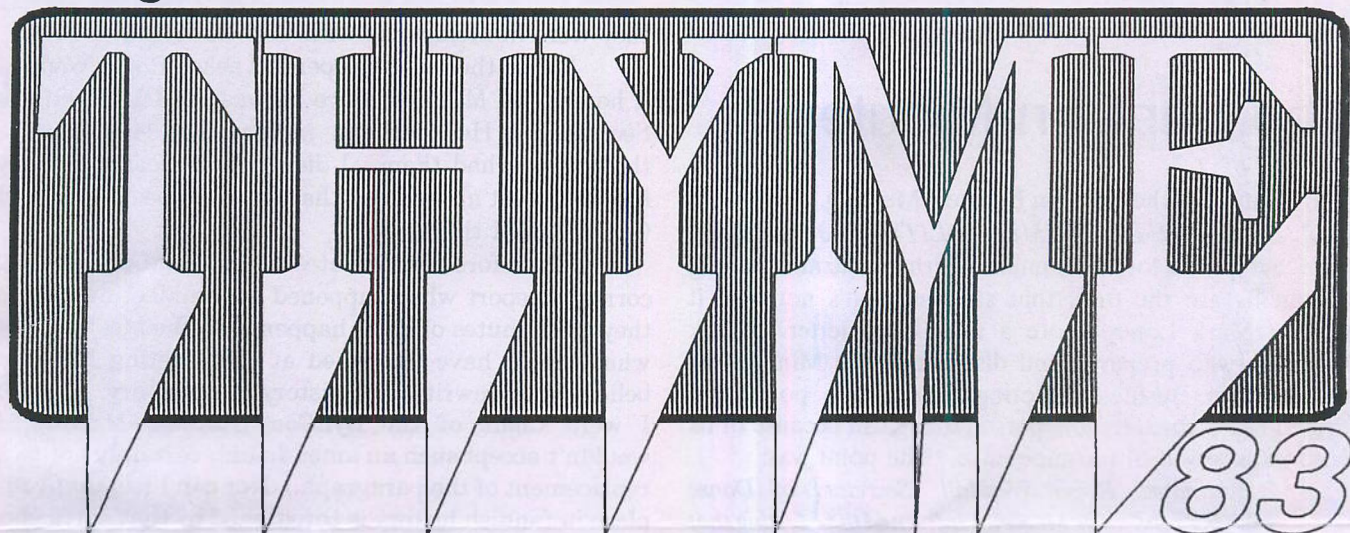


August 1991

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***The Australasian SF News Magazine***



Ditmar Hoax —  
SubCom Tells All  
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ASFF Launches  
'The Chandler'  
(See Page 6)

New! *THYME*  
Social Calendar  
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The *THYME*  
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(See Page 15)

## The SunCon Minutes

The Minutes of the SunCon Business Meeting, which were published in *THE INSTRUMENTALITY* Vol. 3 No. 3, have attracted quite a lot of comment. Perhaps the most telling comments are the ones that say 'but that's not how it went!' Mark Loney wrote a multi-copy letter to Jack Herman (who prepared and distributed the Minutes for the SunCon Business Meeting) about one point that caused Mark considerable personal anguish because of its false implication of incompetence. The point was:

*'1. Minutes. Roger Weddall (Secretary of Danse Macabre Business Meeting) informed the Meeting that the Minutes were unavailable, probably in the possession of the Meeting Chair, Mark Loney.'*

Mark had actually distributed the Danse Macabre Minutes in May 1990. Jack was among the recipients. Mark now informed Jack that he intended to move the following amendment to the Minutes at SynCon 92:

*'Both SunCon and the Chair of the SunCon Business Meeting (in his capacity as the editor of SWEETNESS & LIGHT) had been provided with copies of the Danse Macabre Business Meeting. These minutes, however, were not available to be presented to the SunCon Business Meeting.'*

Jack's reply (a multi-copy letter) was:

Jack R Herman  
Box 272 Wentworth Bldg  
Univ. of Sydney 2006

'Dear Mark, Thank you for your letter dated 23rd April attempting to stir up another storm in a teacup.

'You are probably correct that minutes were distributed to various people some time last year. I may even have received one as Editor of *SWEETNESS AND LIGHT*. (Since *S&L* was, by then, a defunct zine and I was financially unable to pay any attention to it, I cannot recall whether I got them or not.) When asked to be the Chair of the SunCon Business Meeting, on the Thursday a week before the con, I was not told of the existence of any Danse Macabre Minutes. I suspect

they were in Melbourne with Cath Kerrigan.

'When the meeting opened I asked Roger Weddall if he had the Minutes, since he was the DM Meeting's Secretary. He (perhaps incorrectly) said that he thought you had them. I didn't then recall that they had been sent around nor that they had been published (in *THYME* I think).

'Therefore the Minutes of the SunCon Meeting correctly report what happened at the Meeting. Since they are Minutes of what happened at the Meeting, not what should have happened at the Meeting I cannot believe your rewriting of history is necessary. (And if I were Chair of the SynCon Business Meeting, I wouldn't accept such an amendment; certainly not as a replacement of the paragraph.) Nor can I feel that your place in fanish history is threatened by that particular paragraph of the Minutes.'

Curiouser and curiouser. We were puzzled by parts of this letter, because Roger Weddall has stated publicly that *he was not present for the first half of the SunCon Meeting!* If the Minutes are 'what happened at the Meeting, not what should have happened at the Meeting', what does this recording of events that *didn't* happen say for the accuracy of Jack's Minutes? We wonders, yes we wonders.



MR. FARNSWORTH REALIZES, TOO LATE, THAT HE HAS MISTAKENLY USED HIS TUBE OF ACHE-AWAY EXTRA-STRONG PENETRATING HEAT RUB INSTEAD OF HIS HAEMORRHOID CREAM



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## An Open Letter To Fandom

### "The Constitution of the Australian SF Convention

"There will be an annual Australian Science Fiction Convention, organised by a Convention Committee selected from amongst bids submitted to the Business Meeting at the Australian Science Fiction Convention, two calendar years before the Convention to be selected.

"The Convention Committee for each Australian SF Convention will, by a vote of the Convention members, after a nominating process involving Australian Fandom generally, award up to five Australian SF (Ditmar) Awards (of which, at least, one must be for fannish endeavours) and the William Atheling Jr Award for Criticism or Review.

"The Convention Committee will ensure that any surplus by an Australian SF Convention will be applied to the benefit of Australian Fandom generally, and shall not be used to reward individuals or groups connected with the Convention Committee.

"The Constitution may be changed by this method only: Notice of intention to amend, including the exact text, must be submitted to the Convention Committee in sufficient time to be published in the Convention Handbook (where this Constitution and any proposed amendment MUST be published) and then the amendment must be approved by a majority at the Business Meeting. No amendment will be in order if it has the effect of increasing the number of words in the Constitution."

'As a general rule, matters not explicitly covered by documents such as the above tend to be covered by the instrumentality that controls similar matters. For example, if one Business Meeting did not select the site for two years hence, the Business Meeting of the next Convention could argue that it should correct the matter. However, where a matter *is* covered by the Constitution, no other instrumentality may intervene. Hence the Convention Committee cannot choose future sites and the Business Meeting cannot determine the Ditmar Awards.

'But the SunCon Business Meeting did just that. It overturned the votes of the Convention members, abrogated the powers explicitly vested in the SunCon Convention Committee, and declared that one specific award was not a Ditmar but a 'Special Award of SunCon'. This is a measure that is not only not sanctioned in the Constitution that the Meeting claimed to be upholding, but which directly contravenes the second clause of that Constitution.

'The most that the Business Meeting could legitimately have done, given that SunCon had awarded six Ditmars rather than the five mentioned in the Constitution, was to demand that the Convention Committee strike down one award. The Business Meeting had no authority to decide *which* award; that falls entirely within the Convention Committee's domain.

'Indeed, and as an aside, given that many of the members who voted for the 1991 Ditmar Awards were not present at SunCon, it follows that *many of the '45 members' mentioned in the Minutes of the SunCon Business Meeting did not vote for the 1991 Ditmars* and therefore had not even a moral right to be indignant about the result. I think a list of voters *should* be published.

