

## **Production Notes / Sonic Renewal Service**

Sonic Screwdriver is the official newsletter of The Doctor Who Club of Victoria.

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# CHANCE TO RENEW

As Sonic regenerates, so does your annual subscription. To keep life simple for all, everyone renews their membership at the start of each year. This means that you are not special, nor alone, in rejoining for another year—or two or three.

Please take the time now to fill in the renewal form, while it sits freshly in your mind. If you fail to do so and lose the form-fear not. We, the thoughtful Sonic editors have included a form within these precious pages.

To the new members who joined at conventions towards the end of last year-thank you. I hope you have visited meetings and enjoyed reading through our magazine. Thanks for those new people who have contributed to Sonic. As new members, it's fantastic that you care so much as to help out and submit your original articles and reviews. To those who have not, simply just rejoin and submit!

You will become like us!.

Please take the time to fill out the flyer now and place it in a nicely stamped and correctly addressed envelope. Place it with your keys and next time you pop out to get milk, drop the envelope in the letterbox at the end of the street. Alternatively, you can do so on your way to work.

#### The Doctor Who Club of Victoria

Club Address PO Box 734 Niddrie VIC 3042

#### Special note to new members:

If you were unsure about renewing ... why not give your new editors a little more time to impress you ... renew for one year, see how you like Sonic in a few months and even contribute to make it the magazine you would like it to be? We are sure we will win you over!!!

## In This Issue ...



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Verity Lambert Photo Tribute by Michael Young



## The Long, Long Game ...

IAN: Welcome to the world of tomorrow. I am your constantly busy Event Organiser and Sonic Editor, but quite frankly I would like your help for both. Any ideas you have for meetings will be more than welcome as aside from our new series celebration ones, I am quite out of ideas. Sure, I can recycle with the best of them, but to keep this club as fresh as Adric's dress sense I need to pick your brains ~ especially in regards to finding a venue for the club's new home. Ideas please.

Last year there were some wonderful events, Ballarat Wildlife Park, Mini-Golf, Luna Park, Go Karts, Movie Days, Dark-Force Laser, and the traditional Christmas Party and New Series Celebrations. Before then we had Strike Ten Pin Bowling, Geelong Water Park, Quiz Days, Anniversary Lunches, and Tributes; all these events were wonderful. However, to avoid being stuck in a time-loop, please contact me. My details are below. If not, you know what you shall be getting later this year.

Framed and ordered, Sonic's new look reflects the future for the magazine. The feel and content over the coming months, will develop from your submissions ~ all shall be welcomed. For bringing a wider range of views into the issues, children's reviews, merchandise news, book overviews, club member focuses, and a new feature Archive 6 will grace the pages. Many standard features remain, but evolution will inevitably bring a vibrant feel to the revamped publication.

I truly am pumped about the energy everyone puts into this, not to mention my fantastic scarf hand-knitted by Jessica ~ thanks does not even begin to cover it. This year will glow, and I hope you all rejoin to keep this wonderful institution sprinting towards the future.

#### lan A. Chapman

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DWCV Forum ~ Ambivalence



MICHAEL: I am always being told that "change is a good thing"! Well I hope that you don't find the many changes in this Sonic too painful ... because too much change at one time can be unbearable! We thought of introducing changes slowly but then ... I started with just one page, trying to make it "look" better and came up with the title bars around the page ... that then extended to the whole magazine as I experimented with the right width and style and font and so on ... literally days of work followed as other ideas were implemented until lan and I were comfortable with the result ... that is what happens when two perfectionists take on a challenge like this! For me, this is not just a challenge but a privilege and a lot of FUN ... I had forgotten how much I love doing this kind of stuff, having last edited an ABBA Magazine eight years ago.

What a great job Andrew did with Sonic, on his own for all those issues ... it is so much easier now there are two of us. Although I don't get to many of the club events I have been a big contributor to Sonic for many months now and that is my way of feeling like an active part of the Doctor Who Club of Victoria. So for the hundreds of people who receive this issue of Sonic and are not regular attendees of club events ... follow my lead and submit an article, a story, a review, artwork, anything! You never know where it could lead! (And I do encourage everyone to attend some of the club events any time you can ... lan does a great job getting them organised for you!).

This is your club ... so make your presence known and e-mail the new address below. Even if you want to discuss some ideas for possible contributions please e-mail us. Also, we would like to have a "Letters to the Editors" page so why not e-mail in your opinions on ... anything related to Sonic or the Doctor Whoniverse!

One important thing to remember ... if you do submit something ... use the spell-check first!!!! Also send a photo (I dare you!) so we can use it in the top corner of your contribution ... I think everyone would appreciate being able to put a face to the name! For those contributors under 16 years of age, unless your parents specifically authorise the use of your photo, you can choose a Dr Who related character to represent you as Dylan and Niamh have done in this issue's K-9's Korner.

Finally, this issue is also a tribute to one of the most important people in Doctor Who history ... Verity Lambert. Read, enjoy and be amazed by the achievements of this talented lady over the next three pages ...

**Michael Young** ~ Sonic Editor and contributor.

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## My Mother's Name Was Verity ...



In the male dominated BBC of the 1960's it is refreshing to find a female Producer who was able to strongly influence the formative years of the world's longest running Science Fiction TV show ... Doctor Who. Without Verity Lambert's input and tenacity, Doctor Who would have been a very different show that probably would not have survived beyond the early 1960's. Perhaps the shows greatest nod to her importance came in the words of the Doctor himself (as John Smith) in Human Nature when he said, "My mother's name was Verity ..." which is a most fitting tribute to this great lady's tireless talent and outstanding contribution to Doctor Who and the wider world of British television. She is greatly missed!

## **Verity Ann Lambert, OBE**

27 November 1935 – 22 November 2007

Producer, BBC TV 1963-74;
Controller, Drama Department, Thames TV 1974-76
Director Of Drama 1981-82, Director 1982-85;
Chief Executive, Euston Films 1979-83
Director Of Production, Thorn EMI Screen Entertainment 1982-85
Director, Cinema Verity Productions 1985-2007;
OBE 2002

Posthumous award by Women in Film and Television (WFTV):
Lifetime Achievement Award 2007



When Sydney Newman, the effervescent head of drama at the BBC during the 1960s, was looking for a producer to launch a new science fiction series to air on Saturday evening after Grandstand, he remembered a bright, young production assistant from his previous job at ABC Television. He called her and offered her the job.



