

A Note from the Chair

It will have been 14 years since the previous Worldcon to be held in Australia by the time *Aussiecon Three* comes around in 18 months' time. The previous two, *Aussiecon* in 1975 and *Aussiecon Two* in 1985, were considered great successes, bringing together science fiction fans from all over Australia, and from around the world, to Melbourne for five days of fun, frivolity, and a chance to enjoy the science fiction genre in a large crowd of like-minded individuals.

A group of volunteers has now been working over the past 18 months (since we won the right to hold the convention in Los Angeles in 1996) setting up the background organisational structure, recruiting people with knowledge in particular required areas and generally attempting to head towards a common goal. Without them nothing to do with this con would be possible.

I would like to see the 1999 Worldcon remembered as a convention that included all aspects of Australian science fiction fandom, that met the highest standards for organisation, that was a joy to work on as well as to attend, and which attempted to show the world what Australia is really like. In short I want a convention that we can all say, when it's over, that we enjoyed.

Aussiecon Three promises to be one of the biggest science fiction events held in this country, with authors, editors, film-makers, readers, artists and fans all getting together to celebrate this wonderful genre. We all hope you will decide to come along to the party.

Number 1, March 1998
 Voice of the Platypus is the official newsletter of Aussiecon Three, the 57th World Science Fiction Convention, to be held in Melbourne, September 2 to 6, 1999.



Membership Types

Memberships are available for *Aussiecon Three* for Attending Members, Supporting Members, Child in Tow, and Infants.

Attending Members are eligible to attend the convention, will receive all publications from the con that are produced after their date of joining, will have full voting rights at any Business Session of the World Science Fiction Society (WSFS), and can vote for the 1999 Hugo Awards and the Site Selection Ballot for the 2002 Worldcon. (Please note that an additional voting fee will be payable for those wishing to participate in the Site Selection Ballot. Payment of this fee, the exact amount will be determined later, will purchase a supporting membership to the 2002 Worldcon.)

Supporting Members are not eligible to attend the convention but, in all other respects, receive the same benefits as Attending Members. Supporting Members may convert their membership to Attending status by paying the difference between the Supporting Membership rate and the Attending Membership rate that is applicable at the time of the upgrade.

Child in Tow members are children under the age of 12 years and over the age of 3 years at the time of the convention; that is, were born on or after September 1st 1987 and on or before September 1st 1996. Such members will not have voting right for the WSFS Business Sessions, nor will they be eligible to vote in either the 1999 Hugo Awards or the Site Selection Ballots. Such members will only be allowed into the main area of the convention if accompanied by a responsible adult Attending Member. At all other times they will be restricted to the Children's Programming area.

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Details of the types of memberships that will be available "At-the-Door" will be publicised at a later date, although it is expected that Full and Day rates will be available.

Membership Rates

The board has decided membership rates will remain at the current level until a week or so after *Bucconeer* (1998 Worldcon). We will be revising rates when we have completed space negotiations with the vendor of the site. A further price rise will occur early in 1999, and will probably be the first of several steep price rises before the convention. Send Australian cheque for membership (made payable to *Aussiecon Three*) to the Australian postal address.

Attending	\$200
Supporting	\$45
Child in Tow (born after Sep 87)	\$45
Infants	free

What is a Worldcon?

Everybody's view of what makes up a Worldcon is different from everyone else's. A general reader may view it as a way of getting close to authors they admire or to other readers of like minds, authors and editors may see it as their main annual get-together, and film and media fans as a market-place to purchase rare or interesting memorabilia. But all of them, in one way or another, would see it as a large party - a celebration of the science fictional world. Each, and all, of these views of the convention is accurate enough in itself but only tells a small part of the true picture.

Aussiecon Three will run for five days from Thursday September 2 till Monday September 6 1999, from early in one morning to a bit earlier in the next. On the program we will have such items as authors' readings, film screenings, discussions of tv and video, autograph signings, auctions, a masquerade and the Hugo Award ceremony, amongst many other categories. As an added bonus, as a member of the convention, you will be entitled to vote in the awards to be handed out at the convention. Hugo Awards are presented in various categories including Best Novel, Best Short Story, Best Fanzine, Best Fan Writer and Best Dramatic Presentation.

The organisers are expecting approximately 2500 people to attend over the five days with over half of those coming from overseas. In attendance will be authors, editors, film-makers, readers, gamers, hucksters, film buffs, fans and just plain party-goers.

How do you get in contact with us?

You can write to us at our postal address of:

GPO Box 1212K
 Melbourne 3001
 AUSTRALIA

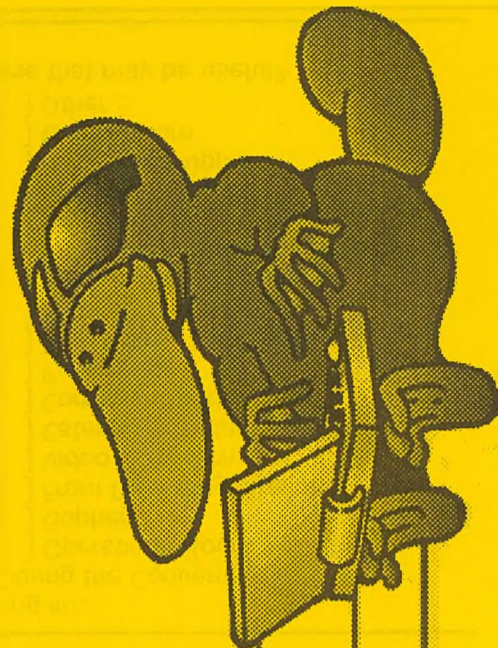
or visit our web site at

www.aussiecon3.worldcon.org.

