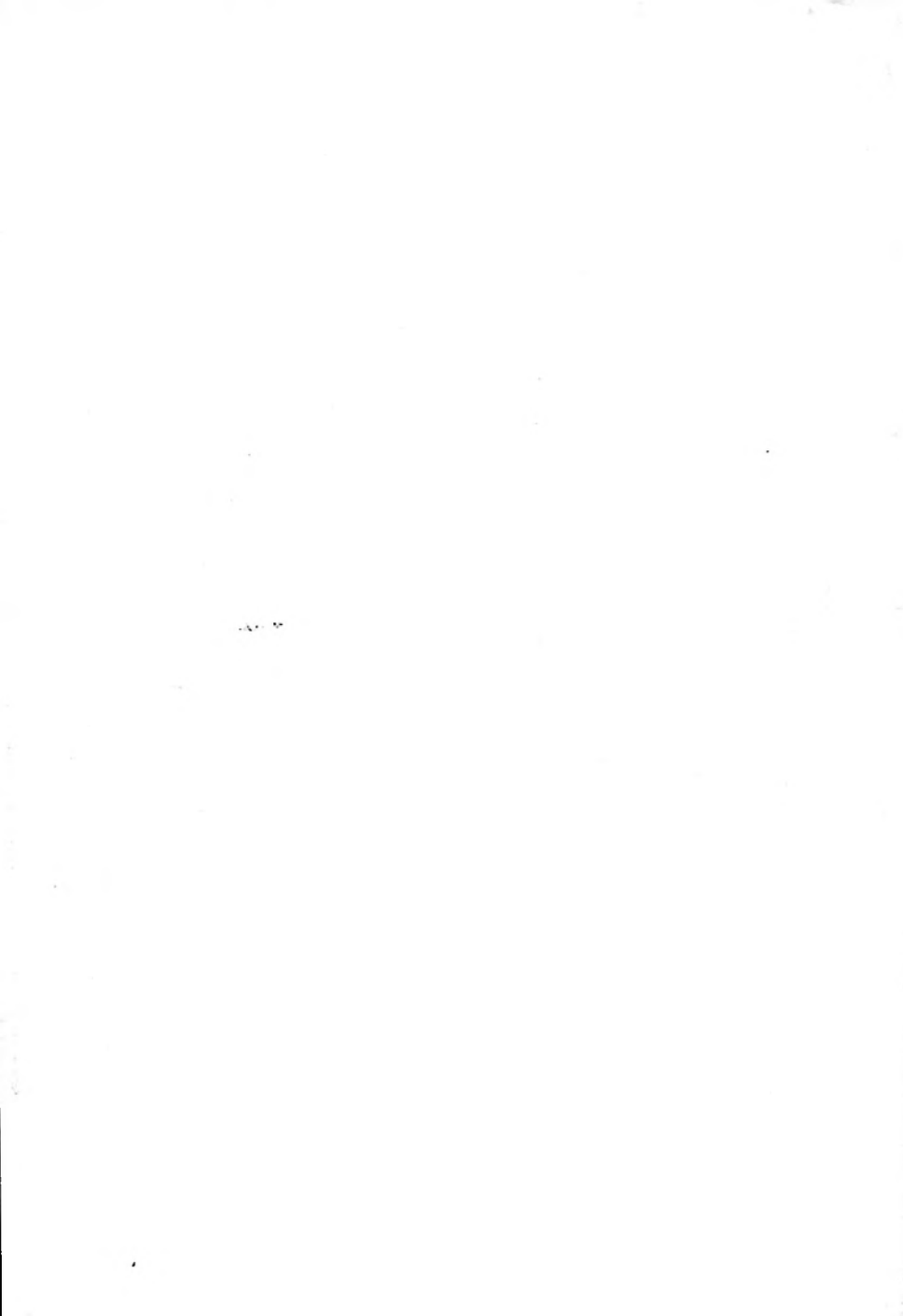


# SYNCON 75





GROUNDS.

VERANDAH

TOILETS

ROOMS

ROOMS

KITCHEN

HALL

STAGE

TOILETS

ART & BOOKS

↓ IN



SYNCON '75 THE 14th AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION

PROGRAM

Friday Night. 24th Jan

Registration after 6.30 p m.

