

**Sydney Futurian Dinner party / Worldcon Room Party held on Saturday August 9, 2008. A more complete version may eventually appear in my next ANZAPA newsletter.**

Attending were (Sydney Futurians unless otherwise described): Stephen Bingle; David Bofinger; Ron Clarke; Betty Dalrymple (me Mum!); Garry Dalrymple; John Maizels (Serial Worldcon attendee); Kevin McKern; Susan Smith; Graham Stone; Lorraine Tacouni (Serial Worldcon attendee); Kathleen Tanswell (Spocksoc) and Brian Walls -- That's Eight Sydney Futurians together in one spot, more than at a usual Friday night! There were some absences from the 'Intending to come' list, some with and some without explanation.

If I had known on Friday that my twenty something indications of interest to attend would translate on the night to less than fifteen people present, then I could have effected Plan A, clearing the Sun Room and holding the dinner Indoors. Plan B, the outdoor option was only effected because as of Friday Night Fifteen plus were expected. This was unfortunate because some people who contacted me to apologise in advance cited concerns about the event being out doors as their reason for not being able to attend.

While I was making like an Ood (Must Feed, Must Feed, Must Feed Guests!) people were making like at a party, eating and talking in the Lounge Room, Dinning Room and Sun Room etc. The bravest went out to look at the Moon and Jupiter through my small telescope (Seymour II). It was a clear night, both Jupiter and a half Moon were high and prominent Sunset to Midnight. By about 8.30 the hot food /main course was ready to serve and set up out side and by 9 pm all present obediently filed out to the table (13 degrees C and under jury rigged floodlights) for the extended 'Four Minutes of Fame' style introductory round robin and 'Basenjis sharing' gift giving. I think everyone enjoyed hearing and learned something from the other attendees views and experiences of the broader picture of SF&F fandom, past and present. By evening's end no one had been savaged by the dogs, people had conversed and by general agreement a good time had been had by all. We were in fact very surprised and relieved at how well both Amber and Mysti reacted to the 'Home Invasion' of a dozen strange people in the house.

At 10.00 pm people left, with sufficient remaining feelings of good will and collegiality that lifts were offered and taken up etc. Mother and I got to bed around midnight after an initial round of tidying up. We continued the clear-up next morning. It seems I over catered (lessons learnt for next time) cooked enough for 60 guests and provided drinks for 100 Sydney SF&F fans, judging by the stuff we had left over! As I said to mother as the last guest left, 'Looks like we'll be eating pasta and meatballs for a month!' Mother and I both felt that on many levels the event had been a success, so much so that I'm committed to holding future annual dinners come Worldcon time (and a Sydney Futurian's table at the Banquet in 2010!). If I do end up attending the 2009 Worldcon (Canada?) then it will have to be a 'Sydney Futurians and Worldcon goers' dinner held on the week before the Worldcon?

The Miracle of the morning - A layer of Frost seen (and felt!) on the Tablecloth on the following morning, while I was getting a start on breaking up the table (seating for 18) a Kookaburra perches on the tennis court fence and starts laughing, apparently commenting on the events of the night before! I sang back to him 'Kookaburra sits on the old Gum Tree' with modified lyrics. That shut him up. I then noticed two Rainbow Lorikeets on a thin branch nearby, perched to enjoy the early morning Sun. Bright colours vividly lit against a pure blue sky.

The Miracle of the Evening - Sunday Night was windy and 6 pm to 10 pm temperatures dropped to 6 and 7 degrees C, lethal with wind chill? Rain on Friday Night, Chilling Winds on Sunday night, Thank you for reading this far. If you attended the Dinner and are of a mind to, please do consider sending me an email a short version of what you said or intended to say at the dinner so I can add it

to what I can recall of the dinner table speeches for inclusion in the definitive ANZAPA account of the evening. Much of what was said is worth getting down on paper!

Wishing you well in all things.Garry.