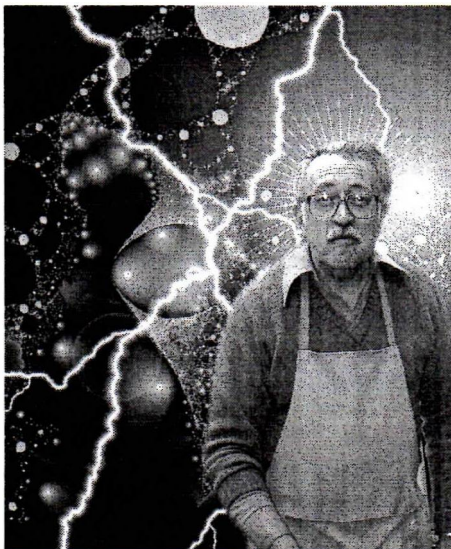


OUT OF THE BIN



"Bewildered Deity" Photo & Artwork by Ditmar

Issue # 28

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A Newsletter from MERV BINNS
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MERV'S 70th BIRTHDAY

Dear Readers,

Well, I guess I have passed another milestone, having celebrated my 70th birthday on **July 8th** this year. A number of relatives and old friends also have had July birthdays but I will not mention them all, although our friend Dick "Ditmar" Jenssen I hope will not mind me telling you that he turned 69 on the 6th. Another old friend who was born two days after me on the 10th and also begins another decade is Cedric Rowley. Friend, one-time employee and associate Justin Ackroyd of Slow Glass Books, celebrated his birthday on the 5th. I hope we all have a happy year to come. On my birthday, Helena and I went to see *HARRY POTTER AND THE PRISONER OF AZKABAN* at Village Cinemas at Crown Casino, then we watched a bevy of showgirls parading down the staircase in the Atrium at Crown, which was part of the Casino's 10th Anniversary celebration. It was easy to imagine that they were putting the show on just for *my* celebration. After that we went to Margo's Restaurant at Crown to take advantage of a special meal deal and when I mentioned that it was a birthday dinner, we were given a bottle of a sparkling red wine. So all in all I did have a quite pleasant and happy day.

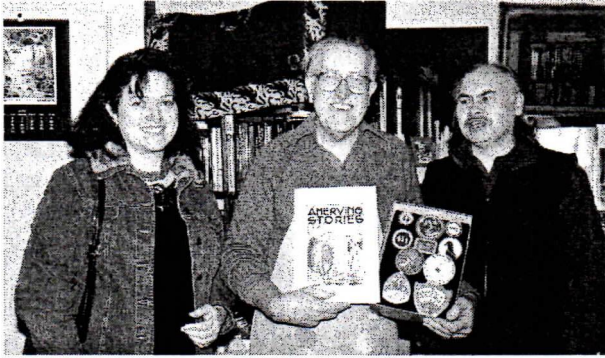
On the 9th we attended another video movie night at Race Mathews home and I caught up with an old movie I have wanted to see for years, *CHIMES AT MIDNIGHT*. As I was celebrating my birthday, I would have preferred to have watched something lighter, such as the fantasy *LEGEND*, which was my choice for the night, although I believe we will get to see that next time. I will comment on that and other movies in due course. So just to add to the watching of a somewhat depressing movie I went home and watched on recorded video my football team the Collingwood Magpies, playing also on the night of Friday the 9th, and they let me down. Despite a valiant effort, they were beaten by Geelong. It is frustrating to have seen them do some great things this year and keep up with their opposition through a good part of their games, but it is very disappointing when they cannot keep it up. At least they beat The Bulldogs on Saturday the 24th of July and with a depleted team due to injuries. On Saturday the 10th we prepared for a barbecue birthday party on the Sunday the 11th.

