

Transcendental Basenji Sermons & Enlightenment

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For ANZAPA 216**

**February 10, 2004, Garry P Dalrymple
Postal Address:**

P.O. Box 2 Bexley North NSW 2207

Home phone (after 7 pm) 02 –9718- 5827

[gary-peter.Dalrymple@tafensw.edu.au](mailto:garry-peter.Dalrymple@tafensw.edu.au)

Editorial

From a quick read of the contributions to ANZAPA # 216 it would seem that loss has been all too common during 2003. Let's hope that we can write up 2004 as a kinder year. To cheer you up, the picture below is of five Basenji pups (ain't they cute!) I hope this serves to lighten your load for the moment.

Wishing you well in all things, hope to see you at Conflux in April.

Garry P Dalrymple

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Mailing comments on ANZAPA issue # 215 of December 2003

Comment on the following Mailing comments. In the following pages you will notice that the zine titles are underlined and listed in OBO order. If your zine's title is in **bold** then you had something to say to me last time. I have also tried to underline the topic of your responses to my earlier zine. I hope this form of organising mailing comments makes it easier for you to find the points of common interest that we share as you do a first quick read through of this issues conglomeration of zines.

Les Chattes Parties 68 – Sally Yeoland

Very aquatic phase we seem to be going through with this issue, see my flood time reminiscences in a following mailing comment.

ReYC about Migraines, the Migraine effect can come late in life, my mum (over 70) has just started having visual blackout area or blur associated headaches. Can't say if this is just a recent diagnosis or if she has had these 'for ever' as only recently has she compared notes with my headache experiences.

ReYC about Tim Tams - I have seen dark chocolate Tim Tams on sale at Sydney supermarkets, as with the 'Sci-Fi' shelves at chain bookstores, the different varieties of Tim Tams are try to force their competitors off the supermarket shelves by weight of numbers!

ReYC about the Sydney Futurians, started by schoolboys in 1938, lapsed during WWII, source of many of those involved in the 1952 Sydney SF convention, re-formed in 1990s (Post Syncons and Thursday night Galaxy bookshop gatherings, pre-Infinitas). Name used with permission of the New York Futurians (Pohl, Asimov etc.) // the storm occurred while I was at CSF con in Canberra, effects of it were seen from the bus window all the way to Sydney.

Megatheriums for Breakfast 38 – David Grigg

Read your contribution with interest, but no comments at this time.

Kingdom of the Bland – Eric Lindsay

ReYC about SPAM - My SPAM solution would be to allow 'pay to send' emails, i.e. people you know can pay \$0.01 or less for you to receive their email, \$0.20 from people you do not know and \$2.00 for strangers whose message includes 'penis/breast enhancer' or Nigerian type messages. This way some people could earn a decent living receiving and deleting SPAM rather than sending it!

ReYC about US WWII costs – I really do not think that 115% of GDP is the correct figure, might have been at some point 115% of pre-war GDP given the galloping growth of the US (un-bombed) economy during the war years, because before the US entered WWII (some years after the English speaking world) Roosevelt and his cabinet decided

that they would prosecute the war up to the cost that began to affected the US standard of living (my authority for this is Alistair Cook's Letter from America).

ReYC about the getting of the Tim Tams – I asked for 'some' and a survey form so I could use the SF Weekend membership for a comparative taste test, the American owned Product Vs the Australian owned Product. They replied that they did not have the staff to compile a survey, but would I like some biscuits free? They sent a box of several packets of Tem p Tins and the donations (to 'ration' the biscuits among all present rather than having a 'pig-fest' over free chocky biscuits) from these helped with con expenses.

Panopticon 19 – Dan McCarthy

Read your contribution with interest. ReYC to Sally, the Strine bible Is an Abombination! The King James Bible (based on the Wycliffe bible for the most part) is a finer text, and all subsequent 'translations' of it are part translation but mostly interpretation, in that someone appoints themselves to say 'I know what god meant to say, lets just correct those ambiguous words' i.e. this is how the Four gods of the old testament were 'writen out' because the text failed to match the 'message' that later interpreters/translators chose to read into it. See my comments in response to 'Hold that Tiger' for more in this vein. That wretch Kel Richards will live in infamy for ever (and deserves a good horse whipping on the steps of any club) for his psuedo Sherlock Holmes detective story on the internet that involves a Dr 'fatty' Dalrymple grumble, snort, grumble. Strine Bible? Why not a 'Nino Cullota, wogspeak' Bible or a 'pirate speak ' Bible?

ReYC about the Riversleigh Society, it is a charity set up to fund the exploration and research of the Riversleigh fossil deposit in remote Queensland. The bones and what have you are found imbedded in limestone deposits that used to be the bottoms of rainforest lakes, i.e the material is a superfine preservation of Australian animals insects and bird life up to 20 million years old.

ReYC about the Australian Skeptics, some years ago an old bloke died and left his money and house to the Australian Skeptics, this meant that almost

over night they went from a donation soliciting organisation to a donation making organisation promoting critical thinking, science and other good things. Hence they probably paid to have some dinosaurs fossils cleaned up and brought to display condition for the exhibition you saw.

Ping! – John Newman

Read your contribution with interest, [ReYC about David Webber / Honor Harrington / Hexa pumas](#) I am almost tempted to say 'writes like a woman' but know better than to commit THAT to print in fandom. Uniquely for a 'Military SF' writer he does spend a lot of time on what his main characters are thinking and feeling, relationships et. al. in addition to the interminally and sequentially bigger and better space battle scenes. I more than agree that DW lays it on a bit thick about the Hexa puma/human bond, but I can accept that he is writing it as it is – to some people. There are some people who can invest a lot of emotion into a pet and to then claim to observe evidence of emotional reciprocity. I know that I drivel on a great deal about Basenjies, but lacking a partner or photos of grandchildren, it is better to have some external focus for affection, to avoid narcissism!