'You may wonder how all this is so awful, and the answer is, it is not — on the scale of the outer world. Fandom is a place most of us come to have fun. It should not be taken too seriously, no matter how deeply we enter into its activities. And that is why I have chosen to take this matter seriously: precisely because the individuals responsible for the above outrages *have* taken the matter seriously, but have also betrayed their contempt for the mechanisms and traditions of fandom, and in particular the traditions of the Ditmar Awards. Holding fandom as being beneath them, they have subverted the Business Meeting of the Australian SF Convention to be a kangaroo court and have used it in an attempt to rewrite the results of the 1991 Ditmar Awards voting process. *This I find intolerable. This I take seriously.*

'Having given the above matters due and thorough consideration, I serve notice of my intention to put the following motions to the SynCon 92 Business Meeting:

'(1) *"That the resolution of the SunCon Business Meeting declaring the Best Fannish Cat Ditmar category to be a "Special Award of SunCon" was unconstitutional and is therefore null and void."*

'(2) *"That this Meeting censures the SunCon Business Meeting for exceeding its powers and requests future Business Meetings to give proper thought to the ramifications of motions that come before them."*

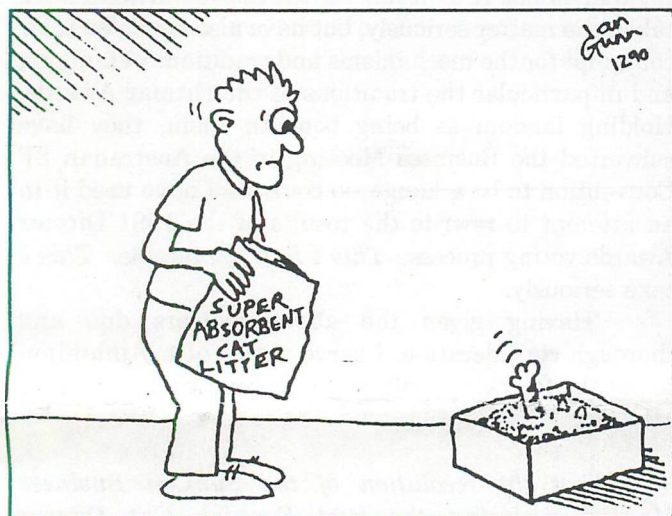
— Greg Hills  
9th May 1991

## Have Gall, Will Travel

A Column by Terry Frost

Rarely, but not too rarely, something happens in fandom which warms the cockles of my heart and fills my nervous system with pure delight. The Bunfight of the Vanities (otherwise known as the Ditoad Controversy) is a good case in point.

Like the original Bonfire of the Vanities it is a tug-o-war between conservative forces and those who aren't taking things too seriously and it has ended more or less the same. In 1497, Girolamo Savonarola, Dominican Friar and ruler of the Republic of Florence stopped the annual carnival and built a bonfire of the personal ornaments (wigs, ball gowns, etc), lewd pictures, cards, and gaming tables. (This parallels Fred Nile's dream for the gay mardi gras in Sydney: history regurgitates itself.) The upshot here is that the Pope had him hanged and burned on 23rd May 1498. Savonarola was a pious, charismatic bastard who wouldn't know a joke if he kissed its ring at the Holy See and, fittingly, he ended up as smog and charcoal.



As all of us now know, the Ditoads were a monumental April Fool's Day joke by Mark Loney, which went slightly arse-up when the real Ditmars weren't ready by the Monday of the NatCon. Subsequent personal business stopped Mark from revealing the jape until 1st May when he unveiled the stylish conical glass awards at the Nova Mob meeting. Only one person even voiced the suspicion that they were an April Fool's Joke and modesty forbids me from mentioning the name of this veritable Basil Rathbone among fans.

The next morning I made a call to one of the Savonarolas who lit the bunfight of the vanities in Brisbane and calmly explained the jape. When the objection came up that the new awards were possibly 'damage control' on the part of the SunConDitSubCom, it occurred to me that Mark Loney and Roger Weddall had gently hinted at the nature of the situation at various times since the NatCon. After passing on this information I was told by an unusually subdued but resolutely outraged Westralian gent that "some jokes just aren't funny, boss." I got the feeling that he was sorry that Western Australia didn't secede from the Federation after that referendum in 1930.

But it is funny. Mark put a lot on the line to pull this audacious, marvellous prank and the punchline was delayed too long, but I think it was worth it to see the censure motion passed by pious prigs at the NatCon Business Meeting and to see great defenders of fandom's dignity with egg on their clenched, florid faces. Savonarola is briquettes and smoke once more and the karma is back where it belongs. The natural level of humour and *joie de vivre* in our little subculture is restored and the Forces Of Levity Kicking Old Fart Fandom (FOLKOFF) again keep us from taking it all too seriously.

— Terry Frost

## Ditmar Hoax Revealed!

### Delivery Delay and Change of Date Make April's Fool

The Cane Toad Ditmars, centre of controversy, were a joke that went wrong.

The Cane Toads were given out at SunCon, the 1991 Australian SF Convention, held in Brisbane over Easter. However, the 1991 Ditmar SubCommittee has now revealed that the Cane Toads were not intended to be

the real trophies. The Awards Ceremony was originally expected to be held on Sunday 31st March. The Ditmar SubCommittee thought to lighten the occasion by giving out grotesque trophies. The dismay of the recipients was to have been healed when the *real* trophies were given out on Monday 1st April.

Unfortunately, the 'real' trophies were not ready in time — indeed, were only ready in April. Adding to the confusion, the Awards Ceremony was actually held on Saturday 30th March, completely destroying the joke's essential timing.

Mark Loney, responsible for the hoax, finally gave out the real Ditmar trophies (Conical glass with pastel swirls in their centres, different for each award) at the Nova Mob meeting on the 1st of May. Here is his letter to Terry Dowling, who was not present:

**1st May 1991**  
**Mark Loney's**  
**Letter to**  
**Terry Dowling**

'Dear Terry, One month ago today I had intended to personally unveil the 1991 Ditmar Awards at SunCon in

Brisbane. For reasons which are explained below, I was unable to do so and, as a result, the Cane Toad Ditmars have had considerably more impact than I ever thought was possible for *Bufo marinus* (a situation somewhat similar, I imagine, to those who originally introduced this species to Queensland!). To explain . . .

'When I was originally thinking through the 1991 Ditmar Awards Ceremony, I assumed that the presentation would be on the Sunday night, as is almost traditional for the Australian Science Fiction Convention, and planned for a Monday morning display



Mark Loney —  
The SunConDitSubCom

of the awards. The subsequent programming of the Award Ceremony for Saturday night didn't seem to pose any problems — I felt that Sunday could easily be spent catching up with friends from Brisbane and an extra day didn't seem to be stretching it out too far.

'The best laid plans of the SunCon-DitSubCom later . . .

'In retrospect, lack of prior experience in the construction of awards was my downfall. I misjudged the difficulty of procuring cane toads, for example, and they only arrived in Brisbane at almost the last minute. The cane toad shown off at the Ditmar Dinner in Melbourne did arrive, literally, at the last minute. My inexperience also showed with the

Nominee Plaques — they are based on the 1990 design but suffer from a manufacturing problem that means that they will all have to be recalled and modified.

'So, once again in retrospect, it isn't surprising that the Ditmar Awards took longer than I expected to cast, etch and engrave. Though, in my defence, I don't think I could have been expected to anticipate the persistent case of *bad glass*, a subject on which I can now talk as knowledgeably as anybody else down at the glass foundry, which resulted in the Ditmar Awards being finished after SunCon rather than before.

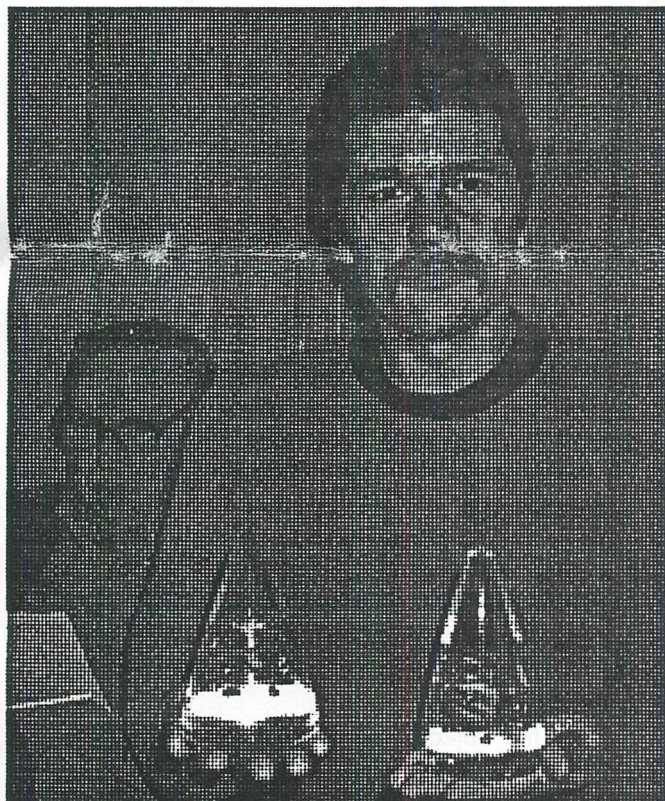
'So what was I to do? Well, to be perfectly honest, I wasn't quite sure. I dithered about whether or not to go to SunCon and eventually decided that, if I couldn't pull off the whole affair during the convention, I might as well stay in Melbourne. I then decided on Plan B, which was to unveil the Ditmar Awards at the April Nova Mob meeting, but an unexpected family matter resulted in me flying to Perth instead.

'But the Nova Mob meets again tonight and, given that this whole hoax was supposed to be over in less than twenty four hours, I don't suppose that, in the long run, there is much difference between it going on for an extra week or for an extra month. As you are the only Ditmar Award winner not resident in Melbourne, I trust that this covering letter is a reasonable substitute for the short speech and presentation that I intend to make at the Nova Mob this evening. I will also take the liberty of providing *THYME* and other interested parties with a copy of this letter.

'In conclusion I think that all I can say is that I am very pleased with the 1991 Ditmar Awards and disappointed that the SunCon membership was unable to see them in Brisbane.

'So, very belatedly, April Fool . . . from someone who feels more than a little April foolish . . .'

— Mark Loney  
for The SunConDitSubCom



Roger Weddall (holding Ditmars) at the Nova Mob  
(Wynne Whiteford in background)

## Australian SF Foundation Announces 'The Chandler'

The Australian Science Fiction Foundation announced in *THE INSTRUMENTALITY Vol.3 No.4* the establishment of an award for outstanding achievement in Australian sf. The new award, the 'A. Bertram Chandler Award' (colloquially 'The Chandler'), so named to honour the Foundation's late patron, a man well-loved in sf circles, will be awarded by a jury in years when there are deserving candidates available.

