



Tenth Australian
Science Fiction
Convention

University of
Melbourne

January 1-2 1971



INTRODUCTION

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INTRODUCTION

WELCOME to the Tenth Australian Science Fiction Convention. Two days of intellectual stimulation and madcap frolicking in the Graves of Academe. Here, in the cloistered sanctity of... pardon? Yes, well I meant groves, but let it stand. Sanctity (sounds like five Amazons) of the University of Melbourne, we present a noble experiment - Australia's first on-campus sf convention. We hope you will enjoy it.

And, speaking of campus, there are three announcements we must make at this stage. First, we know the Sydney Convention this time last year was referred to as SynCon, but we do not like the term MelCon. Second, noble campus is not Ancient Latin for an empty paddock. Third, the University authorities have advised us that those convention members who have set up camp on the campus must find alternative accommodation (we understand they are interfering with the Vice Chancellor's golf practice). So, please, no more MelCon-tents.

And if the persons concerned do not return the golf balls to their owner by midday, we're all out. No, the divots are his worry. Just the balls, please.

Talking of divots, did you hear the one about...? I beg yours? Yes, okay, but... No, I... Oh hell. Well, if you don't want an Introduction full of puns, you'd better write it yourselves. (Mumble.)

Ladies and gentlemen, allow me to present your organizing committee... that terrific triumvirate, that sinister Cerberus, Melbourne fandom's very own Yggdrasil Trio... JOHNLY HARDMONSTER.

Ta.

WELCOME to the Tenth Australian Science Fiction Convention. We, too, hope you will enjoy the programme and the congenial surroundings. We have tried to present a rather different kind of programme this year: your comments will be very much appreciated. The surroundings are different, too, thanks to Dick Jenssen. But the most important part of any convention, we feel, is the people who attend, and we would like to tell you about some of the people who are involved in this convention.

ROBIN JOHNSON - FAN GUEST OF HONOUR:
Robin's career in Australian fandom has not been a long one by some standards, but in a short time he has achieved a great deal. His Anzapazine, The Butterfly Mind, is highly regarded by members and non-members alike. He has played an important role in recent conventions. But Robin's main achievement has been his active representation of Australian fandom at the 1970 World SF Convention in Heidelberg, West Germany. In fact Robin found himself more involved in the WorldCon than he has so far been in Australian conventions. We decided to rectify this situation immediately, and we are proud that Robin has agreed to be our Fan Guest of Honour. He will be speaking tonight, and we look forward to his account of his travels - to the WorldCon and also to Japan, Britain and the United States.

THE round-table discussions with which each day's programme commences are an idea more or less pinched from the 1970 San Francisco Convention. Eight fans have agreed to lead these discussions:

BRUCE GILLESPIE (on Reviewing Science Fiction) is the publisher of SF Commentary. His reviews have appeared in various Australian fanzines, in Science Fiction Review (USA) and Speculation (UK).

JOHN BANGSUND (on Fanzine Publishing) published the Hugo-nominated Australian Science Fiction Review. The first issue of his latest venture, Australian Science Fiction Monthly, appeared during December. His fanzines are as good-looking as Noel Kerr's, but Noel's spelling isn't as good as John's.

GARY MASON (on The WorldCon Bid) is treasurer of the Australia in '75 Committee and just about everything else in Australian fandom. A pillar of the Sydney SF Foundation, Gary is also Official Editor of Anzapa and a panelologist of note. He plans to attend this year's WorldCon in Boston.

NOEL KERR (on Comics Fandom) knows more about comics than any civilized person should. His fanzine, The Somerset Gazette, has been widely praised both here and overseas.

LEE HARDING (on The Preparation of Manuscripts) is a long-time Melbourne fan who has sold a swag of short stories and one novel to unsuspecting editors overseas. He can tell you exactly how wide your margins should be, but you'll have to figure out what to put between them yourself.

PAUL STEVENS (on SF and Horror Films) is a living testimonial to his subject: if he had not been born in Australia he would have only been allowed in with extensive cuts.

ALLAN TOMPKINS (on Edgar Rice Burroughs) published the ERB Digest in 1967 - the most professional-looking Australian fanzine to date. More recently he has published the Australian Burroughs Courier. Among many other interests (including children, Spanish and the ecology of the emu), Allan is an authority on Eric Cox.