Hold that Tiger – Terry Morris

Read your contribution with interest. [That book is the origin of the story 'Goodbye my Lady'](#) the film that gave Sydney Poitier his big start and arguable the first American feature film to 'star' an African American. A tear jerker of a movie that I annually try and fail to tape off the TV. On the Internet through a search of Basenji referenced items you can find a War-time (1941/42) article in a Boston newspaper. A Basenjies that was playing on the docks while a Cocoa boat was loaded was trapped in a hold and found in Boston many weeks later after a transatlantic voyage. It survived on bilge water, dew (rats?) and cocoa pods.

ReYC to Cath Ortlieb on the Christian Bible, We Mormons believe.... (How is that for an interest killing first sentence!). The thing about the Bible is context, the community of people who used it as sacred text as it developed to it's current length and composition evolved over time and their spiritual needs of the moment reflect what they chose to add as 'divinely inspired' writings. You need a good guide to discern the varied voices that speak through the pages.

In all seriousness to get a sense of this I recommend a study of the way the Mormon religion came to be what it is today as it is one of the few religions or philosophies for which it's origins can be observed through both internal and external documents (and for the moment they do not do 'fatwahs', although they do kill some 'heretics'). The simple story is that you see ideas that were necessary or convenient at the time becoming 'articles of faith' that continue to the present unless new 'revelation' (equally necessary or convenient for new times) causes them to need to be changed.

Ramblings 23 – Gerald Smith & Womble

Gerald read your contribution with interest, [ReYC about Magic Casements](#) 2003, as you may have already read (see the Bullsheat if you haven't) the 2004 version will be a single day event on Saturday March 6. Without any hesitation I can recommend this event as worth a trip to Sydney. If anyone is coming from out of Sydney might we try for a pre-conflux ANZAPA gathering on the Sunday?

From the Lair of the Lynx #23 – LynC

How nice to see the pictures of the children, caught in the moment of having fun, as a solitary person this is a thing that I miss out on seeing much of.

Interstellar Ramjet Scoop – Bill Wright

Lots to comment on here, impressed as ever by [Ditmar's covers](#) but through grinding teeth! Having been financially linked to 'cosmic cheesecake' Space and Astronomy images it galls me every time I see these used without attribution or to depict images that conflict with the known laws of physics, need I mutter 'Roche limits'?

Sorry to have to pick on Ditmar again, but in the Hal Clement article I saw something that I see to often at work, the presumption that the screenshot explains everything. I got the point of what he was trying to say, but I feel it could have been said shorter and clearer with better chosen explanatory captions and line diagrams.

'Hard SF', my personal view of what is/isn't SF depends on what can't be done in any other genre, and part of this requires a story exposition and the full exploration of some new scientific discovery or philosophical innovation (Larry Niven used to do a lot of this) // Read John August's piece on the Solar Eclipse at Purple Downs. The Astronomy group of which I am a member also sent a group down to observe the eclipse, so it is interesting to have John's perspective on it. I can't leave this unsaid though, although John was in transit to an ASRI event, he might have benefited by getting there a few days earlier to enjoy the people and the feeling of the event. Eclipse chasers, both amateur and academic are about the most fannish sort of mundanes you might expect to meet, as they attend eclipses with the same sense of participation as do Worldcon attendees.

[ReYC to David Grigg](#) about Henrys VII and VIII, I can forgive the Henrys a great deal, the Usurper and his son having had experience of the brutal cost of civil war did all they could to avoid a repeat. Henry VIII of the eight wives was a paragon of physical virtue in his youth and would have been strongly motivated to produce a heir to allow an uncontested succession after his death. If his son had lived long enough to succeed and breed who knows what religious blood shedding, the Stuarts and the UK civil war? Might have been avoided?

80 days Around the World Episode 23

- Sue and David Grigg

Read your contribution with interest, but no comments at this time.

Son et Lumiere et Pluie – Sue Grigg

Read your contribution with interest, ah the joy of truly berserk weather! Ain't it nice that we now no longer need to blame the perfidious French and their nuclear tests in the pacific, the French, a people infamous for their thirst for 'plonk' but enthusiastic lack of 'bottle', a bunch of Frog eating appeasement monkeys, (and on whose side did they spend most of WW2 anyway?). To be able to shift the blame to George Dubya and those non-Kyoto ratifying interests to which he is beholden to is quite a relief.

As our house is at the bottom of a slight hill and next to the storm water drain, I have vivid childhood memories of the almost annual backyard floods of the early 1970s when water would rise above the edge of the driveway and 'flo-thru'. Waking up in the morning to a flooded backyard and the marking off of flood heights and dates on the garage walls (ankle to knee high), also seeing the (boxer) dog mournfully sitting on the back steps for want of anywhere else to sit.

I have more on this aquatic theme following the conclusion of these LOCs.