Verity Lambert was 27, and *Doctor Who* was her first job as a drama producer. But Newman's hunch paid off. She proved to be tough and capable, not afraid to tell writers to go back to the typewriter and try again, refusing to be overawed by more experienced actors and technicians and determined to be taken seriously in an industry where women executives were still a rarity.

Although Newman had conceived *Doctor Who* as believable, even educational, science fiction rather than dominated by "bug-eyed monsters", he accepted the Daleks with equanimity and saw the series, under Lambert's skilled guidance, grow and flourish, attracting an audience from a far wider age range than the older children for whom it was originally intended.



For Lambert it was the launch pad for a career which took her from the BBC to Thames Television and her own production company. She made her name for drama that was popular, intelligent, and extraordinarily varied, her credits embracing costume drama, crime series, contemporary drama and situation comedy. Occasional flops such as the BBC soap opera *Eldorado* were more than outweighed by *Minder, The Naked Civil Servant* and *GBH*.

The common factor was Lambert's tenacity and drive. A small, energetic woman, she kept up a ferocious schedule and refused to accept the conventional wisdom. Although not a writer she had an instinctive grasp of whether scripts worked and she also had a strong business sense. She was renowned for having a short fuse, and Jeremy Isaacs, her boss at Thames Television, once remarked that she could reduce grown men to tears.

## My Mother's Name Was Verity ...

Verity Ann Lambert was born in 1935 into an affluent Jewish family in North London, the daughter of an accountant father and a mother who thought it was not respectable for women to work in television. She was educated at Roedean, but left at 16 as not being "university material". Even so she had a year at the Sorbonne before taking a secretarial course in London.

She did various typing jobs and became a secretary at Granada Television. Fired after six months, she joined another ITV company, ABC, as a shorthand typist, and went on to become secretary to the drama producer, Dennis Vance. Promoted to production assistant, she joined Armchair Theatre under Sydney Newman.

Most drama was then transmitted live, and in 1958 Lambert found herself experiencing the hazards at first hand. She was in the control room when a leading actor had a heart attack and died on set in the middle of a production. During the commercial break, the director moved swiftly to redistribute the man's lines among the other cast members, leaving Lambert to run the production. Viewers were left none the wiser.

After working in the United States for the independent producer David Susskind, Lambert moved to the BBC in 1963. Remembering her from ABC days, Newman brought her in to launch Doctor Who. She was not only one of the youngest producers in the drama department but the only woman. She cast William Hartnell as the Doctor after seeing him in Lindsay Anderson's film, This Sporting Life.

In 1966 she moved from Doctor Who to a soap opera, *The Newcomers*, having been given just five weeks to get it on air. Another series she launched was Adam Adamant Lives!, which starred Gerald Harper as an Edwardian adventurer fighting crime in swinging London. Detective, an anthology of crime stories, was followed by a series of Somerset Maugham short stories for which she won a Bafta award in 1969. But when the BBC decided there was no new work for her she left to join London Weekend, where she launched Budgie, a starring vehicle for the pop singer Adam Faith. She returned briefly to the BBC, where with the actress Georgia Brown and Midge Mackenzie she created and produced Shoulder to Shoulder, a series of six programmes dramatising the lives of prominent suffragettes.

In 1974 she joined Thames Television as Controller of Drama and oversaw a particularly distinguished period. Among the productions were: Howard Schuman's Rock Follies, about a female singing group; Bill Brand, Trevor Griffiths's study of a Labour politician; the historical drama Edward and Mrs Simpson; The Naked Civil Servant with John Hurt as the flamboyant homosexual Quentin Crisp; and Rumpole of the Bailey.

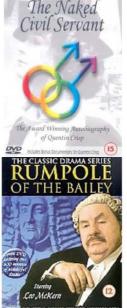
Rumpole had started as a BBC Play for Today but the corporation did not see it as a series, and the producer, Irene Shubik, offered it to Thames. Lambert was happy to take it on, but after producing the first series Shubik left, claiming that Lambert had reneged on promises made to her about her fee. Shubik reflected bitterly that she should have secured the rights before approaching Thames.

Lambert was also responsible for Thames's subsidiary Euston Films which, under her guidance, developed a new Quatermass story from Nigel Kneale, The Flame Trees of Thika and Reilly: Ace of Spies. Lambert became personally involved in another Euston project, Minder, nursing it through a sticky start to cult success. She named her dog, a great dane, after Arthur Daley, the dodgy entrepreneur played by George Cole.









## My Mother's Name Was Verity ...









She put Lynda La Plante on the writing map with *Widows*, about four women who pull off an armed robbery and get away with it, and later produced its sequel, She's Out. Euston's single films included *The Knowledge*, Jack Rosenthal's comedy about London taxi drivers.

In 1982 Lambert moved into the cinema, as director of productions at Thorn EMI. *Morons from Outer Space* was a limp time-travel spoof, but she went on to more distinguished fare, such as *Dream Child*, from a Dennis Potter script about the model for Lewis Carroll's Alice, and *Clockwise*, a Michael Frayn comedy starring John Cleese as a manic headmaster.

But it was an unhappy time and in 1985 Lambert decided to form her own production company, Cinema Verity. Her range of material was impressively wide and included the 1988 feature film, **A Cry In The Dark**, (known in Australia as Evil Angels) with Meryl Streep as Lindy Chamberlain, accused of murdering her daughter. But her main outlet was television and she served all the main channels. There was *Class Act*, with Joanna Lumley, and a first stab at situation comedy with *May to December*, a generation-gap romance which ran for six series, and *So Haunt Me*, with Miriam Karlin as a kindly ghost.

The Boys from the Bush was a comedy-drama shot mostly in Australia, while Alan Bleasdale's *GBH*, screened by Channel 4, echoed the turbulent city politics of Liverpool with Robert Lindsay as a politician widely seen as being modelled on the militant left-winger, Derek Hatton. Lambert oversaw three series of the comedy whodunnit, **Jonathan Creek**, and in 2001 she launched *The Cazalets*, based on novels by Elizabeth Jane Howard, with Joanna Lumley as co-producer.

Eldorado was launched in 1992 as an early-evening soap opera about British, French and Danish expatriates in Spain. At the time it was the biggest series that the BBC had entrusted to an independent producer and was worth £10 million to Cinema Verity. The show got off to a tepid start, was ridiculed by the critics and was eventually watched by fewer people than Gardeners' World.

