

aussiecon two

43rd world
science fiction
convention



progress report # 2

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Edited and laid out by David Grigg.

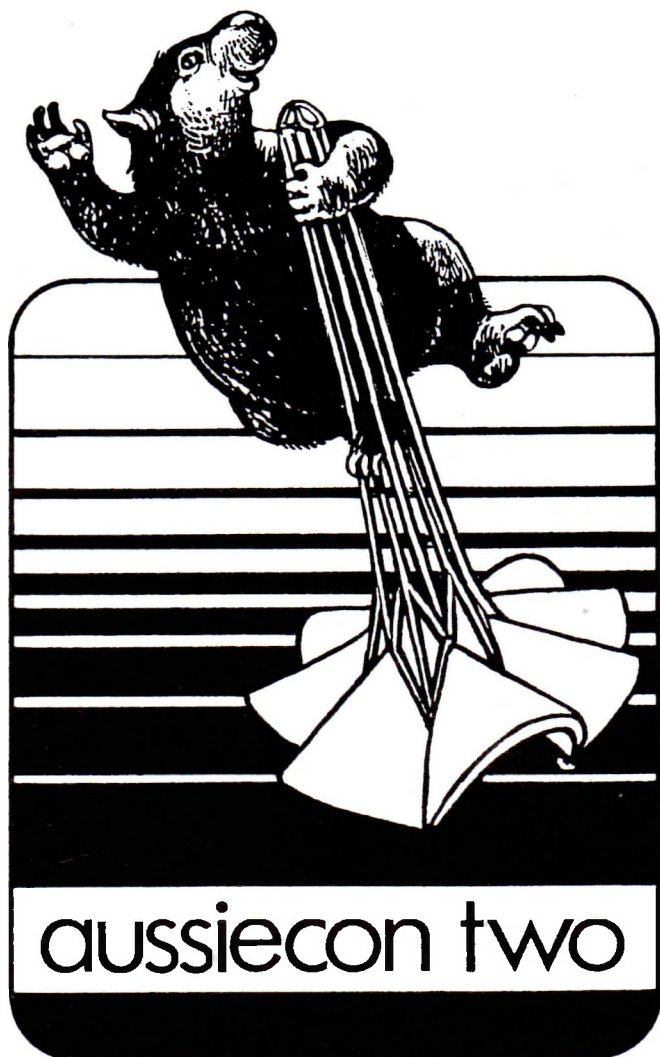
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PROGRESS REPORT 2

OCTOBER 1984

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43rd world science fiction convention
gpo box 2253U, melbourne, australia 3001

Artwork

Cover illustration by Gerald Carr.

Alexis Gilliland	3, 17
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Interior Cover by Craig Hilton

General Information

Aussiecon Two is the 43rd World Science Fiction Convention. It will be held between 22 August and 26 August 1985, in Melbourne, Australia.

The convention is being organised under the auspices of the Australian Science Fiction Foundation, a non-profit co-operative society. **Aussiecon Two** has also been recognised as an official event as part of the State of Victoria's 150th Anniversary Celebrations.



VICTORIA 150
GROWING TOGETHER 1984-5

Aussiecon Two is proud to have as its Guests of Honour two people who have achieved great renown in their fields of endeavour, and who, we believe, truly deserve to be honoured by the science fiction community.

Our Professional Guest of Honour is **Gene Wolfe**, whose works of fiction have received much justified acclaim.

Our Fan Guest of Honour is **Ted White**, long prominent in the science fiction community as fan, writer, and editor.

New Chairman

We are sad to announce that **John Foyster**, the Chairman of **Aussiecon Two**, has been forced to stand down because of family problems.

John's work in initiating the Melbourne in '85 bid and leading it to a successful conclusion are greatly appreciated by the current committee, and indeed, by all Australian science fiction fans. All of us wish John the best at this difficult time for him.

The new Chairman of the Convention is **David Grigg**, who was Deputy Chairman of the Melbourne in '85 bid. David was on the committee of **Aussiecon I** in 1975, and is a longstanding fanzine publisher. He has also had several science fiction stories published. He will retain overall responsibility for the convention publications. David, 33, is married and has a two-year-old daughter.

Carey Handfield has been appointed as Deputy Chairman. Carey has long been associated with conventions in Australia, both in Sydney and in Melbourne.

Corresponding with Aussiecon Two

All substantive correspondence (other than applications for membership) should be addressed to:

Aussiecon Two,
GPO Box 2253U,
Melbourne,
Victoria 3001,
AUSTRALIA.

Australians should, of course, use this address for all purposes.

Overseas members must use **airmail!**

Otherwise, you should write to our agents in other countries, as follows:

Our Agents

North America:

Fred Patten, 11863 West Jefferson Blvd, Apt. 1,
Culver City, CA 90230, USA

(North Americans send all membership applications and cheques here.)

Joyce Scrivner, 2732 14th Ave. South Lower,
Minneapolis, MN 55404, USA

Jan Howard Finder, PO Box 428, Latham, NY
12110, USA

Belgium:

Andre De Rycke, Eendenplasstraat 70, Evergem,
B-9050, Belgium

Netherlands:

Annemarie van Ewyck, Obrechstraat 4, NL-2517
VT, Den Haag, The Netherlands

New Zealand:

Tom Cardy, PO Box 1010, Auckland, NZ

Scandinavia:

Anders Bellis, Vanadisvagen 13, S-113 46,
Stockholm, Sweden

United Kingdom:

Joseph Nicholas, 22 Denbigh Street, Pimlico,
London SW1V 2 ER, United Kingdom

Federal Republic of Germany:

Waldemar Kuming, Herzogspitalstr. 5, Munchen-
2, D-8000, Federal Republic of Germany.

Membership Rates

As of 1 July 1984:

Attending: \$50.00

Supporting: \$30.00

After 1 February 1985:

Attending: \$60.00

Supporting: \$30.00

Children's memberships: \$5.00

These figures hold in both Australian and US dollars. Fans from other countries should apply to their local Aussiecon agent (if they have one) for the rates in their local currency.

Our intention is to hold the supporting rate fixed up to the date of the convention, if possible.

If you are already a supporting member, it will currently cost you \$20 to convert to an attending membership. The conversion rate for supporting members, regardless of when they bought their membership, will always be set at the current differential between attending and supporting memberships.

Programming

Only the most general outline of programming structure has been developed at this stage. Groups of volunteers are devising possible themes and tracks, and this pattern will become formal only towards the end of 1984.

However, some aspects of the program are already fixed. The formal program on Saturday will be oriented towards secondary school children and their teachers, while extensive out-of-hotel items are being arranged for those not so inclined. Details will be announced in the next Progress Report.

One example, however, may be given here. The local Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA) is planning several activities to complement the convention program, and a tournament will be held on the Saturday afternoon. (The SCA also plans a feast for the Wednesday evening before the convention.)

Special interest groups are invited to indicate that interest to the convention committee, with a view to making convenient arrangements consistent with the limited time and space available to the convention site. (Mark any such correspondence: 'Programming Subcommittee'.)

Film Programme

Plans for the film program are well advanced, and we are very confident of obtaining an excellent venue for the day program within a short distance of the Southern Cross (final negotiations are still going on). Both films and videos will also be shown at night at the Southern Cross itself.