TOM NEWLYN (on The Psychology of the Science Fiction Fan) is a doctor of medicine and a practising psychiatrist. His knowledge of sf and fandom is wide. In person he is amiable, in conversation often electrifying.

DIMITRII RAZUVAEV, who designed our publicity headings, picked up a couple of prizes at the last WesterCon. JOHN BRENDEN (with Lee Harding) did the displays. DICK JENSSEN fills his traditional role as auctioneer - amongst other things. BILL WRIGHT and MERVYN BINNS rendered their usual cheerful and helpful assistance. JOHN BANGSUND designed (and wrote most of) this booklet.

Our special thanks go to ED HAMILTON and MIKE HORVAT. The articles by them in this booklet are to appear in John Bangsund's AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION YEARBOOK : 1970.

John Foyster

Lee Harding

Leigh Edmonds

PROGRAMME

Friday 1st January

- 1.00 pm REGISTRATIONS
- 2.00 pm OPENING
- 2.15 pm ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS
Reviewing Science Fiction
Fanzine Publishing
The WorldCon Bid
Comics Fandom
- 3.15 pm TWO SHORT INTERVIEWS
Followed by Discussion
- 4.30 pm ADDRESS: Dr D. JENSSEN
- 5.00 pm AUCTION
- 8.00 pm LIGHT ENTERTAINMENT
Carla Harding & Elizabeth Foyster
- 8.20 pm ADDRESS: ROBIN JOHNSON
Fan Guest of Honour
- 8.45 pm PANEL: AMATEUR PRESS
ASSOCIATIONS
Chairman, Gary Mason
- 9.30 pm NOVA MOB
MASQUERADE PARTY

Saturday 2nd January

- 10.00 am INFORMAL MEETINGS OF
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS
- 1.00 pm ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS
The Preparation of Manuscripts
SF and Horror Films
Edgar Rice Burroughs
The Psychology of the SF Fan
- 2.00 pm BUSINESS SESSION
- 2.15 pm AUSTRALIA IN '75 REPORT
- 2.30 pm INTERVIEWS & DISCUSSION
- 3.45 pm To Be Announced
- 4.30 pm PANEL: SF FILMS
Chairman, Paul Stevens
- 5.00 pm AUCTION continued
- 8.00-8.30 pm THE PAUL STEVENS SHOW
- 8.30-9.00 pm DITMAR AWARDS
- 8.45-9.20 pm PANEL: THE POLARIZATION
OF SCIENCE FICTION
Chairman, Leigh Edmonds
- 9.30-9.00 pm FAN MOVIES & SLIDE SHOW
Messrs Clarke, Johnson & Binns



The Australian Science Fiction Achievement Awards, or "Ditmars", were instituted at the Eighth Australian Science Fiction Convention in Melbourne, 1969, through the generosity of a prominent Melbourne fan, Dr Ditmar Jessen.

Winners of Ditmar Awards to date are as follows:

1969

Best Australian Fiction:

A. BERTRAM CHANDLER - FALSE FATHERLAND

Best International Fiction:

THOMAS M. DISCH - CAMP CONCENTRATION

Best Contemporary SF Author:

BRIAN W. ALDISS

Best Australian Fanzine:

JOHN BANGSUND - AUSTRALIAN SF REVIEW

1970

Best Australian Fiction:

LEE HARDING - DANCING GERONTIUS

Best International Fiction:

ITALO CALVINO - COSMICOMICS

Best Professional Magazine:

PHILIP HARBOTTLE - VISION OF TOMORROW

Best Australian Fanzine:

JOHN FOYSTER - THE JOURNAL OF
OMPHALISTIC EPISTEMOLOGY

THE DITMAR AWARD

1971 Nominations

Nominations for the 1971 Ditmars closed on 1st December and voting closed on 20th December. The ballot was conducted by John Foyster; only Convention members were eligible to vote, and members of the Organizing Committee were ineligible for awards.

For your convenience, space is made available here for you to record the results of the 1971 ballot.