After a year Alan Yentob, the new Controller of BBC1, put it out of its misery. Lambert said it had been rushed out too quickly, and been miscast, for which she took full blame. But helped by the fact that few viewers pay attention to production credits, she managed to extricate herself from the debacle and move on.

Her latest project was *Love Soup* (2005), a romantic comedy for the BBC written by David Renwick of *Jonathan Creek* and starring Tamsin Greig. A second series is in the pipeline.

Lambert served as a governor of the British Film Institute and of the National Film and Television School and was honoured by her peers with the Alan Clarke Award at Bafta in 2002. She was appointed OBE in the same year.

This tribute reproduced by kind permission of The Times Newspaper!

After reading through this and other tributes to Verity Lambert recently, I am truly amazed at the sheer number of programs that she has been responsible for or contributed to. So many classic and enduring titles of such high standard, and all the time I only thought she was responsible for Doctor Who! This amazing woman was powering on right up to the end. The British television industry will certainly be poorer for her passing as will all of us who have enjoyed the many works of art that have come from Verity Lambert. Thankfully we have the likes of Russell T Davis to carry us into the future! With the upcoming release of The Time Meddler on DVD, it will be a very moving and teary experience to listen to her commentary and share her thoughts one last time! RIP ~ Verity Lambert ~ The mother of Doctor Who!

# TIR

## I Heard A Rumour ...

#### **Spoiler Free News**

#### **Torchwood**

In a recent interview, John Barrowman confirmed that he shall continue to flesh-out Captain Jack.

"If I was asked to do Jack for the next five or six years I would do it with a big smile on my face, because I absolutely love playing him. When the time comes for us to close the page on Torchwood and Jack Harkness, I'm also then happy to do that when that decision is made. But I think it's got a bit of a life out there. Let's hope we get three, four and, hopefully, five."



In other Torchwood news, BBC Worldwide published clips on My Space TV; this comes additionally to their established You Tube feeds. This works as a promotional tool for the new Torchwood Magazine, which already runs an official Facebook community.

#### **Big Finish**

On February 1st, Big Finish are launching a new, online download service from which customers may purchase and instantly download the audio drama of their choice as an mp3 file to their computer.

'Listening habits have changed dramatically over the last ten years,' says Company Director, Jason Haigh-Ellery. 'More and more people are choosing to buy their music and audio online and listen to it either on their computer or on mp3 players like the iPod. We are delighted to be able to make Big Finish's productions available in this new way'. http://www.bigfinish.com

#### **Doctor Who Season Four**

The launch of the next series in England could be on April the 5<sup>th</sup>, despite an earlier BBC leak of a March the 22<sup>nd</sup>. The second series of Torchwood will conclude on either the second or ninth of April, depending if the two final episodes are shown together or separately.



A wide range of actors shall be appearing in the upcoming series, they include Sarah Lancashire, Felicity Kendal, Lesley Sharp, Georgia Moffett, Lindsey Coulson, Fenella Woolgar, Tim McInnerny, Peter Capaldi, Phil Davis, Tracey Childs, Alex Kingston, Colin Salmon and David Troughton.

Last year's Christmas special, Voyage of the Damned, rated 13.31 million viewers in the BARBs. That meant Doctor Who became the second most viewed program in the UK.

#### Sarah Jane Adventures

There will be a second series of Sarah Jane Adventures, though this time there shall be an extended run of twenty-four episodes, that's twelve two-parters.

# ntormation

## Renew ... or you will be DELETED!



#### Dear Members,

Just a friendly reminder that for most of our membership, your DWCV membership expires with this issue of Sonic Screwdriver. We value your continued membership, and trust that the Club and its magazine have met your expectations over the last six issues.

#### Membership with Our Club

As a member of the club, you will receive six issues of the club magazine, Sonic Screwdriver, plus a Membership Card. Family Membership is available through our club for two to six people. This entitles the family to six issues of Sonic Screwdriver (one nominated address) plus Membership Cards for each person. Each Membership Card entitles you to discounts on Doctor Who merchandise at Minotaur.

Please make it clear when paying which option you choose when renewing.

If you need your Membership Card before the next Sonic Screwdriver or meeting, then please include a self addressed, stamped envelope for your Membership Card.

Alternatively, membership renewals can be done at any DWCV conventions or social meetings. Update details can be found on the back page of Sonic Screwdriver or online at www.vicnet.net.au/~dwcv

To renew, please use the printed form and enclose a cheque or money order made payable to:

Doctor Who Club of Victoria PO Box 734, Niddrie, Victoria 3042

Years Renewing	Single Member	Family Membership
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Three Years	\$60	\$90
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## The Adventures Of Rassilon ~ Part 2

#### By J A McIntosh

**Rassilon** crawled across the floor of the console room, artificial gravity slowly increasing. He had thought he could make it, but by the time he reached the door he couldn't keep himself upright. Now, painfully aware he had but one attempt to correct it, he clawed his way towards one of the panels beneath the time rotor.

Lights flickered, the cloister bell tolled. Controls sparked from above and danced over his legs as the gravity began to affect instruments, activating too-sensitive controls – coordinates changed, buttons typed gibberish and levers thudded down. A touchpad crumpled inwards.

The doors thrust open.

Rassilon strained to raise his hand up and over the rim, eventually falling four times harder than it should have onto the delicate circuitry. The hand crept over these as Rassilon recalled the design; his blood failed to pass the elbow. A moment of fumbling, then he found the tiny override switches, and hastily flicked them all.

Darkness and silence.

The little man came out from under the console and looked around. If he had arrived where and when he hoped, then the TARDIS should be safe to recover. Not that anything could damage it anyway. The console did not appear damaged, but repairs were going to take a while. Although the time vessel was capable of regenerating, there were some things that it couldn't do on its own. He dusted down his gilt-trimmed velvet coat – presidential garb, and a relic of a bygone age, he knew, yet it was comfortable – and removed his scrunched hat from a pocket. As he smoothed it back into shape, he saw through the open door two humanoid lizards raising what appeared to be Sentinel Wands at him. The sole guardians of the Black Temple. He hoped the universal translator was working, and, for that matter, the Dimensional Graft.

As soon as Grendel spied the little man within, she stroked her Camar along an agate filament. The Camar bristled briefly, then fired.

As a gluttonous grey ray of impressive girth spilled from the orifice, she took a moment to admire the weapon. She registered, on some peripheral sense, that Jimian had fired also, but paid it no mind. The Camar vibrated with warmth, it's pseudo-surface glinting from within, her own distorted eyes visible in the first clear, then opaque facets. She felt any technology was anathema to her, but for some strange reason the Camar did not bother her, as if it were alive. Perhaps it was. The Goddess didn't deign to explaining such matters; it was enough that she did her job.