As you might expect, this site is in an almost constant state of upheaval at the moment. When the site is completely redesigned it will contain much of what is written here along with potted biographies and bibliographies of our guests, details of the convention site and hotels, membership lists to enable you to determine your current status, and links to other science fictional sites in Australia as well as to interesting tourist sites in and around Melbourne.

In addition we are in process of setting up an email mailing list which will be open for subscription for anyone. This list will be continually monitored by the committee and any and all questions or queries will be answered as soon as possible

Failing any of these methods you can always email us at info@aussiecon3.worldcon.org with any questions you may have. We will undertake to get an answer to you as soon as we can.



Aussiecon

T • H • R • E • E

57th World Science Fiction Convention

2nd - 6th September 1999

Aussiecon Three Pre Registration

Member Name			
Title _____	First Name _____		
Middle name/Initial _____	Surname _____		
Home Address _____		Postal Address (If different to home) _____	
Street Address 1 _____			
Street Address 2 _____			
City _____			
State/Province _____			
Postcode/ZIP _____			
Country _____			
Electronic Contact			
Contact Telephone _____			
Facsimile _____			
Email Address _____			
Web Address _____			
Membership (Please circle)	Attending	Supporting	Child in Tow (born after Sept 1987)
If attending please indicate number of infants _____			
Payment Type (Please circle)	Cash	Cheque	Credit card
Credit Card Type (Please circle)	Visa	Mastercard	Bankcard
Card Number _____			
Expiry Date Year: _____ Month: _____			
Cardholder Name _____			
Cardholder Signature _____			
Received by: _____		Received Date _____	

Guests of Honor

Gregory Benford

Greg Benford is professor of physics at the University of California, Irvine. He conducts research in plasma turbulence theory and in astrophysics, having published over a hundred scientific papers. He is a Woodrow Wilson Fellow and a visiting fellow at Cambridge University. Throughout the last decade he has worked as an advisor to the Department of Energy, NASA, and the White House Council on Space Policy.

In 1989 he was host and scriptwriter for the television series *A Galactic Odyssey*, which describes modern physics and astronomy from the perspective of the evolution of the galaxy. The eight-part series is produced by Japan National Broadcasting for an international audience.

He is also the author of over a dozen novels, among them *Timescape* (a Nebula award winner) and the recent, *Beyond the Fall of Night*, written with Arthur C. Clarke. He has won the Nebula Award twice, the John W. Campbell award and the Australian Ditmar award for international novel. In 1989 he won the United Nations Medal in Literature.

Greg Benford was formerly co-editor of the fanzine *Void*, and an SF writer since 1965. Author of the Nebula-winning *Timescape* and the *Galactic Center* novels, his fiction explores the human side of hard science, and extrapolates humanity moving into a realistic far future. He is a frequent and eloquent attendee at many conventions.

George Turner

Probably Australia's foremost SF author, and certainly the sternest critic of SF that Australia has produced. George was a veteran writer, author of several critically acclaimed mainstream novels, winner of Australia's premier literary award, the Miles Franklin Award.

George was also well known for his fanzine appearances, with many critical articles to his credit. Not surprisingly, his work appeared often in *SF Commentary*, a fanzine produced by our Fan Guest of Honour, Bruce Gillespie. George's major work within the science fiction field included *The Sea and Summer* (aka *The Drowning Towers*) which was a winner of the Commonwealth Writer's Award, the Arthur C Clarke Award, and is believed to be the first Australian novel nominated for a Nebula award.

Although George passed away in June 1997, it is still the intention of the Convention Committee to honor his work and his memory.

Bruce Gillespie

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Convention Site

The convention returns to Melbourne, Australia, to a new site for us at the Melbourne Convention Centre (formally known as World Congress Centre), and the attached Centra on the Yarra hotel.

Located by the banks of the Yarra River, 1.5 kilometres SW of the centre of Melbourne, the three function floors of the Melbourne Convention Centre include two theatres, plus many program rooms and a ballroom. While the 6,900 sq. metres (64,000 sq. feet) of room space does not rival that of LACon III, the 6000 person capacity of the centre exceeds our more limited needs. As at March 1998, we are estimating a minimum of 2000 and a maximum of 3000 attendees.

The reception areas for both the World Congress Centre and the Centra Hotel are directly off a ramped vehicle access around the Centre at the first floor entrance to both. This area is flanked by seven smaller meeting rooms, and a tiered 400 seat theatre style room. The hotel has kitchens, restaurants and a bar downstairs, while the Melbourne Convention Centre ground floor is exclusively utilities and unloading areas.

Escalators take you from the lobby up to the main function area on the third floor, and open directly upon the atrium. At one end, full length windows give a view of the city and river. There are five rooms for smaller panels (130 capacity), plus a 1000 person room. The largest room on this level is the tiered 1400 seat Batman Theatre (not named after the comic book hero). The top floor contains another five smaller rooms (180 capacity), and a pair of considerably larger rooms, which can be opened to form a 2500 capacity ballroom.

All rooms, including concourses, are fully carpeted, and all partitioned walls are sound absorbent and reach the full height to the high ceilings. There are lifts (elevators), escalators and stairs to each floor. There are disabled facilities on some floors. The centre meets Australian standards for handicapped access.

While accurate hotel rates (and booking details) are not yet available for the Centra Hotel, it is expected that the convention will receive substantial discounts on the standard room rates. At the time of writing we have a block booking for all rooms in the hotel. Further details of the convention site can be obtained by visiting its web site at www.mcec.com.au. The Centra on the Yarra Hotel also has a web site at www.sphc.com.au/hotels/centra/cmclb.html.

Nearby Hotels

There are a number of hotels in the immediate vicinity of the convention site covering all price ranges. These include: *Rydges on Flinders Hotel* - formerly known as The Banks, is a four-star hotel only 200 metres from the MCC. *Savoy Park Plaza* - is another four-star hotel approximately 500 metres from the con site. *Batmans Hill* - a three-star hotel about 200 metres from the MCC. *Riverside* - a group of serviced apartments about 300 metres from the con site.