BEST AUSTRALIAN FICTION:

Robert Bowden: After Ragnarok
A. Bertram Chandler: The Bitter Pill
David Rome: Squat
No Award

✓

BEST INTERNATIONAL FICTION:

Italo Calvino: Time and the Hunter
Harlan Ellison: The Region Between
Robert Silverberg: Towers of Glass
No Award

✓

BEST AUSTRALIAN FANZINE:

Bruce Gillespie: SF Commentary
Noel Kerr: The Somerset Gazette
Gary Mason: The New Forerunner
No Award

✓

AUSTRALIAN CONVENTIONS

- 1952 1st AUSTRALIAN SF CONVENTION
Sydney
- 1953 2nd AUSTRALIAN SF CONVENTION
Sydney
- 1954 3rd AUSTRALIAN SF CONVENTION
Sydney
- 1955 4th AUSTRALIAN SF CONVENTION
Sydney
- CANBERRA SF CONVENTION
- 1956 5th AUSTRALIAN SF CONVENTION
"Olympicon" - Richmond V.
- 1958 6th AUSTRALIAN SF CONVENTION
Melbourne
- 1966 7th AUSTRALIAN SF CONVENTION
Melbourne
- 1968 MELBOURNE SF CONFERENCE
Melbourne & Boronia
- 1969 8th AUSTRALIAN SF CONVENTION
Melbourne & Murrumbeena
- 1970 SYDNEY SF CONVENTION
"SynCon 70" - Epping NSW
- 9th AUSTRALIAN SF CONVENTION
Murrumbeena V.
- 1971 10th AUSTRALIAN SF CONVENTION
University of Melbourne

THE MELBOURNE FANTASY FILM GROUP PRESENTS A

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or PAUL STEVENS - preferably during the Convention.

CAPRI THEATRE

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Melbourne Science Fiction Club

GPO BOX 12671,
MELBOURNE 3001

The Melbourne Science Fiction Club, established in 1952, was forced during December to discontinue meetings at 19 Somerset Place. For the time being the library will continue to operate there, and communications directed to that address will reach their destination.

It is hoped shortly, perhaps even during the course of the Convention, to announce the location of new premises. Certainly all Club members will be advised, and news about further developments will appear in ASFM and elsewhere.

The Melbourne Fantasy Film Group is also homeless for the time being, but regular programmes are being arranged at suburban theatres. The group has its own 35mm equipment. When new Club premises are found, a theatrette will be established.

Production of the Club's journal, The Somerset Gazette, has not been affected by the eviction.

Full details of Club activities and subscriptions will be widely notified when the present crisis is over. If you have any ideas, buttonhole Mervyn Binns at the Con, or at McGill's Newsagency. He's the harassed-looking one. If he mumbles "two hundred dollars a week", run.

AUSTRALIA IN '75

EDMOND HAMILTON

TO Leigh and me it is wonderful news that Australia is bidding for the 1975 World Science Fiction Convention. I can't think of a better place for a Con, and we are all for it. Now, we hope to return to Australia long before 1975, but... Deus vult, as Avram Davidson likes to say... we'd surely like to go again in 1975.

When we made our long-planned round the world trip almost three years ago, we visited some glamorous places. England, a second visit to Persia, India, Nepal, Bangkok, Angkor and so on. Our travel agent said, "Of course, from Singapore you will want to go home via Japan." We said, "No, we want to see a little of Australia."

And that was the best decision about a trip we ever made. For our all-too-brief stay in Australia left us enchanted with the place. It is the only place we visited (England excepted) that we want to revisit. We have the warmest memories of it, and I imagine that any science-fictionist who goes there will have the same.

Scenery is wonderful, but people are the most. And we met with almost the warmest welcome we ever had, from the Australian science fiction



GREETINGS TO THE TENTH AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION
CONVENTION FROM THE

SYDNEY SCIENCE FICTION FOUNDATION

SECRETARY: GARY MASON PO BOX A215 SYDNEY SOUTH

Illustration by Terry Jeeves from "Vision of Tomorrow"

community. They gave us some memories we will always cherish. Like... touring Sydney Harbour, surely the most beautiful harbour in the world, with Bertram Chandler as our guide... drinking beer under the trees at the Bona Fide Travellers Inn with Ron Smith and his family and Dave Boutland... chinning with Pat Terry at a party at John Danza's place - and sorry we are to hear that both of those men are gone now... a long gab with John Baxter in the Chevron Hilton hotel... and none of these people, nor the many other sf enthusiasts we met, had ever seen us before. I believe I can guarantee, from our experience, that visitors to an Australian Con will find nothing but friendliness.