After the discharge Grendel looked up, gaped at the apparent ineffectiveness of the energy cascade. She turned to Jimian, a question lost from her lipless mouth when she observed him examining his own Camar, bewildered. Rightly so too. The Camars were capable of piercing deflector screens on Galaxy-class Warships. One man and a black box shouldn't have been a problem.

She watched the little man waddle over and ascend the steps, unable to think what to do. She could only watch as his mouth widened without opening – an expression she remembered meant he was glad – and bowed elegantly. She looked at her staff, still pointing at him, so lowered it.

'Good day,' he began, in a gruff but regal tone. 'Might the Goddess permit an old friend?'

'Friend?' Jimian's tongue slapped oddly, as if he was tasting the word. 'The Goddess has no friends.' Then he snarled and returned to his vigil. Grendel saw the wisdom in this, but found the visitor / intruder too intriguing to ignore.

'Really? That's a shame. We used to ... hmm.' He scratched a hand through the growth on him chin. Grendel just stared at him.

'Who are you?' she demanded.

The little man's eyes twinkled, shifting from grey to blue. 'I am a Time Lord. The Lord President of Gallifrey, Rassilon.' He leaned closer, to which Grendel leaned back, as he whispered, 'I believe I am expected.'

Grendel snorted. 'Time Lord? Gallifrey? Never heard of them.'

Rassilon rubbed his nose as he peered up the steps. 'Yes, well ... I'm hoping to change all that.'

'You can't go in. The Goddess permits nobody!' Jimian suddenly spat, still gazing into space.

Rassilon's face lit up. 'Ah well. There you go. My family name is Nobody.' He made as if to shuffle past them, Jimian's gills turning a definite shade of purple as he tried to fathom the logic, but Grendel's staff barred the way.

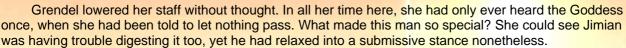
'You may be immune to Camar blasts, whoever you are,' she growled, 'but I'm keen to learn if you are as well-versed in the ways of combat. I'd advise you to leave, now, before we have to test that theory.'

Just then a regal voice descended from the antechamber high above.

'LET HIM PASS.'

## The Adventures Of Rassilon ~ Part 2

#### By J A McIntosh



The visitor passed them without word and disappeared into the temple.

\* \* \*

Rassilon crossed the threshold. The air grew cold, his breath coming out in little puffs that hovered before him. The room was not what he had expected. Walls of such deep crimson were veiled with transparent azure tapestries, depicting emotions, ever shifting and billowing in a nonexistent breeze. It was larger within than without – though not quite as he expected: the ceiling disappeared into darkness high above, as did the four ionic pillars, wreathed in belts of gold. The primary colours.

Yet all this was as nothing to the woman draped over the throne at the far end of the room. Her filmy golden satin ran like liquid over her as she moved. Even her hair was as golden as Gallifrey's sun used to be – it drifted around her head as if she were underwater. Her lips and eyebrows were of equal hue, as were her nails, toes and fingers alike. Just like he remembered.

When she spoke, her honeyed words imbued Rassilon with a strength of will he knew he would regret later.

'My champion. You have come. But too late, alas.' She extended a hand before her eyes.

Rassilon bowed as best his portly frame could allow before approaching. 'Whatever do you mean? You know why I am here.'

'I have much to speak of, Time Lord.' She turned to meet his gaze. Rassilon watched her hair. 'Yours is but a fraction of the need I have for thee. I am ... dying.'

What happened when the TARDIS took the Doctor and Martha to a Monster House ~ By Natalie Morrow

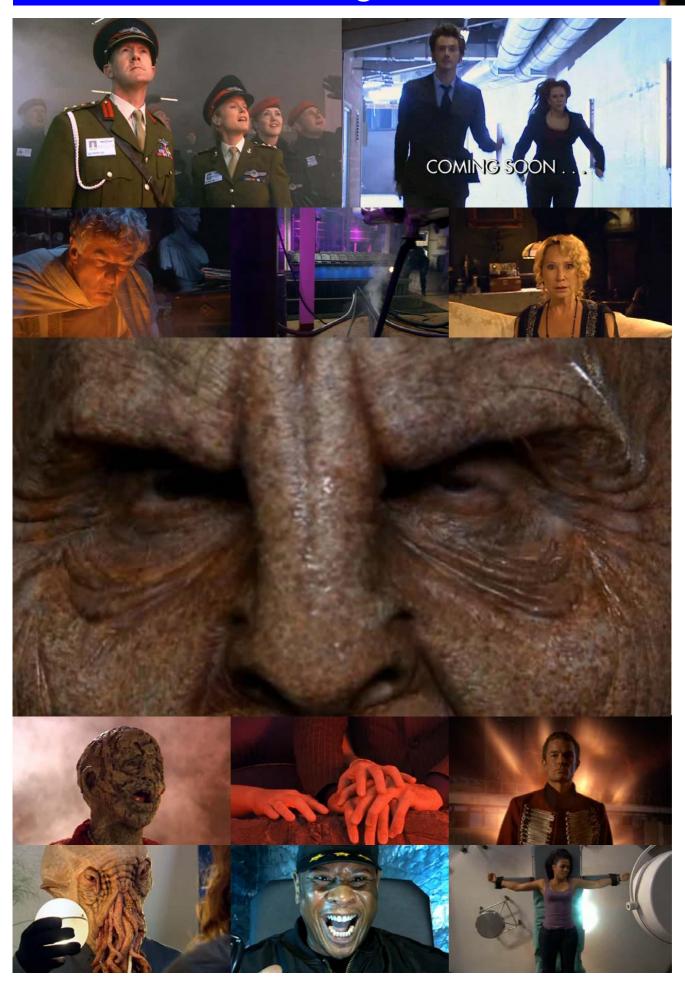




## **Coming Soon...**



## **Coming Soon...**





## K-9's Korner



#### The TARDIS Crew ~ Dylan (DP: Age 12) & Niamh (NM: Age 8)

I can vaguely remember when I was about 12 and became addicted to Doctor Who ... thanks to the arrival of Tom Baker! I look back now and wish that there was something like Sonic then so that I could have contributed to it ... somewhere to share my passion for this amazing program that still holds such a happy place in my life over 30 years later. What a wonderful time capsule that would have been! This is the reason that I encourage ALL of our younger members to contribute something to Sonic ... this is your club and your magazine as well. I find the opinions of the younger fans to be a fascinating alternative, and sometimes contrast, to the usual contributions from the 30+ brigade ... I am sure this will be a fun adventure!

