

BRUSH STROKES

SYNCON 92
Progress Report No 2

SYNCON 92

The Australian National Convention

Easter 1992: April 17 to 20 1992

THEME: THE ART OF SCIENCE FICTION

VENUE: TO BE ANNOUNCED

GUEST OF HONOUR: MICHAEL WHELAN

**AUSTRALIAN GUEST OF HONOUR:
NICK STATHOPOULOS**

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: SEAN McMULLEN

CONVENTION ADDRESS

**G.P.O. BOX 429
SYDNEY NSW 2001
AUSTRALIA**

Brushstrokes is the magazine of the 31st Australian Science Fiction Convention, Syncon 92. Copyright for all contents is retained by the authors. *Brushstrokes* is available free to all members of Syncon 92. It is also available in exchange for artwork and contributions.

All correspondence for *Brushstrokes* should be addressed to

Brushstrokes,
Syncon 92
G.P.O. Box 429
SYDNEY NSW 2001

G'Day

And welcome to the second issue of *Brushstrokes*, the Progress Report for Syncon 92, the National Science Fiction Convention, for 1992.

One of the things that the people who threw Danse Macabre last Easter did, (apart from throwing a great Con) was to produce a series of PRs that went beyond the normal giving of information (which is a role which must be maintained, no matter the incarnation that the PR will take) to produce something a lot more like a fanzine, light, informative, and hopefully setting the mood for the coming convention. We think this is a great idea, and will continue to do the same, all the time, trying to improve on previous efforts.

To this end, as well as the boringly informative bits we will introduce from this issue our concept of featured Australian artists. Each issue will feature a sampling of some of the work of a number of the very talented artists (both fannish and professional) that this country has produced. To get the ball rolling, our featured artists are Nick Stathopoulos and Ian Gunn.

We are also intending to print a series of articles on our Guests of Honour written not as a biography, but more as a personal impression of the person, by people who know them.

Preparations for the convention are proceeding well. The program is starting to take shape, competitions have been arranged, and the final negotiations for the hotel are taking place. We apologise for the delay in naming a hotel, but we are attempting to arrange accommodation at the cheapest price, and it does take time. At the moment however what we really need is members, so get out there and spread the work to your friends, your brother, sister, mothers, fathers, grand parents and yes even your cats, about what we think will be a convention that will be remembered (hopefully only for all the right reasons) for some time.

Rod Kearins
Chair Syncon 92.

GENERAL BORING STUFF

PUBLICATIONS SCHEDULE

Publication	Deadline for Material	Date of Publication
Progress Report No 3	24 th May 1991	June 1991
Progress Report No 4	23 rd August 1991	September 1991
Progress Report No 5	22 nd November 1991	December 1991
Progress Report No 6	24 th January 1992	February 1992
Program Book	20 th February 1992	Easter 1992



ADVERTISING

Advertising in future issues of Brushstrokes is available. Rates are negotiable on an individual basis (General Fannish advertising is free!). Sizing for advertising is for A4 size.

The Program Book will be printed, offset with A4 size pages. Rates are as follow

<u>Ad Size</u>	<u>Fan Rate</u>	<u>Pro Rate</u>
1/4 page	\$15.00	\$30.00
1/2 page	\$30.00	\$60.00
Full page	\$60.00	\$120.00

All other sizings position are negotiable

All adds should be camera ready copy.

The inside front and rear covers are negotiable on a first come first served basis.

Weapons Policy

No weapons, model or otherwise, may be worn or carried at any time. Any Masquerade contestant wishing to carry a weapon for their presentation should contact the committee before the event. The committee shall have absolute discretion to decide what constitutes a weapon, and may impound any unauthorised weapons.

Smoking Policy

A smoking policy has not yet been finalised, but it is intended that we formulate some policy that will try and keep all members of the convention happy.

Childminding

The committee is trying to make available and set aside some area to act as a creche/childminding facility. This area would be run and maintained by the parents of the children involved. Please direct enquires to the committee.