Also, the land itself is enchanting. Hawkesbury River in the sheeting rain, and the solemn, silent gum forests, kangaroos and koalas and dingos... all so different. You start out with a deceptive feeling that it's all just like home, the people and the country, and then of a sudden you are reminded that this is a faraway and different place. Like the night we came out of Bert Chandler's house and I said, "Ah, there are not so many street lights here, and I can finally get a good look at the southern stars." He pointed and said, "That's Orion, up there." I stared, and then I exclaimed, "But the damn constellation is upside down!"

Vaucluse gardens, the lonely beaches and rolling surf, the loom of distant hills, the peculiar tingle in the air... all these we remember. And I must not omit the most magnificent scenery in Australia... the tallest, handsomest girls in the world, wearing the shortest mini-skirts in the world. They are worth going half around the globe to see.

A perceptive Englishman who wrote a book about it said that Middle-West Americans and Far-West Americans go mad about Australia. I am a Middle-Westerner and Leigh is a Far-Westerner, and we went mad about the place, and can't wait to get back.

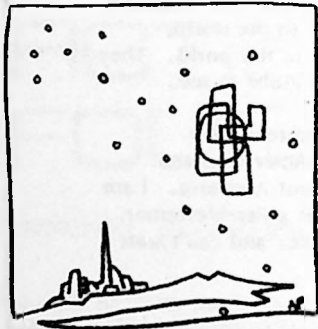
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Ethel Lindsay Courage House 6 Langley Avenue
Surbiton Surrey England
Andrew Porter 55 Pineapple Street Brooklyn
New York 11201 USA
John Bangsund GPO Box 4946 Melbourne 3001
Australia

GREETINGS TO THE TENTH AUSTRALIAN
SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION FROM THE

Brisbane Fantasy and Science Fiction Association



ENQUIRIES AND
VISITORS WELCOME

Secretary:
DENNIS STOCKS
GPO BOX 2268
BRISBANE
QUEENSLAND 4001

AUSTRALIA IN '75

JOHN FOYSTER

I ASKED Robin Johnson a few weeks ago just what we needed to do in Australia to advance our bid for the 1975 WorldCon. His reply was useful to me, but other Australian fans might not be able to work along the same lines.

Robin suggested that the most important thing was to publish interesting fanzines. I immediately resolved to make the next issues of The Muleskinners' Gazette far more interesting than the immediately past ones have been. But, as I said before, this isn't of much use to people who don't publish fanzines.

At about the same time as I asked Robin that dumb question, I got a fanzine from Ed Connor in the US. Moebius Trip 6 supplied another answer of sorts: it contained a large number of letters from Australian fans... well, in proportion, that is... well, three, if you must know... and as well as that Leigh Edmonds is, er, mentioned in the lead article. I guess you can

see what I'm leading up to: almost everyone in Australia who reads this will be used to reading fanzines and writing letters of comment on them. The best thing you could do for the Australia in '75 bid, right now, would be to get interested in an overseas fanzine or two (US fanzines are to be preferred over UK fanzines, in this respect) and get involved in it as well. It is no different from managing the same feat for Australian fanzines, except that the material is almost invariably more interesting.

Or, if you feel that this is moving a little too swiftly, try writing for one of the regular Australian fanzines - SF Commentary or The Somerset Gazette or ASFM. Letters or reviews or articles. Artwork, if that's your forte. I've yet to hear any of the editors of these three very good fanzines complaining of an over-supply of material.

For a slight variation, you might like to try publishing a small fanzine of your own. Lately a number of Australian fans have got their start in ANZAPA - a sort of friendly Common-Market set-up which provides an easy entry to the world of amateur magazine publishing. It can be informative, and even educational, as John Bangsund demonstrated a couple of months ago when he published a little treatise on stencil-cutting. (Copies are available for the asking, he tells me.) Gary Mason is at present in charge of ANZAPA, and there are a few places vacant. Friday night's panel will be discussing Amateur Press Associations, and you might find answers to your questions by attending that gathering (in your Buck Rogers rig, of course).