Below we start the first of what I hope will be an ongoing series of comments and reviews by a group of younger Doctor Who fans who have chosen to call themselves "The TARDIS Crew". They are appropriately starting with The Sarah Jane Adventures as that series is specifically created for their age group.

MY







Sarah Jane Adventures

1.1 The Invasion of the Bane

#### What episode was about:

**DP:** The Invasion of the Bane was about Maria and her Dad moving into Balamane Rd opposite a mysterious woman, Sarah Jane Smith. This episode revolves around the investigations made by Sarah Jane about the new drink Bubble Shock, the 98% of the world's population are said to love. **NM:** The Invasion of the Bane was about the Bane (the aliens) trying to take over the world through a drink called Bubble Shock, and Sarah Jane and Maria trying to stop them.

#### **Favourite Bits:**

**DP:** I really liked when Maria saw the Star Poet in Sarah Jane's garden because it was the first alien the Maria saw. I also liked when Mrs Wormwood's assistant was gong to kill Sarah in the lift, but then Sarah jabbed her in the chest and ran away, and it was funny when Luke first met Maria and just kept copying her.

**NM:** I liked Sarah Jane using her Sonic Lipstick, and when the Bane came into Sarah Jane's house, because it was cool, and it was funny when Kelsey kept screaming.

#### **Least Favourite Bits:**

**DP:** My least Favourite thing about this episode was the character of Kelsey. She was rude and ignorant and I'm glad she was cut. **NM:** I didn't like it that K9 wasn't in much of it.

#### **Thoughts:**

**DP:** I thought the Invasion Of The Bane was pretty good. Being the pilot, the rest of the series was much better, I think partly because they changed the character of Kelsey to Clive. I also think the idea of kids helping Sarah Jane and learning about aliens was good to.

**NM:** I thought the Invasion of the Bane was really good for a first episode of a show, but I think the rest of the episodes were better.

#### **Favourite Quote:**

**DP:** Sarah Jane: "I saw amazing things out there in space, but there's strangeness wherever you turn. Life on Earth can be an adventure to, you just have to know where to look."

NM: Luke: "Hello Maria, Hello screaming girl."

TARDIS Rating: DP:

(out of 10)



МИ





## K-9's Korner



#### 1.2 The Revenge of the Slitheen

#### What the episode was about:

**DP:** When Maria and Luke start at their new school, along with their new friend Clyde, they discover something strange is going on. Like why does the new science block smell metallic, and why is the food so rotten, and why does the headmaster keep farting...

**NM:** The Revenge of the Slitheen was about Maria, Luke and Clyde on their first day of school, and finding out the teachers are aliens trying to take over the world.

#### **Favourite Bits:**

**DP:** I liked when Sarah sprayed the perfume on the Slitheen, because it had really sensitive smell. I also liked the child Slitheen - that really surprised me. It was funny when Luke was continuously asking why farting was funny.

NM: I liked the child Slitheen when he took off his human suit, and when he was running around

#### **Least Favourite Bits:**

**DP:** The thing I didn't like so much in these episodes was the over-acting of the Slitheen. It came to the point where it just looked stupid. **NM:** I didn't like it when the Slitheen child's Dad died, because it was sad that his Dad died when he was so young.

#### Thoughts:

**DP:** I thought Revenge of the Slitheen was much better than The Invasion of the Bane. I never expected the Slitheen to come back after they were in Doctor Who, and I think they were better in Doctor Who, but they still did them well in The Sarah Jane Adventures.

NM: I didn't really like this episode very much because I thought it was a little bit boring.

#### **Favourite Quote:**

DP: Slitheen-Principal: "Study hard, because I guarantee none of you are going to be pop stars."

NM: Maria: "I exploded the headmaster!

TARDIS Rating: (out of 10)

NM:

HH HH

1.3 Eye of the Gorgon

#### What episode was about:

**DP:** After a tip off by Clyde's grandmother, Sarah Jane, Luke and Clyde investigate a nursing home where several residents have claimed to see the ghost of a nun.

**NM:** Eye of the Gorgon was about Sarah Jane, Luke and Clyde investigating a nursing home, because a lot of people had seen a ghost of a nun there at night.

#### **Favourite Bits:**

**DP:** I liked where Luke and Clyde found the massive group of statues in the garden. I also liked the references to the Sontarans, and thought it was quite clever how Maria used the mirror at the end.

NM: I liked the bit where Maria's Mum is talking to the 'statue' of Maria's Dad, I also liked it when the nun came to Sarah Jane's house trying to get the amulet.

#### **Least Favourite Bits:**

**DP:** I think they shouldn't of shown the Gogons face, because it would have been scarier if you didn't know what was under her veil. **NM:** There wasn't really anything I didn't like.

#### **Thoughts:**

**DP:** I thought this episode is definitely the best so far. With sinister nuns, scary old churches and a creature from legend that turns you into stone if you gaze into its eyes. What's not to like!

**NM:** I thought this episode was really interesting. I really like the idea of when you look into the Gorgon's eyes you turn to stone.

#### **Favourite Quote:**

**DP:** Clyde: "Listen, Luke. When weirdo nuns turn up on your doorstep asking about freaky glowing alien gizmos, one thing you never do is tell them you've got one!"

NM: Bea: "He used to say the Sontarans were the silliest-looking race in the galaxy!"

TARDIS Rating: DP:

(out of 10)







## YCLOPEDIA THE FROM THE

## **New Doctor Who Novels**

#### **Reviewed by Michael Young**

#### Sick Building by Paul Magrs

The Tiermann family live in their luxurious, futuristic, fully automated Dreamhome under an impenetrable force field ... the only humans on the planet. In fact, they own the planet. The only other inhabitants are a wide variety of native animals. The Doctor and Martha arrive to warn them of the approach of an unstoppable danger that will completely destroy their world. Will they get away in time?

This novel can be summed up in a word ... "interesting"! Interesting idea, interesting setting, interesting characters and interesting story. A cautionary tale of relying too much on technology and computers and giving them too much influence and control over our lives. Two of the characters, Barbra and Toaster, are reminiscent of some of the types of creatures we saw in the William Hartnell series in the 1960"s and they are both delightful.