FEATURED ARTISTS

As mentioned earlier in the editorial, one of the things we decided to do in each PR was to feature the work of one or more of our local artists. In PR2 we will be sampling the work of Nick Stathopoulos and Ian Gunn

Nick Stathopoulos (our Fan Guest of Honour) is certainly one of Australia's foremost science fiction and fantasy artists being three times winner of the Australian Science Fiction Award ("Ditmar") for Best Fan Artist. He is also one of Australian fandoms leading raconteurs, famous for his individualistic one man shows at recent Australian conventions.

Samples of Nick's work can be found on pages 6, and 15

In recent years, a group of artists from Melbourne has seemingly dominated the fannish artistic scene. Twice winner of the "Ditmar" for best fan artist (and once for best fan writer), Ian Gunn is one of the leading lights of this group.

Samples of Ian's work can be found on pages 4, 7 and 14



PROGRAMMING

Work has begun in earnest in bringing together a program that we hope will appeal to all members of Syncon 92. Naturally enough, with over a year to go the program is mainly ideas at this stage. However, to give you some feel for what you might expect here are some of the ideas canvassed to date. (The headings used are merely for convenience and are not intended to indicate specific programming streams.)

The Art Of Science Fiction

As would be expected, given our choice of Guests of Honour, the place of art in Science Fiction will form a significant part of the program. Possible program items include:

- What is it like to be an artist in the SF genre?
- How do I break into the ranks of professional SF artists?
- What's it like to live with an artist?
- Look what they've done to my bookcover!
- Comics to film
- Animation
- Craft.

The Science Of Science Fiction

There are plans to repeat the success of **Conviction** and invite specialists in their fields to talk to us. Some of you may remember the successful talks from the likes of David Malin (photographer at the Anglo Australian Observatory) and Dr. Boswell from ANU (world expert on chaos theory). That is the sort of thing we have in mind but we would prefer at this stage not to name the people we are thinking of until they are confirmed.

We will also be having discussions on the serious side of science and of science fiction. A discourse on alternate histories is one possibility in this area.

Science Fiction in The Media

There is no doubt that the last twenty to thirty years has seen a virtual explosion in the treatment of science fiction by the electronic media. This has been mirrored in the world of science fiction fandom by the establishment of a large and growing media fandom. Sadly the importance of electronic media science fiction tends not to have been reflected in the programming of national conventions. Where it has been covered at all the treatment has tended to be superficial and token.

It is our intention that the Syncon 92 program will attach far more importance to this neglected area than has usually been the case. The items programmed will not be merely token or superficial. Exact details will follow later once we have had the opportunity to discuss our ideas with appropriate media groups.

The Fun Of Science Fiction

"All work and no play..."...could well result in all our members walking out. While all the ideas mentioned above are worthwhile and essential parts of the planned Syncon 92 program, there is a need to lighten the load a little with some items that allow the audience to unwind.

Some of the fun and frivolity we have planned includes:

- The return of Fit For Fandom
- The traditional Syncon Cocktail Party
- "My Favourite Gizmo"
- "What's My Line"

MASQUERADE

There was a time when Australian Natcons had masquerades that were long remembered. Syncon 92 is going to try and restore the Masquerade to its rightful place as one of the major highlights of the weekend. There will be positive incentives for all to turn up and for all to turn up in costume. And there will be help for people to come in costume.

SYNCON 92

All Purpose Form

Version 2.0

Please feel free to photocopy this form and distribute it to your friends

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

POSTCODE

MEMBERSHIP SECTION

I would like to join SYNCON 92 as

Attending

I am already a member of SYNCON 92

Supporting

Membership No

GENERAL QUESTION SECTION

I am interested in a hotel room. Please send details when available

I am willing to help out at the convention.

I would do the following

FINANCES SECTION

I would like pay by installments

Please find enclosed a Cheque/Money Order for

I would like to use my Bankcard/Mastercard

Card No

Valid from

to

Cardholder's Signature

The theme of the Masquerade is "My Favourite Science Fiction or Fantasy Book Cover". So put your thinking caps on and let's see if we can return the Masquerade to its rightful place in convention programming.

