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No 22

the science fiction weekly newsletter

Seeing that the year has had it's chips, I'll hand out the fan academy awards. There are ten jugs of assorted ale to be distributed and two special prizes of rusty jam tins (empty.)

Wally Judd gets the first jug of ale for his organisation of the Third Australian Science Fiction Convention. This turned out to be the most successful fan gathering ever. We all are sorry to see that the effort killed Wally's interest in fandom but it is to be hoped he will see his way clear to join us again at some future date. What about it, Wally?

Ian Crozier gets his jug for his outstanding contribution to Australian fan publishing. ETHERLINE is without question the outstanding Australian fanzine and has done more to foster a national awareness amongst us than any other fan venture. One condition, Ian. You got to share it with your mates in AFPA.

Dave Cohen gets the third jug for his organisation of the Thursday night gatherings of the Sydney Science Fiction Group. These meetings are now firmly established and most of the credit for this is due to the unflinching efforts of Dave .

Don Tuck gets his jug for his Handbook of Science Fiction and Fantasy. This the most comprehensive work on professional science fiction ever produced in Australia. A "must" for every collector and active fan.

Five jugs of assorted ales to Frank Bryning (Brisbane) Bob McCubbin (Melbourne) Art Haddon (Sydney) Geoff Bennett (Canberra) and Mrs. J. Joyee (Adelaide) for dependable and often unnoticed work in keeping the wheels of fandom turning.

The natural superiority of fans over people who hate science fiction was recently demonstrated by the smooth way in which Nick Solntseff recently landed my idiot mate Lyell Crane with a 6/3 bill at a Kings Cross eatery. The nonchalant manner in which he smiled at the waitress as he shot through, was more than adequate to stun the victim into a shocked silence and ensure a clean get away. For this splendid effort I award the tenth jug to Nick Solntseff.

The battle for the rusty jam tins looked like being the usual scramble between Vol Molesworth and his little idiot mate, Graham Stone. However, Vol seems to be loosing his touch because young Graham scampered away to an early lead making sure he would get the more rusty of the two tins.

A late challenger in this division came from an unexpected quarter. Bruce Purdy, until now one of the most respected fans in Sydney, suddenly decided to get in on the act. He arrived at a meeting of the Sydney Science Fiction Group and announced his intention of "flattening" one of his fan opponents. Bruce has been mixing alot with the malcontent Darlinghurst faction and is probably getting their slant on how to handle fan problems. I'd like to believe this is an isolated case and not a true indication of how Bruce thinks. Hence, no jam tin to Bruce. Rather, let him come along one night and talk this thing over and get it settled before it gets worse.

That's all for now. Happy New Year to all my friends and Lyell Crane.

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