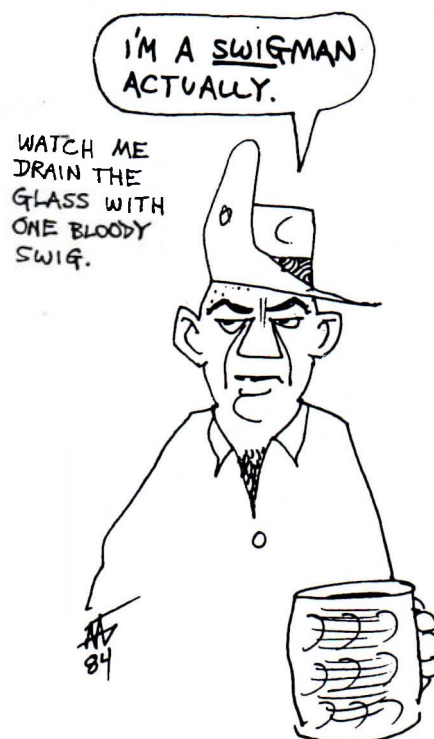
We plan to make up the majority (if not all) of the main film program with Australian science fiction and fantasy films and shorts, in effect presenting a mini-Australian fantasy film festival as part of the Worldcon.

We will give you more details, both on the film venue and on our planned program, in the next Progress Report.

Banquet

We have begun planning for the Convention Banquet, and we have a few innovative ideas up our sleeves about how the Awards Ceremony and the Banquet should relate to each other. More on this later.

For the present, it will suffice to say that we are planning that the menu for the Banquet should be a very Australian one (witchetty grubs, however, will be optional, not compulsory), and that the occasion should be as enjoyable and as unusual as possible.





Pre-Supporting Memberships:

£1 to Britain in 87, 28 Duckett Road, London, N4 1BN, England

\$2A to Roger Weddall, 79 Bell Street, Fitzroy, Victoria 3065, Australia

4 \$2US to Marty Cantor, 11565 Archwood Street, North Hollywood, CA 91606, U.S.A

Children

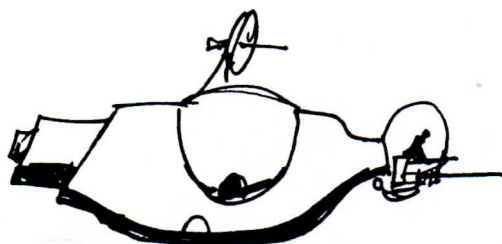
Children under the age of 12 may join as attending members for \$5, provided they are accompanied at all times by a responsible adult. Child members will not receive Progress Reports or Hugo nomination forms and ballots. They will receive a Programme Book and a membership badge. Babes-in-arms will be admitted free.

It is proposed that, if there is sufficient demand, Sally Beasley will arrange child care, using professional baby-sitters on a "user-pays" basis. Cost could work out at about \$5 an hour, if there are enough participants. If you are interested, please let us know as soon as possible.

We do not at the moment anticipate that there will be enough children in attendance to justify a programme of children's activities. However, if you have any ideas (and are willing to volunteer to put them into practice), we'd like to hear from you.

Weapons

In line with standard practice at recent Worldcons, the carrying of weapons will not be permitted, except as part of a masquerade costume, and then only during the Masquerade or in transit to and from it. The Committee reserves the right to decide what constitutes a weapon, but broadly the definition encompasses real or model swords, daggers, battle-axes, guns, blasters, laser-pistols . . . Need we go on?



WR

Any weapons purchased from hucksters must be securely wrapped and taken away.

If you feel strongly that this policy is unduly restrictive, you are welcome to write to the Committee, but there is very little likelihood that we will change our minds. Although we have no doubt that most people would behave sensibly if weapons were permitted, there is always a risk of somebody doing something stupid, and the safety of convention members has to be our overriding consideration.

Disabled Members

If you have a disability or chronic illness which might cause you special problems, please contact Christine Ashby so that we can arrange whatever assistance is possible. Unfortunately, wheelchair-accessible rooms are in extremely short supply, and the Victoria could not be regarded as accessible at all, but with sufficient advance notice, local knowledge and good old fannish ingenuity ought to solve (or at least minimise) most problems.

If you require medication and are coming from overseas, you should carry a letter from your medical practitioner to smooth your way through Customs and to assist in case of emergency. We recommend that everyone purchase suitable insurance cover along with their airline tickets; you can be assured, however, that Australian medical services are as good as those anywhere in the world.

Hucksters

The Huckster Room will be in the Southern Cross Hotel.

Tables will be sold for \$100 (US or Australian). This will be for the whole of the Convention, and does not include the cost of membership. All hucksters must be members of the Convention. Tables are 1.8 m x .76 m (5.9 ft x 2.5 ft), and the fee includes table cloth and two chairs. Any hucksters who have special requirements like electricity or extra chairs should write to us and we will see what can be provided.

Because we do not have a large number of tables for sale, at this stage we must put a limit of 1 table per customer. Depending upon demand, we may have some spare tables. People who would like extra tables should let us know when booking, and we will advise on availability at a later date.

We cannot accept bookings for less than one table. If you only need a small space, we suggest you arrange to share a table with somebody.

Bookings open on 15 November 1984 and must be directed to our box address in Australia. Remember that if you live outside Australia you will need to use airmail (about 7 days delivery time). To reserve a table all you need to do is send us a cheque for \$100 in US or Australian funds. We cannot accept bookings without payment of the fee.

Masquerade

No World Science Fiction Convention would be complete without a Masquerade. It provides moments of spectacle, humour, and beauty which complement the more cerebral moments of panel discussions, the more formal moments of the Hugo Awards, and the more violent moments of the Business Session. The Aussiecon Two Masquerade will attempt to provide local fans with some idea of what a large masquerade can be, and will show our overseas guests that the local costumers can mix it with the best of them.

Our Masquerade Director is Paul Stokes, well-known local fan. His collection of comics and other artwork is only really matched by his collection of vulgar jokes. In addition, his experience as a drama teacher and in amateur theatre, both on stage and behind the scenes, qualify him for the position. (His "teacher voice" is particularly effective . . .)

Though we are aware of the Novice, Journeyman, and Master categories used in US Worldcons, we can't see ourselves adopting these for Aussiecon Two. We doubt that there will be enough entries from those who have competed in previous Worldcon Masquerades to make the divisions meaningful. There will be, though, an assortment of categories, including a special under-sixteen category. There will be more on this in PR 3.

What we will be insisting on, naturally enough, is that the costumes be the work of fans. No professionally made costumes will be admitted to the Masquerade. In the Adult section, it would be preferred that the costumes be made by the people wearing them. Under-sixteens may choose to wear costumes made for them by family or friends.