The award is seen as a recognition for services or achievements in Australian sf that go beyond the expected or everyday. An example that has been cited is that Carey Handfield would certainly have received one in 1985 for his endeavours in holding the **Aussiecon II** Committee together. However, the Chandler is seen as applying not just to work in fandom but to professional efforts as well — not so much for the writers (who have their recognition in the *Ditmars*) as for those who do the rarely-thanked donkey work.

ASFF Vice-President Alan Stewart is handling advancement of the award. Correspondence should be addressed to 'The Chandler Award', ASFF, PO Box 428, Richmond 3121.

### 'The Berts' Pipped

The Foundation's choice of the Chandler name apparently caused consternation in some quarters. A group that includes John Gaspar of Sydney's Galaxy Bookshop and Juston Ackroyd of Slow Glass Books has apparently been planning (since **SunCon**) a set of professional jury awards and also intended to use Chandler's name. Unfortunately the Foundation's award, initiated in January, already has permission from Bertram Chandler's wife, Susan Chandler, to use the name. *THYME* has heard (unconfirmed) rumours that this other group is now not proceeding.

### 1992 Award

Depending on availability of suitable candidates, the ASFF hopes to present the first 'Chandler' at **SynCon 92**. Susan Chandler has agreed to participate in the presentation ceremony.

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## A Modest Proposal Revisited, Revised Or, How The Rogers St Collective Is Taking Over Fandom!

While *THYME* hates to disagree with itself, new editors may not agree with something that old ones said. We disagree with LynC's very confused reportage in *THYME* 82 of the 'Modest Proposal' proposal.

LynC's presentation gave the impression that her first five paragraphs were quoted from *THE INSTRUMENTALITY* ('*TI*'). They were not. Nor were they a good summary. I'll save space by not quoting LynC's piece; most readers should still have their copies of *THYME* 82 (page 8) available.

The vaunted 'independence' of the broadsheet, which LynC felt the ASFF was attempting to undermine, is a Furphy. The Proposal, and the petitions which caused the Foundation to discuss the matter, urged the Foundation to both fund *and* run the broadsheet. To quote 'A Modest Proposal': '... the ASFF is the ideal body to launch and administer this project. As the Foundation produces a newsletter already (*THE INSTRUMENTALITY*) it would be natural for it to develop to fill this role.'

The Australian SF Foundation attempts to be 'independent of the factions of fandom' and attempts to serve all areas of fandom impartially. In actual fact the

Proposal discussed in *THYME* 82 was the original handbill made up by Roman Orszanski at **SunCon**, not the modified version subsequently put forward by Eric Lindsay (a person NOT connected with the Foundation) and distributed with *TI* (May 1991) as *SF INFORMATION 0*. When he took up the idea, Eric changed many features of it, and it was this modified version of the Proposal whose funding was subsequently discussed by the Foundation. In fact, the Foundation rejected the idea of using *TI* — just as it also rejected Eric's suggested 30,000-copy print run.

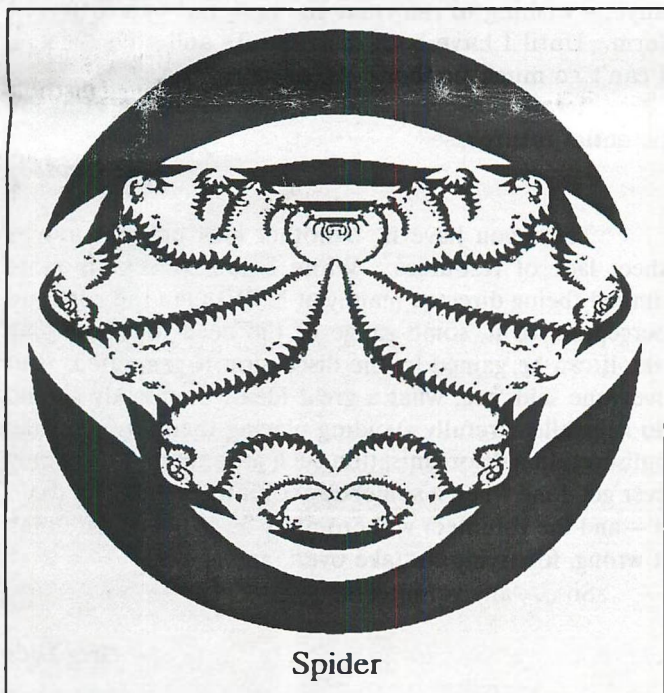
Eric has since advised *THYME* that due to the lack of willing advertisers, sponsors, and distributors to run the broadsheet on the necessary scale, he is not proceeding in full with his project, though he will continue to collect information and make it available to anyone wishing to distribute copies at their own expense. (*SF Info 0.b* is being distributed with this issue of *THYME*. Eric's letter is printed below.)

As for objection to coordination with *THYME*, *THYME* has at various times distributed fan fund flyers, newsletters, Fiction supplements, and so on. Does that mean that *THYME* 'took over' these? Distribution of the

broadsheet outside *THYME* was also suggested in *TI* (May), in the sentence following the one mentioning coordination with *THYME*.

Mention of 'certain elements . . . attempting to take over Oz fandom' in the same breath as naming Mark Loney and myself is personally offensive as well as wrong. 'Hey look folks! The Rogers St Collective Is Taking Over!' Yes, LynC, we forced you to resign from *THYME* in our favour with our Mind Control Ray. Mark Loney and I can easily control the feeble wills of the Foundation Committee. Our henchman Roger Weddall controls **Conjunction** (and controlled **Danse Macabre**); through Alan Stewart we control the Melbourne SF Club, FFANZ, the Nova Mob, and **Constantinople**. We sent Michelle Muijsert off to the UK to investigate expansion overseas once we consolidate our grip on Australian Fandom. Meanwhile we subverted Roelof Goudriaan to Take Over GUFF. Greg Turkich resisted our malign will but through Art Widner we Took Over DUFF. Through Gerald Smith (who agreed, note, with elements of my Open Letter about the doings at **SunCon**; a clear sign of Mind Control) we are Taking Over Sydney fandom despite the efforts of the heretic Herman. Julian Warner subverted (retroactively) the blonde Lucy Sussex into jokingly suggesting we run the door she was then leaning against for DUFF. We even forced *you* to print the Sarah Foster Tate broohah. Come to think of it, LynC, when you put it all together we obviously *already* control fandom and our crony James Styles is spearheading our thrust into the real world by attempting to Take Over the Richmond City Council. Today fandom, tomorrow . . .

Uh . . . I feel dizzy . . . don't know what came over me. What have I said? Where's the 'delete' key gone? While I look for some white-out, here's Cath Ortlieb's Mind-Controlled response to LynC's piece:



Spider

Cath Ortlieb  
PO Box 215  
Forest Hill 3131

'In response to LynC's 'A Modest Proposal to Improve Communications Within Fandom', I would

like to answer the implication that as two members of the Foundation Committee are also the new editors of *THYME*, the neutrality of the Foundation and the Modest Proposal are being compromised. I realise that LynC is voicing what some fans are saying, and I'd like to thank her for her honesty in putting it into print, so this answer is to fandom in general.

'The Foundation is made up of people who are, in one way or another, involved in fandom. The Committee is thus a reflection of this involvement. Being a member of the Committee does not mean that all other fannish activities must cease. The fact that Mark and Greg are now editors of *THYME* has nothing to do with their membership of the Committee. The Foundation Committee is made up of six members and when decisions are made no two members can override the other four. Believe me, Mark and Greg, although their opinions are valued, are not the people who make decisions. Give the rest of us some credit for having our own opinions and the ability to state and stick to them. Remember that it was the Committee that censored Greg when he changed the style of *THE INSTRUMENTALITY* and made it very clear that the Foundation, and its mouth-piece, had to be neutral.

'The Foundation was *asked* to fund the 'Modest Proposal' and it is prepared to do so. The reason it was suggested that it be distributed with *THYME* was to avoid unnecessary duplication of information. More fans get *THYME* than are members of the Foundation (a plug here for more involvement of fans with the Foundation. If you don't like what it's doing, join the Foundation and do something about it!). *THYME* would not be the only means of distribution but why not use it? The Foundation does not have unlimited funds and needs to ensure that those funds go as far as possible.

'I really don't see what the fuss is about. A listing of conventions and fannish groups, etc, is simply that. Where is it suggested that the Foundation or the members will comment on or vet the information? Finally, I hope that all those who are criticising Mark, Greg and/or the Foundation and implying some sort of take-over of fandom: if you really believe this is the case, *why don't you do something about it?*'

— Cath Ortlieb  
ASFF President

This makes the second time these mysterious 'other fans' have cropped up. We are intrigued. Who are they? What are their names? What is their percentage in spreading paranoid rumours? And if they honestly believe that anyone who *does something* in fandom is Taking Over, why don't they Do Something themselves to stop it?

Back to the 'Modest Proposal'. Here is Eric Lindsay's response to the Foundation's request for more detail about his idea:

Eric Lindsay  
7 Nicoll Ave  
Ryde 2112  
7 July 1991

'In reply to your letter regarding *SF INFO*, I feel that Greg Hills and I had about the same understanding of the matter, and

I was indeed going to submit a proposal to ASFF. Additional consideration regarding the nature of the publication has convinced me there is no point in involving ASFF.