AUCTION

There will be two Auctions at *Synicon 92*; one of artwork and one for other material. People who will not be attending the convention and who wish to submit material to be auctioned should arrange for it to be delivered to the convention committee by 10 April 1992. Otherwise material can be brought to the convention but must be given over to the Committee by 2pm on Friday 17 April 1992.

Further details concerning the Auctions will be given in later issues of *Brushstrokes*.

CAN YOU HELP?

No convention committee can hope to run a convention alone. We are not so proud as to try. We need you help.

The main way you can help is by coming along and joining in the fun. You can also help by spreading the word to your friends and getting them to come along.

If you have any ideas about the program or suggestions for possible program items please let us know. If you are willing to help out in the program we would especially like to hear from YOU.

Finally, if you can think of other ways you think you could help out then please let us know. We'd love to hear from you.

THE AUSTRALIAN SF ("DITMAR") AWARDS

As mentioned in the first issue of *Brushstrokes* we want to try and encourage greater participation in the nomination and voting process for the "Ditmars". One of the major complaints

in the past has been that people have not had the opportunity to see the works available for nomination. To try and overcome this failing, at least to some extent, we hope to publish details of eligible novels, short fiction, fanzines etc. with each issue of *Brushstrokes*. We also plan to send these details to editors of other fanzines in the hope that they too might publish them. In this way it is hoped that as many people as possible will become aware of what is available to nominate giving them a better chance of seeing the works for themselves.

By maintaining a record of eligible works we will also be in a better position to decide the categories of awards to present. For example, if no novels are published in 1991 then there will be no point in having a Best Novel award.

In order to publish our lists we will be using a number of sources. However, if you would like to make certain that something is listed, and especially if you don't think we would otherwise know about it, then please let us know. It would be helpful if you could provide as many details as possible i.e. publisher, author, date of publication, availability etc.

Nomination ballots will be sent out in November 1991 and will include a final listing of eligible works. Voting ballots will then be issued in February 1992.

BRUSHSTROKES COMPETITION

The first issue of *Brushstrokes* announced a competition to help our members have a little fun while getting to know their Guest of Honour better. The competition was to close on 22 February 1991 with the winner to be announced in this issue. Unfortunately, due to the lateness in publishing that first issue we have had no entries. We are therefore extending the closing date to 24 May 1991 with the winner to be announced in the next issue of *Brushstrokes*.

We also want to announce that the prize for the winner will be a copy of *Works of Wonder* by Michael Whelan which includes colour plates of some of his best work.

The competition itself is fairly simple. All you have to do is list as many books as you can that have covers designed by Michael Whelan. The most correct entry will win. In the event of a tie the winner will be decided by lot.