Karenzapa X - Karen Johnson

ReYCard – I too know the pain that comes of creativity. Instead of handing out cards etc. in late December I made up 'Garry's OTEN Restructure Dice and Gift Box' and filled them with chocolates etc. for over thirty co-workers equally likely to get the chop during 2004. The number to make up was determined by the mathematics of cubic numbers (27 too few and 64 too many) as 'cubicity' was crucial to how I would get them to work without being crushed etc. The end result was much appreciated by the OTEN intelligentsia, as it gave them away of 'rolling the dice' to pre-determine what their employment outcome would be. 'Never again' was muttered many times, as the time to complete this project just blew out. //I also have enjoyed 'Nip and Tuck' as a lesser consolation prize for the absence of 'Six Feet Under' during the 'sportz season of summer programs'.

ReYC to Alan, Intersection cameras record slightly more than revenue. If you sit at some of Sydney University's bus stops after dark you will notice 'redlight cameras flashing at apparently empty intersections. What is happening is that fruit bats are crossing the intersection at double bus height when traffic pauses, i.e. during the red lights! Don't know if the RTA has figured this out, as their cameras are supposed to be aimed at numberplate height.

Necessity 55: My Home Town

Quite a lot that I could respond to in this issue, but so much of it would be stale before the next

ANZAPA gets out that I will restrict myself to these few comments; - Some people from work booked to attend a dinner and cruise on the [James Craig](#), or they thought they did, ended up on the sister ship, the 'Jenny Craig'.

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Same harbour cruise, but smaller portions or was that the James Caird, and even smaller portions? Two of our (OTEN) writers are James Craig crew (Nicole Allen and ??).

- Have seen and enjoyed 'From the Earth to the Moon' (Sunday mornings 9 to 11 during 'summer season') damned fine program, typical inexplicable channel 9 programming decision. At some point I might try to borrow the DVD from you to enjoy the whole thing sans add breaks.

- The JFK speech still hits the spot as an inspirational statement. In time, in spite of its faulty wording and grammar, I feel it will stand the test of time and serve as does Lincoln's Gettysburg address and the US declaration of independence in explaining the spirit that was abroad in those times.

- Science Fiction writers and religion; surely and seriously you must include the guy that did 'Eckenaar' and also the French dude behind 'Raelianism'.

ReYC on TSBSE #4 I take encouragement from your comments about the Sydney SF Events I have organised. For 2004 all of my plans are subordinate to Conflux and I do not see a Freecon (single day) of SF Weekend being feasible before June or July, allowing for recovery from 'con-fatigue'. I would like to try to 'Nova Mob' type events ancillary to the Sydney Futurian calendar of meetings, but this would be a matter of opportune Guest Speaker, venue and occasion.

Goat Sneeze #14 – Derrick Ashby

Read your contribution with interest, but no comments at this time.

You Really Know You're Home When You Find a Wombat in Your Bed #90

– Cath Ortlieb

Read your contribution with interest, but no comments at this time.

Land of 10,000 Loons – Jeanne Mealy

ReYC to me. Yes I had meant to explain that I had more help with the last one than for some previous Sydney SF&F events // I can't really say if there are more (or less) SF&F events following my efforts. The Fantastic Fictions and Magic Casements events have all taken place after and with knowledge of my events, but as much as it would be flattering to think so I cannot claim a causal relationship. It is my sincere wish that a successful Conflux (2004 Australian Natcon in Canberra, 300 km away from Sydney) will eclipse anything I have done in bringing 'new fans' out of the closet and old fans back into harness for future Sydney SF&F conventions of the 'orthodox' format. I can't say whether there are actually more or less SF&F type events taking place in Sydney these days, what with trying to pick 'safe' dates for Freecons and compiling the 2004 Sydney SF events Calendar I do not know if there is an increase or if I am just finding more of them. // I will try to include more SF and Science event reviews during 2004, events and new responsibilities following my father's death have slowed me down a bit, but with new challenges come new opportunities (get a driver's license and a car for 2004?).

From the South Oct 2003 – Michael O'Brien

My commiserations with your loss, my father's demise followed much the same trajectory except that in spite of morphia there was considerable dignity denying pain for most of most his last weeks.

Although our parents are/were 'just ordinary folks' their like will never be seen again. The mechanical and technical skills that they routinely acquired through their lives just leave me stumped. I suspect that in my father's garage I could find all the tools you would need to rebuild a house from the ground up and my father would have known how to do it all.

Gegenschein 95 – Eric Lindsay

Read your contribution with interest, but no comments at this time.

Gegenschein 96 – Eric Lindsay

Read your contribution with interest, but no comments at this time.

Garry's Recent Reading, December 2003 to February 2004.

Incomplete data is a result of missed diary entries over the New Year break.

21 Nov to 06 Dec 2003 'Distraction' 498 pages © 1998 by Bruce Sterling (Mainstream politics discovers 'fandom' as a social paradigm) 07 Dec to 13 Dec 2003 'Snow White and the Seven Samurai' 308 pages © 1999 by Tom Holt Discontinued reading, too much formulaic Pratchett imitating Fantasy.

14 Dec to 23 Dec 2003 'The Twist' 282 pages © 1999 by Richard Calder - Discontinued reading, too much 'magic' to too little plot purpose, just went on and on!