There will be pre-registration forms for the Masquerade, which will have to be submitted before the Convention. We feel that this is no real imposition, as anyone who is seriously considering

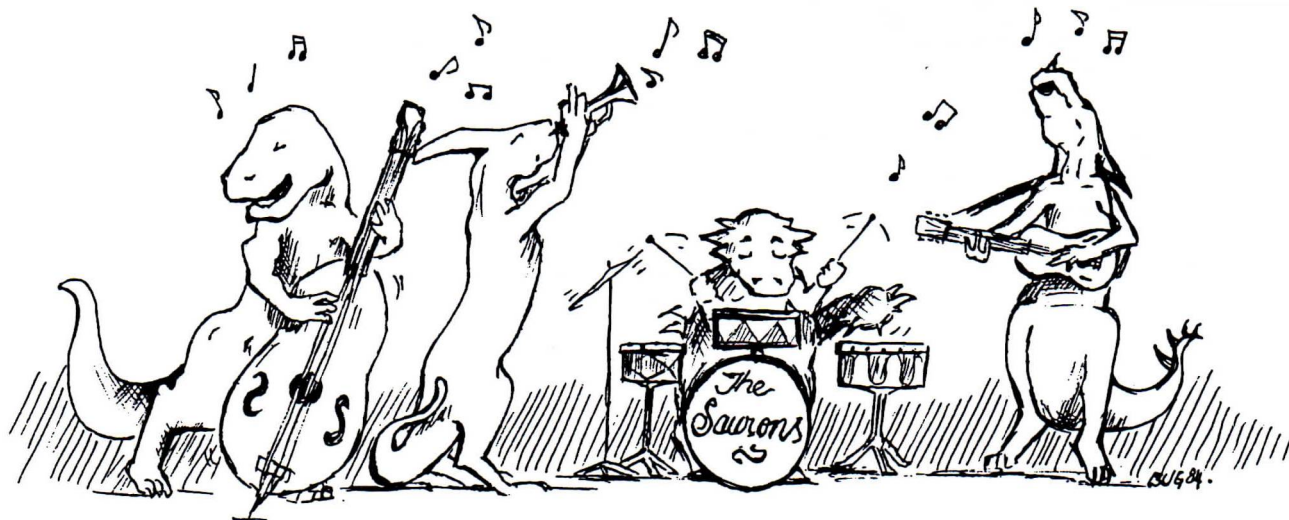
entering the Masquerade should have his/her ideas well settled before the Convention. Pre-registration forms will be available with PR 3. There will be further information on categories available then.

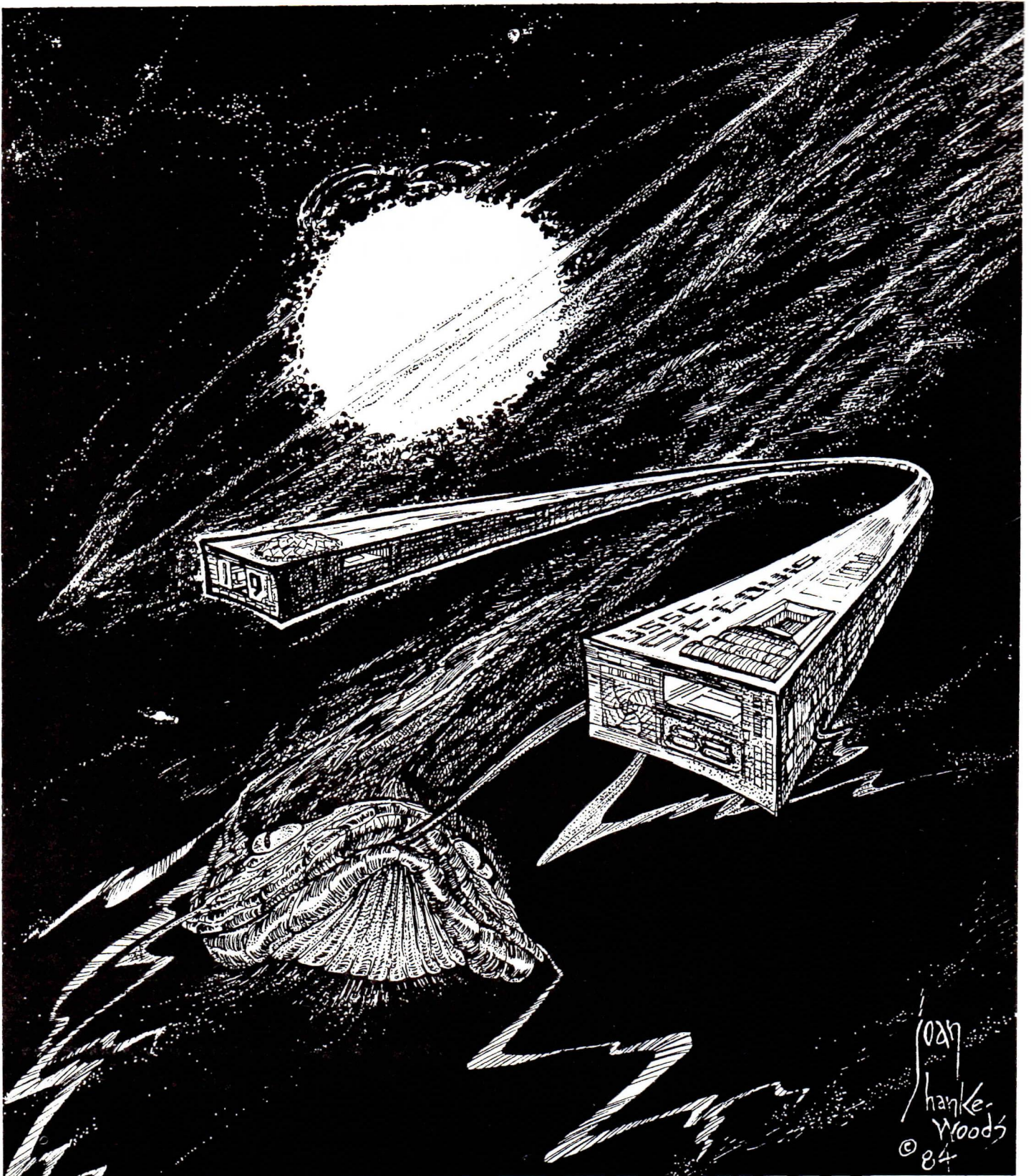
The Southern Cross has several facilities that we will be using for the Masquerade. They have agreed on a stage/catwalk arrangement, and there will be sound and lighting facilities. Your entry form should include details of any special requirements in the way of sound or lighting. Individual and group presentations will be limited to a certain time—either 90 seconds or 2 minutes. If you have a specific reason for requesting more time, this should be negotiated with Paul. All sound provided by entrants must be on compact cassette, and should be submitted with the pre-registration form.

In designing your presentation, remember that short and snappy is better than long and boring. Rehearsal is the key to success. If you know what you're doing, your presentation will be far more effective. Presentations should show off the costume to its best advantage.

At present it is anticipated that Aussiecon Two will incorporate the Recreation Category, i.e., there will be a separate category for costumes for which more than one view has been shown in the media. Thus if your costume comes from a film, a television programme, a comic, or from some other medium in which several views of that costume have been shown, it will not be eligible for the Masquerade proper. If it comes from a book cover, where only one view of the costume is presented, it will be considered as a part of the Masquerade proper.

PR 3 will present further information, including an idea of the amount of space that the contestants will have. Hint: Don't prepare anything requiring a football-oval sized space. We will also give more details on categories and registering for the Masquerade. If you do have any questions, please direct them to Paul Stokes, c/o the Aussiecon Two Committee address. Any offers of help should also be thus directed to Paul.