THE BIRTHDAY PARTY

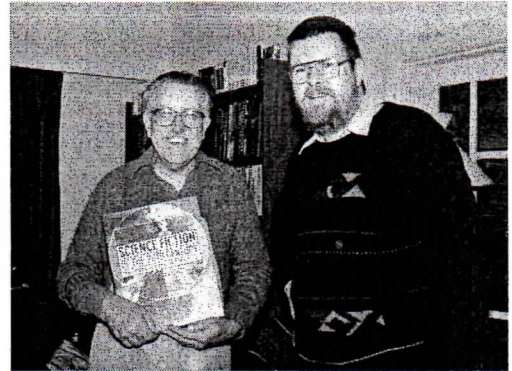


Fellow birthday boys DICK JENSSEN (left) and CEDRIC ROWLEY (right) help Merv blow out the candles on his birthday cake.
(Photo by Helena)

Although it was cold, the weather held up on **Sunday 11th** and the friends who turned up around noon to help me celebrate my birthday were able to congregate in the backyard and carport area and partake of barbecued sausages and such, washed down with various types of liquid refreshments. I received some interesting presents, which I was not really expecting, including numerous bottles of wine from David Russell and others and from Bill Wright who also brought all sorts of goodies for the barbecue. Tanya Kemp made one of her splendid apple cakes, and John and Truda Straede brought us a great cheese cake they made, and a big bunch of camellia flowers from their garden, and they had already given us some warm lambswool blankets. Other friends including Bruce and Elaine Gillespie, Bruno Kautzner, Gwayne Naug, Race Mathews and next-door neighbours Jean and son Rodney, also brought food and drinks and presents and I thank them all. Les Robertson sent me a Plasma Ball prior to the day which is quite a spectacular and eye-catching gadget, which once you start watching, it is hard to take your eyes off.



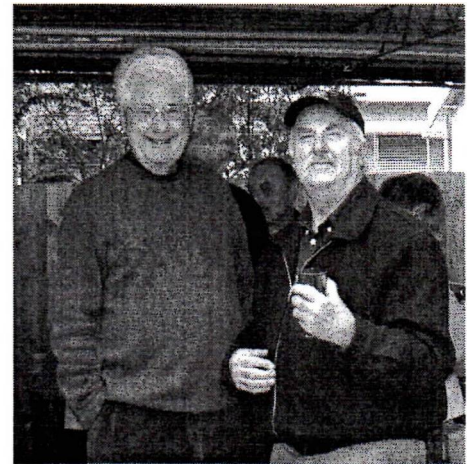
GAIL ADAMS with Merv holding the special card and presentation box of SF-themed badges especially made for him by ROB JAN (right).
(Photo by Helena)



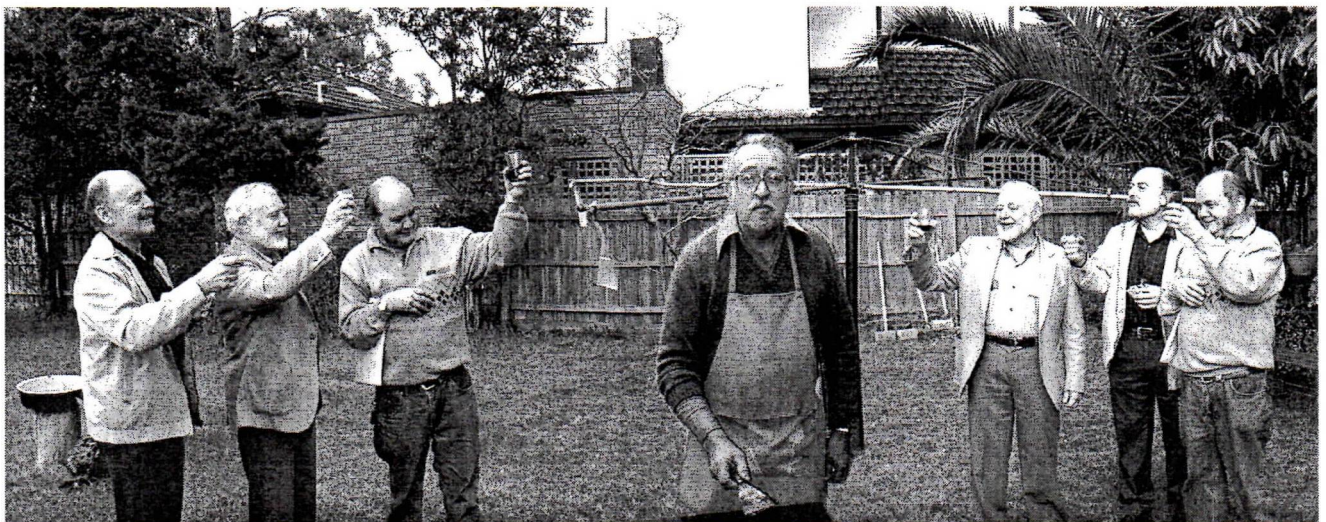
Merv with ALAN STEWART and his great gift of Frank M. Robinson's *Science Fiction of the 20th Century*.
(Photo by Helena)