24 to 28 Dec 2003 'Mirror Dance' 560 pages © 1994 by Lois McMaster Bujold

January 2004 'Pink Samurai' 719 pages © 1991 by Nicholas Bornoff

January 2004 'Earth's last Fortress' 100 pages © 1969 by A.E. Van Vogt

28 Dec 2003 to 08 Jan 2004 'Night Watch' 474 pages © 2002 by Terry Pratchett

13 to 17 Jan 'Final Program' 194 pages © 1965 and 'Cure for Cancer' 253 pages © 1971 (two Jerry Cornelius novels) by Michael Moorcock

18 to 20 Jan 'The Integral Trees' 272 pages © 1983 by Larry Niven

18 to 20 Jan 'Diplomatic Immunity' 367 pages © 2002 by Lois McMaster Bujold

21 to Jan 28 'Monks hood' 268 pages © 1980 by Ellis Peters (a brother Cadfael mystery)

28 Jan to 04 Feb 'Second Contact: Colonisation' 694 pages © 1999 by Harry Turtledove.

05 Feb to the present 'The Three Stigmata of Palmer Eldritch' 204 pages © 1964 by Philip K. Dick

Also Read;

Ansibles – Dave Langford;

Emerald City 98, 99 & 100 – Cheryl Morgan;

Fortean Times – November, 30th Anniversary and December Issues

Gegenschein 98 – Eric Lindsay

The Irish SF Times – Pdraig O'Mealoid;

New Scientist December issues

The Australian Skeptic;

The Sydney Morning Herald

Continuing threads

Gladys across the road has been to hospital and back again. One Sunday in late December, she was feeling faint at about 10 am. Mum went with her to hospital in an Ambulance at 11.45, returned home at 5 pm.

Random Observation

Last week while going home on the bus from work I noticed a car with Tasmanian number plates this was presumably one of the first cars to come up from Tassie on the new Sydney-Tasmania car ferry. As its a 20 hour trip, the Pre-Natcon possibilities loom large for 2005. Was unable to confirm that the car was without rear view mirrors.

The Son of the Son of a Water Bailiff

Background

The Sydney metropolitan area is currently under drought conditions, Sydney Water reserves having dropped to about 50% of maximum storage and some water use restrictions are now in place. I guess these circumstances and a general reluctance to pay for what you can get for free has caused some long dormant Latent genes to emerge during the recent end of year break.

My Grandfather was employed for many years as a Water Bailiff at Griffith, NSW by the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area's water Authority to ensure that farmers got the water they subscribed for from the canals that ran with melt water from Australia's Alpine regions. You can read of his activities in the 'Griffith Pioneers, book. This was well before the post WW2 diversion of the Snowy River.

An incident with a rainwater tank nearly ended the Australian Dalrymple dynasty. While working inside one of the household water tanks in Griffith my grandfather passed out due to tar fumes, and his son, my father almost suffocated trying to drag his unconscious father out of the tank!

During the Christmas/January break, my mother and I studied how much town water we were in fact using and where reductions and economies could be made.

Our significant household water usage as measured during January can be summarised as follows

- A. Two showers a day = 20 to 40 litres each day. NB this is with the use of a 'fairy spray' low water usage shower rose
- B. Toilet Flushes, five to ten times a day, (outside toilet takes dog by product) ten to twenty litres each flush.
- C. Washing machine two to four loads a week, wash and rinse cycles, 60 litres per wash,
- D. Kitchen and hand washing: Kitchen, laundry and hands, 20 litres a day
- E. Front and back gardens and lawn. Five to ten minutes each dry day most dry days estimate of 40 to 60 litres each
- F. Water for Cups of tea, rinsing teeth etc., two or five litres per day (not that much!)

Table 1 estimated household water usage

Type of water use	Litres week	Per	Annual Usage	% Of Total
F. Drinking etc	20		1,040	1.33
D. Kitchen and hand washing	140		7,280	9.33
C. Washing machine	180		9,360	12.0
A. Showers	210		10,920	14.0
E. Hand watering Lawns & Gardens	250		13,000	16.67
B. Toilet flushes	700		36,400	46.67
Total	1500		78,000	100.0
Maximum re-use				

As currently set up, each week we require about 530 litres of drinkable standard town water (uses A, C, D and F). All other water used need not be of this quality and hence E and B could be sourced from re-use (A and C) or by substituted rainwater (when available). Additionally rainwater can be used for soaking clothes prior to machine washing, a saving of 20 to 30 litres. Based on the above it might be possible to get by on as little as 550 litres per week of town water if rainwater is freely available during that week to make up the difference.

The 'Basenji Water Farm' equipment list

Storage

- One 75-litre Blue PVC (food grade) rain barrel on a rudimentary stand that raises it 600mm off the ground
- One 35-litre PVC Kitchen tidy bottom (thin skin)
- Three 25 litre clear PVC drums (with caps)
- One 20 litre clear PVC drum
- One 20 litre PVC drum with tap (Ex Kerosene)
- One Black PVC 20 litre drum with detachable top (Ex home brew Beer fermenter)
- Four 15 litre PVC buckets with lids
- Sundry 10-15 litre laundry / gardening buckets
- Several 1 to 5-metre lengths of clear PVC tubing
- Several Steel and plastic funnels
- A large foam rubber sponge, cut off the corner of a cushion
- Scoops made from cut down 3 litre plastic milk bottles
- I.e. I can store about 200 litres of water in various drums and buckets, 6mm of rainfall or three days average rainfall, which is why I want to get several 200L PVC drums to be able to store a 'wet week's worth of rain against several dry weeks.

Catchment

- 25 square metres of Garage roof (Eastern side)
- 5 square metres between the 'Bantam shed' and the 'TV shed' (Southern half) roofs

NB 2 by 4-metre aluminium carport is currently lacks guttering and the Western side of the Garage (13 square metres) is guttered but its runoff is not currently accessible for rainwater collection, after brief showers it serves as a mass birdbath, consequently its water quality is suspect.