Pre-convention get together.

Saturday 25th January

10 am Comix session with Blair Ramage and John Snowden

11.30 Further comix discussion  
Introduction to War Games with Dennis Stocks  
(we hope to run a continuous game for those who  
are interested)

2 p m Educating for the Future with John Foyster

4 p m On Conservation

7 p m Dennis Stocks - Contact: Meeting Extraterrestrial  
civilizations (with slides)

Evening: Films - details will be given during the course  
of the convention.

Sunday 26th January

10 a m Tolkien session No 1.

11.30 Tolkien session No 2.

2 p m The Science Fiction Pulps with Ken Ozanne

4 p m The Galactic Winemaker with John Alderson

Evening: Films  
Close of Ditmar voting

Monday 27th January

9 a m Ditmar Presentations  
followed by closing party and breakup - lunch.

## PROGRAM

Memberships include morning and afternoon teas each day. These will be at 11am to 11.30 and at 3.30 pm to 4 pm each day.

All meals will be provided for live-in members, and will be available on a lunch and tea basis @ 2.50 for those who ordered meals before December 30th. There is some chance that additional meals will be available for those who joined late. Ask at the Registration Desk. Meals will only be provided for those members with meal tickets (which will be obtained from the Registration Desk when you enter).

Please pick up your membership badge from the Registration Desk when you arrive - those without a membership badge will be asked to leave.

## PROGRAM ITEMS

We hope to have continuous War Games.

Book sales have been arranged by various people.

A do-it-yourself convention magazine is to be produced. (25cents a page - we provide everything)

Art Display - Freas posters, graphics

DITMAR AWARDS. Nominations close Saturday night. Voting closes Sunday night, for Best Australian Fiction, Best Australian Fanzine, Best International Fiction. Presentation of awards Monday.

OTHER EVENTS. As the convention is being held in a church operated college the program is "dry", however it is expected that various people will be holding room parties during the course of the convention. BYOG.

The convention is being held over a holiday weekend, and there are few (if any) local shops - if you want snacks, or drinks in addition to those provided you may have a fairly long trip - public transport is infrequent.

BLACKOUTS. Power outs, if still occurring, may make some changes in the timing of films necessary. Other program items should not be affected.

CONTACT Dennis Stocks

"... were we to meet with a creature of a much different Shape from Man, with Reason and Speech, we should be much surprised and shocked at the sight. For if we try to imagine or paint a Creature like a Man in every Thing else, but that has a neck four times as long, and great round Eyes five or six times as big, and farther distant, we cannot look upon't without the utmost Aversion, altho' at the same time we can give no account of our Dislike.... For 'tis a very ridiculous Opinion, that the common People have got, that 'tis impossible a rational Soul should dwell in eny other Shape than our.... This can proceed from nothing but the Weakness, Ignorance and Prejudice of Men."

Christianus Huygens, NEW CONJECTURES CONCERNING THE PLANETARY WORLDS, THEIR INHABITANTS AND PRODUCTIONS (c. 1670)

"CONTACT - the meeting of minds" presented by Dennis Stocks investigates the difficulties in face-to-face Contact with aliens, both on our terms and theirs.

Characteristics of living organisms, intelligence, evolution on non-terran worlds, possible procedures for Contact, alien psychology, reactions to Contact - both on the side of the aliens and ourselves, and Contact in Science Fiction are among the items considered in this talk.

Dennis Stocks is a biochemist currently working on the isolation and identification of toxins in Queensland plants. He has been involved in Australian fandom for 7 years and currently publishes OSIRIS and, less frequently, MITHRIL.

- Dennis Stocks.

INTERESTED IN TOLKIEN? OR IN FANTASY LITERATURE?

THEN WHY NOT JOIN THE ...



# Sydney University Tolkien Society

PAST ACTIVITIES INCLUDE: A WIZARD'S BALL; READINGS; STUNTS;  
A TOLKIENFEST; DEBATES; PARTIES; A CAMP;  
ORCHUNTS; AND A MAGAZINE.