Finally, if all this is too difficult, the advertisement opposite indicates an easy way out. No, not brawling in public places (that's an excellent shot of King's Cross, don't you think?). To rather too large an extent the bid is being run out of the committee's pockets at the moment. So send money to Gary Mason, along with your ideas. But stay interested.

AND I SAY ...

AUSTRALIA IN '75



WHAT DO YOU SAY?

SEND MONEY TO GARY MASON, AUSTRALIA IN
'75 COMMITTEE, PO BOX A215, SYDNEY SOUTH,
NSW 2000, AND HE'LL GET THE MESSAGE.

COMORG

Established 1970 "to disseminate knowledge of the literary genre usually referred to as 'science fiction', and of ancillary and associated areas of interest, such as fantastic literature in general, cinematic and theatrical presentations of science-fictional and fantastic themes and subjects, and the activities of persons and groups in Australia and overseas who share these interests".

COMORG is not a club, nor an association of clubs. It is an independent body set up to assist individuals and groups interested in science fiction in any way possible.

COMORG is not a club, nor an association of clubs. It is an independent body, set up to assist in any way possible individuals and groups interested in science fiction. Its prime function is communication, and it attempts to achieve this by providing a regular publication - Australian Science Fiction Monthly - to members and non-members alike; by issuing press releases to Australian and overseas fan publishers and the local Press; by providing an accurate and up-to-date contact list for fans wishing to compile a mailing-list or organize a group; by providing a re-addressing service through its Post Office box; by organizing, or assisting in the organizing, of conventions, seminars and public meetings.

COMORG invites your enquiries and suggestions. There will be a meeting on Saturday morning, at a convenient time to be announced. We would particularly appreciate interstate participation in this meeting.

BILL WRIGHT Secretary

AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION COMMUNICATIONS
ORGANIZATION PO BOX 4946 MELBOURNE 3001

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PUBLICATIONS 1971-72

AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION MONTHLY

A monthly review of science fiction news, activities and publications, published for the Australian Science Fiction Communications Organization. Regular features include "The Basic Science Fiction Library", an introductory survey of the best science fiction in and out of print, and "The Science Fiction Reference Library", a survey of books about sf and related fields. Fiction is published occasionally. Printed offset, quarto format, normally about 40 pages.

Subscriptions:	Australia	\$3.00 per year
	USA	\$4.00 per year
	Britain	£1.50 per year

Annual Bound Volume

At the end of each year, ASFM will be made available in a bound volume. This volume will contain, in addition to the 12 monthly issues, a comprehensive index to the magazine and photos of contributors. It will be a large book: about 500 pages. The index and photo pages will be available to subscribers at \$2.00.

About 100 copies of the bound volume will be produced. They may be ordered in two volumes if required. A deposit of \$5.00 is required with the initial order, and the balance on notification of publication.

Prices:	1 Volume	2 Volumes
Australia	\$12.00	\$16.00
USA	\$15.00	\$20.00
Britain	£ 6.00	£ 8.00

Australian SF Yearbook 1970

Articles by eminent Australian and overseas authors and fans on many aspects of science fiction and fandom. Well illustrated with artwork and photographs. Contributors include Ursula K. Le Guin, A. Bertram Chandler, Edmond Hamilton, Leigh Brackett, Harry Warner Jr, Lee Harding, George Turner, John Foyster, Keith Antill, Redd Boggs, Mervyn Barrett, John Pinkney & many more.

Publication about 1st February 1971.
Price A\$1.50, US\$1.50, £0.75.

ASFY

Australian SF Directory 1971

Our intention is to publish a complete directory to all Australian science fiction publications, organizations, clubs and activities, and a listing of Australian authors and enthusiasts. There will be a bibliography of Australian science fiction, covering the period 1960-1970, and much other useful material. An entry form for organizations and individuals is available on request.

Publication about 1st March 1971.
Provisional Price - as Yearbook.