Volunteers

As with any large organisational project we are always on the look-out for people to help out, either before, during or after the convention. Volunteering for work during the con will allow you access to a number of areas not normally seen by the general convention-goer and is a great way to see how the whole thing works. If you think you would like to help out, fill in the following form and return it to Volunteer Registration at the main convention address in Melbourne.

Title : _____ Surname : _____ First Name : _____
 Mail Address : _____
 Suburb : _____
 State : _____ Post Code : _____
 Phone Home : _____ Phone Work : _____
 E-mail : _____

I am prepared to assist ...

- before the Convention for a few hours a
 week Only from _____ onwards
 month Occasionally

Previous Experience

- I have attended a previous Worldcon
 The most recent Worldcon I attended was : _____
 I have been a volunteer at a previous convention and assisted in these areas :
 Ops Programming
 Front Desk Registration Publicity
 Other : _____

Tell us which areas you are interested in working in.:

- | | |
|---|---|
| Before the Convention : | During the Convention : |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Envelope Stuffing | <input type="checkbox"/> Operations Room |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Main Events Support / Admin | <input type="checkbox"/> Gopher |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity | <input type="checkbox"/> Front Desk Registration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hucksters Information and Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Video Operation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Administration | <input type="checkbox"/> Catering Assistance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Literature Competition | <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Work |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Banquet Assistance | <input type="checkbox"/> Publishing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Video Competition | <input type="checkbox"/> Committee 'Den Mothers' |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publications | <input type="checkbox"/> Information Desk |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Writer's Workshop | <input type="checkbox"/> Masquerade Assistance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Front Desk Registration Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Programme Support Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Web Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Stewards |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Melbourne Info Package
(Melbourne Residents Only) | <input type="checkbox"/> Art Show Support |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Programming Support / Admin | <input type="checkbox"/> Hucksters Support |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other : | <input type="checkbox"/> Green Room |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other : |

Other than the above do you have any expertise that may be useful?

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Number 2, July 1998
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A Note from the Chair

Welcome to the second issue of *Voice of the Platypus*, the official newsletter of Aussiecon Three.
 The period since our previous newsletter has been one of consolidation, information gathering and decision making. More and more people are coming on board to help on the committee and more and more people are joining up. At present, with approximately 1500 members, we are on track to be the largest of the three Worldcons to be held in Australia.

Amongst those 1500 members are some 1200 from overseas and amongst those you can count a large number of professionals from all branches of the science fiction community. Although not guests of the convention as such, many of these professionals will be appearing on the programme of the convention, some of the details of which we hope to announce in the near future.

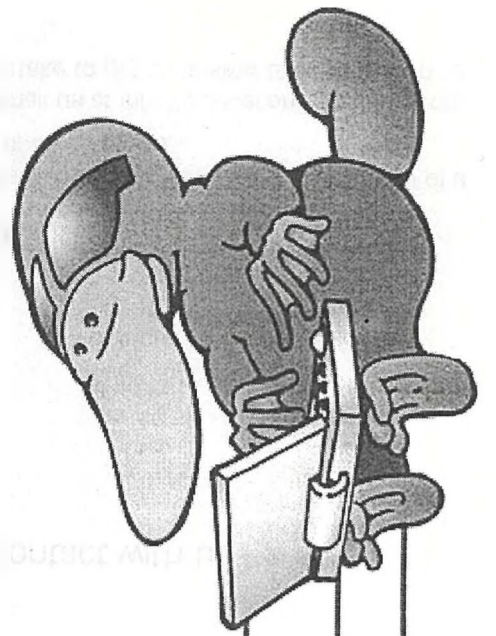
Those of you who read the first issue of this newsletter may start to wonder, as you read this, what has actually changed here. We have come to the conclusion that we cannot guarantee that there will be a major continuity of the audience for these newsletters from one issue to the next - those of you who are interested will have taken advantage of the data contained in issue one and joined the convention, or are waiting to see what else we have to offer. In any event, readers of this newsletter will need access to a lot of the same information as was included in issue one; such as the membership form and types, and details of our guests and the convention site. In spite of this duplication we hope to provide you with enough knowledge here to spike your curiosity to find out more.

Our major push over the next few months will be in the USA to take advantage of the confluence of SF fans attending this year's World Science Fiction Convention in Baltimore at the start of August. A lot of potential attendees leave it until the last year before making a decision on whether or not to attend the following year's Worldcon. We are confident, with the falling Australian dollar, that many non-Australians will take this unique opportunity to visit us next year. If the title "Worldcon" indicates anything it is that the convention should be a world event with world-wide attendance. We are certainly well on the way to achieving that.

Perry Middlemiss

GPO Box 1212K,
 Melbourne, 3001,
 AUSTRALIA

www.aussiecon3.worldcon.org



Aussiecon

T • H • R • E • E

57th World Science Fiction Convention

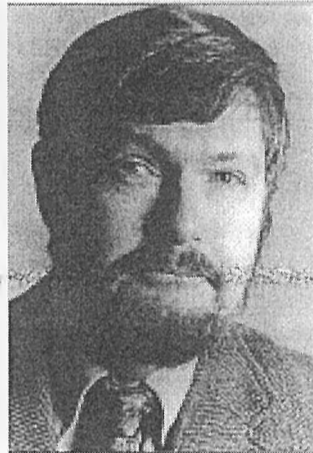
2nd - 6th September 1999

Aussiecon Three Pre Registration

Member Name
 Title Surname
 First Name Middle name/Initial
 Name to be printed on con badge:
 Postal Address
 Street Address
 City
 State/Province Postcode/ZIP
 Country
 Electronic Contact (optional)
 Telephone (home) (work)
 Facsimile
 Email Address
 Membership Type Attending* Supporting Child in Tow (born after 1 Sept 1987)
 Upgrade Supporting Membership # to Attending Membership
 Payment Method Cheque Visa Mastercard Bankcard
 Amount Paid (\$AUS):
 Card #
 Cardholder Name Expiry: Month ____ Year ____
 Cardholder Signature Date
 Mail completed form and payment to: Aussiecon3
 (Please do NOT send Cash) GPO Box 1212K
 Melbourne, 3001
 Australia