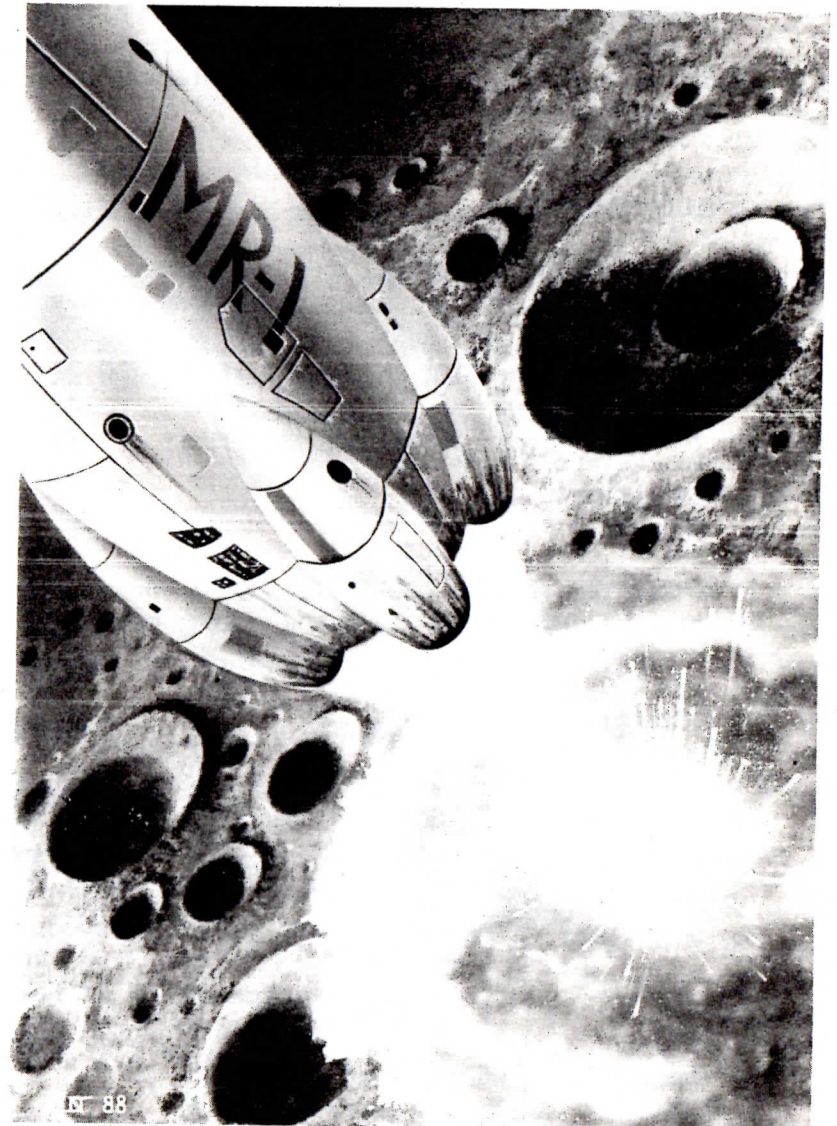
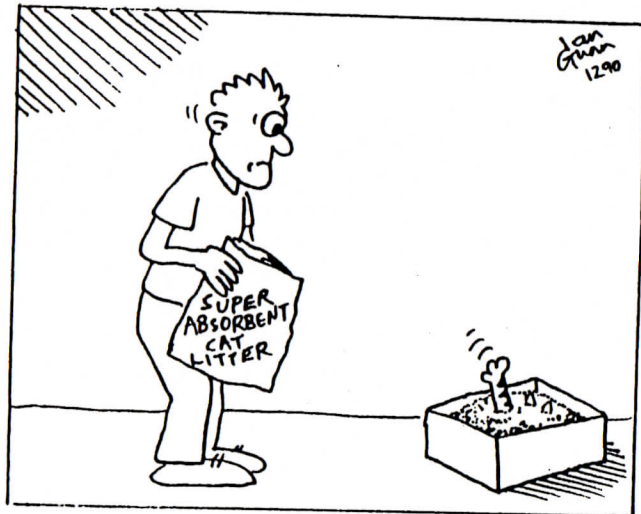
Entries should be sent c/- **Brushstrokes Competition** at the convention address.

FAN FUNDS

Two of the three Fan Funds operating in Australia have announced the winner of this year's race.

The winner of DUFF (The Down Under Fan Fund), which operates between Australia and North America, is Art Widner. Art will therefore be visiting Australia for Suncon (this year's National Convention in Brisbane at Easter) and may be travelling to other states as well. If you have the opportunity to do so we recommend meeting the man. His is a very popular win, though his opponent, Janice Murray, would have been equally popular we're sure.

FFANZ (The Fan Fund of Australia and New Zealand) has announced that Alan Stewart has won unopposed. He will be travelling to this year's New Zealand National Convention



and will no doubt be a good ambassador for Australian fandom.

The other Australian fan fund, GUFF (The Get Up and over Fan Fund or the Get down Under Fan Fund) which operates between Australia and Europe, has deferred its next race for a year and will now be bringing a fan from Europe to Syncon 92. We are delighted with this development and look forward to hosting whomever is chosen.

COMPETITIONS

Yes Syncon 92 will be staging some competitions. Giving the emphasis of the convention, the competitions will be mainly art based. The following is a list of the competitions to be held.