While this was an engaging adventure, it is not one that I would love to see as an episode of the new series of Doctor Who, or even could see it ever working that way. Still, a good read!

Rating: 8 out of 10 .... Interesting!





#### Wetworld by Mark Michalowski

While heading off to have breakfast at Tiffany's, the Doctor and Martha land on Sunday and the TARDIS quickly ends up completely submerged in a swamp. The human inhabitants of the planet are a group of pioneers beginning the colonisation of this waterlogged world. However, there are dangerous creatures that live in and around the swamplands!

I find this such a hard one to sum up because it was compelling enough to get me to the end but somehow still strangely average. I don't think it really achieved anything other than occupy some of my time. There is nothing wrong with it, but nothing great either. Perhaps it is best summed up by my response to the series three episode "42" ... I really don't care!

An unavoidable comparison was drawn to *The Power Of Kroll* due to the monster lurking in the water, but the psycho Otters were at least fresh and amusing!

Rating: 6 out of 10 ... A bit wet!

After a painfully long gap between the release of these Doctor Who Novels and the next batch I am sure the next Sonic will feature a

more excited response to at least one of these ...

The Pirate Loop Peacemaker Wishing Well







Time Crash ~ Voyage Of The Damned Spoilers! Spoilers! Spoilers! Spoilers!

Hey there again .... Captain Jack (the Alternate DWCV Universe version) Phere for the first time in 2008 to share my thoughts on the latest offerings for the Christmas season from the wonderful world of Doctor Who in Cardiff ... Time Crash and Voyage Of The Damned ...



#### Time Crash ~ November 2007

It had to happen sometime ... and what a perfect way to do it ... yes, two Doctors face to face! This was the 2007 "Children In Need" offering from Doctor Who. Written by Steven Moffat and directed by Graeme Harper (who directed Peter Davison's last episode Caves Of Androzani) this five minute work of art slots seamlessly between Last Of The Time Lords and Voyage Of The Damned. I was fortunate enough to view this for the first time with two other Doctor Who fans and it was a fabulous experience for us all. Introduced by

John Barrowman and Terry Wogan. This brief encounter of 8 mins 30 secs was tasteful, witty, emotional and brilliant. Rating: 10 out of 10 ... But too brief!

#### Time Crash Confidential

This behind the scenes and "making of" is 7mins 30 secs long and features interviews and comments from David Tennant, Peter Davison, Moffat (Writer), Graeme (Director), Russell T Davies, Phil Collinson, and



Louise Paige (Costume Designer). Rating: 8 out of 10 ... Good fun!

#### **Voyage Of The Damned** ~ Christmas Day 2007

Another brilliant Doctor Who Christmas Special with the Tenth Doctor and Kylie Minogue as companion Astrid Peth. The longest single episode yet and the highest rating since City Of Death. It was like the Robots Of Death meets a touch of Dickens and a big dose of tongue-in-cheek humour. Some fantastic performances all round from a great guest cast. Kylie was perfect ... a real surprise to me as I have never found her acting convincing before. The ultimate villain of the piece was a bit too familiar to previous characters and I am getting increasingly annoyed by the Doctor's habit of kissing all the girls ... it is not necessary and it is NOT The Doctor! At least that won't be happening when Donna returns next season. Amazing effects as usual and no robot Santas this time ... excellent! Even the song that Murray Gold created for this episode was excellent, a huge improvement on his previous lame attempts. This was followed by the Season Four preview teaser which included Donna, Pompeii, Agatha Christie, Sontarans, UNIT and a final eye shot of ... Davros? Rating: 9 out of 10 ... a wonderful 72 minutes!

#### Confidential @ Christmas ~ 2007

A very informative 57 minutes about Kylie (music clips, Neighbours and her story), recording the song "Stowaway", the street scene, filming the other Christmas Specials, filming on the bridge, the showdown and the final scene between the Doctor and

Kylie. Comments from Kylie Minogue, David Tennant, Russell, Julie Gardner, William Baker (Kylie's Creative Director), costume designer Louise Paige, Murray Gold, arranger Ben Foster, singer Yamit Mamo, designer Edward Thomas, production manager Gareth Skelding, director James Strong, casting director Andy Pryor, and guest artists Russell Tovey (Midshipman Frame), Geoffrey Palmer (Captain Hardaker), George Costigan (Max Capricorn), Debbie Chazen & Clive Rowe (Foon & Morvin Van Hoff). Rating: 10 out of 10.

And next to hit the world's TV screens ... Torchwood Season 2! See you then! ... Jack!



## **Archive Six**

Not sure where to start with your classic Doctor Who collection? Fear not, for this guide will help determine which era best suits you. Basically though, I think for any new series converts, start with The Key to Time and work your way along in order of releases. Catch up on older classics when things start to get a little silly. Either that or sit down and read.

The series' origin can clearly be viewed in any of the original Doctors' stories. The first four (*An Unearthly Child, The Daleks, The Edge of Destruction*, and a condensed reconstruction of *Marco Polo*) are bundled together in a box set worthy of any fan's collection. The stories have been restored, collated, or in one special feature re-edited wonderfully. For characterization, *The Aztecs* illustrates the Doctor's nature, beliefs and motives wonderfully; whereas if you prefer action and a more modern link try *The Dalek Invasion of Earth*. Both stories still stand strongly against today's standards, failing only in pace. Other stories, as is the nature of dated series, tend to move rather slowly and though their content is priceless to the series' vaults, should be watched over a period of weeks, rather than days. *The Web Planet* and *The Time Meddler* (March 2008) are two clear examples of this. Watch them as they were intended to be viewed, and thanks to the painstaking restoration they are clearer than the original broadcasts.

For William Hartnell and Patrick Troughton, many of their stories no longer exist, but some orphaned episodes do remain from otherwise lost stories. These have been collated into a box set called *Lost in Time*. This purchase would be for long-term fans who are more familiar with the stories due to memory, Target novels, or BBC audios. New viewers do get the chance to see glimpses of stories and once censored scenes, but this really does benefit the hardcore fan. The episodes of the stories included for William Hartnell are as follows: episodes 1 & 3, with the soundtracks of 2 & 4 for *The Crusade*; episodes 2, 5 & 10 of 12 for *The Daleks' Master Plan*; and the final episode of *The Celestial Toymaker*.

