

LITTLE BLUE NUMBER 23

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

ANZAPA NOTES

I just can't figure out how it got to be ANZAPA time again. Surely it was only last week that I sent a note to David saying that I wouldn't be able to make the August mailing as I was too busy getting ready for an overseas trip, and now, here, we are, with another deadline looming.

Typically I had been putting off doing anything, in true fannish tradition, until it was almost too late. But I had a free week ahead of me didn't I? Well, I did for a while, and then the days started to disappear with other commitments so it all turned into a rush again. Usual story.

HEALTH NOTES

It used to be a running joke amongst my drinking mates that we started out, 30 years ago, talking about jobs and mortgages and relationships (bloody mortgages). Then it moved more towards jobs and mortgages and children (still with the bloody mortgages), and then onto superannuation and jobs and mortgages (they never seem to go away), and finally superannuation and health. The children were moved on, the mortgages was hopefully paid off and now we could concentrate on the REALLY important stuff: like how we were going to survive past retirement age.

Luckily enough about 15 years ago I moved my superannuation fund from a poorly performing one, where the fees were high, to one of the better performing funds where the fees were fixed. Best move I ever made, financially. Suddenly I was watching my fund total climbing steadily rather than wheezing its way up a long, steep slope that sometimes threatened to turn flat or even go backwards. So I got to the end of my working life with a reasonable amount in the savings. I also had the added bonus of being married to a woman who was also in a very good job and who was four years younger than me. That wasn't, by the way, a selection criterion when we got married, though it has worked out for me so far.

With the finances under some sort of control the only real worries I have concern knowing what to do with my time so I don't get bored – that seems not to be a problem – and being able to ensure my health stays somewhat reasonable. And that's where some extra work is going to be needed. My last blood results were generally okay though my doctor was concerned that my blood glucose levels were getting too high. I was moving towards being pre-diabetic, he said, giving me the stare.

So that's the major issue facing me over the next few months. And it will probably end up being the major subject for LBN, apart from the mailing comments. We'll see how it goes.

Little Blue Number 23

Comments on Mailing 339

Les Chattes Parties 193 – Sally Yeoland

I moved into Macquarie Hostel in Barton when I first arrived in Canberra, which I think was sometime in September 1981; the year is right, I just can't remember if it was in late August or early September that year. I stayed there until January 1982 as I was waiting for my partner, Helen Swift to join me from Adelaide. She had to finish off her academic year, and her degree at Flinders University, before starting a role as a graduate clerk in the Public Service.

The hostel was quite a big place as I recall and a recent search through the Canberra Times shows me that it housed around 600 people when fully booked. I was a bit lucky as I've now also read that it was put up for sale in 1982, probably as part of Fraser's Razor Gang approach to the Federal Budget. ●

Sonoran Cat Down Under 17 – R-Laurraine Tuthasi

Unfortunately we have little space in our backyard for any form of rainwater storage facility. And the style of the main part of the house means the main side gutters are open. We've had a heritage overlay placed on the property by the local council during the past few years which means that we can't change the look of the house from the street. That implies, to me, that the gutters have to stay as they are. ●

Is this Leicester? 14 – Nigel Rowe

There is still no firm decision on the podcast continuing. David and I both have, at times, a desire to resurrect it, but then we take a bit of a lie-down and that feeling goes away again. ●

Mathom Volume 4 Number 2 (June 2024) – Mark Nelson

Playing fast and loose with redacting the address details of ANZAPA members is probably going to get us into trouble at some time or other. I thought it was better to set a firm date as the criteria rather than anything else. For one thing it is easier to remember and get right. ●

Tracking your reading over a 25-year period is quite impressive. ●

With the death of the gold fish we are now totally pet-less. I was unaware that local councils had "dead pet depots" but it certainly makes sense. I suspect there would be quite a number of pets dying in my suburb alone each year. ●

Three Knots – Marc Ortlieb

I'm not terribly sure we can consider you a part of Melbourne fandom any more, Ortlieb, if you only partake of one glass of red during an entire convention. It's a matter of letting the side down, sir, and I can see that you will need quite a stern "talking-to" if this continues. ●

I'm Back Again – Leigh Edmonds

I have been blamed for many things inside fandom over the years but do believe this is the first time anyone has blamed me for their memory loss. Though, come to think of it, it may be just you who blames me. ●

Gaston J. Feeblehare #36 – Kim Huett

I put issues of this apazine up on FANAC but don't redact any of the mailing comments as there

Little Blue Number 23

wouldn't be a lot left if I did. I also don't think that I write comments that might divulge any "secrets" that apa members would not like to have spread around. I've been making sure about that for some time now, though it may be that some people disagree. I'll tackle that discussion if it arises. ●