I.e. Rain can be collected from a total of about 30 square metres of roof, but with some more guttering and plumbing work, this could be extended to a total of nearly 50 square metres before having to make any modification to the guttering and down pipes attached to the house.

Methods

Out of doors - The 75 litre drum collects the rain draining off the (Eastern) 2-car garage side of a 3-car garage. As only 1 to 2 mm of rainfall is enough to over fill the blue drum, I try to siphon water out into Buckets and smaller rectangular PVC drums when it is observed to be over flowing. Buckets are also placed to receive runoff from the two sheds. All rain water collected is allowed to settle for a day or two, visibly dirty water is allocated to toilet use, cleaner 'second-day' water may be used for drinking or clothes soaking. When water collected is in excess of daily usage, it is stored in the rectangular drums which sit in the shade under the car port. One drum is placed on the brick pile adjacent to the outdoor toilet and Laundry, which allows their contents to be transferred to buckets by siphoning or by 'tilt and slop'.

Laundry - Grey-water from the wash cycle of the washing machine is used for back lawn / garden watering, cleaner and clearer but still slightly soapy 'rinse-cycle' water is transferred to buckets for toilet flushing or front lawn / garden watering if needed.

Indoors - Shower water is scooped up or sponged up out of the bath into the 'grey-water' (black) PVC buckets and used for toilet flushing or front lawn / garden watering.

Table 2 - Data on the average monthly rainfall for selected (fannish capitals?) Australian Sites, rounded to whole millimetres

	Syd. Rain	Syd. Evap.	Melb Rain	Perth Rain	Can Rain	Casey Rain
Jan	100	150-175	46	09	61	02
Feb	111	150-175	41	15	54	04
Mar	122	125-150	39	15	53	10
Apr	106	125-150	47	41	49	10
May	98	60-80	46	104	49	12
Jun	123	50-60	41	171	40	09
July	69	60-80	37	162	42	08
Aug	81	80-100	47	119	47	07
Sep	62	125-150	51	71	53	04
Oct	73	125-150	59	47	66	04
Nov	82	150-175	60	25	64	02
Dec	75	175-200	49	11	53	02
Av.	92	117-133	47	66	53	06
Total	1102	1400 to 1600	563	790	631	74

Statistics found on website for 'Year book of Australia 2003' Australian Bureau of Statistics and Bureau of Meteorology.

Fannish readers applying a careful scrutiny to these monthly rainfall statistics and comparing them with the history of recent Australian Science Fiction conventions may be lead to a view that for SF activity 'drier is better' (i.e. Perth Driest, Canberra Dryish, Melbourne not too wet, Sydney almost awash!). This could be taken to indicate that the obvious choice for the next Australian Worldcon might be the Casey base in Australian Antarctica. Not many visitors during the Northern hemisphere summer season so accommodation rates should be at 'low season' rates close to US labour day weekend?

Table 3 Water budget from a 30sqm roof

(Whole of house roof area exceeds 80 sqm)

Month	Litres Of rain	Reuse of water	'New' water used	Water saved as %	Total Water usage
Jan	3000	2730	3500	46.2	6500
Feb	3300	2730	3200	50.8	6500
Mar	3660	2730	2840	56.3	6500
Apr	3180	2730	3320	51.1	6500
May	2940	2730	3560	45.2	6500

June	3690	2730	2810	56.8	6500
Jul	2070	2730	4430	31.8	6500
Aug	2430	2730	4000	38.4	6500
Sep	1860	2730	4640	28.6	6500
Oct	2190	2730	4310	33.7	6500
Nov	2460	2730	4040	37.8	6500
Dec	2250	2730	4250	34.6	6500
Year	33060	32760	44900	42.4	78000

NB the figures on the preceding table have been adjusted so that monthly figures are equal to 4.33 weeks and up to 4100 of the monthly 6500 litres could either be rain water or re-used water for toilet flushing and watering lawns and gardens.

From this then I think that you can see that the critical issue in this business is storage. I.e. during an 'average days rain' during September, Sydney's driest month the blue barrel would overflow most days and over the month about two cubic metres of water could be expected to come off the Garage roof.

Issue – Thoughts on Conversion or Conservation?

As the majority of the rainwater under discussion is collected at a point that is nearly the lowest part of our block of land it requires effort to get it to where it can be used. While I can manually move bucket sized quantities of water about the back yard, the volume of water available from a 'real' water tank collecting rain off the garage would require a pump and piping to get it up to the house. In any case, the dimensions of the 'hole' between sheds and garage that is available to mount a tank also restricts me to a max 3,000 litre PVC tank, possibly below the council subsidy limit.

Given the statistics on annual Sydney rainfall a case can easily be made that based on whole roof collection, many Sydney households could be independent of town water supplies for some months of most years.

However the cost of conversion would be an initial one-off cost of some (un-researched) thousands of dollars for tanks, stands and re-doing the household plumbing. There would also be some continuing costs for water treatment to bring it to town water quality.

In effect, at current town water prices it would be more 'ecologically sound' to bank the money, use the interest to pay water bills and donate the balance to worthy causes. For example a 1,000 Litre PVC tank alone costs about \$400 for (piping, pump, stand and connection would cost more). Assuming an unlimited supply of 'free' water from the skies, it would need to be refilled over 500 times with usable 'free' rain water to pay for itself.

Given potentially greater future water usage needs or cost of town water (a swimming pool instead of the garages and sheds or an increasing young family?) a greater degree of investment into rain water storage and collection and might be justifiable, but not at the current level of water usage and costs.