PLANNED FOR 1975: A TOLKIENFEST; A TOLKIENFEAST; READINGS;  
A CONFERENCE; A TOLKIEN REVUE; A CRAFT  
WORKSHOP; DEBATES AND FORUMS; PARTIES; CAMPS;  
ORCHUNTS; ETC. BUT ALL NEED YOUR SUPPORT.

MEETINGS ARE HELD AT 6.00 P.M. ON THE FIRST TUESDAY OF EACH  
MONTH, AND WEDNESDAY LUNCHTIMES DURING TERM IN  
THE CULLEN ROOM, OLD UNION, SYDNEY UNIVERSITY.  
IF YOU CAN'T MAKE THESE TIMES STILL GET IN  
TOUCH WITH US. ALL WELCOME.

MEMBERSHIP IS ONLY \$1.00

THE FIRST ISSUE OF OUR FANZINE "THE EYE" IS NOW AVAILABLE.

ALL WELCOME.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Sydney University Tolkien Society,  
Box 272 Wentworth Building,  
University of Sydney, N.S.W. 2006.



DON'T BE ONE OF THE MASSES WHO SPEND A FORTUNE ON BOOKS!

YOU CAN GET MORE THAN

**20<sup>a</sup>/<sub>b</sub> OFF**

WHEN YOU JOIN THE

**S**YDNEY

**S**CIENCE

**F**ICTION

**F**OUNDATION

THE SYDNEY SCIENCE FICTION FOUNDATION BOOK BUYING CO-OPERATIVE OBTAINS BOOKS DIRECT FROM THE USA AT GREAT DISCOUNTS. A BOOK THAT WILL COST \$1.25 FROM A SYDNEY SHOP MAY ONLY COST YOU 75 cents.

THE CO-OPERATIVE IS A FREE SERVICE AVAILABLE TO MEMBER OF THE SYDNEY SCIENCE FICTION FOUNDATION

FOR MORE DETAILS OF THE CO-OPERATIVE CONTACT  
BLAIR RAMAGE, 13 ATTUNGA AVENUE EARLWOOD 2206  
or speak to him at the convention.

join now &

**\$AVE**



## J R R TOLKIEN & THE "HOBBIT HABIT"

The late Professor Tolkien (1892-1973) must be regarded as without a doubt the most successful writer of fantasy ever. Not all would regard him as the finest fantasy writer ever; some prefer Dunsany, Edison, Cabell or Howard, Lovecraft or LeGuin, but in terms of his world wide popularity, sales and sheer cultism he has to be the most successful.

Tolkien societies have sprang up everywhere, including reportedly even a "Frodo Society of North Borneo", there have been numerous fanzines, as well as some twenty books about LORD OF THE RINGS, ranging from the very scholarly to the best forgotten. Pop groups have adopted names like "Smaug", "Mordor" and "Galadriel", there is (or was) an underground newspaper called "Gandalf's Garden" and a rock club called "Middle Earth". Shops now present names like "The Hobbit", "A Change of Hobbit", "Lothlorien", and more imaginatively "Bilbo's Bag End". There have been literally dozen's of posters attempting to depict some aspect or other of Middle Earth, including some half-a-dozen maps. Middle Earth inspired T-shirts are now common, and at least three records have been released inspired by LORD OF THE RINGS. In sales, LORD OF THE RINGS has outstripped any other work of fantasy, or science fiction, and even the J R R TOLKIEN calendars are best sellers wherever they have been released. In other words, the "hobbit habit" is with us and has been for a decade.

Much of this success seems paradoxical: LORD OF THE RINGS is a conservative, at times almost fascist novel. It is deeply religious and strongly authoritarian. It has a number of major faults; the structure is flawed. Meny

find it slow to begin and even slower to end, the exploits of Meany and Pippin & Aragoin, Gimli and Legolas are little more than an irritating if at times interesting diversion from the real events of importance, the exploits of Frodo and Sam. No female characters are developed to any extent at all, nor really are those of the villains with the exception of Gellum. Eddison's Gro is a far more adequate traitor than Tolkien's Saruman. When it comes to the crunch Tolkien can't even depict evil adequately. Although at least he realises his own limitations and does not attempt to depict Sauron, which is more than could be said for many authors. But Tolkien is no Lovecraft when it comes to humour, though some scenes, Moaia, for instance, are certainly memorable.