ENTER THE GATEWAY

ST LOUIS IN 88 WORLDCON BID
PO BOX 1058 ST LOUIS, MO 63188 USA

\$5.00 (US) PRESUPPORTING

Awards

Nomination forms for the Hugo and other awards will be distributed with PR 3. Meanwhile, here's a photo of Pete Weston with a horde of Hugos, all ready for the award ceremony!



Art Show

The 1985 Art Show rules will be very similar to those used by the 1984 Worldcon. Of course, there are necessary adaptations to local conditions. We know that overseas artists are particularly concerned about Customs, and we have been making the appropriate enquiries. Information will be supplied with the rules. (We do not advise contacting the nearest Australian Consulate—they will not be familiar with SF convention art shows.)

A complete copy of the rules will be forwarded upon request—and if you are writing to us from outside Australia please send your letter **airmail**. We will be asking exhibitors to return with their entry fees a signed acknowledgement that the rules have been read.

Artists may rent space in units of panels, table-spaces, or suspension-spaces (for mobiles, stained glass, stuffed winged wombats, etc.). The Art Show, like all other convention activities, has strict space limitations, which means that we have to restrict exhibitors to no more than 2 units each.

1 panel = 1.25 m x 1 m*	\$15
1 table-space = 1.25 m x .75 m	\$15
1 suspension-space = 1.25 m x 1 m	\$15

* For non-metric fans, 1 m = 1 metre = approx. 3.3 feet.

Art Show exhibitors must be at least Supporting Members of the Convention (which will allow entry for purposes of setting up), and admission to the Art Show will be by Attending Membership only. **Absolutely no photography will be allowed.**

We are still interested in hearing from exhibitors of non-representational art. We do need to know about your proposals as soon as possible, though, as we expect a heavy demand on our limited space from the more traditional media.

In conjunction with the Art Show we will be having a competition for the best work in any medium illustrating the writing of Gene Wolfe. Full details will be supplied with the rules.

Site Selection

Please note that the final date for filing bids for site selection of the 1987 Worldcon is 1 December 1984. Bids must reach our Australian post box by that date so that they may be included on the site selection ballot, which will be distributed with **Progress Report 3**.

Convention Facilities and Accommodation

We reported in **Progress Report 1** that the Southern Cross Hotel was planning extensions to its convention facilities. We are pleased to announce that these extensions are now underway, and will be completed well in time for the Worldcon. The extensions will give us much-needed extra programming space and make life easier for all of us. They also include a swimming pool and tennis court.

The Victoria Hotel is our secondary hotel, and we have booked several convention rooms at this hotel for other aspects of programming, one of which will be the Art Show. The Victoria is only a block away from the Southern Cross, and is just as centrally located in Melbourne. We will use other hotels in the area to arrange overflow accommodation if both these hotels are booked out, but only the Southern Cross and Victoria will be used for convention programming.

You will find accommodation booking forms enclosed with this issue. The forms will show you the room rates at all the hotels at which we have booked accommodation space. We are particularly pleased at the room rates we have been able to

negotiate with the Southern Cross, as these are substantially discounted from their regular rates.

Also on the forms will be the date that bookings will open. No bookings will be accepted before the opening date.

Please read the forms carefully, and fill them in clearly and fully. Otherwise your booking may not be able to be processed as you would wish.

Travelling to Aussiecon Two

The convention has appointed Air New Zealand as the official international airline for the convention, and TAA as the official Australian domestic airline. We recommend that all members intending to travel by air to reach Aussiecon Two use these airlines, making sure that they mention they are members of the convention when they book their flights.

We are not ourselves organising any group flights to the Worldcon from overseas or within Australia, and you will need to make arrangements with a convenient travel agent. In this regard, we have had many discussions with Travel 100 Unlimited, a Baltimore-based agency, and you may like to contact them at:

Travel 100 Unlimited Inc.,
100 West Monument Street,
Baltimore, MD 21201.
Phone: (301) 837 1474.

Travel 100, which will be represented at LACon, has organised a group flight leaving Los Angeles on Monday, 5 August 1985 and returning to the United States on Friday, 30 August. Travel 100 will be selling a complete tour covering New

Zealand and Australia, returning in time for the NASFiC. It will also be selling individual travel to Australia.

Members with good memories may recall that we promised that there would be an issue of *Kanga Ruse* distributed with each Progress Report, to answer any queries overseas members had about Australia and about travel. Unfortunately, we have had so little response to the first issue that we don't have enough material for a second just yet. Please do write to us if you have any questions, and we'll bring out another issue.

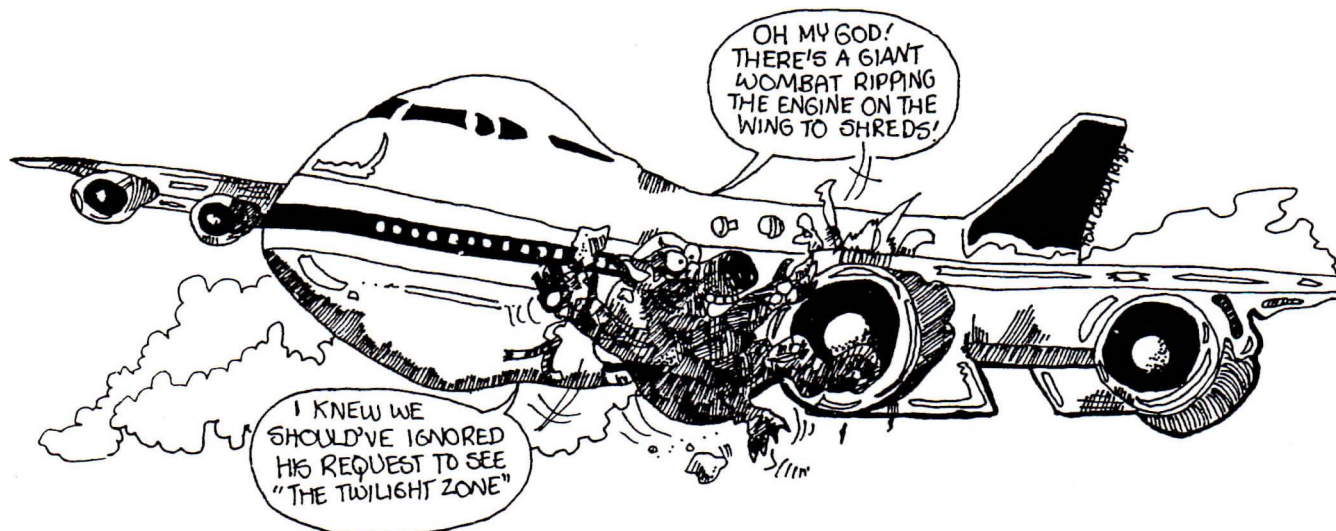
Fan Funds

Naturally everyone has some sort of idea of the sort of person they wish to meet at a World Science Fiction Convention. Sometimes people get together to improve their chances of meeting that sort of person at a Worldcon. To do this, they invent fan funds.