Between 'do nothing' and 'do everything' there is available a middle path of several water saving, substitution and re-use options that mother and I have tried and have required little or no financial cost or hygiene compromises. These options may not be applicable to your household/ lifestyle but they may suggest ways that you and yours might cut down on water usage.

This discussion takes me a considerable distance from my initial point of entry to thinking about water and rainfall. My original consideration was how to deal with the rusted through elbow of a downpipe at the corner of the garage, and how to prevent the flow of storm water inundating the garage or undercutting corner of the garage's concrete slab.

What we do now

There are a number of fairly simple steps that mother and I have taken to reduce our use of town water. Most of these are traditional country practices (a return to the Griffith childhood of both my parents) transferred to the suburbs and also some of the things that mum and dad used to do to save having to carry excess water when they were on campervan trips.

Re-use and Conservation

The major source of water that can be put to re-use turns out to be the washing machine. With mostly between two to four uses each week. Without much effort the 'out' hose of the washing machine has been diverted from going straight down the drain to buckets. 'Grey' wash water from the washing machine is spread over the back lawn and garden, while the clearer rinse cycle water is retained to join shower water which is held for 'toilet flush' use (at our place guests are privileged to be able pull the chain). A squarish PVC basin, originally designed for collecting used oil during a motor oil change, now fits in the kitchen sink for small dish washing purposes (saves having to fill the whole sink and it tipped into toilets when no longer required. If larger washes are needed, after the event, this water can be siphoned out into a bucket or sponged out to end up as toilet water or lawn/garden water. If the washing machine is used more frequently during a week, excess rinse cycle water can be stored in one of the 25 litre drums and I can carry it to the front garden and lawn. When lifted onto the (one metre high) brick front fence, this water has enough pressure behind it to be used to hose the front lawn (using a 3-metre length of PVC tubing).

Substitution

When available, unfiltered or treated rainwater can be used for hand washing and soaking clothes prior to machine, toilet and lawn / garden watering, substituting for town water use, as you can sort of see in table 5. As Sydney rainwater passes through Sydney air, 'Second day' (free of dust leaves and bird by product) rainwater is much preferred for drinking. This is fairly risk free as mostly we drink tea or coffee, which is boiled in an electric jug first. We also sometimes use the jug to heat water for minor dishwashing / rinsing in preference to running the hot water taps (connected to a Solar hot water system) until the water is hot enough.

Table 4 - Cost of storing your rainwater once collected i.e. excludes guttering and piping

Description	Cost	Source of item	\$per L
5000L PVC tank	\$2729	Dexion	0.5458
2700L PVC tank	\$1894	Dexion	0.7016
2250L PVC tank	\$1364	Dexion	0.6062
1500L PVC tank	\$1123	Dexion	0.7487
500L PVC tank	\$454	Dexion	0.9086
360L Sulu bin	\$300?	Sulu?	0.900?
240L Sulu bin	\$200+	Council	0.900?
200L PVC Drum	\$151	Reflex	0.7535
200L PVC Drum	\$110	Reflex	0.5500
200L Ex Pickle*	\$40	Garden	0.2000
120L PVC Drum	\$97	Reflex	0.8053
120L Screw lid	157	Reflex	1.3108
Rectangular Drums			
25 litre	\$17.6	Dexion	0.704
25 litre	\$25	Kmart	1.00
15 litre	\$15.1	Dexion	1.00
25 litre	>\$5	Rev G T.	>0.20
15 litre	>\$5	Rev G T.	>0.35
20L Jerrycans	\$17	Dexion	0.8525
20L Jerrycans	\$25	Kmart	1.200
20/30 L Drums?	>\$5	Rev G T.	>0.35
Tap water	Nil	Syd Wat	0.007

NB - Rev G. T. = **Reverse Garbage Truck**, an inner city (Marrickville) collective that recycles trade waste items such as empty bulk food containers, probably all the 25 litre PVC drums you can carry for less than \$20. I got the 60 Litre drum from them for less than \$10 just after Christmas. Well worth a monthly visit to see what comes in.

Dexion and **Reflex** are in the Sydney phone book as plastic storage equipment suppliers.

Ex bulk Pickle barrels are said to be available from garden suppliers for 'about \$40', seen by a BAANSW committee member, otherwise they have to be bought new.

Wish list for future developments

A. One or more 200 litre PVC Barrels, possibly a stack of three at the garage corner and one near the Laundry/outside toilet – cost \$100 to \$300?

B. A Pump (electric or hand powered) with and piping to shift water (up hill) to front Garden/Lawn to replace hose usage. Would need about 60 metres of PVC piping and joints etc. – cost \$100 to \$400, as some of the stuff needed is probably already at hand in the garage somewhere.

C. Conversion of the outside toilet to dual Town/Grey water operation. This toilet has its cistern on an outside wall, so conversion could be done with a valve, some tubing, a bucket and a pair of milk crates – cost some change out of \$100

D. Water Storage and conversion of Washing machine to dual Town/Tank water. The Washing machine is likely to need replacement in a few years time, rainwater compatibility could be a purchase criteria, would need a 100 plus litre water storage unit to fit along the side of the house, which would require some sort of stand. – Cost \$200 to \$400. Getting rainwater into the washing machine and then onto the front garden/lawn could see additional reductions at modest cost.

