

THE COSMIC DUSTBUG

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Published, in a manner of speaking, by John Bangsund, 19 Gladstone Avenue, Northcote N.16, Melbourne, Australia.

Yes, this may be the first fan publication to appear twice daily - but I rather doubt it.

DON TUCK advises: 'It is nice to be thought of. We had our moments with the fires. Hobart seemed to be thronged with them... On Tuesday I went home at 3pm to help with a scrub fire at the top of the hill behind our home. When I arrived, this was under control, but it could have been far worse. Lindisfarne was lucky... By late Tuesday, Audrey and I had indefinite news about Southport ((where Don has a beach shack, and where - to my knowledge - he and his family were holidaying until about ten days before the fire: JB)) but on Thursday I found out that it was completely obliterated. We drove down there on Saturday... Of about fifty shacks on the beach, half of them were completely erased except for dangling chimneys. Nothing salvageable... We were insured, but it will be a long time before we have another home away from home. Thus 'Black Tuesday' affected us, but there were many far worse - and I guess you've seen your papers. None of the others ((Hobart fans)) were directly affected, though I know Eric Rayner has a homeless family of four with him. Haven't seen Mike O'Brien for a while. Frank Kasler lives at Risdon Vale and he was okay.'

As I mentioned in the morning edition of CDBug, I now head for Hobart again on May 14. Though one bookseller there wrote and suggested that since he's having a quiet time just now (customers presumably dead, missing, or homeless - though he doesn't say so), it would be an ideal time for me to come over now...

STEN DAHLSKOG (Sweden) has sent me a superb long review of the three books I - er - reviewed in ASFR7. With a bit of luck this will appear in no.8.

A. BERTRAM CHANDLER writes: 'Your suggestion in re a series of articles on the dear, dead days in New York appeals to me, and as soon as I have time I'll make a start.' Bert expects to be in Melbourne about February 25.

U.K. Agent, GRAHAM HALL: 'Tom Disch, in London at present, is, as you suggest, both fascinating and a nice guy - looks most literary with fluffy hair and exclaiming eyes... I'll try to con an article out of him for ASFR before he leaves the U.K., if you like.' We like!