A special present from Robert Jan and Gail Adams was some hand-crafted badges Rob made for me to add to my collection that I have worn to various conventions. He also made me a great card, copying and adapting the cover of *AMAZING STORIES* magazine, published the month and year I was born, July 1934. Peter Kemp made me a card too, featuring me in a photo he took at one of our previous barbecues, and gave me a copy of his self-published travel guide to Victoria. Helena incidentally also made cards on the computer for Dick and me, with Dick in one of his own computer generated space panoramas and with mine showing me about to join the aliens from one of my favourite movies *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*. Later Dick made up a couple of great composite pictures using photos of me and of Cedric and Bruno and John that he took on the day, which Bill Wright subsequently published in his fanzine *Interstellar Ramjet Scoop*. (The cover illo for that is also the heading for this issue of *Out of the Bin*, and the composite photo is the one at the bottom of this page.) Alan Stewart gave me a copy of *Science Fiction of the 20th Century* edited by Frank M. Robinson, which I very much appreciated. More on that in due course. Dick had already given me a new version of Scrabble for the computer and he added a DVD of *CLOSE ENCOUNTERS*, while Bruce Gillespie gave me a DVD of another of my favourite SF films, *METROPOLIS*.

Peter and Elizabeth Darling sent me a unique handmade card featuring one of Elizabeth's original pen and watercolour sketches of me relaxing in a deck chair reading science fiction. (Some readers may remember Elizabeth's drawings in convention booklets of past years.)



Old friends RACE MATHEWS and PETER KEMP
(Photo by Dick Jenssen)



In this picture, Dick Jenssen has doubled the good wishes to Merv for his birthday from old friends BRUNO KAUTZNER, CEDRIC ROWLEY and JOHN STRAEDE

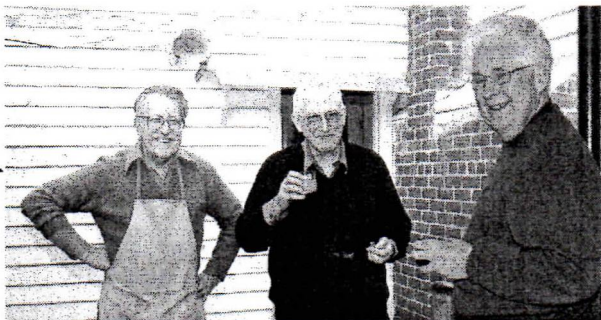


*Merv and Helena share a birthday toast.
(Sorry we can't remember who took the photo with
Helena's camera.)*

Lee Harding rang me from Perth and wished me a very happy birthday and apologised for bad timing. Later in the afternoon when we had polished off the stuff at the barbecue, we all came inside and had some dessert and champagne and Dick and Cedric and I joined together to blow the candles out on the cake I had made. Cedric incidentally made a special trip down from Queensland to be with us for the occasion, and we do appreciate it very much (especially considering how Cedric feels about Melbourne's winter weather, which is why he moved to Queensland in the first place!)