*Please indicate the number (if any) of infants (born after 1 Sept 1996) who will attend with you:
 Office use only:
 Received by: Received Date:

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Access to the Con Site for People with Disabilities

During a recent visit to the convention site by members of the committee special attention was paid to the accessibility of the site for people with disabilities. As the Melbourne Convention Centre was built after the major push to create reasonable access to buildings for all people, the site is very well designed in this regard. There is a large elevator servicing all floors that the convention will be using on the site. Entrances to the MCC are ramped to allow access for all forms of mobility aids. In addition each floor has a toilet block with appropriate facilities.

The Hugo Awards

The Hugo Awards are the Oscars of the science fiction world. They are presented at each year's World Science Fiction Convention to honour work published in the previous year. These are readers' and viewers' awards and the winners are determined by members of the awarding Worldcon. As we write the following categories will be awarded Hugos in 1999: Novel, Novella, Novelette, Short Story, Non-Fiction Book, Dramatic Presentation, Professional Editor, Professional Artist, Semiprozine, Fanzine, Fan Writer, and Fan Artist. In addition, the John W Campbell Memorial Award for Best New Writer is also awarded, and voted upon in a similar manner, but is not classified as a Hugo Award.

All Aussiecon Three members are eligible to nominate and vote for the Hugo Awards for the best science fiction and related works of 1998.

Hugo nomination ballots will be distributed with Progress Report 3 which is scheduled to be mailed in December 1998. The deadline for nominations will be sometime in late March 1999. Final Hugo ballots will be distributed with Progress Report 4 which is scheduled to be mailed at the end of April 1999 and voting will close at the end of July 1999. As always, the Hugo winners will be announced at the Hugo Awards ceremony at Aussiecon Three, which will be one of the main events on the convention's programme.

AussieCon Three Programme

The generally accepted truth about Worldcon programming is that it is not worth considering in a detailed manner until you are within 12 months of the convention. There are a number of reasons for that (including the major fact that the organising committee is unsure who will and who won't be attending) but it is still possible for some planning and development of the programme to begin early.

Some items on the programme nominate themselves. These include (but are not restricted to) the Guest-of-Honor speeches for Greg Benford and Bruce Gillespie, the Opening and Closing ceremonies, the Hugo Ceremony and Masquerade. We will fulfill our WSFS commitments with a series of Business Sessions; we will run collector and fan auctions; and there will be a number of fixed exhibits and functions such as an Art Show, an Internet Lounge, and a Dealers room. We aim to put a programme in place that deals with all aspects of the sf genre: literary, media, fannish, gaming, costuming, readings, film, book signings, etc. Whatever you can think of we'll probably cover it, or at least attempt to. At present we have people working on specific items relating to the history of Australian sf fandom and science fiction, and doubtless we will have many other such panels offered to us leading up to the convention.

At this time, it is our intention to get the Programming Division structure in place, to timetable the required items and to begin developing others as they are suggested or recommended. This process will require a lot of work and a lot of suggestions. As we proceed further down the development track we will begin soliciting programme suggestions from members and interested parties alike.

If you have any questions or suggestions at this point please contact us at the general email address of info@aussiecon3.worldcon.org.

Volunteers

As with any large organisational project we are always on the look-out for people to help out, either before, during or after the convention. Volunteering for work during the con will allow you access to a number of areas not normally seen by the general convention-goer and is a great way to see how the whole thing works. If you think you would like to help out, fill in the following form and return it to Volunteer Registration at the main convention address in Melbourne.

Title : Surname : First Name :
Mail Address :
Suburb :
State : Post Code :
Phone Home : Phone Work :
E-mail :

I am prepared to assist ...

before the Convention for a few hours a
 week Only from onwards
 month Occasionally

Previous Experience

I have attended a previous Worldcon
 The most recent Worldcon I attended was :
 I have been a volunteer at a previous convention and assisted in these areas :
 Ops Programming
 Front Desk/Registration Publicity
 Other :

I am interested in helping with:

How do you get in contact with us?

You can write to us at our postal address of:

GPO Box 1212K
Melbourne 3001
AUSTRALIA

or visit our web site at

www.aussiecon3.worldcon.org.

or by subscribing to our email information list (send "subscribe a3-info" in the body of a message addressed to majordomo@ncc1701.apana.org.au.)

Failing any of these methods you can always email us at info@aussiecon3.worldcon.org with any questions you may have. We will undertake to get an answer to you as soon as we can.

Aussiecon Three Pre Registration

Member Name

Title Surname

First Name Middle name/Initial

Name to be printed on con badge:

Postal Address

Street Address

City

State/Province Postcode/ZIP

Country

Electronic Contact (optional)

Telephone (home) (work)

Facsimile

Email Address

Membership Type Attending* Supporting Child in Tow (born after 1 Sept 1987)

Upgrade Supporting Membership # to Attending Membership

Payment Method Cheque Visa Mastercard Bankcard

Amount Paid (\$AUS):

Card #

Cardholder Name Expiry: Month ___ Year ___

Cardholder Signature Date

Mail completed form and payment to:
(Please do NOT send Cash)

Aussiecon3
GPO Box 1212K
Melbourne, 3001
Australia

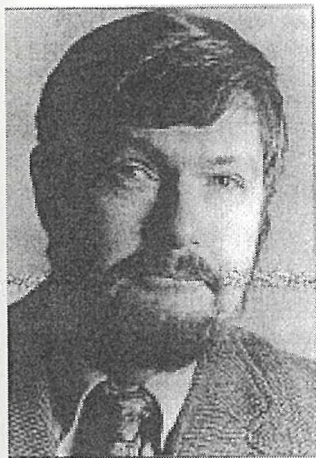
*Please indicate the number (if any) of infants (born after 1 Sept 1996) who will attend with you:

Office use only:

Received by:

Received Date:

Guests of Honor



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If you look at the membership rate you may think that Aussiecon Three is going to cost you a lot of money. Yes, putting all this together is not cheap, but considering the breadth of the programme and the fact that there will be five full days (and possibly five full nights if you have the stamina) of activity we believe that Aussiecon Three rates quite well compared to most cons run in this country. Our aim is to make sure that will be so much more to do than you can possibly fit in the time available. At around \$45 a day you would be hard-pressed to do better.