Not Falling, Flying 15 – John Newman

You are correct in thinking that the cultural and societal differences in other countries can be overwhelming. I find them fascinating as well. You just have to figure out some way of letting a certain amount in and then finding some "down-time" during the day when you can get yourself back into equilibrium again. I think it also helps to have someone to talk to about the experiences. That way you can put them into context a bit more. ●

Frank's [Dirty] Dozen (and Earnest) – Jack Herman

With the new electoral boundary changes it appears that Kooyong now has a fair chunk of ultra-conservative Toorak in the mix. That will probably make it a fair bit easier for the Liberals to regain the seat. On the other hand I haven't heard many people complaining about the work that Ryan has been doing as the Federal Member. She seems to have been engaging with the electorate a lot more than previously – which frankly would not have been hard – and also appears to be sticking to her election themes. But as we become more and more partisan as voters I'm not sure this will hold for much. ●

I must hunt down that list of yours detailing the film adaptations that are better than the original books. ●

2024 June ANZAPA Mailing MCO issue – Garry P. Dalrymple

Garry, FANAC is interested in all fannish publications, so your apazines and fanzines would be included. ●

Although I didn't like Frydenberg as a politician I thought the whole dual-citizenship thing was a total beat-up. And, no, he isn't a Hungarian citizen. ●

Kingdom of the Bland – Eric Lindsay

I agree that if the Liberals of 2022 were of the Menzies variety they may have been in better shape. But, then again, Menzies was notoriously blinkered when it came to opportunities to expand manufacturing or scientific research in this country, preferring to ride to "prosperity" on the sheep's back rather than actually create anything for sale. ●

Sketchy 25 – Christina Lake

Addresses to be added in later? Maybe, but probably not by me. Some fanzines already up and available on FANAC are being replaced, especially those which are either straight text, or HTML-based, or unsearchable images. We do these when we come across them, though the emphasis always is on new material. ●

Antipodean Bestiary 10 – Alison Scott

Being sleepy at the end of a gin tasting sounds like quite a natural state if you ask me. The gins I've been tasting lately have been overly botanical, almost as if the gin-maker is striving to find something that no-one else has done. And I don't think that is always a good option. There is probably a reason by a "peanut-butter" gin is not made that often. I've come to the conclusion that I know the gins I like and I'll probably be sticking to them in the future. ●

Little Blue Number 23

And that's it for mailing 339: thanks to everyone else for their contributions. Read and enjoyed but no comments. ●



Comments on Mailing 340

The All-Electric Apazine 2 – Derrick Ashby

Don't you find that all other countries' election processes seem rather strange? I'm guessing they would say the same about ours as well. There are a number of things I like about the Australian electoral system, which other countries would find hard to accept; compulsory and preferential voting being just two of them. But I do appreciate that the Australian Electoral Commission can act in a bi-partisan manner and just get the job done with undue interference from various political parties. ●

Quoz 96

Mark Plummer

The easiest conversion between Australian dollars to British pounds is just to double, or half, depending on your direction. But I wouldn't be expecting to get anything in London like the stuff I'm eating here without just doing a straight conversion. We found on our recent trip that it was just a matter of units. What cost \$5 here cost £5 there. I'd recommend you stay with that approach. ●

The spread of winners of the Arthur C. Clarke Award seems remarkably similar to that for the Booker Prize. There have been a few double winners but no treble winners, as far as I am aware. ●

The Continuum panel, about "what we can do with our old stuff", didn't come to any firm and hard conclusions. But it did allow me to make the strong recommendation to people in the audience that they really should be looking at what happens to their stuff after they die. They should not assume that someone in their family will have the time and/or interest to adequately dispose of it, and that it didn't seem fair to assume other fans would step up and take over. Too much of that has been happening lately.

I also wanted to make the point that while some of us have been able to make arrangements with some University collections it should not be assumed that this avenue was open to everyone. ●

When you mentioned the execution of small numbers of prisoners in the First World War it brought to mind a scene from Saving private Ryan where a couple of American soldiers execute some German soldiers after they have surrendered, joking that they couldn't understand what the Germans were trying to say. I suspect this happened far more often than we like to consider. ●

On the Market – Leigh Edmonds

Now that I'm back from my travels I can travel out to Monash Uni with you and work on the Foyster collection, and then the Binns collection, with you again. I've quite enjoyed the days we've spent there, though I might have to wander off to the library from time to time to check out a particular book I've been looking for. ●

Should the title be **Small Steps Down a Local Road** rather than **...Local Street**? Yeah, probably, but I think I wanted it to be not specifically about Glenferrie Road, and I did put out an