'First, my only aim in doing *SF INFO* was to bring about a situation in which there was an increased potential for attracting new members to fandom. By fandom, I tend to mean the traditional misfits of literary and fanzine fandom.

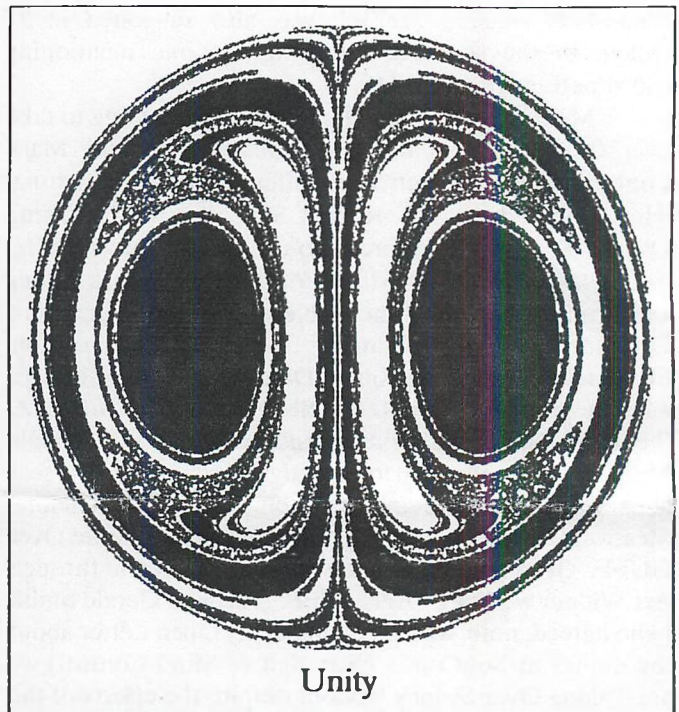
'Second, I wanted to attract them in NSW. Any spillover effects elsewhere were welcome, but not central to my intention.

'Third, the most likely recruiting grounds were existing media organisations, and clubs, plus the large numbers of attendees at universities, etc.

'Fourth, the likely response rate (for my purposes) would be in the order of one in a thousand. This immediately argued for an exceedingly large circulation (hence the 30,000 I specified). A circulation in the hundreds, or a circulation only among existing groups, is almost pointless for my purposes.

'The cost of, say, 10,000 A3 zines, single sheet, is in the order of \$750, not including distribution costs. Distribution, especially amongst university and similar sites, remains a major unsolved problem. The cost of central printing followed by redistribution appears impossibly high. We are talking up to 30 large boxes of paper here, & Ye Olde Post Office can't cut it on costs.

'Therefore, I conclude that in the long term, the project would need, not ASFF startup funds, but instead paid-for advertising to the tune of \$1500 per 10,000 copies. It would also need "local" printing (within each state at least). Most important, it needs sub-distributors. I have no indication that I can get anywhere near the number of sub-distributors I need in NSW. So far I could expect to distribute only hundreds here, not the thousands I need.



'Under these circumstances I'm not willing to waste my money in printing up vast numbers. I'm also not willing to ask the ASFF to waste its money printing them.

'At present I have another double sided A4 page (in tiny 7 point type), which I will supply to ANYONE who wants to circulate it. [It is attached with this issue of *THYME*. Ed] It will be up to them to arrange printing. Until the circulation is large enough to move to proper printing, I can't move to the preferred A3 size that would let me add additional material and increase the type size. I can also supply the ASCII text, for anyone wishing to reformat the material to a different form. Until I have both distributors and advertisers, I can't go much further.

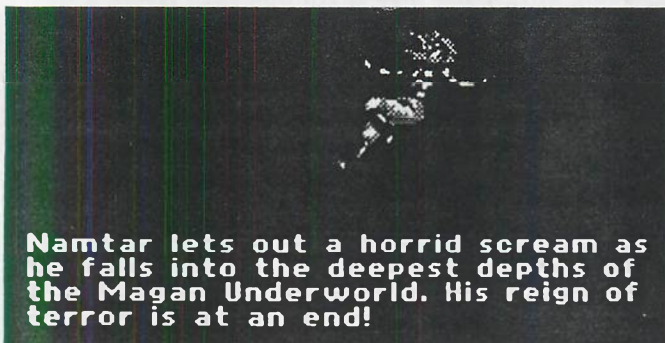
'I will, however, continue to collect material for potential future use.'

— Eric Lindsay

There you have it. Another idea brought low by sheer lack of resources. While Eric's concept is more limited (being directed mainly at NSW) than the common perception of it, some gauge of the need for something like it can be gained by the discussion it generated. But everyone said 'gee, what a great idea! Somebody should do it!' while carefully avoiding placing themselves on the bullseye. In a disorganisation such as fandom, things only ever get done when a somebody volunteers themselves to do it — and the volunteer will promptly be criticised for doing it wrong, for trying to 'take over', and so on.

So . . . any volunteers?

— Greg Hills



Namtar lets out a horrid scream as he falls into the deepest depths of the Magan Underworld. His reign of terror is at an end!

## LEGENDS: A Seminar

### Legends: A Seminar

In 1990 Jack conceived a notion  
 'We'll have a serious *academic* convention.  
 We'll have a seminar with Random Century;  
 Streams to include running an SF library.  
 Let the people know how to pub their books,  
 Pull readers and scholars out of their nooks.'

So in mid-July we boarded a plane  
 ('Twas same price and faster than train)  
 And took ourselves to Sydney for a weekend  
 To attend a seminar called *Legend(s)*.  
 We also attended a Commodore exhibition  
 Simultaneous to our non-convention.

The authors Tad Williams and Greg Bear  
 Bounced off each other without a care  
 One was SF, the other fantasy,  
 But both had read their history;  
 Both knew about Homer's *Odyssea*  
 And ancient Briton's *Boadicea*.

'You've got it wrong', they both declaimed  
 'SF is a part of Fantasy,' they explained.  
 'All fiction, myth and even lies,  
 Fall in fantasy's boundaries.  
 SF is one of the spectrum's ends,  
 The other — Tolkienesque and legends'

Of Room parties, there was only one  
 Hosted by *Syncon '92* or 1.  
 Terry and young Tad entertained us  
 With sixties songs, to Jane's disgust;  
 And but one Australian song  
 To help us parochials along.

Sunday morning saw Clive and I away,  
 To Darling Harbour across the bay,  
 To see CD's become a video show  
 At the Commodore Amiga Show.  
 Then we headed back to *Legend's* lair  
 Armed with some extra software.

After lunch our critics agreed they like each other,  
 Though each other's works they often smother.  
 The quote of the con came from Stephen Hart\*,  
 Then followed some fascinating future art.  
 The final session saw Philip snappy,  
 But overall Jack was . . . 'not unhappy'.

— LynC

### Poem and Notes by LynC

#### Notes:

Apologies for any inaccuracies necessitated by form.

- \* 'If he points a raygun at you and you die, it's SF.  
 'If he points a finger at you and you die, it's Fantasy.'

People referred to by first name only:

Jack = Jack Herman

Terry = Terry Dowling

Jane = Jane Tissell

Clive = Clive Newall

— LynC



### An Ad-Hoc Column by Tim Jones

A quick rundown on NZ fandom, from an admittedly biased perspective — I'm currently National Treasurer of NASF, the National Association for SF, now past its 15th anniversary. After a decline in membership, influence and reputation in past years, NASF has picked up over the past year, since the National Committee has been based in Dunedin. Membership has increased from just over 30 to 50 (still not high and still very light on members north of Wellington, but a considerable improvement) Our clubzine *WARP* has improved noticeably in both appearance and content. Now to conquer the North Island . . .

Some updated information on NZ cons: *DisContinuity's* hotel is the Allenby Park Motor Lodge, 481 Great South Road, Papatoetoe. Room rates are (a) for a Studio Room — one double bed and one single bed — \$85 one person, \$85 two, \$90 three; (b) for a Family Unit — one double bed and two single beds (these units have fully equipped kitchen), \$115 for two people, \$120 for three, \$125 for four. *THYME 82's* information about *Contradiction* appears correct, but I trust that Greg will remedy the claim that Picton is in Wellington! Despite the 'joke' GoHs, this is a serious venture.

Continues bottom of next page . . .



## Call for Nominations for Guff Race 1991 Deadline 31st (not 15th) of August

GUFF, the Going Under Fan Fund or Get-up-and-over Fan Fund (depending on where you're standing), was founded in 1979 to further contacts between the sf fan communities of Europe and Australia. It facilitates this objective by sending a popularly elected fan from one continent to the other, to attend a major convention and meet local fans.

Candidates are put up for election upon their nomination by five fans, three from Europe and two from Australia when sending a European to Australia. They are required to present a 50-word description of themselves (or anything they think will help their chances — it's *their* platform), pay a bond of \$10/£5 and pledge to attend the convention if they should win the GUFF race.

The candidate elected makes the trip, and upon returning home administers the fund for the next two elections and fends off questions relating to the publication of a trip report...

The money which goes towards paying the winner's airfare is raised via voting fees, general donations, donations of material for mail and con auctions, and any other fundraising stunts the administrators can think up.