The first fan fund led indirectly to the two types that there are today. A group of North American fans decided that they'd like to meet E. J. (Ted) Carnell, a prominent British fan, later to become better known as the editor of *New Worlds* and *New Writings in SF*. They arranged what they called the Big Pond Fund to pay for Ted's visit. Since then there have been several fan funds specifically organised to get a particular person to a particular convention. (Some have even been organised to try and keep a particular person away from a particular convention . . .)

SHAW FUND

A fund was organised to bring Bob Tucker to Australia for Aussiecon in 1975. That was called,



naturally enough, the Tucker Bag.

Aussiecon Two has its own specific fan fund—the **Shaw Fund**—designed to bring British author, fan writer, fan cartoonist, and raconteur Bob Shaw to **Aussiecon Two**. This fund is raising money in three ways—through auctions, donations, and sales. If you've been to an Australian convention recently, you'll no doubt have seen the auctions. The British Administrator of the Fund, Eve Harvey, has collected a book of Bob's scientific discourses which will be sold to aid the Fund—\$2.50 per copy, or \$3 per signed copy. These speeches are the type that keep British fans out of the bar. Send money to the Shaw Fund Administrators to reserve a copy. In addition, you can support the Fund by sending \$10 to the Administrators, thus becoming a Shaw Thing. This entitles you to a drink at a special "Meet Bob Shaw Party" at **Aussiecon Two**. You'll also have the satisfaction of knowing that you helped make **Aussiecon Two** a much better and less sober place.

The success of the Big Pond Fund led to a regular exchange of US and European fans—**TAFF**, the **Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund**. This in turn encouraged similar arrangements between other countries. For the 1985 **Worldcon**, there will be three such funds bringing visitors to Australia—**DUFF**, **GUFF**, and **FFANZ**.

DUFF

DUFF is the oldest of these funds. Since 1972 it has been exchanging Australian and North American fans. It has been responsible for two excellent trip reports: Lesleigh Luttrell's *Lesleigh's Adventures Down Under and What She Found There*, and Leigh Edmonds's *Emu Tracks Over America*. It has been responsible for two slide shows, one by Rusty Hevelin and one by Peter Toluzzi. It has also been responsible for several fragmentary and promised trip reports. Bill Rotsler's **DUFF** trip in 1977 resulted in a vast profusion of cartoons in Australian fanzines. In 1985 a North American fan will be brought to Australia. Again this requires money. If you have anything of interest to donate, like used fifty-dollar bills, send them direct to the Administrators. Auctionable materials are always welcome. Voting forms might even be out by the time you read this, so please vote.

GUFF

GUFF, which exchanges European and Australian fans, is younger. So far it has sent two Australians to Britain and has brought one Pom to Australia. No trip reports have been seen, but Joseph Nicholas's visit to Australia did result in Judith Hanna leaving Australia and marrying Joseph, much to our chagrin. (Couldn't Judith have talked Joseph into moving here?) Again there will be a

GUFF winner visiting Australia for **Aussiecon Two** and again (in chorus) we need money. Donate via voting, auctionable materials, or filthy lucre.

FFANZ

FFANZ is a step more recent still, having produced only one winner, Tom Cardy from New Zealand, no trip reports, and certainly no marriages. However, it's still in there fighting, and will be bringing a New Zealand fan to Australia for **Aussiecon Two**. (Well, with the devaluation of their dollar, they need the help.) In order to pass the test on this article, all you have to do is explain what this fund needs, and where you send it. (Hint: \$.) There is also the possibility that **FFANZ** might send an Australian fan to New Zealand in 1986 for their National Convention. If you're interested, now's the time to start making contacts in New Zealand.

VOTE!

The **DUFF**, **GUFF**, and **FFANZ** races are all determined by ballot. Several candidates announce their intention to stand for the fund, publish one-hundred word platforms explaining why they should be sent to another country, and then go around threatening to break the arms of any fan who does not vote for them. Some time this year you will see voting forms. Please vote, and include more than the necessary minimum donation. It's not tax-deductable, but it feels good. (Besides, you might even be considering standing for one of these funds one of these days.)

For further information, contact the respective administrators.

THE SHAW FUND

Australia: Justin Ackroyd and Marc Ortlieb, GPO Box 2708X, Melbourne, Victoria 3001, Australia.

United Kingdom: Eve Harvey, 43 Harrow Road, Carshalton, Surrey SM5 3QH, UK.

DUFF

Australia: Jack Herman, Box 272, Wentworth Building, University of Sydney, NSW 2006, Australia.

North America: Jerry Kaufman, 4326 Winslow Place North, Seattle, WA 98103, USA.

GUFF

Australia: Justin Ackroyd, GPO Box 2708X, Melbourne, Victoria 3001, Australia.

Europe: Joseph Nicholas, 22 Denbigh Street, Pimlico, London SW1V 2ER, UK.

FFANZ

Australia: John Newman, PO Box 4, Thornbury, Vic. 3071, Australia.

New Zealand: Tom Cardy, PO Box 1010, Auckland, New Zealand.

Returned Mail

The posting of PR 1 was followed by a remarkable number of them being returned to our North American agent because of address changes. In Australia the Post Office redirects mail at no cost. The fact that the US Post Office doesn't do so came, we're ashamed to say, as something of a surprise. Before we realised the magnitude of the problem we had decided to wear the costs involved.

We have now decided to change this policy. Any copies of PR 2 returned before the committee is sent a change of address by the member involved will not be posted on, even if we receive a COA from the Post Office. PR 3s will be sent to the new address, but non-recipients of PR 2 will be expected to send us \$2.00 if they want to receive their copy.



Future Progress Reports

A number of people pointed out to us that the schedule for production of our Progress Reports, which was printed in PR 1, didn't allow enough time for mailing and distribution of the later issues in overseas countries. The following revised schedule is therefore presented. Note that the deadline dates are all earlier than those given in PR 1 and in our flyers:

	Copy Deadline Mailing	
PR 3	1 DEC 1984	1 FEB 1985
PR 4	1 MAR 1985	1 MAY 1985
Program Book	1 JUN 1985	—

Please remember that, if you are sending artwork for advertisements to us from overseas, you must use **airmail**. Sending material to us by surface mail is a guarantee that it won't reach us for three or four months!

The following page sizes and rates will apply to **Progress Report 3**. Rates are in Australian or US dollars or equivalent:

Size	Image Area	Fan	Professional
Full Page (A4)	180 mm x 270 mm (7" x 10.5")	\$85	\$170
Half Page Vertical	85 mm x 270 mm (3.25" x 10.5")	\$45	\$90
Half Page Horizontal	180 mm x 130 mm (7" x 5")	\$45	\$90
Quarter Page	85 mm x 130 mm (3.25" x 5")	\$28	\$56

A professional organisation is defined as one which pays a full-time salary to one or more people.

A. Bertram Chandler 1912~1984

On 6 June 1984, after a stroke a few days earlier, A. Bertram "Jack" Chandler died in hospital. The elder statesman of Australian science fiction, Bert will be sadly missed by his many fans and friends in Australia and overseas.

Arthur Bertram Chandler was born in the Military Hospital at Aldershot, Hampshire, England. ("If anyone should ask what a seaman was doing being born in an Army Hospital I can only reply that I wanted to be near my mother.") Bert acquired both the name Arthur and his nickname "Jack" from his father, a professional soldier, who died in the First World War. Bert has written elsewhere of his memories of Zeppelins raiding London and an attic full of scientifiction romances (Wells, Doyle, Haggard)—an early indication of his later interests.