E. The Windmill Tower and Tank. Yes, a real live imitation rural windmill, the ultimate statement in inner city country chic! Number 1 Eulabah Avenue is the house at the bottom of the hill and a creek used to run down the western border of the property. I.e. dig and there is probably water a few feet below ground. – Cost, the evenings of a couple of week could turn some rusty bike parts into a working model of a windmill to suck water out of a hole in the ground, or just to raise some rain water so that it will flow by gravity to a barrel at the front fence, which is the highest point on the property. I have seen 'Real' windmills for sale at ~ \$1000

F. The Gutter Scoop and walk in (front fence or underneath the driveway) steel or concrete tank. If water is ever seriously priced or the Greenhouse effect delivers a Perth climate, then for serious catchment and storage the way to go is to deploy a drogue siphon in the side of the road gutter. Effectively the public road becomes your collecting roof and you would harvest several months worth of water each time it rained. Would need ridiculously large storage and go to the expense of water filtration and treatment as well as full household dual water system plumbing – cost not much change from \$10,000 or twice the cost of building an equivalent in ground swimming pool. Serious money for a pipe dream!

Why bother when water is so cheap?

Sydney's water supply is cheap and clean and billed at about \$A0.70 per thousand litres (cubic Metre). Years ago when I owned Memtec shares, the real cost of drinkable standard water (storage, treatment and a sustainable program of maintenance/renewal of water mains etc) was estimated to be about \$2.00 per cubic metre, which will have to be met in the future as 100 year old pipes fail and new pipes need to be laid in green site housing areas.

The international experience of water supply privatisations is that price increases of between three to five hundred percent of the prices charged by 'inefficient' non-profit semi-government providers. They often reap substantial windfall profits through the sale of assets and land use rights before handing back to government the major infrastructure costs as they fall due. I.e. five years after Sydney water is privatised I would not be surprised to see water bills of \$5 to \$10 on a 'temporary' basis for the next few decades to fund the annual thousand million dollar cost of replacing 5 to 10 % of the Sydney's water pipes that have been being deferred for the past few decades to make privatisation a commercially attractive option.

Garry's Water Rant

The Sydney water 'problem' is consequence of the collision of bourgeois thinking (storing rainwater is for hicks, town water is sophistication) and a long standing 'cargo cult' mentality enjoyed by Australian governments of all hues.

From the 1950s on, Town water was seen as the only way to go and domestic rainwater systems were in many suburbs outlawed by local government. The Sydney

This problem is likely to be compounded in future years as the proportion of Sydneysiders living in a detached house (rather than blocks of flats) number

Some water solutions if I had 'Supreme Executive Power'

A. Mandatory retrofit of Big roofed buildings, and parks and car parks, with walk in sized concrete cisterns for storm water collection. This water would be available to be used for onsite uses and watering parks, golf courses etc and if necessary it could be pumped into the town water mains via visiting filter and treatment equipped trucks. To Water collected could result in a credit against the property owner's water use at other locations.

B. Money currently spent on the \$500 subsidy on installation costs for home rainwater tanks would be re-directed to subsidising the additional guttering costs and downer-direction required to more efficiently collect rainwater from public or commercial large roofed buildings pipe saponite high guttering and huge tanks (school benefit from roof and guttering service checks? rather than \$500 subsidy per household

C. New and existing high-rise flats would be required to direct all roof runoff into a storage tank, which would be connected to all the building's toilets in a way that would permit dual source town/rain water supply for flushing purposes.

As water used for this purpose does not have to be drinking standard, this innovation would reduce the draw on higher quality town water and during the rainy times of the year, this would reduce stormwater flows. It may also make it easier for body corporate groups to consider 'shower-to-toilet' re-use of town water, as the main plumbing costs would already be factored into the design of the building. Heathen condition of this water is not the plumbing for 200 toilets in a 150 flat building could be achieved at much less cost than critical. This would allow a reduction of the draw on stopping stormwater runoff nuisance

D. A tax on charged against paved ground and consequent stormwater could be used to subsidise household and industrial rainwater collection and Town water re-use expenses.

What's the weather like at Garry's place?

While looking into rain and water matters a bloke at work pointed this website. It is a website connected automatic weather monitoring device owned by a 'Ham' radio enthusiast at Earlwood. I think Mysti and I walk past the house where it's owner lives as some nights when we walk to Hughes Park, as I have seen.

Garry's Road Safety Rant

(I am of course a non-driver!)

Recently I noticed in the Sydney Morning Herald that an American woman who had been involved in a fatal car accident was appealing against her sentence. She had been required to carry with her at all times a photograph of the man killed in her accident. The intention of the judgment was to be a reminder of the accident's consequences.

Her objection was that the photograph supplied was of the bloke in a coffin and thus was too distressing for her to be expected to carry about!

A common sight at some of the more accident prone intersections around Sydney are memorial floral arrangements sticky taped to telephone poles, which are allowed to wither for a work or so until the RTA removes them. In the RTA's opinion flowers and other roadside memorials such as Crosses and RIP markers are a potential distraction to drivers and are therefore removed in the interests of 'safety' (couldn't possibly be seen as a disquieting reflection on the unsafeness of NSW roads!).

Unlicensed, suspended and uninsured drivers cause many accidents. These are frequently stolen or unregistered cars which feature in weekly death defying car chases that too frequently end in fatalities of participants and bystanders.

Some Road Safety solutions if I had 'Supreme Executive Power'

If you drive and you kill, then you have to drive with a model coffin on the top of your car. Model Hospital beds and Wheelchairs for whose driving has injured and disabled. Your 'Score' will be recorded on your drivers license, so if you are found driving any vehicle at any time that does not carry your 'score' to warn other drivers will have their license taken on the spot. If you were pulled up at an intersection facing a multiple killer, wouldn't that get you full care and attention?