We would expect that this will be an event that lives long in your memory, just as Aussiecon Two lives in the memory of most of those who attended. A Worldcon in Australia is a very rare event and unless you travel to the US you are unlikely to get another opportunity to attend one in the next fifteen years. Come along, join in the fun and be a part of the biggest Australian SF convention ever and see what Science Fiction fandom is really about and why so many people worldwide are a part of it.

Guests of Honour

We mean the title "Guest of Honour" quite literally; these are people who have contributed quite a lot to SF and to SF Fandom and we think that they deserve to be honoured. In addition to our GoHs, there may be other people invited along who we think will be of interest to you and of course there will be many authors, artists and other SF professionals who are not actually guests but attend as ordinary members because they enjoy the Worldcon atmosphere so much. Most of these people, guests or not, are usually happy to talk to other convention members, especially if you are polite or it's your round at the bar. In fact one of the Worldcon institutions is the Kaffeeklatsch where a group of around ten people spend an hour chatting over coffee with an author.

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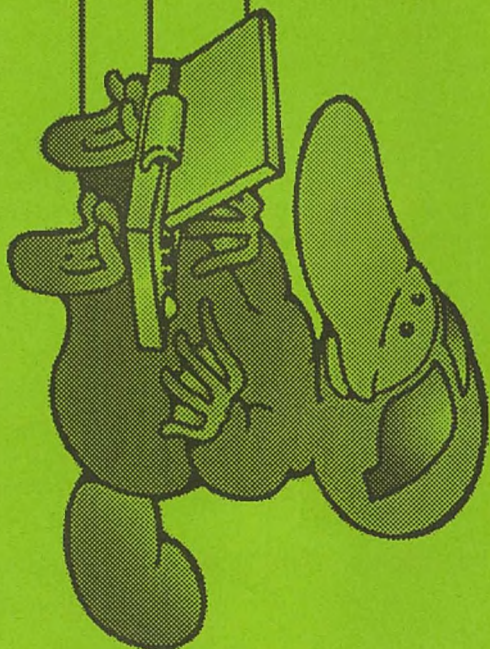
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GPO Box 1212K
Melbourne VIC 3001
AUSTRALIA

Website: www.aussiecon3.worldcon.org
email: info@aussiecon3.worldcon.org

Aussiecon
T • H • R • E • E
57th World Science Fiction Convention
2nd - 6th September 1999
At the Melbourne Convention Centre
and the Centra on the Yarra Hotel



Aussiecon Three Pre Registration

Member Name _____ Title _____ Surname _____ Middle name/initial _____
Name to be printed on con badge: _____
Postal Address _____ Street Address _____ City _____ State/Province _____ Postcode/ZIP _____ Country _____
Electronic Contact (optional) _____ Telephone (home) _____ (work) _____ Facsimile _____ Email Address _____
Membership Type Attending* Supporting Child in Tow (born after 1 Sept 1987)
 Upgrade Supporting Membership # _____ to Attending Membership
Payment Method Cheque Visa Mastercard Bankcard
Amount Paid: _____ Card # _____
Cardholder Name _____ Expiry: Month _____ Year _____
Cardholder Signature _____ Date _____
Mail completed form and payment to: Aussiecon Three
GPO Box 1212K
Melbourne VIC 3001
Australia
(Please do NOT send Cash)
Received by: _____
Office use only: _____
Received Date: _____
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Voice of the Platypus, Issue # 4, April 1999

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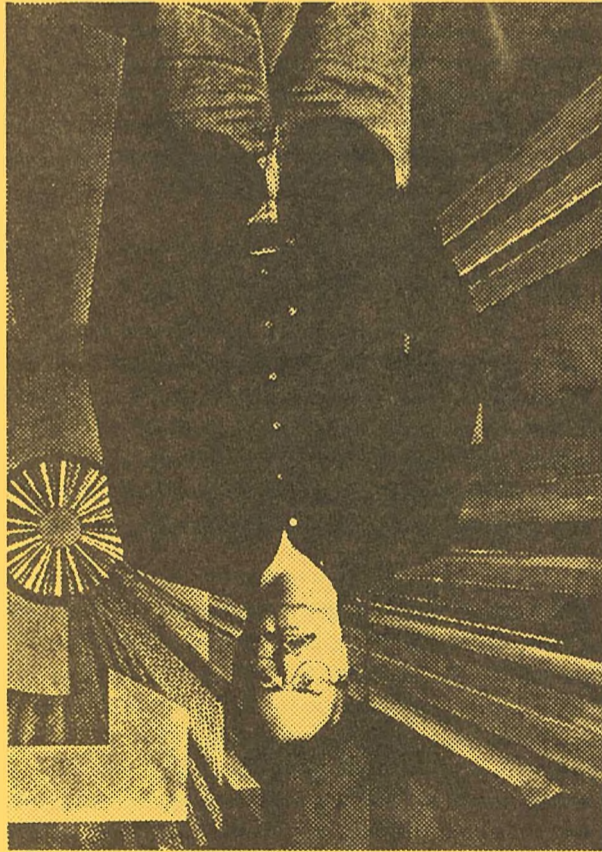
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The board of Aussiecon Three, the 57th World Science Fiction Convention, are pleased to announce that J. Michael Straczynski has agreed to be a Special Guest of the convention. Mr Straczynski is best known for his television shows *Babylon 5* and *Crusade*, but has also written over 100 episodes for other series as well as five TV movies. He is also the author of over 500 published articles and short stories, two novels, and a dozen produced plays and a dozen produced radio dramas and has even found time to create a new comic book series. Aussiecon Three will be Mr Straczynski's only public appearance while in Australia. He will be attending all five days of the convention.



