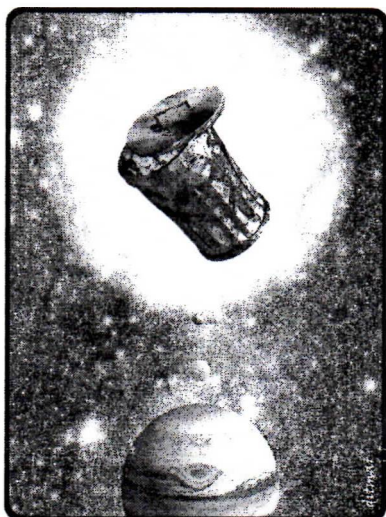


Out of the Bin



'Space Bin' Artwork by Ditmar

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A Newsletter from MERV BINNS

(edited and produced by Helena Binns)

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Dear Readers,

I have been considering not doing any more issues of OoB, because I am getting very little feedback from most people I send it to (with a few notable exceptions) and also because of the expense of postage and to a lesser degree, production. However we enjoy doing it and there are always things we wish to tell friends about, so here we are again.

It is with regret that we have to report the passing of another friend in the Science Fiction fan fraternity, LYN SMITH, the widow of our very old friend Bob Smith. We met Lyn at The John Foyster Memorial gathering in St Kilda, and later talked to her on the phone and corresponded with her.



LYN SMITH with Merv at the John Foyster Memorial gathering, Linden Gallery, Melbourne, 11th May 2003 (Photo by Helena)

Lyn told us that she had gotten over an illness that had plagued her but apparently this was not the case. She corresponded with fans all over, including the USA and we know she will be missed, as was her late mate. Thanks to her brother Jim and to Yvonne Rousseau for letting us know about Lyn's passing and for sending us a copy of the death notice and this youthful photo of Lyn.

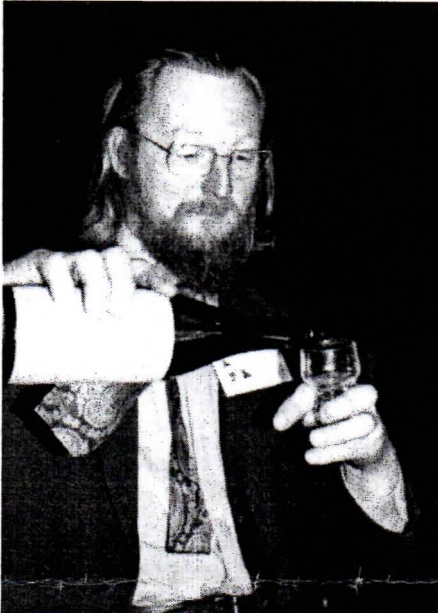


We were very sad to see that actor CHRISTOPHER REEVE had died. We loved him as *Superman* and we were devastated when he had his horse accident nine years ago. We admired him for his efforts to find a cure for spinal injuries and his efforts to promote research, apparently never giving up for help for himself and others. We saw him in person at SEACON World SF convention in 1979, when he collected the Hugo Award for the *SUPERMAN* movie. He was great in that movie which was as perfect a recreation of a comic strip narrative as there ever was. He was great in the following *Superman* movies and will always be remembered by movie fans as the perfect embodiment of the character.



Actor CHRISTOPHER REEVE signing books at Seacon, The 1979 Worldcon in Brighton, England (Photo by Helena)

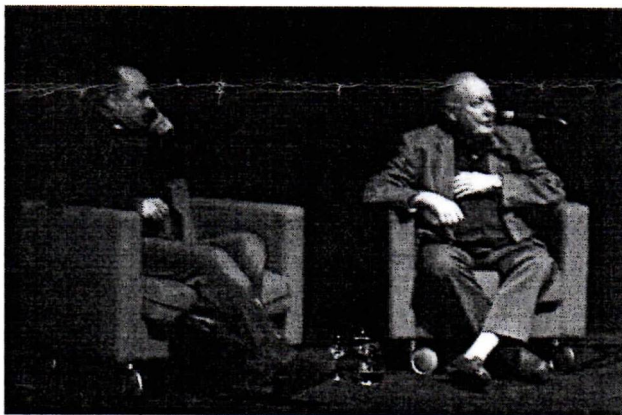
We were pleased to receive a "paper" from an old friend whom we have not seen for many years, JOHN ALDERSON. John has been noted in fandom for his short story writing of a "tall tales" nature and his wine making, which we talked about to fans at cons in the past. I believe John has been also a long time member of ANZAPA. John's missive was a copy of paper he wrote, which he read at a meeting of the Bealiba Historical Society, titled *Tall Tales and the Historian*.



An interesting dissertation on the origins of legends and such which do bear their origins in real events, told in John's inimitable good humour style.

JOHN ALDERSON at Aussiecon 1 1975, pouring a sample of his legendary home-grown product. (Photo by Helena)

Talking about legends, one that has grown during the last twenty years or perhaps more, is the abduction of missing people by aliens - a theme that has been built upon by such as the *X-FILES* TV series and by UFO nuts world wide. Well, we watched the TV special *The 4400* which ran over two nights here this month on Channel 10, but was apparently screened in normal one-hour episodes in the USA. All 4400 missing people who disappeared over a fifty years or so period, suddenly reappear in a group, in the open country. How the authorities deal with the event is not very well handled, I thought, but it was interesting how the "returnees" are affected by it all. Of course only a few examples are able to be covered in the limited time of the series, but I found the idea quite intriguing. And they did not come back from outer space but from our future when the human race is facing extinction. It is obvious that a continuing TV series is in the view of the producers, or so it would seem, but time will tell.



'Popcorn Taxi' presenter Michael Agar (left) listens as actor BUD TINGWELL(right) talks to THUNDERBIRDS creator GERRY ANDERSON on audio link from London.

(Photo by Helena)

We have not been able to see many movies due to the cost, but we did get to see the old *THUNDERBIRDS ARE GO* movie (made in the 1960s, like the *Thunderbirds* TV series) at the ACMI theatre at Federation Square. It was one of their combination series of film shows and interviews, presented under the collective title of 'Popcorn Taxi'. Actor Charles "Bud" Tingwell attended and talked to the audience after the movie. He spent a lot of his early movie career in England and apart from appearing in many British and Australian movies, particularly more recently, as well as TV series, he did the voice over for a number of characters in the *THUNDERBIRDS* series. A phone link with the producer of the series Gerry Anderson, was also part of the proceedings. It was very interesting hear what he had to say about the trials and tribulations of making the series and other various productions and to reminisce with Bud Tingwell. He had nothing to do in the end with the recent live action *THUNDERBIRDS* movie, so its box office disaster is not surprising. I was pleased to say hello to Bud Tingwell as I had employed what I had believed were some relatives of his at Space Age Books, but I discovered from him that that was not the case.



Merv has a word with Michael Agar and 'Uncle Bud' after the THUNDERBIRDS show at ACMI.

(Photo by Helena)

Finally a word on our recent Federal Government ELECTION. Despite the obvious bad things that the Liberal Government has perpetrated upon us or will in the near future, the majority of Australians saw fit to put them back in office. A prime example of "better the devil you know than the one you don't" or is it just the usual apathetic demeanour of a large part of the population?

Despite not getting a lot of feedback, as I said upfront, there are a few regulars, such as our old friend Noel Kerr, Eric Lindsay in Queensland and Michael Waite and Tim Marion in the USA, who send comments every time they receive something, as they have recently, and we thank them all. (There are also a few who only comment when we've got something wrong!)

MERV B 18/10/04