Perhaps this is the essence of LORD OF THE RINGS; it is a whole series of memorable pictures. Who does not share the hobbit's penchant for parties? A life of eating drinking and smoking where no one seems to work, a far simpler existence than ours. Who would not like to linger in Lorian or in Rivindell. Tolkien's elves may lack character but certainly not beauty. Tolkien's Hobbits are not humans in race but in character they are far more human than any of fantasy's other heroes. They are not heroes we would like to identify with, but heroes we can identify with. We mightn't see ourselves holding the bridge against the balnoy. But we might take a wild swipe at a troll if Aragon held the door.

Middle Earth is real. This is another reason for the appeal of Lord of the Rings. In Middle Earth Tolkien has created in intricate detail a real world. It is not our world, it is a world of magic and mystery but it is a thoroughly believable world. The 100 pages of appendices are only part of the realism, it is more a tribute to Tolkien's powers of description throughout the book. He convinces us, for instance, of the existence of Ents, to such an extent that it would be no surprise if we actually met one as the Hobbits did. The sense of history in LORD OF THE RINGS, as much as its sense of geography, convinces us Middle Earth is real, and don't we wish to go there.

Lin Carter once remarked that those who had been reading fantasy before LORD OF THE RINGS came along failed to see why millions almost worshipped it. He argued that those who were already fantasy buffs have read far more of it, and hence see less in Tolkien than those to whom it is something new. This may be true but on the other hand those

for whom Tolkien was their first introduction to fantasy tend to find Eddison, Cabell, Morris & Dunsany dull while Lovecraft, Smith & Howard lack the beauty of Tolkien which is much of its appeal. It is only recent authors such as LeGuin, Walton and Kuntz who appeal to Tolkien addicts. All three are post-Tolkien, but owe nothing to him. But none of these are likely to repeat the success of Tolkien.

Although there have been other fantasy authors none have repeated LORD OF THE RINGS. Perhaps the most surprising aspect of Tolkien is his almost total lack of influence on the field of fantasy. The influence of Lovecraft, Dunsany and Howard had been tremendous, indeed almost inestimable, that of Tolkien slight, and then only confined to children's books. In twenty years there has been no major work of fantasy, or of science fiction, to show any signs of influence of LORD OF THE RINGS. It is hard to see how Tolkien could not have influenced the genre: perhaps it has still to emerge, perhaps the generation of fantasy authors growing up now will slow the influences of Tolkien. He has certainly given fantasy a tremendous impetus, and has been almost solely responsible for the current fantasy "boom".

But one thing we cannot deny is Tolkien's success.

Jon Noble. Sydney University Tolkien Society C1975.

\*\*\*

The Hobbit Breeding Association of Australia does not accept responsibility for the above article.

\*\*\*

## THE GALACTIC WINEMAKER John Alderson

John Alderson is a Victorian farmer best known in fandom for his magazine CHAO, one of the most original and eclectic such productions in Australia, if not the world. His historical magazine SENNACHIE is likewise well known, although in somewhat different circles, and here to John displays a disparate but always interesting talent for a diverting new approach to the subject. His home made wines have been a much discussed feature of Australian conventions for some time, since these are likewise made in a variety of original types, from diverse ingredients.

If in the future we find galactic winemakers using berries reminiscent of those included in the dreaded blackberry nip, and pressure sealed stainless steel casks eschewing the traditional tannin inducing oak, then who better than John Alderson to separate the wood from the lees.

## THE SCIENCE FICTION PULPS - Ken Ozanne

Mathematician and pulp collector, the former a necessity if he is to count all the latter, Ken will bring back for some the nostalgia of the '30s and '40s, and for others will introduce them to a growing field of collecting and reading activities.

Despite the often poor writing, these magazines were full of a hope and a promise for the human race and its future that is so often lacking in the more modern and more literate efforts of today. Here, as in so many other areas, content is more important than presentation.