Babylon 5 creator to appear at Aussiecon Three

At the Melbourne Convention Centre and the Centra on the Yarra Hotel
 GPO Box 1212K
 Melbourne VIC 3001
 AUSTRALIA
 Website: www.aussiecon3.worldcon.org
 email: info@aussiecon3.worldcon.org

Aussiecon
 T • H • R • E • E
 57th World Science Fiction Convention
 2nd - 6th September 1999

Voice of the Platypus, Issue # 4, April 1999

Member Name Pre Registration Upgrade or Change of Address to existing membership

Title _____ Surname _____ First Name _____ Middle name/initial _____ Name to be printed on con badge: _____

Postal Address _____ Street Address _____ City _____ State/Province _____ Country _____ Electronic Contact (optional) _____ Telephone (home) _____ Telephone (work) _____ Facsimile _____ Email Address _____

Membership Type Attending* Supporting Child in Tow (born after 1 Sept 1987) Upgrade Supporting Membership # _____ to Attending Membership Pay via Lay-By scheme - 4 Payments of \$65 each

Payment Method Cheque Visa Mastercard Bankcard

Amount Paid (\$AUD): _____

Card # _____

Cardholder Name _____ Expiry: Month _____ Year _____

Cardholder Signature _____ Date _____

Mall completed form and payment to: Aussiecon Three GPO Box 1212K Melbourne, Australia 3001

Please make cheques payable to "Aussiecon Three"

*Please indicate the number (if any) of infants (born after 1 Sept 1996) who will attend with you: _____

Membership Types

Aussiecon Three has four categories of membership: Attending Members, Supporting Members, Child in Tow, and Infants. There is also a Lay-By scheme for people who wish to be Attending Members but require staggered payments.

Attending members are eligible to attend the convention, will receive all publications that are produced after the date of joining, will have full voting rights at the Business Session of the World Science Fiction Society (WSFS), and can vote for the 1999 Hugo Awards and the Site Selection Ballot for the 2002 Worldcon. (Please note that an additional voting fee will be payable for those wishing to participate in the Site Selection Ballot. Payment of this fee, the exact amount will be determined by the end of April, will purchase a Supporting Membership to the 2002 Worldcon.)

Supporting members are not eligible to attend the convention but, in all other respects, receive the same benefits as Attending Members. Supporting Members may convert their membership to Attending status by paying the difference between the Supporting Membership rate and the Attending Membership rate that is applicable at the time of the upgrade.

Lay-by Scheme members receive the same rights as Supporting Members until final payment is made, where they become Attending Members. Four payments of AUD\$65 are required by August 1st, 1999. Prospective members may commence a lay-by membership at any time before August 1st. Payments totalling AUD\$260 must be received by Aussiecon Three by that date. A first payment of AUD\$65 is required. This payment, which secures a supporting membership of Aussiecon Three, is non-refundable. At most, three additional payments may be made. After joining the lay-by scheme, members will receive a receipt and a letter with suggested payments and conditions. If payment in full is not made, all monies received except the initial payment of AUD\$65 will be refunded (AUD\$45 for a supporting membership and AUD\$20 for administrative costs).

Child in Tow members are children under the age of 12 years and over the age of 3 years at the time of convention; that is, were born on or after the September 1st 1987 and on or before September 1st 1996. Such members will not have voting right for the WSFS Business Session, nor will they be eligible to vote in either the 1999 Hugo Awards or Site Selection Ballots. Such members will only be allowed into the main area of the convention if accompanied by a responsible adult Attending Member. At all other times they will be restricted to the Children's programming area.

Infant members are children under the age of 3 years at the time of the convention, that is were born after 1st September 1996. Such children will receive the same rights as 'Child in Tow' members.

For all membership types, preregistration will end on July 31. From August 1, memberships may only be purchased at Aussiecon Three once the convention commences on September 2. The rates for 'At the Door' entry will be established later this year. Both full attending memberships and day entry passes will be available (purchasers of day passes are not WSFS members and will not be able to participate in the Site Selection ballot).

Membership Rates

Until April 6 the membership rates will be as follows:

Attending \$225, Supporting \$45, Lay-By \$65 X 4 instalments (\$260 total), Child in Tow (born after Sep 87) \$45, Infants free

From April 6 to August 1 the following rates will apply:

Attending \$250, Supporting \$50, Lay-By \$65 X 4 instalments (\$260 total), Child in Tow (born after Sep 87) \$50, Infants free

From August 1 no further pre-registrations will be accepted. From that point onwards the only way to purchase memberships will be "At the Door" once the convention has commenced operations and these memberships will be at an increased rate.

If you are registering by mail, Aussiecon Three will accept payment by cheque or credit card (Visa, Mastercard or Bankcard). Cash payments will be accepted in person by any Aussiecon Three agent as well as by Slow Glass Books in Melbourne or Gaslight Books in Canberra. Details of our agents are available on request or from the Staff area of our home page at www.aussiecon3.worldcon.org

Aussiecon Three Programme

As with any Worldcon, there are a number of events that make up the core of the program. These events include the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, speeches made by our Guests of Honour, the Hugo Ceremony, the Masquerade and the Business Session. Other convention staples include an auction to raise funds for worthy fannish causes as well as fixed exhibits and functions such as the Art Show, a Fan Lounge, an Internet Lounge and a Dealers Room. But there will be a great deal more to the Aussiecon Three programme.