The Electronic license (coming real soon)

I have a great deal of sympathy for elderly and other less mobile people who need to drive but whose vision and reaction times may not equip them well to be drivers. Instead of yanking licenses off the over seventies, the infirmed and other less than optimal drivers, I would prefer to see annual examination of all driver's vision and reaction time and for this information to be stored on a microchip in each drivers license card (together with the usual medical and next of kin data). Using current dog registration microchip technology it would be possible to drive with your license in a reader that would continually broadcast to cars ahead and behind what your vision and reaction time status is and a chip in your license holder could interpret that to give a tone (ahead or behind the driver) to indicate that at current speed you are too close to be able to avoid a collision if forced to stop suddenly.

License points re-considered

In NSW your license has 'points', loose enough points through speeding, drink driving and other safety offences and you can loose your license. As the penalty is potentially deferred, I do not feel that this has sufficient deterrent. I say jerk their licenses immediately for a week or two for minor offences so they get an immediate taste of the consequences that their continued poor driving will bring about. For too many young drivers it's a competition to see how long it will take before they accumulate enough 'points' to have to drive license less rather than a real obligation to 'fly right'. It may be 'cool' to be a bit of a rebel by accumulating 'points' but it is less cool to have to face weeks of being a passenger each time the stuff up.

Your right to buy petrol?

I continue to be puzzled why it is that driving without a license and without insurance you can still buy petrol and LPG. It is like you can buy any amount of gun ammunition or explosives without having to prove that you have valid licenses to use the stuff or are of 'good character'. Surely it is time that 'no valid license no gas' became the rule at petrol stations? Of course people will be able to persuade some friends to buy petrol on their behalf, but the more people compromised, the greater chance that offenders will be dobbed in by someone who has to share the consequences of their behaviour.

You can't put a policeman in every passenger seat, but removing evidence trail free access to motor fuel is surely a step worth taking if it makes it harder for killer drivers to get on the road on moral grounds and financial grounds, particularly if it can go some way to reducing the human cost of car accidents.

Continuing tales from other Basenjjs

ASIM authorship feedback

Absolutely nothing to date!

How is the weather at Garry's place? Well you can find out on the Internet. A bloke at work pointed out to me that there is a website giving up to date Earlwood weather details. I think Mysti and I have walked past this house on occasions when we walk to Hughes Park. The Earlwood website is: <http://members.optusnet.com.au/editurbo/weather/weather.html>

Review of PAPA 119, October 2003 edition,

40 pages – the publication of an Irish / UK Amateur Press Association.

I received a copy of PAPA via Bobby McLaughlin after seeing a notice in Paddy O'Mealoid's Irish SF Times published in the now infamous 'Magic Casements Southern Edition' tribute edition of the Irish SF Times.

PAPA is organised very differently to ANZAPA. Members send a single copy of their submission to the editor who has the issue commercially printed

and bound, rather than being collated from thirty or so copies of individual contributions as we do. Consequently the annual subscription rate is much higher than for ANZAPA (20 Pounds or 30 Euros for

UK/Irish subscribers, Australian / US / NZ rates are not unstated), but there seems to be less work involved for the Editor. It also gives more space to original fiction and comment thereon.

If you are interested in joining PAPA (they have vacancies as of October 2003), you might get in touch with Bobby McLaughlin, 33 Wellington Lane, DUBLIN 4, Ireland – bobby@catalase.com Alternatively I could post you my (single) copy of PAPA 119 if you are curious, or I could take it with me to Conflux?

Well what is in an edition of PAPA? By the index it reads; Pages 1 to 3 Contents and Disclaimer, Addresses Subscribers & Administrator, Rules and Regulations.

- P. 4-14 'Universal Wanderings' by David Clements
- P.15 to 17 'Papagens by Sue Thomason
- P. 18 to 21 'Meant to Be?' by Claudia Fisher
- P. 22 to 27 'Which Craft' by Bobby MacLaughlin
- P. 28 to 30 'Crooks's Glass' by James Crook
- P. 31 to 40 'Saturday Afternoon by Sue Thomason

I have no way of knowing if the content of this issue of PAPA is typical. The contributions were fairly evenly divided between short fantasy stories Vs continuing 'what I did next' articles of the sort familiar to ANZAPA members, with a con report possibly acting as a referee / touch judge. I was a little disappointed at this, as I had been expecting that the zine would be more about Science Fiction stories and writing. Before reading through PAPA I had been considering joining it, the only thing holding me back being the doubt that I could reliably churn six or so short SF stories a year to meet deadlines.

It was an ironic touch that I received this zine all the way from Ireland, on the day of my father's funeral, as he could claim to be a 'son of Ireland' through both parents. If I saw future editions of this APA at a convention I would probably take it home for a read. PAPA is very different from what I had imagined, much and if I had a say in it's organisation I would suggest some changes i.e. adapt the one submission copy rule to electronic submission so that you could have 'postal copy' and 'electronic copy' membership charges and also the ability to post editions to the web, allowing more people to read the contributions and setting up a wider 'gene pool' of potential future members/contributors. I do not think that a similar approach would work with ANZAPA, as most of the parts of a mailing have an independent life, although a web page with re-directs to member's individual web pages or e versions of zines might be worth trying?

**Garry P. Dalrymple,
For ANZAPA #216, December 2003**

This page is provided for your notes toward
Mailing Comment notes on Transcendental Basenji
Sermons & Enlightenment Volume 1 No. 5
ANZAPA # 216

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