Little Blue Number 23

issue that contained all of my short pieces about life in Elphin Grove, where I live. So, “Grove”, “Road”, “Street”. Maybe I liked the cadence of the title with “Street” in it. Yeah, that’ll do. ●

RYCtoMurray Moore: I still use “going down the street” when I’m heading off to Glenferrie Road. The wife and kids just got used to it I suspect. ●

Little Passport – Chris Garcia

Welcome (back) to the apa. Good to see ya. ●

Gout! Oh yes, I’ve had a few attacks over the years. I think the propensity to be afflicted is partly genetic, as much as the medicos would like you to think otherwise. My brother – who is two years older than me, some 30 kilos lighter and also fitter – gets gout as well. He hardly drinks at all and seems to partake sparingly of those food items generally associated with the condition. And yet he still suffers.

You are going to get a lot of recommendations about gout, but I would do that other than to explain what works for me: lots of water and 1000mg of Vitamin C per day. The Vitamin C acts as an anti-oxidant which helps to clear out the uric acid before it can crystallise and the water helps flush everything out. It seems to work for me. Best of luck with any action you take. ●

***brg* 136 – Bruce Gillespie**

Thanks for all the comments. I will answer them in the next issue **Perryscope** or **Small Steps...**, whichever is appropriate. ●

Still Not Very fragjous – David Grigg

That is good news about Sue’s improvement. I wish her, and you, well in all of this. ●

Like you, Robyn and I have finally decided not to move from our house here in Hawthorn, and for pretty much the same reasons. We have all we could want from a house location here within walking distance so why move somewhere and miss out on all of that. So we too are aiming to undertake some renovations to the house, fixing up one room after another. None of this “move out while it is all renovated” nonsense. Stay put and just move a small amount of furniture at any one time. That’s the plan anyway. ●

Frank’s [Baker’s] Dozen (incl Earnest) – Jack R. Herman

Your arguments about how well the American economy is tracking are sound and *should* be to the Democrats advantage, but, like here, the major thing on everyone’s mind is the cost of living: the rising price of groceries, and insurance, and repairs and everything else. And that’s what people think about. ●

Advention 81 did have Joseph Nicholas (GUFF) and Joyce Scrivner (DUFF) as Special Guests rather than Guest of Honour, but the distinction is rather mute. I recently scanned in the program book and it should be available on FANAC. ●

I try to keep **Little Blue Number** as purely an ANZAPA zine concerned mainly with mailing comments. **Small Steps...** is another personalzine that is really still trying to find its way. But I’ll never combine the two. ●

Sketchy 26 – Christina Lake

Your ferry trips brought to mind my recent wandering around the large islands off Scotland. I will

Little Blue Number 23

have to get back to the reports I was writing and finish them off at some point. I can say, after reading your report, that I am glad we didn't have to deal with any flat-bottomed boats. That would have been too much. ●

Crash of the Hard Disk 72 – Gary Mason

ReYCtoAlan about past issues of ANZAPA: Yes, I can keep an eye out for any past zines of yours, scan them and send you a searchable pdf version. I just don't know when I will be getting to this. You can check to see what contributions of yours made it into each mailing by checking Marc's admirable spreadsheet. I'll leave the checking of what you have, and what you need copies of, up to you. Send me a want list and I'll see what I can find. ●

If you is anything organised for 2025 as a 50-year-anniversary of Aussiecon then it would be open to anyone who wanted to attend, depending on the "function" of course. I helped organise ARCon in 1995 which acted as an anniversary celebration of the first two Australian Worldcons and we didn't restrict the membership then. Don't see why we should even think about doing it now. ●

Not Falling, Flying 16 – John Newman

Re: Your comment to me about **Small Steps Down a Local Street 3** that I live in a "great area". Yes, it actually is, and it's place I've come to appreciate more and more since I retired. When I was working it was merely a place to shop and to pass through on the way to the railway station. Now that I have more time, and travel far less into the city, I can see all of the benefits. And that's partly why I'm doing my survey of lunch places in Glenferrie Road. And it's also why we've decided to stay on here rather than move somewhere not as good. ●

The Erotic Wombat 34 – Gerald Smith

Re: you comment to me about having a wife to pull you up if you are doing too much: I don't seem to be having *that* sort of problem. I'm finding I want to do less and less as I get older, it's the missus who keeps filling in the days. I understand her reasoning but near the end of a long holiday I do have trouble keeping up. At least she now allows me the option of just having a rest for half a day while she wanders off to see something, and then I catch up with her later. ●

Les Chattes Parties 194 – Sally Yeoland

Many thanks for the very detailed story of your recent traumas, and I'm glad to hear that your situation appears to be stabilising. ●

And that's it for mailing 340: thanks to everyone else for their contributions. Read and enjoyed but no comments. ●