We aim to put on a programme that will deal with all aspects of the sf genre: literary, media, fannish, gaming, costuming, readings, film, book signings and more. Whatever you can think of, we'll probably have thought of it too (but don't let that stop you from suggesting it to us or even offering to put it on yourself). For example, major programme items about the history of Australian fandom and Australian science fiction are already under development.

A Worldcon is a big event and it is easy to be overwhelmed by it. We will ensure that our programme will include as many items as possible that will appeal to the first-timer as well as the Worldcon regulars. We intend to provide plenty of help to make sure you enjoy this convention as much as the old-timers do.

Developing a programme of this breadth and depth is a big job. Responsibility for that job rests on the shoulders of Donna Heenan, the Head of the Programme Division. If you have any suggestions about the programme or would like to help out, either as a programme participant or with the work of the Division, please contact Donna. She can be contacted by mail at the convention address or by email at programming@aussiecon3.worldcon.org.

Official Convention Hotels

THE BOOKING AGENCY

All booking for *official convention hotels* will be handled by a booking agency, Lido Accommodation. Booking forms are available online from the Aussiecon Three website (www.aussiecon3.worldcon.org) and have also been mailed to members with their Progress Reports.

Lido Accommodation
PO Box 906
Rozelle NSW 2039
AUSTRALIA

Telephone: +61-2-9246-9886
Toll Free: 1-800-817-339 (Australia only)
Facsimile: +61-2-9818-8813
Email: lido@tpgi.com.au

CENTRA ON YARRA

Single, Double or Twin - AUD\$160

A 4 star hotel with two restaurants, 24 hour room service, swimming pool, gym and business centre. It is located on the corner of Spencer Street and Flinders Street and is immediately adjacent to the Melbourne Convention Centre. Melways map reference 1A A11. At this central location, it will be the focal point for most of the evening activities associated with Aussiecon Three.

See www.sphc.com.au/hotels/centra/cmclb.html for more information.

HOLIDAY INN ON FLINDERS

Single, Double or Twin - AUD\$150

A 4 star hotel with one restaurant, 24 hour room service, gym and business centre. It is located on the corner of Spencer Street and Flinders Lane and is about 200 m (650 feet) from the Melbourne Convention Centre. Melways map reference 1A A9.

For more information, see www.holidayinn.com.au/hotels/melsf/welcome.html.

SAVOY PARK PLAZA

Single, Double or Twin - AUD\$145

A 4 star hotel with two restaurants, 24 hour room service and business friendly rooms. It is located at 630 Little Collins Street, on the corner of Spencer Street and Little Collins Street, and is about 450m (1/3 mile) from the Melbourne Convention Centre. Melways map reference 1A A6. For more information, see www.parkplazamelbourne.com.

TERRACE PACIFIC

Single, Double or Twin - AUD\$99

A 3 star hotel. It is located at 16 Spencer Street, between Flinders Street and Flinders Lane. It is 150m (500 feet) from the Melbourne Convention Centre. Melways map reference 1A A9.

ALL SEASONS GRAND APARTMENTS HOTEL

Studio AUD\$175 1 Bedroom AUD\$195 2 Bedroom AUD\$275

The All Seasons Grand Apartments Hotel is a 4.5 star apartment hotel that has been established in a historic building that used to be the headquarters of the Victorian Railways. It offers fully self-contained studio, 1 bedroom and 2 bedroom apartments and is suited to those who would like the comforts of home with the style of a grand international hotel. It is located at 33 Spencer Street, immediately north of Flinders Street. Melways map reference 1A A9. It is 150m (500 feet) from the Melbourne Convention Centre.

Suites are also available at the Centra, the Holiday Inn and the Savoy. Contact Lido Accommodation for more information.

Other Hotels

There are a number of hotels in the immediate vicinity of the convention site covering all price ranges. These include: *Holiday Inn on Flinders* - a four-star hotel only 200m from the MCC. *Batmans Hill* - a three-star hotel about 500m from the MCC. *Riverside Apartments* - a group of serviced apartments about 400m from the con site.

Convention Site

The convention returns to Melbourne to a new site for us at the Melbourne Convention Centre (formally known as World Congress Centre), and the attached Centra on the Yarra hotel.

Located by the banks of the Yarra River, 1.5 kilometres (1 mile) SW of the centre of Melbourne, the three function floors of the Melbourne Convention Centre include two theatres, plus many program rooms and a ballroom. While the 6,900 sq. metres (64,000 sq. feet) of room space does not rival that of LACon III, the 6000 person capacity of the centre exceeds our more limited needs.

The reception areas for both the World Congress Centre and the Centra Hotel are directly off a ramped vehicle access around the Centre at the first floor entrance to both. This area is flanked by seven smaller meeting rooms, and a tiered 400 seat theatre style room. The hotel has kitchens, restaurants and a bar downstairs, while the Melbourne Convention Centre ground floor is exclusively utilities and unloading areas.

Escalators take you from the lobby up to the main function area on the third floor, and open directly upon the atrium. At one end, full length windows give a view of the city and river. There are five rooms for smaller panels (130 capacity), plus a 1000 person room. The largest room on this level is the tiered 1400 seat Batman Theatre (not named after the comic book hero). The top floor contains another five smaller rooms (180 capacity), and a pair of considerably larger rooms, which can be opened to form a 2500 capacity ballroom.

All rooms, including concourses, are fully carpeted, and all partitioned walls are sound absorbent and reach the full height to the high ceilings. There are lifts (elevators), escalators and stairs to each floor. There are disabled facilities on some floors. The centre meets Australian standards for handicapped access.