Last year, GUFF winner Roman Orszanski, of Adelaide, South Australia, attended the Worldcon in The Hague, The Netherlands. Parts of his trip report have appeared in *DOXA!*, his fanzine, and he threatens to bring out a complete edition by year's end. Roman joins John Foyster (1979), Joseph Nicholas (1981), Justin Ackroyd (1984), Eve Harvey (1987), and Roelof Goudriaan (1989) as previous GUFF winners. Nominations are now open for the 1991 GUFF race, to send a fan from Europe to the 1992 Australian National Convention in Sydney.

Nominees have until Midnight August 31st, Greenwich Mean Time *this year* to get nomination details to either of the current Administrators:

<b>Australia: Roman Orszanski</b>	<b>Europe: Roelof Goudriaan</b>
PO Box 131	Caan Van Necklaan 63
MARDEN SA 5070	2218 BB Rijswijk (ZH)
(Work Fax: +61 8 223 4075)	THE NETHERLANDS

*Nomination packages must include the candidate's platform, a signed pledge to attend the con (barring acts of God) if they win the race, nominations from 5 fans (3 from Europe, 2 from Australia), and a nomination fee of \$10/£5.*

### New Zealand News



#### Notes From The Eastern Isles

... Continued  
from Previous Page

NZ's economic downturn hasn't dampened the enthusiasm of con organisers — I know of yet another upcoming con, **Fantasy V**, in Christchurch on 21–22 Sept at the WEA Centre, 59 Gloucester St. Registration is \$20 (all these figures are NZ\$). **Gillian Calvert**, 2/129 Peterborough St, Christchurch 1. The state of the economy is, however, affecting the geographical spread of con attendees as internal travel becomes both absolutely and relatively more expensive. **ForreyCon**, the 1991 NatCon in Wellington, had only 11 attendees from south of Christchurch. Ten years ago, two cons at the same time (Easter '92), one in Auckland, one in Picton, would have seemed unthinkable, but both will probably flourish, with few Aucklanders at **Contradiction** and few South Islanders being able to pay the big bucks necessary to get near Terry Pratchett.

The fanzine scene has picked up a little, with an impressive debut by Dan McCarthy — **TALES FROM TOVY POENAMU**, Rex Thompson's **PARADOX LOST**,

and Nigel Rowe's **FROM SCRATCH 2**. The NASF Branch clubzines — **VOGON VOLUMES** (Christchurch) and **SOUTH END** (Invercargill) are going strong, while **CRY HAVOC** has soared free from Wellington NASF to become a genzine. I don't see many of the media zines, but Dr Who **TIME-SPACE VISUALISER** is impressive.

The 'Beanie' results from **ForreyCon** reflect the high esteem in which Alex Heatley's **PHLOGISTON** is held in NZ fandom. Main advantages are its quarterly regularity and the high standard of contributions Alex attracts. Lately the zine has been focussing on advice for and from sf writers (notably Graham Collins and Phillip Mann) on the writing of sf, reflecting the number of sf writers arising out of fandom. Lyn McConchie has made two US fiction sales recently.

NZ's apa, **Aotearapa** has been on a high during the past couple of years — James Dignan edits both **Aotearapa** and **WARP**, and has improved the standard of both, in Ao's case by attracting new members and re-enthusing old ones. In summary, I'd say that the high quality of NZ's fanzines and apa make up for their low numbers!

— Tim Jones

## Why This Issue Is Early

— The Editorial

Thyme has been around a little more than a decade. Seems longer, we know, but that's simply a reflection of how deeply this magazine has embedded itself in Australian fandom. So when we heard that LynC was tired of doing it and planned to kill it off, we decided to step in and give it a new lease on life.

This issue should give some idea of what we plan to do with the magazine. Being the editor of the Australian SF Foundation's publication, *THE INSTRUMENTALITY*, Greg was able to get in a bit of practice before the load was dumped on us, so what you are reading is a concept already developed and with some of the bugs removed. Not that we plan to let that stop us making new and wonderful mistakes. It'll give you the opportunity to nitpick.

You may wonder why this issue is so soon after LynC's last. We wanted to remind you that while one branch of this perennial has been nipped, another is live and growing. We hope to publish *THYME* a little more frequently than did the previous editor. We think that there is a crying need for a frequent *THYME*. Some of the material in this issue duplicates material in *THYME* 82. There is a reason for that. The reason is that we have been holding this issue, almost ready to publish, since the beginning of May, waiting on LynC's final issue.

One point that should be made is that while we have the rights to the *THYME* title and have inherited the mailing-list, we were passed only that subscription money arriving since February. While we will interpret left-over subscriptions generously, we will not guarantee that subscriptions issued prior to February 1991 will run their full term, if that term currently extends beyond the end of 1991. Many readers will shortly get the Big Red Ex. But cheer up! As always, if you Do Something when the Mark of Shame appears, you can stave off the end.

One reason for this fiscal tightness is that neither of us can presently afford to carry too much dead weight on the mailing list; indeed, we are looking to see *THYME* eventually **\*\*CHASP\*\*** break even, if possible. We hope that this and the next couple of issues will persuade you that it's worth your while to subscribe, in order to keep up with the latest in Australian science fiction and fandom. *THYME* is still available for trade or substantial contribution. Keep that news rolling in!

Thanks for this issue go to all those who provided news and encouragement during the long wait, particularly Jules, Lucy, Alan, Terry, Lyn, and Roger.

— Greg Hills and Mark Loney

# News, People, Events

## Short News

Sydney in 95, though dead and rotting, refuses to go away. But at least it has changed its name — to **Sydney Fans Incorporated**. The all-new redecorated zombie has already announced a roster of upcoming events (see under *Social Calendar*, below), and plans to continue its bid-zine *SINCHRONICITY* as a club magazine. SFInc may be contacted at PO Box 429, Sydney 2001.

SYNCON 92 has announced a plethora of competitions:

**Literary** — SF/F Short story

**Art** — professional & amateur, several categories

**Photographic** — SF theme and general

**Animation** — Computer, Cell, Modelling, etc.

They have also announced that the con hotel is to be the Shore Inn in Artarmon, northern Sydney, rooms \$95 per night single, twin, or double. No triples.

Constantinople has decided to go for broke and is now bidding for both the 1994 Australian SF Convention and the 1994 Australian SF Media Convention. If they bid successfully at both SynCon 92 and HongCon 92, it will be the first time these two events will have been combined.

The 1992 New Zealand National Convention is **ShakyCon**, to be held in Wellington from 29th May to 1st June 1992. Professional Guest of Honour is Joe Haldeman. Fan Guest is Rex Thompson, who may be a busy boy in 1992

as he is also standing for FFANZ. The hotel is the West Plaza Hotel, 110-116 Wakefield St, Wellington. The ConCom is Alex Heatley (Director), Graham Edge (Secty & Hotel), Sue Martin-Smith (Treasurer), Vince Martin-Smith (Technical), and Thorin Roelants (Inspirational Media). They already have a tentative program worked out. Attending Membership is NZ\$45 now and will rise to NZ\$50 at the door. Supporting Membership is NZ\$20. **ShakyCon**, PO Box 11-559, Wellington, New Zealand.

Speaking of FFANZ, the 1992 race is now open. The candidates are Rex Thompson and Linette Horne. The Australian Administrator is Alan Stewart (PO Box 222, World Trade Centre, Melbourne 3005); Brian Howell has stepped down as NZ Administrator and has been replaced by a joint Lyn McConchie / Nigel Rowe junta (PO Box 27-432, Wellington, NZ). Trusting sorts, these Kiwis.

## Changes of Address

**Terry Frost/Lin Wolfe** have a new new address (yes, the one in 7/67 Mifford St THYME 82 is already out of date!)  
St Kilda 3182  
ph: 531-6713

**Michelle Muijsert** is coming back from GruBtin late in August. Here is at least a temporary contact address and number.  
PO Box 428  
Richmond 3121  
ph: 427-0691

Still on Kiwidom, the 1991 NZ awards (this year called 'the Beanies' because ForreyCon Guest of Honour Forrest J Ackerman brought across a bagful of propellor beanies, which were pressed into service as trophies) went (somewhat redundantly in places) to:

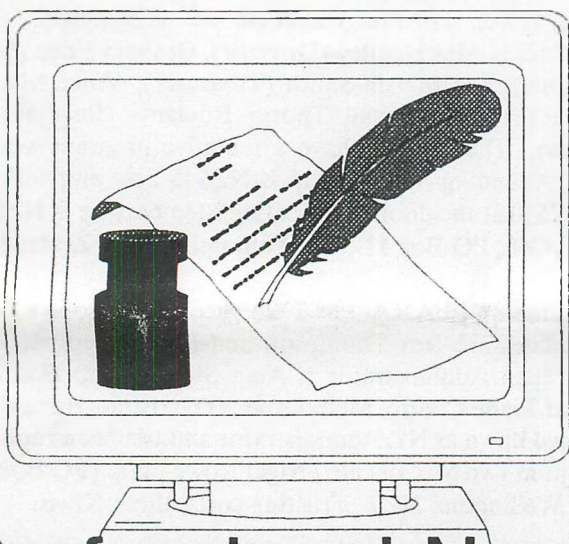
Fanwriter: *Alan Robson*  
 Fanartist: *Dan McCarthy*  
 Fanzine: *PHLOGISTON (Alex Heatley)*  
 Editor: *Alex Heatley (PHLOGISTON).*

While we're bashing Kiwis, ForreyCon: The Movie. 90 minutes of videotape from ForreyCon — before, during, after. Could this be the start of a new fad? NZ\$20 from Peter Hassall, PO Box 27-432, Wellington, New Zealand. Oh, yes, they also offer T-shirts, autographed art, and (soon) autographed editions of *FAMOUS MONSTERS MAGAZINE*. Why didn't SunCon think of this?