Short Story - SF or Fantasy.
Art - in various categories.
Photographic.
Animation.

Exact details are to be published in PR3, or you can write to the convention details for rules and an entry form.

CONVENTION LISTINGS

This listing is correct (as far as we can determine) at the time of publication. If any details are incorrect please let us know. If you are running or planning a convention or event, and would like it to appear here please send details to the convention address

VICTORICON

Dates: 7-10th June, 1991
Venue: Melbourne Townhouse Hotel,
Swanston St, Carlton

CONCAVE 2

Dates: 2-4 August, 1991 -
Venue: Royal Parade Motor Inn,
Royal Parade, Parkville Vic
Rates: \$30 to Jan 91
Mail: P.O Box 409, Canterbury 3126

QUARTERCON

Dates: 27-29th September 1991
Venue: Gateway Hotel, North Quay Brisbane
Rates: \$95 to Jan 31, \$115 to Mar 31
GoH: Richard Arnold, Leonard Nimoy
& James Doohan(commitments permitting)
Room Rates: \$90 single/double/twin, \$10 third person
Meals: \$15 brekkie/lunch, \$25 Dinner
Mail: GPO Box 1376, Brisbane 4001

MEDTREK IV

Dates: 4-7th October 1991
Venue: University of Western Sydney
Hawkesbury Campus
Rates: \$80 until Sept 1991
\$20 supporting
GoH: Dave Prowse (Darth Vader)
FGoH: Marianne Plumridge(fan artist & writer)
Theme: The Galactic Senate Elections
Rooms: These include full board and vary from \$85 (Sat and Sun) to \$170 (Fri-Mon). Individual meals can be purchased for \$7
Mail: Joanne Keating
64 Fourth St,
Asbury Nsw 2193

VAMPIRICON (THE 1991 MEDIA NATCON)

Dates: 11-13th October, 1991
Venue: Melbourne Townhouse Hotel,
Swanston St, Carlton

HONGCON '92 (The 1992 Media NatCon)

Dates: 6-8th June, 1992
Venue: Adelaide Convention Centre
Rates: \$65 till July 1992 \$30 supporting
Fan CoH: Shane Morrissey
Room Rates: Double \$69, Family \$119, Single \$59
Cheques to "Motel Adjacent Casino"
Mail: Hongcon 92, PO Box 160,
Rundle Mall Adelaide 5000

CONJUNCTION

Dates: 18-20th September 1992
Venue: tba
Rates: \$30 attending until Suncon, \$10 supporting
Theme: Animals in SF
Fan CoH: Shane Morrissey
Mail: PO Box 273, Fitzroy 3065

SWANCON 18 (BIDDING FOR 1993 NATCON)

Dates: Easter 1993
Presupporting Membership: \$5
Mail: PO Box 318, Nedlands 6009

STARWALKING II (BIDDING FOR 1993 MEDIA NATCON)

Dates: Queens Birthday Weekend 1993
Venue: tba



The advertisement features a stylized, isometric illustration of a building facade. At the top, a sign reads "Galaxy BOOKSHOP". Below this, a large banner proclaims "SCIENCE & FICTION FANTASY SPECIALISTS". In the center, a vertical panel lists "FREE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER" and "WORLD-WIDE MAIL ORDER SERVICE". At the bottom of this panel, it says "READING INTO THE FUTURE". To the right, a section titled "HOURS" lists the shop's operating times for various days. To the left, contact information for the shop is provided, including the address, phone, and fax numbers. At the bottom left, it identifies the shop as "An Abbey's Specialist Bookshop".

Galaxy
BOOKSHOP

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FANTASY SPECIALISTS**

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THE FUTURE**

203b Castlereagh Street
Sydney 2000 N.S.W.
Australia

Phone: 02 267 7630
Fax: 02 261 3691

An Abbey's Specialist Bookshop

HOURS

MON. TUES. WED.: 8.45-6
THURS. FRI.: 8.45-7
SATURDAY: 8.45-4
SUNDAY: 11.00-4