How can you find out more?

Search our home page at www.aussiecon3.worldcon.org.

Subscribe to a3-press, a moderated email list for official announcements from Aussiecon Three (send "subscribe a3-press" in the body of an email message addressed to majordomo@ncc1701.apana.org.au);

Subscribe to a3-info, an unmoderated email list for discussions about Aussiecon Three (send "subscribe a3-info" in the body of an email message addressed to majordomo@ncc1701.apana.org.au);

Contact us by email at info@aussiecon3.worldcon.org;

Write to us at GPO Box 1212K, Melbourne VIC 3001, Australia

Come to the Party

This little flyer is an invitation to a party with 2,000 of your closest friends. O.K., they may not be your friends right now, but after the five days of Aussiecon Three are over we are confident that most of the convention members will have had the chance to meet and chat with people just like them; fans of Science Fiction in any or all of its forms.

Unlike almost every other Science Fiction convention, the World Science Fiction Convention (aka Worldcon) is primarily about the fans. The reason that the Worldcons exist is to provide a meeting place for fans from all over the world, where they can gather once a year to renew old ties, make new ones and have a damn good time. We want you to be a part of this, to enjoy the company of fans from all over and to see all that SF fandom has to offer.

During the day we will have up to five different streams of programming running, which will range from serious discussions of science to not so serious discussions of obscure Japanese Cartoons and even to fun activities like Theatre Sports. There will be a video program and naturally some of the programming will be about SF on TV and in films. In the evenings there will be the major events like the Hugo awards and the masquerade and after that there will be the various bid parties and room parties. Many of the parties will be open to everyone and may feature free food and drinks (particularly those run to drum up support for future Worldcon bids) while others will be more BYO affairs. We will endeavour to list all the "all comers" parties on a notice board in a prominent location.

Another Worldcon custom is the group meal (and let's face it, food is a big priority with most fans) where one person says "let's got to lunch" and suddenly there is twenty people standing on the doorstep of a restaurant arguing about the menu. We intend running some hosted lunches, so that even if you don't know anyone at all you can still head out for lunch in a group organised by the lunch "host".

For those of you who are passionate about collecting the various books and memorabilia associated with SF and SF shows there will be a dealer's room along with a number of auctions that should have, as the saying goes, something for everyone. We also intend holding an art-show and if you need somewhere to stop and catch your breath there will be a fan-lounge where a friendly conversation will be always available.

If you look at the membership rate you may think that Aussiecon Three is going to cost you a lot of money. Yes, putting all this together is not cheap, but considering the breadth of the programme and the fact that there will be five full days (and possibly five full nights if you have the stamina) of activity we believe that Aussiecon Three rates quite well compared to most cons run in this country. Our aim is to make sure that will be so much more to do than you can possibly fit in the time available. At around \$50 a day you would be hard-pressed to do better.

We would expect that this will be an event that lives long in your memory, just as Aussiecon Two lives in the memory of most of those who attended. A Worldcon in Australia is a very rare event and unless you travel to the US you are unlikely to get another opportunity to attend one in the next fifteen years. Come along, join in the fun and be a part of the biggest Australian SF convention ever and see what Science Fiction fandom is really about and why so many people worldwide are a part of it.

Guests of Honour

We mean the title "Guest of Honour" quite literally; these are people who have contributed quite a lot to SF and to SF Fandom and we think that they deserve to be honoured. In addition to our GoHs, there may be other people invited along who we think will be of interest to you and of course there will be many authors, artists and other SF professionals who are not actually guests but attend as ordinary members because they enjoy the Worldcon atmosphere so much. Most of these people, guests or not, are usually happy to talk to other convention members, especially if you are polite or it's your round at the bar. In fact one of the Worldcon institutions is the Kaffeklatsch where a group of around ten people spend an hour chatting over coffee with an author.

Gregory Benford

Greg Benford is professor of physics at the University of California, Irvine. He conducts research in plasma turbulence theory and in astrophysics, having published over a hundred scientific papers. He is a Woodrow Wilson Fellow and a visiting fellow at Cambridge University. Throughout the last decade he has worked as an advisor to the Department of Energy, NASA, and the White House Council on Space Policy.

Greg Benford was formerly co-editor of the fanzine *Void*, and an SF writer since 1965. He is the author of over a dozen novels, among them *Timescape* (a Nebula award winner) and the recent, *Beyond the Fall of Night*, written with Arthur C. Clarke. He has won the Nebula twice, the John W. Campbell award and the Australian Ditmar award for international novel. In 1989 he won the United Nations Medal in Literature. He is a frequent and eloquent attendee at conventions.

George Turner

Probably Australia's foremost SF author, and certainly the sternest critic of SF that Australia has produced. George was a veteran writer, author of several critically acclaimed mainstream novels, winner of Australia's premier literary award, the Miles Franklin Award.

George was also well known for his fanzine appearances, with many critical articles to his credit. Not surprisingly, his work appeared often in *S F Commentary*, a fanzine produced by our Fan Guest of Honour, Bruce Gillespie. George's major work within the science fiction field included *The Sea and Summer* (aka *The Drowning Towers*) which was a winner of the Commonwealth Writer's Award, the Arthur C Clarke Award, and is believed to be the first Australian novel nominated for a Nebula award.

Although George passed away in June 1997, it is still the intention of the Convention Committee to honour his work and his memory.

Bruce Gillespie

Bruce Gillespie is one of Australia's and the world's best known science fiction fans. He first encountered fandom in 1966 through the pages of John Bangsund's *Australian Science Fiction Review* and within 3 years had commenced publication of *SF Commentary*. That fanzine is still being published some 28 years later and stands out in the history of science fiction as being one of the best serious constructive criticism (or "sercon") fanzines ever published. Bruce received his first Ditmar Award and first Hugo nomination for the fanzine in 1972.