The MSFC Winter Fete was held in Melbourne on the 14th of July. Despite showers, it went off well, a good time was had by all, and the club raised some funds.

Katrine Papworth and Apollo Zammit announced their engagement at the MSFC on 12th July.

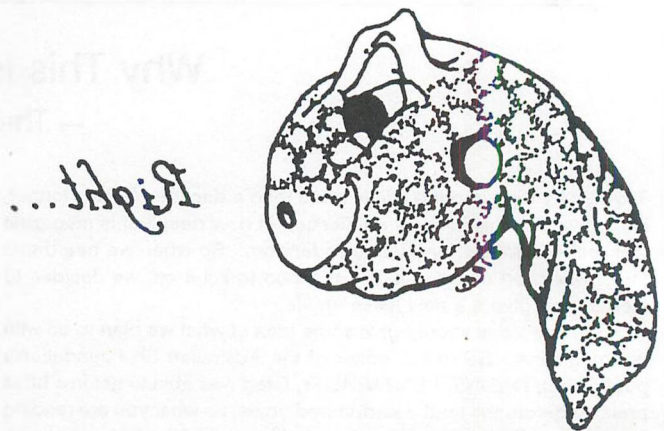
The Otherworlds Fair (II) will be held 10am—4pm 1st September 1991 at the Scout Hall, 213A Weston St, Brunswick East (near Nicholson St). Contact Wendy Ratter, (03)-383-2846.



## Professional News

**Greg Bear** has submitted a sequel to *THE FORGE OF GOD* to his publishers. His next book will probably be an omnibus edition of *THE INFINITY CONCERTO* and *THE SERPENT MAGE*, possibly titled *SONG OF EARTH*.

**Lucy Sussex** has a book, *DEERSNAKE* (her title) in the costings stage. She recently took part with four other



writers in a Benefit Reading for Friends of the Earth — her own contribution being from an unpublished story with Philip K Dick as a character.

**George Turner** has a book, *BRAINCHILD*, with William Morrow in New York. He has also completed another book, titled *THE WAITING AXE* — hopefully not a prophetic title!

**Wynne Whiteford** has sent off *SHADOW OF THE KESRIL* (his title), a sequel to *THE HYADES CONTRACT*. Meantime, Australian Large Print Books are bringing out *THE HYADES CONTRACT* in large print in October and have contracted for four other Whiteford titles in the next year or so.

**Spinifex Press** is a new feminist publishing house. Their anthology *ANGELS OF POWER* has a non-sf story by Lucy Sussex and reprints *Tanami Drift* by Rosaleen Love. The book is 'about 50% sf'.

### A Fannish Time Zone

*Sheryl Birkhead* writes to ask: 'I have a suggestion that, of course, will only be of interest to US readers — so you may not want to do it — but after reading all those nifty CoAs and new phone numbers, can you tell me what the time difference is between the US and Australia? I see all those notations about phone numbers for after hours and wonder what, here, exactly is after hours.'

We thought this might be of interest to fans ringing out from as well as into Australia, and from countries other than the US. Bearing in mind the effects of local variations such as Daylight Saving, near as we can make it out, when it's 5pm Friday in Melbourne it's

Gaithersburg	2am	Adelaide	4:30pm
Auckland	7pm	Brisbane	5pm
London	7am	Los Angeles	11pm THU
Minneapolis	1am	New York	2am
Perth	3pm	Sydney	5pm
The Hague	8am	Toronto	7am
TruFandom	7am	Warsaw	8am
Wellington	7pm	Zagreb	8am

## Recent Reading

**CRY HAVOC Jun91** 24pp A5 Act. Publication of Wellington Branch of NZ National Assn for SF. PO Box 2836, Wellington, New Zealand.

**DOXY 2:3** 8pp A4 Act. John 'Publish and be damned!' Foyster maintains his usual degree of journalistic accuracy on affairs current in Oz fandom. John Foyster, PO Box 3086, Grenfell St, Adelaide 5000.

**ETHEL THE AARDVARK 36,37** 28,20pp A4 Act / join MSFC. Reviews, Reports, Letters. Consistency and regularity are *Ethel's* strong points. MSFC, PO Box 212, World Trade Centre 3005.

**FROM SCRATCH 2** 52pp A5 Act. '60 Years of NZ Fandom', also Nigel's retreat from the yUK. Nigel Rowe, PO Box 27-432, Upper Willis Street, New Zealand.

**GEGENSCHEIN 60** 16pp A4 Act. The 'Clever' Country, SwanCon 16, recent reading. Eric Lindsay, 7 Nicoll Ave, Ryde 2112.

**NAF'N'IFICS 1**, 'The Australian Fan Magazine for SF&F'. 46pp A4 \$4.50. Features xtensive listing of Australasian SF/F clubs of all types. PO Box 353, Cannon Hill 4170.

**Q36 K** 25pp A4 Act. 'So Who Needs SF?', George Turner, the Ditmars. Marc maintains *Q36* as a pleasant read. Marc Ortlieb, PO Box 215, Forest Hill 3131.

**SHARDS OF BABEL 32** 12pp A4 Act/Subscribe. The European SF Newsletter by Roelof Goudriaan. Babel, Caan van Necklaan 63, 2281 BB Rijswijk ZH, Netherlands.

**SGLODION 3** 12pp A4 Act. Yvonne Rousseau claims the credit for Best Fannish Cat Ditmar category. Dave Langford, 94 London Rd, Reading, Berkshire RG1 5AU, UK.

**SWANCON 17 PR Jul91** 20pp A4 Join. More on 'The Festival of the Imagination'. (Address in Con Calendar)

**THYME 82** 28pp A4 Act. LynC takes leave of *THYME*. Tenth Anniversary Issue. LynC, PO Box 4024, Melbourne University 3052

**WEBERWOMAN'S WREVENGE 40** 16pp A4 Act. Jean's parents visit the Soviet Union, Lyn McConchie talks about life in NZ. Jean Weber, 7 Nicoll Ave, Ryde 2112.

**YE OLDE SOCKS 1** 10pp A4 Act. Julian Warner on the Toad Ditmars, Dr Gonzo, and banging journalists assholes. Julian Warner, 39 Chapman St, North Melbourne 3051.

Recent fanzines seen at the *THYME* offices. Act = Available for Contribution or Trade — also known as 'The Usual'.

### Constantinople In '94

(BIDDING FOR BOTH AUSTRALIAN NATCONS)

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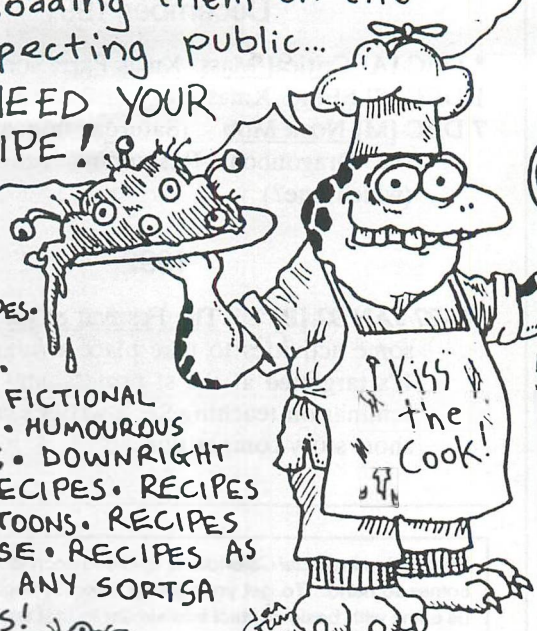
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WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO SUPPLY EVERYONE WITH A CONTRIBUTOR'S COPY, BUT WE'LL CERTAINLY TRY!  
REPRODUCTION OF THIS AD IS ENCOURAGED.



## The THYME Social Calendar

### August 1991

- 7 AUG [A] Critical Mass John Foyster, 'The Longest View, Part 2'  
 7 AUG [M] Nova Mob Alan Stewart, 'NZ Fans'  
 7 AUG [P] SwanCon 18 Quiz Night Tradewinds Hotel, 59 Canning Hwy, East Fremantle. \$7 ticket. Tables of 6. Bar. BYO Munchies  
 7 AUG [S] Blue Mts Monthly meeting  
 9 AUG [M] MSFC Mystery Film Night  
 16 AUG [M] MSFC Instant Fanzine. Theme: *Travel*  
 23 AUG [M] MSFC Twin Peaks night (A fundraiser for Conjunction 3)  
 30 AUG [M] MSFC Soft Toy Auction (A fundraiser for MSFC and Constantinople)  
 30 AUG [P] Westrek Monthly meeting 8pm

### September 1991

- 1 SEP [S] SFInc Trivia Afternoon  
 4 SEP [A] Critical Mass A Bray, 'Recycled Garbage'  
 4 SEP [M] Nova Mob W Whiteford, 'Science in SF'  
 4 SEP [S] Blue Mts Monthly meeting  
 6 SEP [M] MSFC Computer Games  
 7 SEP [S] Star Trek 25th Anniversary Ball 7pm to midnight at Gazebo Hotel, Elizabeth Bay, Sydney. Costume or Formal. \$36 person, include SSAE. RSVP by 7aug91 to Holodiction (see page 12)  
 13 SEP [M] MSFC Childhood Show and Tell. Bring something from your childhood and Tell All  
 20 SEP [M] MSFC Animation Festival  
 27 SEP [M] MSFC SF Night  
 27 SEP [P] Westrek Monthly meeting 8pm

### Regular Events

[A]delade Critical Mass meets 8pm first Wednesday monthly to talk about sf and related topics. Venue is South Australian Writers Centre, 2nd Floor, 155 Pirie St, Adelaide. Info (08)-261-3721.