# THE ULTIMATE TRIP

GEGENSCHHEIN

GEGENSCHHEIN IS A NON  
LITERARY MAGAZINE ABOUT  
SCIENCE FICTION AND  
RELATED SUBJECTS.

AVAILABLE AT SYNCON @ 35c

EDITED BY ERIC B LINDSAY  
6 HILLCREST AVENUE  
FAULCONBRIDGE NSW 2776  
SUBSCRIPTIONS 4/\$1.



If you've seen one  
fanzine, you've  
seen 'em all!



GEGENSCHHEIN REGULARLY REVIEWS  
AND LISTS ALL THE SCIENCE  
FICTION AVAILABLE IN PAPERBACK,  
OFTEN WELL BEFORE IT APPEARS IN  
THE CITY BOOKSHOPS. CONTENTS INCLUDE  
ARTICLES, LETTERS, STORIES AND  
POETRY, AS WELL AS ARTWORK.

SUBSCRIBE NOW, AND BEAT THE PRICE  
INCREASE.

THE SYDNEY SCIENCE FICTION FOUNDATION INVITES  
INTERESTED PERSONS TO PARTICIPATE IN ITS CLUB ACTIVITIES.

MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE FIRST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT  
THE HOME OF PETER MILLS 125 HEREFORD STREET GLEBE at  
8 p.m. ADDITIONAL MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT SYDNEY UNIVERSITY.  
CONTACT BLAIR RAMAGE 13 ATTUNGA AVENUE EARLWOOD 2206 or  
phone 752305.

MEMBERSHIP ENTITLES YOU TO BORROW FROM THE FOUNDATION'S  
LIBRARY OF BOOKS AND MAGAZINES.

THE FACILITIES OF THE BOOK BUYING CO-OPERATIVE ARE AVAILABLE  
TO MEMBERS, WITH DISCOUNTS OF 25% ON THE US COVER PRICE.

YOU GET FREE COPIES OF THE FOUNDATION'S MAGAZINE "FORERUNNER"  
EDITED BY RON & SUE CLARKE.

MEET AND TALK WITH KNOWLEDGEABLE SCIENCE FICTION READERS  
AT MEETINGS & AT SPECIAL EVENTS.

IN THE PAST MEMBERS HAVE ARRANGED FILM SHOWINGS, PARTIES,  
& OTHER ENTERTAINMENTS. THE FOUNDATION ENCOURAGES MEMBERS TO  
CONTRIBUTE ARTICLES AND REVIEWS TO ITS MAGAZINE.

JOIN NOW



At the time of preparing this program book we have not received a summary of Mr Foyster's talk, possibly due to mail delays. A summary of possible areas for discussion, and various references are provided below.

In "The Cost of Free Education", a research study of the Brotherhood of St Laurence, Judith O'Neill and Janet Paterson point out the vast difference between the tradition and the practice of free education in Victorian and, by implication, throughout Australia. While tuition remains free, the cost of texts, field trips, stationary, uniforms, and so on continues to rise, placing the poorer segments of the community in more and more disadvantaged positions in obtaining a full education. School libraries and audio-visual aids are often wholly or partial provided by voluntary parent/teacher organisations, placing schools in poor areas in a worse position than those in wealthy areas. We must face the implications of restricting education to the brilliant and the affluent.

The 1957 UNESCO "International Yearbook of Education" shows that Australia had 6190 university students per million population. Impressive when compared with the 1815 figure for the U.K. but not when compared to the USA figure of 16,670. Which way do we need to head in our university education? Do we view universities as places where a person can learn to develop their personality to the utmost, or are they a vocational training center, intended to provide a well trained work force and normal happy citizens well satisfied with the nature & aims of their society?

## EDUCATING FOR THE FUTURE cont.

Is the C19th concept of transfer of learning casting its shadow over modern education. Are we teaching subjects of little intrinsic use in the hope that the learning techniques used will in some manner be helpful to the student in his or her life. Should we rather be teaching students how to do original research, methods of study, method of memorising material, methods of testing the validity of the material placed before them? Should schools teach how to learn, and not present information as such?

