

LITTLE BLUE NUMBER 22

LITTLE BLUE NUMBER 22, June 2024, is an issue of a mailing comments apazine published by Perry Middlemiss, 32 Elphin Grove, Hawthorn, Victoria, 3122. Produced only for ANZAPA (the Australian and New Zealand Amateur Publishing Association). E: perry@middlemiss.org

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

ANZAPA NOTES

After the massive tome that was the 828-page ANZAPA 338 had thumped onto my hard drive in April, I sent out a message to all ANZAPAns noting that I wouldn't be including my personalzine **Perryscope** in future mailings. This didn't come about just because of the size of that mailing, nor because David Grigg expressed dismay at the size of the thing and the amount of work it took to get it into shape; I had been thinking about making the change for a while. Here are a few reasons:

1. I appreciate that **ANZAPA** was originally set up, partly, as a way of distributing members' fanzines to a receptive audience, and thereby, hopefully, ensuring the costs of distribution were lowered. This was in a time when such fanzines were generally smaller so the overall effect was not as much of an impact as it is now. I note that recent issues of my perzine have been pushing up towards 30 pages, and with a monthly publishing schedule the total page count is starting to get rather big. Of the April mailing I was responsible for 78 pages, or a touch under 10% of the total. That's way too much of me I reckon.
2. I'm of the view that the heart of an apa is the mailing comments, the discussion back and forth between members that makes up the community. The more of these there are the better. A similar property also makes for a good general fanzine. When the letter column is lively (such as in Nic Farey's **This Here...**) it lifts the mood and overall quality of the rest of the zine. But I also believe the two of these shouldn't cross over. I've never been a fan of those fanzines I receive that, in the main, consist of mailing comments on an apa of which I am not a member. As much as a fanzine editor might say that the comments are generalised and can be read by anyone they tend to lack context and it feels like a large part of the conversation is missing. How can I follow that? If someone's apazine sparks a writer to produce a long mailing comment in response I'd prefer they turned it into something that can stand alone and be appreciated as such. The two types of discourse are similar but very different at the same time.
3. I started **Perryscope** back in August 2020 with the idea that it would be just an apazine destined for **ANZAPA** alone. But I soon started to realise that there was a whole lot of stuff I wanted to write about that I thought a wider audience (family and friends and other fans who were not members) might appreciate, and so turned it into a standardised perzine with a wider distribution. It didn't "outgrow" **ANZAPA** it just morphed into something else, something that I hadn't forecast when I started it. By the time you read this I will, probably and hopefully, have sent out issue 44 and that is something I would never have envisaged four years ago.

Little Blue Number 22

4. It appears that a number of ANZAPAns really want to write mailing comments on everything in a mailing, to respond to every apazine and genzine alike. But the current size and number of contributions of the apa make that a very difficult task indeed. It's rather like painting the Sydney Harbour Bridge, in that once you finish it's time to go back to the beginning and re-start all over again. I don't think I should make the task of producing mailing comments any harder for anyone. I think that just reduces a member's enjoyment. If a mailing arrives and you inwardly groan at the prospect of reading all of it and wonder how you are going to get through it all in the two months available, then I think it has gotten too big.

Therefore, I won't be sending in issues of **Perryscope** to ANZAPA any more, but I have noted the comments from a number of ANZAPA members that they do want to see the fanzine so I've taken the liberty of adding everyone on the current mailing roster to my contact list and to the **Perryscope** mailing cohort. You will have started to receive those issues already. If you don't want to keep receiving it, just send me an email asking to be removed from the list and I will then do so. I know it's not for everyone. As I said to Marc Ortlieb recently, I really only produce it for an audience of one, ie "me". If anyone else happens to enjoy it as well then so much the better.

[As a final note on this subject, please be aware that the comments here pertain to my thinking only. I make no judgments on, and offer no advice to, anyone else. What they decide to do is up to them and will reflect their thinking. Everyone is different and everyone's view is valid.]



Comments on Mailing 338

Les Chattes Parties 192 – Sally Yeoland

Thanks for the apology about the typeface font from last time – actually, I don't think I noticed. I read ANZAPA on a screen and if one member's contribution seems too small I just magnify it a notch. No problem. ●

ReYCtoMe about my Indian holiday: How did I keep going every day? I have a wife who knows how to crack the whip for one thing, and secondly we don't usually do much in the evenings. By the time we get back to the hotel, have dinner somewhere, transfer the photos from camera and phones to the laptop and/or the cloud we're just about done. It usually means we're in bed by ten and get a good night's sleep. I always say that my favourite form of exercise is walking around foreign cities. And the other, possibly major reason, is that we may never come back to these places again. So I'll sleep when I get home. ●

Re the photo of you and John: ARCon was the Aussiecon Reunion convention I helped organise in August 1995 to celebrate 20 years since the first Aussie Worldcon and 10 years since the second. The small convention was held at the Savoy Hotel at the corner of Little Collins and Spencer Streets. Just think: 2025 will be fifty years since Aussiecon. A small celebration may be in order. I'll give it some thought. ●