*Cedric and Dick toast one another's birthdays.
(Photo by Helena)*

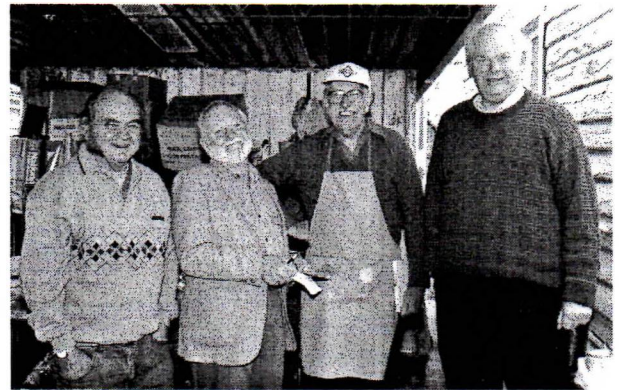


*Merv with BILL WRIGHT and RACE MATHEWS
(Photo by Helena)*



*Merv at the barbecue with DAVID RUSSELL, PETER KEMP and
TANYA KEMP.*

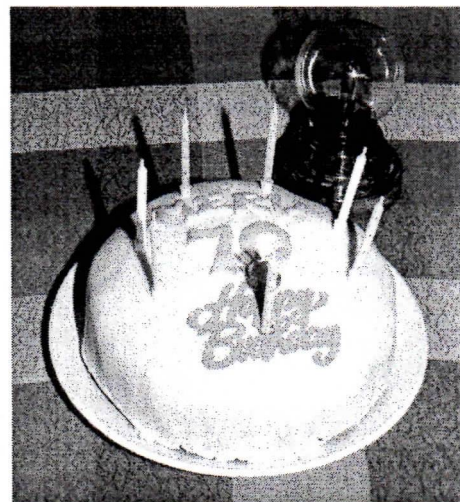
(Photo by Helena)



John, Cedric and Merv with BRUCE GILLESPIE

(Photo by Helena)

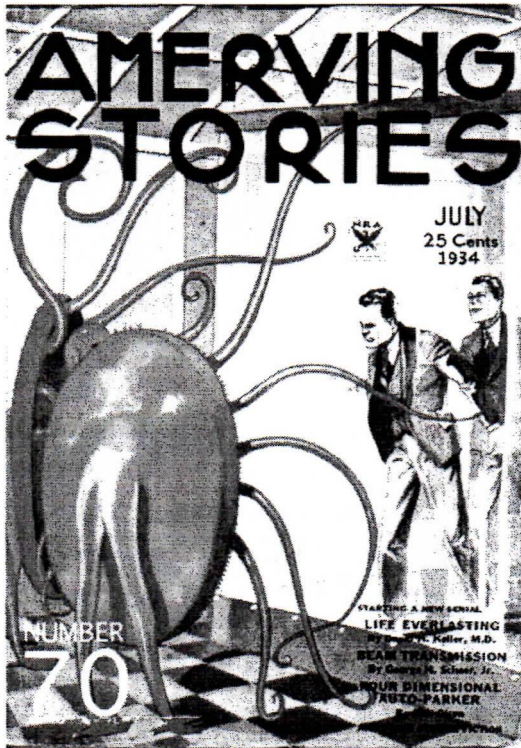
Again, many thanks to all the friends who sent me cards or phoned with good wishes for my birthday and I do thank everybody for making it a birthday I enjoyed and that I will remember always.



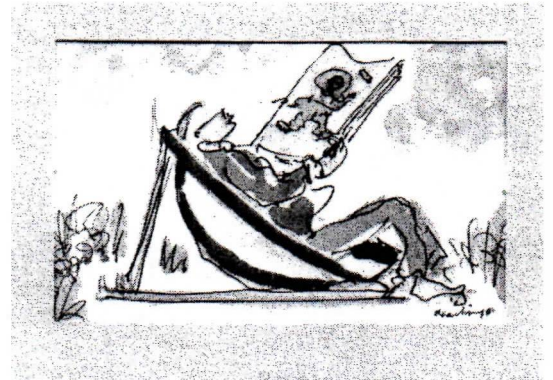
My 70th birthday cake, with the Plasma Ball behind it.