The Lost in Time collection continues for Patrick Troughton with the following lonely episodes of stories lost: episode 3 of 4 for The Underwater Menace, episodes 2 & 4, with the soundtracks of 1 & 3 for The Moonbase; episodes 1 & 3 of 6 of The Faceless Ones; episode 2 of 7 of The Evil of the Daleks; episode 2 of 6 for The Abominable Snowmen; episode 3 of 6 for The Enemy of the World; episode 1 of 6 for The Web of Fear, episodes 3 & 6 of 6 for The Wheel in Space; and finally episode 2 of 6 for The Space Pirates. The four remaining released stories on disc for the second Doctor also benefit from a staggered viewing. The adventure seems to have more emotional impact when episodes screen over a few nights due to the slower pace of events, when compared to the new series. The once lost Tomb of the Cybermen makes for fascinating viewing for anyone who only knew the story through the audios, though beware that some people found the original product a letdown due to overactive imaginations and rose-tinted glasses.

A personal favourite, *The Mind Robber*, has been restored so well that it almost detracts from the story, by way of showing a once hazy set in clarity. This story alone shows the work over which the restoration team sweat. Speaking of which, the first incomplete story to feature animated episodes is the hugely worthwhile *The Invasion*. The animation is perfectly balanced in both style and realism. It's not done as a replacement, just a filler. I feel that this story illustrated Patrick Troughton at his best, mixing in fear and comedy masterfully. Finally, the last current disc of this era is aptly named *The Seeds of Death*; watch it weekly and find yourself questioning the new series' pace at expense of plot.



## **Archive Six**





Enter the colour era of the show. Featuring action and reversing of polarity, Jon Pertwee's serials gave the show a new lease of life into a modern, human world. To suspend disbelief is, I feel, required for these stories. That's in no way a dismissal of their strength, but being able to do so draws you deep into the established world of the third Doctor. Spearhead from Space leads the next four seasons in regard to style. These stories lack momentum, though the characters and stories flow with depth - mostly. Doctor Who and the Silurians, comes within a box set with The Sea Devils and Peter Davison's Warriors of the Deep. This would be the best introduction to the era, not only for the overall mood but a wonderful Master story. Also available is the highly popular alternatedimension story Inferno, the psychedelic Claws of Axos, and the dubious Carnival of Monsters. A better choice for any new-series-novice would be the fabulous multi-Doctor story The Three Doctors and the quite moving episode The Green Death (giant maggots not withstanding). For a much closer tie-in with the new series, however, try The Time Warrior which not only featured Sarah Jane Smith and the Sontarans, but a whole new style leading into Tom Baker's seven-year itch.

While the fourth Doctor features at the rock-bottom of my favorites' list, his stories on disc thus far would suit any fan. The special features seem more youth-friendly; the whole series starts to have a more exuberant feel. The flowing episodes of season twelve are amongst the best of the whole series. The regeneration story, Robot, kicks off the era with flair. It's quickly followed by the linked The Arc in Space, The Sontaran Experiment, and Genesis of the Daleks. Buy them. Planet of Evil, just released, Pyramids of Mars, voted best story ever (despite having only one pyramid), and *Hand of Fear*, the final Sarah Jane adventure for some time; all hugely popular and star Tom Baker at his restrained best. A new companion, Lela, features on three popular high death-count discs: The Robots of Death, The Talons of Weng-Chiang, and The Horror of Fang Rock (weak effects let down otherwise strong story). Invasion of Time. coming soon, has ties with the news series thanks to the Sontarans and Time Lords. A good place to start, would be the box set of the next season, known as season sixteen, or the Key to Time.

Next fragments the *Key to Time* box set which, for those of you with the American set, has been re-released with a whole range of superior bonus features and restoration; the stories include: *The Ribos Operation, The Pirate Planet, The Stones of Blood, The Androids of Tara, The Power of Kroll,* and *The Armageddon Factor.* For any fan of the classic series, this collection highlights all which is good with the show. The strengths are high and this is the point to introduce new series viewers to their heritage. *Destiny of the Daleks*, available in a Davros box set or individual, *City of Death*, a sonic favourite for many, and *The Leisure Hive*, all have a more grown-up feel about them, despite still being filled with youth – a pleasing mix. These three highlight where they hit the mark.

A box set that crosses the regeneration reintroduces the Master in *The Keeper of Traken*, almost destroys the universe in *Logopolis*, and introduces Peter Davison in *Castrovalva*. Here the discs do take a turn for a more honest look at the series. The extras are quite frank, yet those involved clearly love the show, and their passion keeps the era feeling as energetic and light-hearted as the current series. *The Visitation* and *Earthshock* both deserve a place on any fan's shelf. The former seems flawless in my eyes for its combination of historical and invasion, the latter features shocks to anyone under ten and laughs for any old fan.

## **Archive Six**

Coming later this year will be another two-part release, this of course will be *Black Orchid*. Of all the classic stories, this most easily fits into the new series, so would be quite a good introduction. *Time-Flight* and *Arc on Infinity* are, in Peter Davison's own eyes, rubbish. Many people agree. This box set would be for serious viewers only, though it's worthwhile for people who like ongoing arcs to see the Timelord storyline develop.

The Five Doctors, available on region one with commentary, lacks special features due to this disc launching off the BBC range. I use this story to introduce fans of the new series to the classic. It never fails. Also note that the story is not as broadcast (almost better in my view Casper withstanding). This will change on the third of March when a true "Special Edition" shall hit the shelves. Warriors of the Deep, fails sadly due to effects, plot, and logic, though otherwise deserves high praise - there should have been another way. Resurrection of the Daleks does have a couple of minor effect shots missing on the initial release, though this did get corrected for the box set release. Finally, Caves of the Androzani highlights the best performances throughout the series history and manages to combine the best of the effects, plot, and acting. Peter Davison's final story, Time Crash, also stars David Tennant. While due for publication on the new series' season four boxset, this is the only vintage Doctor who appeared in the new series, so that alone shows the feeling that accompanies him. To the tenth Doctor, he was "my Doctor".

For the next era, Colin Baker's, the quality of the scripts, the costumes, the effects, and etcetera spoil many peoples' viewing of the show. Personally, I think he made the best of a bad situation and I greatly enjoy his stories. Indeed, the hugely unpopular *Timelash* introduced me to the series and still remains my favourite story. His stronger stories on disc namely are *Vengeance on Varos*, a gritty reality-television world of death, *Mark of the Rani*, where two Timelords toy with humanity for their own ends, and *Revelation of the Daleks*, where the Daleks get back a bit of menace. *The Two Doctors* misses a wonderful opportunity for character and plot development. *Trial of a Time Lord*, while not slated for release, will be out sooner rather than later due to production having started on extras.