Children at school do not have self-determination, freedom of speech and thought, freedom from fear and wants, freedom to form relationships with others. In short they are held in a totalitarian system that has no equal in the Western world outside schools. In our society children are property to be treated by parents and schools in the same manner that other objects are treated. Is this producing and continuing a race of neurotics, a meaningless conformity based on a fear of being different, and an unwillingness to experience and participate in life? Should our education be structured, or should it be democratic? These are questions asked by people like John Holt in "Freedom and Beyond" and by the contributors to "Children's Rights".

Michael Deakin made a film for TV about a family that lived in an isolated cottage outside a Welsh mining town. Four children had been raised using the Montessori methods and modifications of this, with the intention of producing in them a serenity and a morality almost unknown outside. Without the violence of TV and the daily papers the children were peaceful, happy, and have never used violence against one another or against any other person. In addition the children's educational development has been extraordinary - at 12 one had A-levels in maths & science, at 9 another had won a piano playing contest against 18 year olds from all over the UK. The 7 year old paints with extraordinary ability, the 5 year old writes arithmetical problems in Fortran. As an aside we can note that such developments are not new - J S Mill as a child was allowed to interrupt his father with questions no matter what work was being done. But such examples raise the question: do we need to send children to schools? Or can the home teach them more?



SYNCON '75

The Committee

Co-Chairpeople

Ron Clarke

Sue Clarke

Committee

Keith Curtis

Eric Lindsay

Blair Ramage

John Snowden

Invaluable Helper

Shayne McCormack

The location

Dunmore Lang College  
Macquarie University  
North Ryde (Herring Road)

Australian Day Weekend  
24th to 26th January 1975

Program book by Eric Lindsay,  
with thanks to Jon Nobel (To  
(Tolkien) and Dennis Stocks  
(Contact) for material, and  
Steve Fabian (Cover) and  
Kevin MacDonnell (Back cover)  
Duplicating EL, offset Snap  
Instant Print.

CONTENTS

Page 3	Location diagram
4	Program
5	Informal Program
6	Contact-Dennis Stocks
9	Tolkien Society
12	Galactic Winemaker/Pulps
15	Educating for the Future
17	Contents
18	Last Minute notes

LAST MINUTE ADDITIONS AND CHANGES

GREG MIRKIN "ALPHA RYTHEMS & THEIR APPLICATION TO EVERYDAY LIFE  
(MIND SCIENCE) 7 p.m. SUNDAY

\*\*\*\*  
Greg Mirkin's "Mind Science" Training Course - 46 Melba Drive  
East Ryde NSW 2113 Phone 88 1473

Alpha rythems - concentration - memory - practical para-  
psychology - mind improvement - parapsyborgnetics - relief  
of tensions. These are some of the subjects covered by the  
training course.

\*\*\*\*  
CONSERVATION. Our speaker will be Julian Holland, who was  
associated with a ABC feature on environmental studies.

\*\*\*\*  
We would like to thank Abbey's Bookshop George Street, Pocket  
Bookshop (Jim Thorburn) King Street, and Third World Bookshop  
for their co-operation in advertising this convention.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Thanks also to Clive LINZ Pty Ltd, Linden Cottage, St Ives 2075  
for their assistance with films for this program.

\*\*\*\*\*  
IULPS - KEN OZANNE. Those readers who have come to SF recently  
(i.e.) in the last 25 years) are likely to be unaware of the  
paucity of reading material that existed in the past.

There were a few - a very few - novels published each year. And  
the current stream of anthologies did not exist. The very first  
SF anthology to see general circulation was published in 1945(?)

If you wanted to read more than a book every two months (as who  
wouldn't?) there was only one recourse. The magazines. The blessed  
magazines!

Of course we didn't look at it that way. We thought of the  
magazines as the very heart and soul of SF. Such books as  
existed were merely the icing on the cake.

In this talk I shall try to give some idea of what the magazines  
meant in yesteryear...

\*\*\*\*\*



# ARE ALIVE AND WELL AT

Home Entertainment Film Library  
84 Gould Street  
Bondi Beach 2026



**Books**

**Films**

**Posters**

**Stills**



Great Movies  
for your home screen!



Ph 30 8122