[B]risbane No info on hand.

[M]elbourne Friday Nighting is probably the easiest way to meet Melbourne fans. Front up at Myers K&M Food Mall (off Elizabeth St) 6pm Fridays; the fans take over the two big tables in the main section of the mall.

[M]elbourne Melbourne SF Club meets 7:30pm Fridays at St. David's Church Hall, 74 Melville Rd, West Brunswick. (Take a No. 55 tram, get out at Stop 33. Melway map 29 C6). Info (03)-370-0503.

[M]elbourne Nova Mob meets ~6pm first Wednesday monthly for dinner then adjourns to talk about sf and related topics. Info (03)-429-8354.

[P]erth Westrek meets 8pm last Friday monthly at Lapidary & Rock Hunting Hall, 31-35 Gladstone Rd, Riverdale. \$2 door fee. Info (09)-362-5713.

[S]ydney Blue Mountains SF Group meets first Friday monthly. Info (047)-51-5740 or (047)-59-2187.

[S]ydney Sydney Fans Incorporated organises things, including Woodstock Round Table (a Sydney version of the Nova Mob). Currently meeting 2pm at Woodstock Community Centre, Church St, Burwood, Sydney.

### October 1991

- 2 OCT [A] Critical Mass R Oszanski, 'The Other Carroll'  
 2 OCT [M] Nova Mob B Gillespie, 'Jonathan Carroll'  
 2 OCT [S] Blue Mts Monthly meeting  
 6 OCT [S] SFInc Woodstock Round Table  
 25 OCT [P] Westrek Monthly meeting 8pm

### November 1991

- 3 NOV [S] SFInc Race Day  
 6 NOV [A] Critical Mass Z Bekric, 'Lovecraftian Horror'  
 6 NOV [M] Nova Mob B Barnes, 'Japanese Animation'  
 6 NOV [S] Blue Mts Monthly meeting  
 29 NOV [P] Westrek Monthly meeting 8pm

### December 1991

- ? DEC [A] Critical Mass Xmas Party some day/where  
 1 DEC [S] SFInc Xmas Party. BBQ somewhere  
 7 DEC [M] Nova Mob (Saturday midday) Yum Cha at the Dragonboat Restaurant, central Melbourne (which one?)

### 1992

- 24-27 JAN 92 [P] The Festival of the Imagination is some activities to take place around SwanCon 17. It's targetted at the sf professional and includes a seminar on teaching SF, a writer's workshop, and a short story competition.

Information in *Social Calendar* is updated each issue with whatever comes to hand. To get your group listed in *Regular Events* drop us a line with basic contact info similar to that shown above. Ditto to correct info in either listing.

## *The THYME Convention Calendar*

### CONCAVE 2 (Multi-media Relaxacon. For fun)

**Dates:** 2-4 August 1991  
**Venue:** Welcome Inn & Swanston Hotel, Melbourne  
**GoHs:** Frank Hellard (maybe), Karen Pender-Gunn  
**Rates:** \$50 to 1 August, \$60 Door, \$35 one-day.  
 \$10 Supporting  
**Banquet:** \$10  
**Rooms:** \$95 sing/doub/twin + \$20 3rd person in  
 'executive' rooms. \$150 after 14jul91  
**Mail:** PO Box 409, Canterbury 3126

### CHICON V (1991 WorldCon)

**Dates:** 29 August-2 September 1991  
**Venue:** Hyatt Regency, Chicago  
**GoHs:** Hal Clement, Richard Powers (Art),  
 Martin Greenberg, Jon & Joni Stopa.  
 Toastmaster: Marta Randall.  
**Rates:** US\$125, US\$75 child. US\$30 Supporting  
**Rooms:** \$70 sing/doub + \$20 person trip/quad.  
**Mail:** Registrn: PO Box 218121, Upper Arlington,  
 OH 43221-8121, USA  
 Info: PO Box A3120, Chicago, IL 60690-3120

### CONFICTIONARY (SF/F & everything)

**Dates:** 6-8 September 1991  
**Venue:** Hotel Adelaide, 62 Brougham Pl, N Adelaide  
**GoH:** Yvonne Rousseau  
**Rates:** \$50 (\$40 Concession for the unwaged),  
 \$60 Door (\$50 Concession), \$15 Supporting  
**Rooms:** Circa \$85 per room  
**Mail:** PO Box 428, Prospect 5082

### QUARTERCON (Presented by Conquest)

**Dates:** 27-29 September 1991  
**Venue:** Gateway Hotel, North Quay, Brisbane  
**GoHs:** Richard Arnold, James Doohan,  
 Leonard Nimoy (commitments permitting)  
**Rates:** \$135 to 31 July, then \$155  
**Rooms:** \$90 Single/Double/Twin, \$100 Triple  
**Meals:** \$15 Breakfast/Lunch, \$25 Dinner  
**Mail:** GPO Box 1376, Brisbane 4001

### MEDTREK IV (SF Media Con)

**Dates:** 4-7 October 1991  
**Venue:** Univ. of Western Sydney, Hawkesbury  
**Theme:** Galactic Senate Elections  
**GoH:** David Prowse (Darth Vader)  
**Fan GoH:** Marianne Plumridge (artist & writer)  
**Rates:** \$80 to Sep 1991, \$85 door, \$20 Supporting  
**Rooms:** Include full board. \$85 (Sat & Sun), \$170  
 (Fri-Mon). Individual meals available for \$7  
**Mail:** Sue Clarke, 6 Bellevue, Faulconbridge 2776

### VAMPIRICON (1991 Media NatCon)

**Dates:** 11-13 October 1991  
**Venue:** Melbourne Townhouse, Swanston St, Carlton  
**Theme:** Vampires  
**Rates:** \$80 Attending, \$25 Supporting  
**Banquet:** \$40 @ Dracula's Theatre Restaurant  
 (pay by 1 September)  
**Mail:** 134 Glenlyon, Brunswick 3056

### SYNCON 91 (Sydney General)

**Dates:** 13-15 December 1991  
**Venue:** St Andrews College, Sydney Uni  
**Theme:** Future Directions, High Tech  
**GoH:** Wynne Whiteford  
**Rates:** \$35  
**Rooms:** \$35 per night Bed & Breakfast  
**Mail:** PO Box 462, Newtown 2042

### SWANCON 17 (WA General)

**Dates:** 24-27 January 1992  
**Venue:** The Ascot Inn, 1 Epsom Ave, Belmont, Perth  
**GoHs:** Terry Dowling and Nick Stathopoulos  
**Rates:** \$45 Attending to 1nov91. \$15 Supporting  
**Rooms:** \$50 per night single/double  
**Mail:** PO Box 227, North Perth 6006

### SYNCON '92 (1992 Australian NatCon)

**Dates:** 17-20 April 1992  
**Venue:** Shore Inn, Artarmon  
**Theme:** The Art of SF  
**GoH:** Michael Whelan  
**Fan GoH:** Nick Stathopoulos  
**Keynote Speaker:** Sean McMullen  
**Rates:** \$70 Attending till end 1991. \$25 Supporting  
**Rooms:** \$95 per room (single, double, twin)  
**Banquet:** \$25 per person buffet  
**Mail:** GPO Box 429, Sydney 2001

### DISCONTINUITY (NZ Modellers)

**Dates:** 17-20 April 1992  
**GoH:** Terry Pratchett  
**Rates:** NZ\$40 to 30sep91, NZ\$45 to 31mar92,  
 then NZ\$50. NZ\$20 Supporting  
**Rooms:** NZ\$85 twin, NZ\$90 triple, NZ\$125 family  
**Mail:** PO Box 74013, Market Rd, Auckland, NZ

To the best of our knowledge, information in these listings is correct at time of printing. However, prospective members of any Convention listed here should contact the Convention concerned for up-to-date information. We accept no responsibility for loss or inconvenience due to incorrect or out-of-date information.

**CONTRADICTION** (NZ General)

**Dates:** 17–20 April 1992  
**Venue:** Picton Whalers Inn, Picton  
**GoHs:** Heinlein, Herbert, Hubbard (all RIP)  
**Rates:** NZ\$25 Attending, NZ\$10 Supporting  
**Banquet:** \$27 buffet  
**Rooms:** \$70 single, \$44 Double, \$29 Triple, \$22 Quad (per person) — 1 night's deposit by 15/8/91  
**Mail:** PO Box 11-812, Manners St PO, NZ

**HOLODICTION** (1992 Star Trek)

**Dates:** 15–17 May 1992  
**Venue:** Gazebo Hotel, Elizabeth Bay, Sydney  
**GoH:** Patrick Stewart, Richard Arnold  
**Rates:** \$105 to Jul91, \$120 to Dec91, \$140 to Feb92, then \$160. \$20 Supporting.  
**Rooms:** Unknown. 35% discount on normal rates.  
**Mail:** PO Box 157, Matraville 2036

**SHAKYCON** (1992 NZ National)

**Dates:** 29 May–1 June 1992  
**Venue:** West Plaza Hotel, Wellington  
**GoHs:** Joe Haldeman, Rex Thompson  
**Rates:** \$45 att, \$50 door, \$20 Supporting  
**Rooms:** \$100 + GST per person  
**Mail:** PO Box 11-559, Manners St PO

**HONGCON '92** (1992 Media NatCon)

**Dates:** 6–8 June 1992  
**Venue:** Adelaide Convention Centre  
**GoH:** Unknown  
**Rates:** \$65 to July 1991, then \$75. \$30 Supporting.  
**Rooms:** \$59 Single, \$69 Double, Family \$119. Cheques payable 'Motel Adjacent Casino'  
**Mail:** PO Box 160, Rundle Mall, Adelaide 5000

## Credits

**ARTWORK:** Sheryl Birkhead 10; Ian Gunn 2,4; Fractint 1,2,7,8; uncredited material Greg Hills or nicked.

**NEWS AND OTHER STUFF:** Terry Frost, Jack Herman, Mark Loney, LynC, Alan Stewart, Lucy Sussex, George Turner, Wynne Whiteford, not to forget THE DOOR.