After his father's death, Bert, his mother, and his younger brother went to live with his mother's parents in Beccles, Suffolk. Beccles was, and probably still is, a small town close to the Norfolk border on the River Waveney, its prime industry being printing.

At Beccles Bert was "exposed to education", first at the Pedders Lane Council School, later at the Sir John Leman Secondary School. After his schooling, Bert chose to go to sea rather than becoming an office boy or similar, a decision that ultimately led to Bert's dual career as seaman and writer.

In 1928, at the age of sixteen, Bert was apprenticed to the Sun Shipping Company of London. The company was a tramp concern whose few ships were mainly engaged on the Indian coastal trade—primarily the Calcutta coal trade and salt trade. The ships themselves were named after capes around the South African coast, as the company owned coal mines there. Bert's first ship was the *Cape St Andrew*, and during his years of apprenticeship Bert saw service round the world, including his first visits to the USA (New Orleans and Houston), Australia (Fremantle), Japan (Kobe, Osaka), and China (Shanghai), as well as the Indian coast and the Mediterranean.

Following his apprenticeship, Bert studied at the King Edward VII Nautical College, London, for the Certificate of Competency as Second Mate of a Foreign Going Steamship. Gaining his ticket, Bert found employment as Third Officer aboard the *Saint Dunstan*, "a really horrible old tramp steamer", owned by the Saint Line, a subsidiary of the Sun Shipping Company. A moot testament to these first two ships Bert sailed aboard appeared much later when he used the pseudonym "Andrew Dunstan" on his stories in Australian magazines during the 1940s.

During this period with the Sun Shipping Company, Bert acquired a secondhand Remington portable typewriter and began to write, selling the occasional item to newspapers or the *British Nautical Magazine*. He also gained a First Mate's Certificate, and when his Articles expired, he worked ashore in England for a while before gaining employment with the Shaw Savill Line as a Fourth Officer aboard the *Pakeha*. The Shaw Savill Line was swallowed many years ago by P&O, but in 1936 they were regarded as a prestigious company on the Australian run.

During the Second World War, Bert continued to serve with Shaw Savill, mainly in troop ships and fast cargo liners. In early 1943, Bert was Third Officer aboard the *Mataroa*, "a somewhat elderly passenger liner serving as a troop transport", when he first visited New York. For many years, Bert had been a faithful reader of *Astounding* and in that capacity called on the editor, John Campbell, who, being short of material because of the War, suggested that Bert try his hand at writing science fiction. Later, on a voyage back from New Zealand, Bert tapped out a 4000-word story called "This Means War". It appeared in the May 1944 issue of *Astounding*—and the rest, as they say, is history.

Other stories soon followed, but Bert's second appearance in *Astounding* was "The Perfect Machine" (January 1945), an article on the magnetic compass. His next story was "Alter Ego" (*Astounding*, March 1945), in which a writer, George Whitley, has identity problems with one of his characters. A seminal and influential story. George Whitley was subsequently used by Bert as a pseudonym, not to mention a recurring character in other stories, including what is perhaps Bert's best novel, the long-out-of-print *The Deep Reaches of Space*.

It was in the October 1945 issue of *Astounding* that Bert's best-known story appeared, the classic "Giant Killer", a novelette about mutant rats aboard an interstellar transport ship. The story was inspired by Bert's period of service as Second Officer aboard the rat-infested *Raranga*, an old coal-burning, twin-screwed steamship.

Bert began selling his stories to American, British, and Australian magazines, and considered himself hard done by if he didn't sell a story at least twice. His output was regular until 1954, when a period as Chief Officer and a marital break-up reduced his output. Bert resigned from Shaw Savill and emigrated to Australia, signing on with the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand. Bert returned to writing, and stories appeared once more in all his old markets, as well as in one or two new ones. One of the new markets was *The Log*, the inhouse magazine of the group of companies that included Shaw Savill. Under the pseudonym of "S. H. M.", a few of Bert's whimsical short stories appeared, as well as a couple of shaggy-dog stories that have appeared nowhere else.

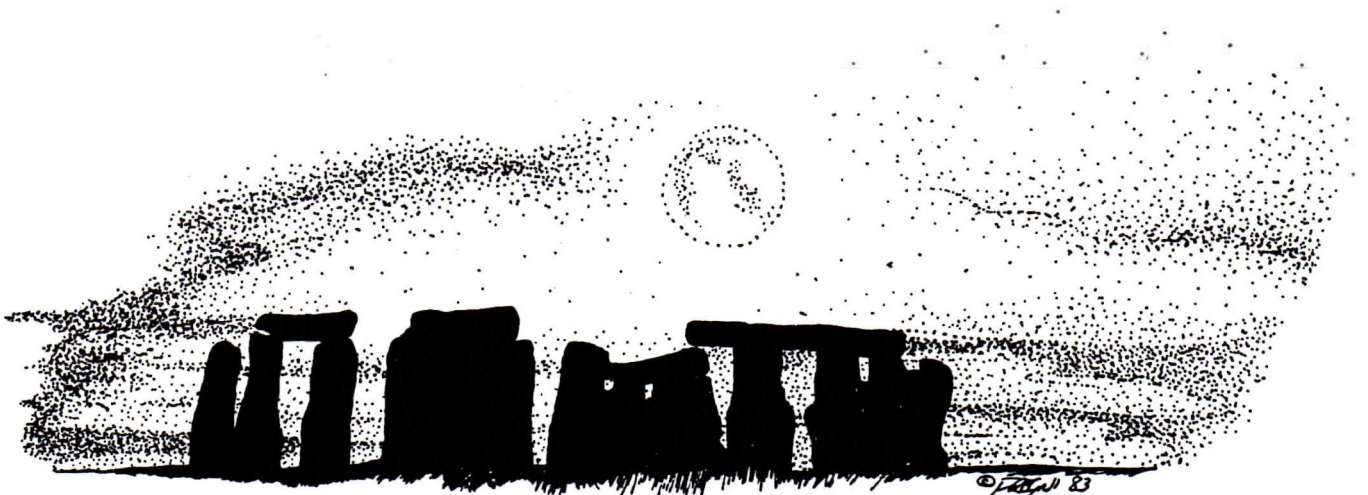
His best-known character, John Grimes, made his appearance in the story "Chance Encounter" in March 1959. Two years later, Bert's first, overdue novel, *Bring Back Yesterday*, was published by Ace. The same year, Avalon published the first "Rim Worlds" novel, *The Rim of Space*, and Grimes's career was launched.

The "Rim Worlds" canon became a huge interstellar tapestry woven, to the delight of many readers, dexterously and entertainingly into many novels and stories. At the time of his death, forty books had been published, the majority "Rim Worlds" stories, but among them were the previously mentioned *The Deep Reaches of Space*; the alternate history of Australia, *Kelly Country* (Penguin, 1983, and soon from DAW); *The Hamelin Plague* (1963); and the dystopia, *The Bitter Pill*. Still to appear in an English-language edition is *To Rule the Refugees* (published in 1983 by Hayakawa, Japan), a mid-career novel in the Grimes saga. A short story collection has been discussed, and when more definite information is available will be announced in the fan press.