Sparrowgrass & battle-twigs 91 – Roman Orszanski

Both the Dorothy Parker and the Sherlock Holmes performances sound like they were very enjoyable and interesting. A quick search shows nothing for "Sherlock Holmes: the last act" in Victoria which probably indicates that it didn't make it here or has been and long gone. ●

ReYCtoMe about plane photos: I suspect I couldn't get the scowl working properly that day. ●

Little Blue Number 22

Sonoran Cat Down Under 16 – R-Laurraine Tuthasi

I sympathise with the problems with apas. I doubt very much that I would be in ANZAPA if it was still a print version. I no longer have clandestine access to a photocopier, and the mail is now so inconsistent that I don't think I'd be able to finish things in time. I suspect my current fannish activity would look very different if this apa moved back to print from digital. Anyway I just don't want that extra paper in my house. I'm trying to clear it out gradually. ●

Is this Leicester? 16 – Nigel Rowe

Re Boeing 737 Max aircraft: Just about every time my wife gets onto a flight these days she asks me: "This isn't one of those Boeings that falls out of the sky all the time is it?". Well, let's bloody hope not. It tends to be a tad unnerving. I have a feeling that Australian airlines don't fly them. Leigh Edmonds would know of course. ●

MOZ 43 – Murray Moore

Re jury duty: I've twice received a letter from the state Department of Justice telling that I had been selected as a potential juror, and both times I had to request that I not be selected due to financial hardship. It wasn't that I had to pay to be a juror you understand but that the daily pay made to jurors was way below the amount I was earning as a self-employed IT contractor, and, given I was self-employed, I didn't have the finances available to pay myself, as would have occurred if I had been in full-time employment. And now that I don't have that problem I sit back and wait and receive nothing. My time will come. ●

Mathom Volume 4 Number 1 (April 2024) – Mark Nelson

The last Australian fanzine distributed mainly by mail, I'd say Bruce's *SFC*. Yes I did produce a few fanzines by mimeo back in the day I doubt I have cut a stencil since the late 70s or early 80s. ●

The Hitched Tom Fool's Knot – Marc Ortlieb

I shall attempt to watch the Miley Cyrus video of her version of "Wildflowers" at some point. Will I remember? Only time will tell. ●

I'm Back, March 2024 – Leigh Edmonds

ReYcto Eric about COVID: I'm not so much worried about catching COVID during the actual flight as aircraft tend to refresh their air fairly regularly and I suspect they also disinfect it in some way. No, the major problem with travel is that time you spend on the ground waiting, huddled together in the departure lounge or travelling through an airport and then onto public transport. That's where the trouble lies. ●

Gaston J. Feeblehare #35 – Kim Huett

I look forward to your reprint volume of early Australian fannish material. It promises to be rather large if you reprint the full list of items you have here. ●

Frank's VI (+Earnest) – Jack Herman

I am actually amazed that you didn't need a police check of some sort in that 55 year period. I've had one or two over the years, mainly when I went to work for banks, and my wife Robyn had to have them every couple of years in order to get a "working-with-children" certificate or permit or whatever the bloody hell those things are. She always seemed to pass, which sort of amazed me. Good luck with the new one. I suspect we will know in the next mailing. ●

Little Blue Number 22

I compliment you on your listening to *The Rest is History* podcast. I think it one of the better ones around. *Empire* might also be good but I've only given that a cursory listen. ●

Crash of the Hard Disk 71 – Gary Mason

Re your comments on John Foyster: Yes, I also found John a little “difficult” at times but not so much as to get into any arguments with him. I always admired his fannish energy more than anything. I may well have been one of those booted out of ANZAPA at about the time of The Great Purge, though I suspect my reasons were for not maintaining minac. Which is fair enough. People do need to be shaken up a bit every now and then. ●

ReYctoJohn Newman: Yes, the 1981 Adelaide Natcon was Adventioin ‘81 and had Frank Herbert as GoH, and Foyster as a multiple guest. FANAC.org is gradually getting a lot of convention material scanned in by Alan Stewart so you might want to check there to follow up any other leads. ●

2024 April ANZAPA Mailing MCO Issue – Garry P. Dalrymple

ReYctoMe regarding India: It can be easy to be intimidated by a large country but I never go anywhere expecting that I am going to get a complete picture of the whole country. That would be impossible. I didn't get that of England when I lived there for a couple of years in the early 1990s. I go to see things *in situ* as a way of getting a better understanding of that small part of the place I do see. The only countries I wouldn't visit as those that I think may be too dangerous to make any sort of touring worthwhile or where I think the government does not deserve any sort of support, for a number of reasons. ●

Kingdom of the Bland – Eric Lindsay

I always doubted that my India issue of **Perryscope** would have many comment hooks. It was mainly written as a memory aid for me at some future time. ●

Daja Voo #Enuff – Derrick Ashby

It's good to hear that the asbestos problem wasn't much of a drag on your renovations. And I'm sorry you couldn't make the ANZAPA lunch. ●

And that's it for mailing 338: thanks to everyone else for their contributions. Read and enjoyed but no comments, I had many other things I needed to get finished in a hurry about the time this ANZPA deadline was approaching. Such is life. ●