MERV BINNS

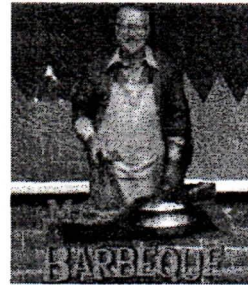
BIRTHDAY CARDS



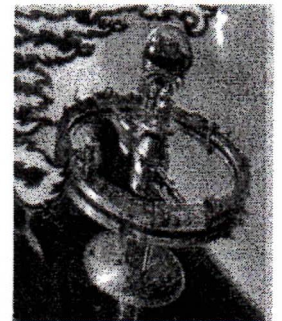
ROB JAN's adaptation of AMAZING to AMERVING STORIES. With appropriate date (July 1934, the month and year of my birth) and number (70, my age this birthday).



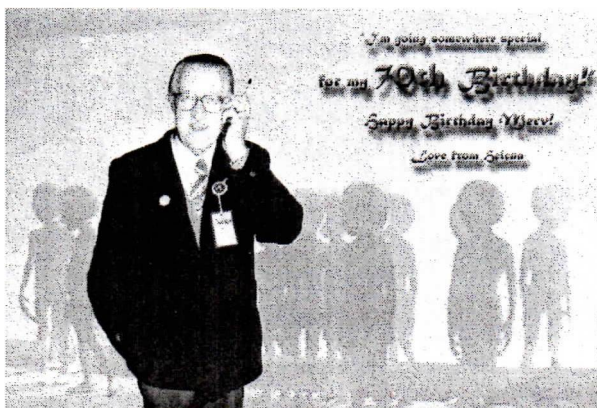
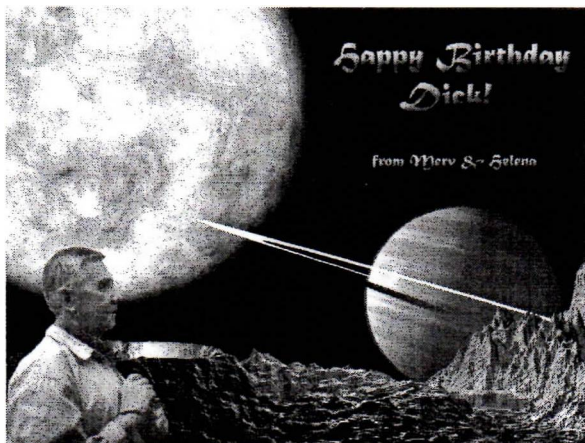
ELIZABETH and PETER DARLING sent me a card featuring this original miniature pen and watercolour sketch by Elizabeth of me relaxing in a garden chair reading SF. (I wish!)



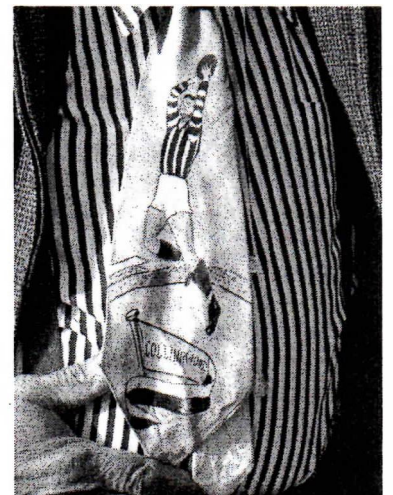
Happy Birthday Merv.



PETER KEMP used a photo he'd taken of me at a previous barbecue for his 'Mr Barbecue' birthday card to me from him and Tanya and their son Robert and daughter Nadia. (I can't identify where he got the space station picture from).



Right: DICK JENSSEN made an enlargement for me of the photo he took of me wearing my (very old) hand-painted Collingwood tie, when my football team played in the Grand Final last year. "Forever" is from the team's slogan and song, "Good old Collingwood Forever".



Left: HELENA's birthday cards for Dick (above) and me (below), using photos of us with one of Dick's paintings for his card and a scene from one of my favourite SF movies "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" for mine.

Forever!