But the last word should be Bert's.

Long associated with Grimes is the motto: "This is Liberty Hall. You can spit on the mat and call the cat a bastard." In L. Neil Smith's novel *The Probability Broach*, this has been credited to: "Fleet Admiral His Grace A. B. Chandler". On Bert's copy of the book, Bert has signed it and added: "A long overdue promotion!"

— Keith Curtis



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AUSSIECON PR#2

Go North, Young Fan!

by Leanne Frahm

It may come as a shock to Victorians, huddled as they are in their cold and tiny piece of pseudo-England, and to Melbournians in particular, to realise that Australia doesn't stop dead at the Murray River boundary. Australia isn't called the world's largest island for nothing; there is, in fact, a rather bigish continent out there, and even, wonder of wonders, people living in it.

Part of that bigness, the largest state bar Western Australia (which doesn't count because it's half a world away), is Queensland. The scales aren't quite the same in my atlas, but I'd estimate that Queensland is about three times the size of Texas, or, taking a nice square state, around nine North Dakotas would fit into it. (I'd estimate the number of Victorias that could be encompassed by Queensland, but my calculator only goes to six noughts.)

So Queensland is pretty big. And because of its bigness—stretching from latitudes 11 to 28—it holds within itself an enormous variety of environments to please every fetish.

Let's take the worst example first—that gem of the Queensland tourist crown, the Gold Coast. The Gold Coast is Australia's answer to the nastier elements of tourism anywhere. It might be opulent, tawdry, ostentatious, tacky, expensive—but who says it can't be fun? There's great surf there, and some fine beaches—until noon, when the shadows of the high-rise apartments built right on their edges block the sun. There's noise, and discos, and swinging, and if you like gambling (which is—pardon my virtuous cough—quite illegal in Queensland) you just do a hop-skip-and-jump over the New South Wales border. There's a Sea-World, and fauna parks, and a great number of innocent and innovative amusements designed to part the visitor from his tourist dollar. There's general freneticism—a microcosm of pleasure-catering that will leave you breathless and broke.

For the less depraved (but only slightly), there is the Great Barrier Reef and its resort islands. If you're into sunburnt blistered flesh, limpid tropic waters, snorkelling through shoals of ravening coral fish, and real sand in your Vegemite sandwich, forget the Riviera, the Lido, even Brighton. This (to coin a phrase) is where it's at. You want the excitement of fishing for big fish? You want the romance of coconut palms swaying across a vibrant tropic sunset? You want pure and simple relaxation? The islands have them in droves. And the GBR (as it's affectionately known in the trade) stretches the whole length of the Queensland coast. Just about any coastal town can be a jumping-off point to a Reef island or two. (But compare prices carefully first. Some islands think they are the Riviera, and charge accordingly.)

Maybe you might just like bumming around looking at scenery. When you consider that along the north of the Eastern coast there's a major town only every 250 miles or so, that leaves an awful lot of space to be filled up with scenery. Tropical rainforests are my favourite (except for the leeches). There's a nice patch just inland from Mackay, at the Eungella National Park, and lots of good stuff around Cairns at the almost-top of the state.

But Queensland isn't just a jungle with a town hacked out every so often. In fact there's precious little jungle left (maybe you'd better see it while it's still here). The Great Dividing Range runs down the Eastern coast of Australia from the northern tip of Cape York and even (no accounting for tastes) into Victoria. It separates the wet coastal areas from the dry interior. So there's an enormous range of scenery in Queensland, from the arid western plains to the coastal mangrove fringes. Scrublands, swamplands, heathlands, drylands, wheatlands; mountains, valleys, deserts; sugar-cane plantations, cattle stations, cereal crops, open-cut coal mines, pineapple farms, and even, if you forage far enough into some untouched upland wilderness, an illicit marijuana plantation. You name it, we got it.

Even the deserts can be fun. It's around the central inland towns like Clermont and Emerald that you can buy a licence and go fossicking for gemstones, camping overnight, and generally roughing it with your own Porta-toilet. Here, rumour has it (particularly Melbourne rumour, which shows how accurate it is), you'll find the real, dinki-di, sunburnt, wrinkled, piercing-eyed, semi-literate Outback Aussie. He probably won't like you much. But if you've a penchant for anthropology, what could be more fascinating than a study of the customs and mores of the Melbourne fan contrasted with those of the Queensland cattle-drover?

This has been a brief—incredibly brief, considering the subject—rundown of the charms of Queensland. You've already been exposed to those of Melbourne—have you stopped laughing yet?—and no doubt in all fairness fans in other states will get a chance to expose theirs in due course. But remember, there is only one Queensland—thank god.

Melbourne for Americans

AN IDIOSYNCRATIC GUIDE

by Mark Linneman

Outside of North America, Australia is the easiest country in which an American can feel at home. McDonald's and Pizza Huts dot major streets, and the themes to *Eyewitness News* and *Hill Street Blues* are heard on television. After the first flush of gaping at the sights and noticing every difference from the US, it is far too easy for an American to ignore the very real distinctions in culture, language, and laws.

As an expatriate American who has lived in Melbourne for three years, I have made many mistakes through lack of local knowledge, and because of unfounded assumptions. The language, a mixture of British English and local inventions, also creates difficulties. When accused of "flogging my biro", an American is unlikely to know how to react.

American Aussiecon visitors might as well learn (less painfully) from my errors. It should be emphasised that this is a very personal guide. The opinions expressed are my own. Omissions and errors are entirely my responsibility, unless a likely person to blame is available.

BYO. Bring Your Own. Many restaurants have a licence which allows diners to bring their own drinks. This substantially reduces the cost of a meal. There are fully licensed restaurants as well. BYOs are largely restricted to Victoria. The 1200 in Melbourne range from corner pizza shops to elegant French restaurants. Almost all Australian parties are BYO, in that you bring your own drinks.

Beer. Australian beer is tasty, strong, and served ice cold. It is relatively expensive, but it also contains up to twice as much alcohol as US beers. Drivers, or even people trying to find their room in a convention hotel, have often demonstrated the problems caused by downing the same number of beers as they always have in the US.

Buckley's chance. A prime example of Melbourne slang. There are several explanations for this term. My favourite is that it is based on the large department store in Melbourne that used to be called Buckley and Nunn's. Buckley's chance is thus next to none.

Bunyip. A monster of Aboriginal legend, this "half-horse, half-alligator" haunts waterholes. The term is sometimes used to describe a fraud or imposter. The move to make the bunyip the Convention symbol, thankfully, failed.

Bush. The country is the bush, especially if remote. Australia has bush-, not forest-fires.

Chunder. Vomiting—a "technicolour yawn".

Crashing. Australians are usually more generous than Americans about having visitors stay with them. Even outside of fandom you might be invited to stay with some new friends. These people are likely to turn up at your front door in the US next year and expect the same courtesy.

City. Only the central business district is the city. Half a mile away is an indistinguishable suburb with a different postal address. The Southern Cross and the Victoria are both in the city and have the postal address, Melbourne 3000.

Drugs. Don't even think about bringing in any through Customs.