**YOUR MAILING LABEL:** 'Attn': If your copy is not personal and we have a reference, it will appear here. The bottom line: you will see something like '84 // clu tra' or '0 09/25/91 con'. A number other than 0 is your current last issue. If there is a date, that is the date (month/day/year) on which your current term expires. The 3-letter notes tell you why you are currently on our mailing list. CLU= Club, COM= Complimentary (other Zine — shall we trade?), CON= Convention, FRE= Free/Gratis for some reason, SUB= Subscriber, TRA= you already showed us yours; here's ours.

If you do something we think warrants extending your entitlement, number or date will change. Otherwise, when it's THAT number or THAT date, you must *Do Something* if you want the next issue.

Stet 19910807030326. NEXT ISSUE: mid-October.

**MAGICON** (1992 WorldCon)

**Dates:** 3–7 September 1992  
**Venue:** Orange County Civic & Convention Centre, Orlando, Florida  
**GoHs:** Jack Vance, Vincent DiFate, Walt Willis  
**Toastmaster:** Spider Robinson  
**Rates:** \$A110, \$A40 Supporting. PRs are airmailed.  
**Mail:** J Ackroyd, GPO Box 2708X, Melbourne 3001

**CONJUNCTION 3** (Not Your Normal Sequel)

**Dates:** 18–20 September 1992  
**Venue:** tba (somewhere in Melbourne)  
**Theme:** Animals in SF  
**Rates:** \$30 to VampiriCon, then \$35. \$10 Supporting  
**Rooms:** Unknown  
**Mail:** PO Box 273, Fitzroy 3065

**SWANCON 18** (1993 Australian NatCon)

**Dates:** 8–12 April 1993  
**Venue:** Ascot Inn, 1 Epsom Ave, Belmont, Perth  
**Theme:** Apocalypse Wow!  
**GoHs:** Terry Pratchett, Craig Hilton  
**Banquet:** tba  
**Rates:** \$40 (\$20 Child) Attending to 30 July 1991, then \$50 (\$25 Child) to Easter 1992. \$20 Supporting.  
**Rooms:** \$65 Single, Double, Twin, Triple. Payable to The Ascot Inn.  
**Mail:** PO Box 318, Nedlands 6009

**DEFCON 1** (1993 NZ National)

Fan GoH Mark Harris. No other details. (Lana Brown, PO Box 30-905, Lower Hutt, New Zealand)  
 [Source: CRY HAVOC.]

**STAR WALKING II** (Bidding for 1993 Media NatCon)

**Dates:** Queens Birthday (beginning of June) 1993  
**Theme:** All Things Strange and Alien  
**Rates:** \$20 Pre-supporting  
**Mail:** PO Box 118, Springvale 3171

**CONFRANCISCO** (1993 WorldCon)

**Dates:** 3 September–6 September 1993  
**Venue:** SF Marriott, Moscone Convention Centre  
**GoHs:** Larry Niven, Tom Digby, Alicia Austin, Wombat (Jan Howard Finder)  
**Toastmaster:** Guy Gavriel Kay  
**Dead GoH:** Mark Twain  
**Rates:** US\$85, US\$25 Supporting, Age 0-3 years free, US\$30 Child (under 13 at 1 Sept. 1993)  
**Mail:** PO Box 22097, San Francisco, CA 94122

**CONSTANTINOPLE** (Bid for BOTH 1994 NatCons)

**Dates:** Easter (1–4 April) 1994  
**Rates:** \$5 Pre-supporting  
**Mail:** PO Box 212, World Trade, Melbourne 3005

# The Australasian Science Fiction Media Awards (ASFMA) 1991

## Nomination Form

Nominations are now open for the Australasian SF Media Awards, which will be presented at **Vampiricon** Inc. the 1991 Australasian National Media Science Fiction Convention. To be held in Melbourne 11—13th October 1991.

When nominating, eligibility is for work produced or published in the 1990 calendar year (1/1/90 to 31/12/90). Please identify where work was seen and when (e.g.: fan writer; name of story and publication), and address if known.

- .....
1. Best Australasian Fan Media Newsletter.
  2. Best Australasian Fan Media Zine.
  3. Best Australasian Fan Media Writer.
  4. Best Australasian Fan Media Artist.
  5. Best Australasian Amateur Audio-Visual Production.
- .....

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ P/Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

If you are unknown to the Awards Committee, please supply the name of a fan or fan organisation to whom/which you are known.

\_\_\_\_\_

.....PLEASE NOTE: NOMINATIONS CLOSE 31ST AUGUST 1991.....

Please send Nominations to:

Christine Young  
ASFMA Awards  
c/o 2/49 Napier Street  
FOOTSCRAY VIC 3011

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**Important Note:** We received from the previous publishers only that subscription money arriving since February 1991. These subscriptions take effect with this issue and have been credited (rounded up) pro-rata at \$2.00 per issue. We see neither legal nor moral obligation to recognise any other pre-existing subscription agreements or understandings. However, examination of the *THYME* mailing list shows that all subscriptions entered into by the previous editors will have expired by issue 86. Accordingly, we have decided to credit in full all prior entitlements terminating between now and issue 86 (late January or early February 1992). Residual entitlements beyond issue 86, affecting about 30 people, have been adjusted and your mailing label reflects your current entitlement. Basically, if your last issue was issue 87, it is now 86. If it was later, it is now 88. Previous *THYME* editors are being pensioned off to issue 99. All trades not marked to get 'Xed' this issue get the Big Red 'Un nextish. We see this as the only way to control certain ballooning obligations undertaken by the previous publishers and reduce *THYME*'s hidden liabilities. All these entitlements can now be extended in the usual fashion, by new subscription, contribution, or trade.

**Subscriptions:** Australia Post is increasing its charges in September 1991. Category B postage on Australian copies *THYME* will rise to 37¢ each (41¢ for big issues). Allowing for our estimated production costs, we have arrived at a cover price of \$2.00 per copy or \$12.00 (12 months or 6 issues — whichever is greater) subscription. We hope that there is enough slack in these figures so that we will not have to increase these charges for a year or so. **Overseas:** At present the price is the equivalent of \$A2.50 per issue (send multiples of this amount for extra issues), posted Economy Air where available. We have not yet concluded negotiations with *THYME*'s former Overseas Agents. We may do so or we may take on new Agents. At present the only confirmed *THYME* Agent is Roelof Goudriaan, Caan van Necklaan 63, 2281 BB Rijswijk ZH, THE NETHERLANDS, who is our EUROPEAN Agent. European subscribers should pay him (except for the Poms who may get their own Agent later and who meantime may send us British pounds direct), though we can change most hard currencies (eventually). We prefer not to deal in foreign cheques as these can attract high bank charges, but any cheques sent to Roelof should be made payable to 'Roelof Goudriaan' while cheques sent to us should be payable to 'Thyme' (we've opened an account).

— FIRST FOLD —

### Your Mailing Label . . .

Your label reflects the reason why you are getting *THYME* and tells you when your current entitlement runs out. If you are an organisation or a magazine, the line starting 'Attn:' will contain a reference — either a person or a magazine title. If a fanzine title is followed by a number, that is the most recent issue we have seen.

**The Bottom Line:** will look something like '84 // clu tra' or '0 09/25/91 con'. A number other than 0 is the issue your current subscription or other entitlement expires with. If there is a date — this applies primarily to terminating organisations such as conventions — that is the date (mm/dd/yy) on which your term expires.

CLU = Club. If your club produces a clubzine we may trade for it. See TRA below. If not, you need to keep in touch — either subscribe or write to us every so often — to keep getting *THYME*.

COM = Complimentary. We've sent you this on spec, for subscription or trade. Check the 'Attn:' line to see why.

CON = Convention. If you send us all your PRs, you'll get every *THYME* till the date.

FRE = Free/Gratis for some reason. You probably contributed.

SUB = Subscription copy. You have a current subscription. The number is the issue on which your sub expires, not necessarily your final issue. Subscription issues are used up first. If you Do Something in the meantime so we owe you extra issues, then on the issue your subscription expires the notation will change to 'FRE' and the number will tell you when your freebies run out.

TPA = we have an arranged trade. Trades are issue-for-issue unless we have both specifically agreed on all-for-all, in which case the word 'all' will occur, eg TRA ALL. We trade all-for-all only with other newszines and with a few especially frequent and regular fanzines.

— SECOND FOLD —

*Thyme — The Australasian SF News Magazine*

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