Unceremoniously regenerating into Sylvester McCoy, the Doctor still clings onto four more stories released on disc. Not a favourite era for many due to the same reasons as the last, Sylvester McCoy does fantastically well for the material given to him. The show feels more complex and akin to the new series. Remembrance of the Daleks stands up with all other Dalek stories, with hints of the power of the Doctor being more than we realise. Ghost Light, The Curse of Fenric, and Survival form a four part cycle for Ace in becoming a woman. It really feels so wrong for the series to have been canceled at this point, which is why these episodes are a pivotal point in your collection. The former story does require a couple of viewings to understand, with the disc alone being worth it for the extras. The middle features an entirely new cut of the story, while the last features the best Master story for a solid decade.

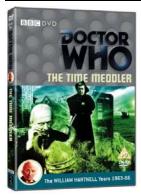
All this leaves us with is the middle child that is Paul McGann's eighth Doctor. His American *Television Movie* needed to happen. Style wise it's between two eras, classic and new, but that's a vital thing. Many things failed with this movie, but thanks to that the new series formed well. Look at this as a learning experiment and it does not hurt so badly. Also, this disc is worth it to see McCoy playing the Doctor he intended to create.



## **Releases from the Tower of Rassilon**

Classic Series 1963 - 1989			
Title	Australia	England	News
The Davros Collection	February 6th	Released	Remastered
Destiny of the Daleks	February 6th	Released	Also in Davros Box
The Silurians The Sea Devils Warriors of the Deep	March 5th	January 14th	Beneath the Surface
The Time Meddler	April	February 4th	
The Five Doctors	May	March 3rd	Superior Edition
Black Orchid	June	April	Two Episodes
Invasion of Time	July	May	

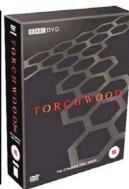
New Series 2005 - 2010*			
Title	Australia	England	News
Voyage of the Damned	tba	March 10th	Vanilla Release
Sets 4.2 – 4.5	tba	tba	Vanilla Release
Season Four	December	August 8th	Extra filled Boxset











Torchwood			
Title	Australia	England	News
Season One Boxset	February 6th	Released	Superior to individual
Sets 2.1 – 2.3	tba	tba	With limited extras

Sarah Jane Adventures			
Title	Australia	England	News
Invasion of the Bane	Not scheduled for re- lease in Australia for the foreseeable future as not broadcast.	Released	The English releases are thankfully region four compatible, which means they will play over here.
Revenge of Slitheen & Eye of Gorgon		March 18th	

<sup>\*</sup>Confirmed for three 90 minute specials in 2009 and season five in 2010.

## Peter's Presidential Ponderings

To all members;

I had both the sadness and pleasure to choose a new venue for the traditional DWCV Christmas Party. The venue was Mercantile Rowing Club situated at the banks of the Yarra River. You ask why I chose the Rowing Club and the reason was the club used to hold events at the Richmond Rowing Club way back in 1980.

The club's Christmas party experienced very bad weather with much needed rain from 5am. I hoped the rain would stop in time but as the day went by the skies stayed black. In my head, I thought the party would bring if lucky 20 or 30 people. The result was much better than expected because the day brought 51 people. That has been the average attendance for the last 5 years. It was great to see new faces come to the meeting for the first time. Overall, the people at the Christmas meeting thoroughly enjoyed themselves because they



got to see what was new in Doctor Who. The dealer tables got to see some varying Doctor Who merchandise as well as some other sci-fi merchandise. There were many great bargains so for those who didn't come you missed out. This year we approached the food with a bit more variety. The party pies and sausage rolls were a hit as well as the traditional BBQ. It was a fun day for also the families who came with there children for the first time. Thank you for taking the time out and we hope as a club that we get see more families come to future meetings.

The behind the scenes in the last few months for the reshuffling of the committee and 2 new editors have been very interesting. At the last committee meeting of 2007, we had Paul Lenkic volunteer to become the Secretary in replacement of Andrew Saunders who has been Acting Secretary. Paul at the time of the Sonic Screwdriver deadline is being taught by Andrew about the mechanics of the database system. I wish him all the luck in understanding the system, but, I know with Paul's attitude he has always proven to be reliable. Andrew had taught Michael Young and Ian Chapman on the last Sonic Screwdriver the way in publishing the Sonic Screwdriver. A huge thank you goes to Andrew Saunders for taking the time out in his scheduled life to help both Michael and Ian and Paul. I also would like to thank Andrew for providing a whole computer system and Christine for providing a printer to Paul to help him do his work. Fortunately, 2 very generous people who have saved and helped the club a great deal in going through any heartache and pain. Thank you from the heart. I am amazed by the generosity of people in this club and it is a most rewarding time to be involved with the club.

Furthermore, I would like again wish Andrew a prosperous time at the Geelong Super Cats and any of his further endeavours to be always fruitful. For my new reshuffled team Paul (Secretary) and Michael / Ian (Sonic editors) all the best with helping this great club.

Peter Rosace.

DWCV President peterrosace@hotmail.com 0417 322 326

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## Mission to the Unknown



Please note that due to scheduling conflicts the February meeting shall be skipped this year. Fear not, there will be a February meeting early in 2009. I believe it could be a multi-club event.

For the next four months the meeting will be at our new home. Quite where this home will be, I cannot reveal. This trade secret shall be exclusively announced next Sonic Screwdriver.

## Saturday, 8th of March

**Belated February Movie Night** 

Evening event, meet outside at 5:30pm

Go to nearby eatery for cheap meal.

The first film starts at 7:30pm. The second screens 9:30pm.

The Darjeeling Limited [M] & Borat [MA]

#### Location

Astor Theater (St. Kilda)
Corner Chapel St & Dandenong Rd,

Cost: Double Feature Adults: \$13

Any ideas for meetings, in regards to events, locations, or general comments can be sent to the address below for the Events Organiser. Your input really does help, especially if you think you can do better. Thanks in advance.

Saturday, the 26th of April

Saturday, the 24th of May

Saturday, the 28th of June

Saturday, the 12th of July

**New Series Celebration** 

1:00 - 6:00 on the above Saturdays

Any ideas for meetings, in regards to events, locations, or general comments can be sent to

greaterthangonzo@hotmail.com 0430 070 575 (leave message)

Remember to Renew!

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