First Floor. The floor above the Ground Floor. The system goes: Ground Floor, First Floor, Second Floor, etc.

Grog. Any alcoholic beverage.

Hotel. A hotel might not actually rent rooms. Officially, under the licensing laws, rooms must be available in a hotel before it can sell beer. Closing time is 10 p.m., although there are some late licences.

Liquor. All the usual brands are available, but taxes make them expensive. Australia allows you to bring in a litre with you—get some duty-free in the US before you leave.

Mate. Someone you've known since third grade—or someone you met ten minutes ago in the hotel bar. The term can be used sarcastically. It depends on the context. Often rendered, especially in films starring Bryan Brown, as "me mates". Except in Tarzan movies, mate is restricted to males.

Ocker. The legendary Australian stereotype of an aggressively unsophisticated boorish male. The type is most common in British comedy sketches about Australians.

Oz. Australia.

Politics. A subject to be avoided. Whatever your own politics, you can't win.

Pom. A generally non-affectionate term for a native of England. It can be used as an adjective, as in "pommy bastard".

Public Transport. Melbourne has a gloriously obsolete system of trains, buses, and trams. It has been called the "model transport system of 1925". The system does work well, and is more than the equal of the networks in most American cities. A warning—train schedules are to be regarded as a general statement of intent rather than anything to be taken seriously. One train is in the **Guinness Book of Records** for being late 97 per cent of the time over a six-month period.

Ratbag. It originally meant just an eccentric or a crazy, but the term is now derogatory in a more general sense. It can be used affectionately. While ratbag is not as strong a term, feel free to call someone this if you could call them a mother.

Shouting. A very formal informal method of buying rounds of drinks, thankfully dying out. Australia is not the place to leave just as it is your turn to buy. In pubs, and especially in non-fannish gatherings, be careful about this for the sake of your health.

Tattslotto. The local lottery. Tatts has twice-weekly drawings, and the first prize can be over one million dollars.

Tipping. Not required, except in the very fanciest of restaurants. You might tip for very good service, but it is not mandatory. Don't even tip cabbies.

Traffic. Remember to look in the opposite direction to usual when stepping off a curb. While you know vehicles in Australia drive on the left side of the road, habits encouraged since you were three are almost impossible to break. Australians nearly get killed in the US for the same reason. Victorian drivers have a tendency to speed and to go through just-changed red lights.

Tram. An electric streetcar on rails powered through overhead wires. They are a very efficient method of getting round Melbourne—especially if you start or finish a journey in the city.

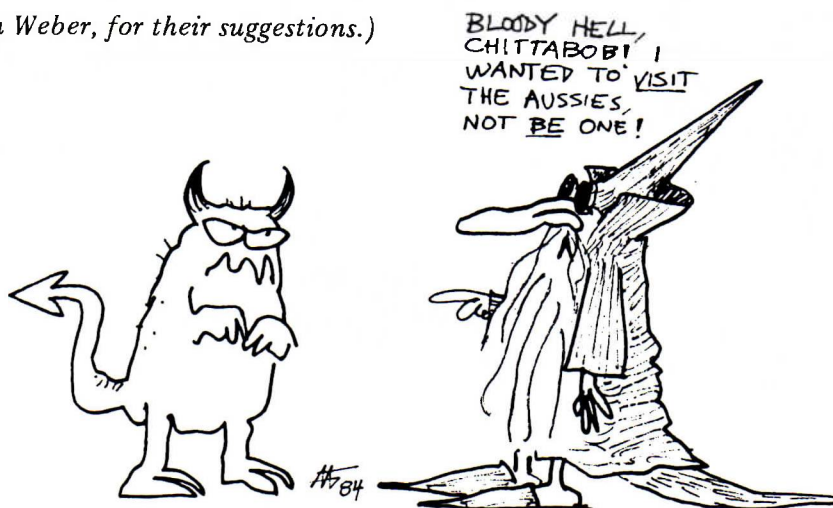
Wine. Australian wine is roughly equal in quality to Californian wine. Because of low taxes, it tends to be less expensive. Cask wine—in cardboard boxes with plastic taps—can be quite drinkable, if not at all exciting, for about \$1.50 per litre. Check with a local before buying a cask—some brands are dreadful. Fannish parties always have free-flowing cask wine. There tend to be a few really nice bottles as well. If interested, ask for some advice about wine and you'll probably find out much more than you really care to know.

Wowser. A prude or killjoy. There are very few wowsers in Australia, and almost none in Australian fandom. The antonym for wowser is Perth fandom.

Yank. Any American—including those from South Carolina.

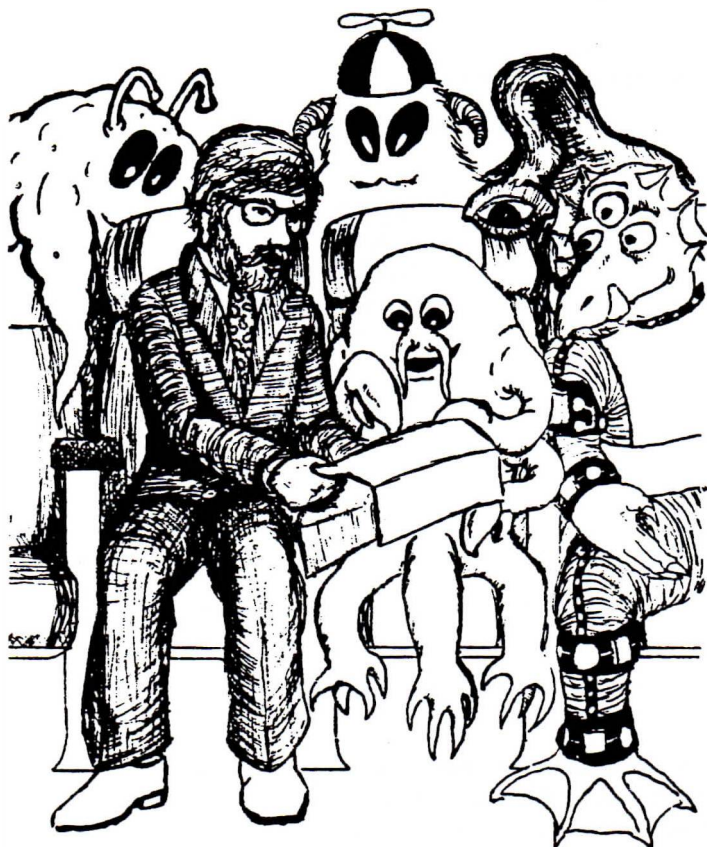
If someone accuses you of "flogging my biro", he or she is claiming that you took a disposable pen (biro). Flogging can mean either stealing or selling—again it depends on the context.

(Thanks to many, and especially Jean Weber, for their suggestions.)



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Bahamas	1	0	1
Belgium	1	1	2
Canada	18	24	42
Finland	1	0	1
Japan	3	0	3
Mexico	1	0	1
Netherlands	2	3	5
New Zealand	5	3	8
Norway	0	1	1
Repub. Ireland	2	1	3
South Korea	1	0	1
Sweden	0	1	1
U.S.A.	338	474	812
Uncertain	2	0	2
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West Germany	0	1	1
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