ASFD

AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW 1966-69

AUSTRALIAN SF REVIEW commenced publication in 1966 and ceased after twenty issues in 1969. In those three years the magazine established itself as one of the best of its kind in the world. In 1967 and 1968 it achieved the distinction of appearing on the ballot for the "Hugo" Award, the first time an Australian publication had ever done this.

ASFR contained about a thousand quarto pages of articles and reviews by some of the best writers in the business. Among the contributors were James Blish, Brian Aldiss, Michael Moorcock, John Carnell, Damon Knight, Frederik Pohl, Harry Harrison, John Wyndham, Robert Bloch, Ursula K. Le Guin, M. K. Joseph, Samuel R. Delany, Sam Moskowitz, Ted White, John Brunner, Judith Merrill, Harry Warner Jr and of course many Australian writers. A story by A. Bertram Chandler in no.10 was chosen for Harry Harrison's collection, BEST SF 1967.

Today, ASFR is something of a legend. Complete runs are very hard to get, and individual issues fetch absurd prices at auction. Every few weeks we receive a letter from a librarian, bookseller or collector in Sydney, Chicago, Tokyo, Birmingham or you-name-it, asking for a subscription or back issues, and we just can't oblige.

Now the entire run of ASFR is to be reprinted in two bound volumes of about 500 pages each. In addition to the original material there will be a comprehensive index, photographs and introductory articles. The additional material will also be available separately at about \$2.00. The reprint will be published when advance orders appear to cover production costs - hopefully by the end of 1971.

Prices:	2 Volumes	4 Volumes
Australia	\$25.00	\$30.00
USA	\$30.00	\$36.00
Britain	£12.50	£15.00

A deposit of \$5.00 is required with initial order, and balance on notification of publication.

George Turner

PLUMBERS OF THE COSMOS

Eminent Australian novelist George Turner has been interested in science fiction for forty years. In 1967 he contributed an article to AUSTRALIAN SF REVIEW, and has since appeared in many amateur sf magazines in Australia, America and elsewhere. Here are collected Mr Turner's best articles and reviews from these magazines. The volume should clearly establish him as one of the finest critics in the field.

About April: c\$2.50 paper covers

John Foyster

BALLARD, DELANY, SMITH

John Foyster has been writing about science fiction for a decade, and has proved himself one of the most acute observers in the field. He has written for (and published) amateur magazines in many parts of the world, and was a reviewer for "Vision of Tomorrow". He regards Cordwainer Smith, J. G. Ballard and Samuel R. Delany as the finest writers of science fiction in recent years, and his book is the first attempt to place them in perspective. It is likely to be the definitive study for some time.

About May: c\$2.50 paper covers

The Best Short Stories of A. Bertram Chandler

Captain A. Bertram Chandler has been writing science fiction for thirty years. In this volume we have pleasure in presenting the cream of his short fiction.

About July: c\$3.00 paper covers

Science Fiction Monographs

In course of preparation during 1971, but unlikely to be published before the end of the year, is this series of monographs on the writers of science fiction.

Each booklet will run to about 48 pages and contain a select bibliography and portrait of the author. The booklets are expected to sell at about A\$0.75.

SF For Young Readers

During 1971 a staff of contributors will be working on this guide to science fiction for young readers. It is intended to be a standard reference work for librarians, teachers and parents, as well as for the readers themselves. Comprehensive bibliographies will be included. The book will very likely run to about 300 pages in a quarto format. Orders will be very welcome at this stage, but we will ask you to confirm them when publication is scheduled.

Lord Timothy Dexter

A PICKLE FOR THE KNOWING ONES

"I'me the first Lord in the younited States of Amercary Now of Newburyport it is the voise of the peopel and I cant Help it..." So commences one of the most incredible autobiographies in all literature, a forgotten American classic, the story of Timothy Dexter of Newburyport - who sold coals in Newcastle and warming-pans in the West Indies, who made a fortune out of the ("not worth a...") Continental dollar, who... But you will have to discover the rest yourself. Introduced by John Bangsund.

About August: c\$2.00

Sydney Smith

ESSAYS ON AUSTRALIA

The Reverend Sydney Smith - according to many the wittiest man who ever lived, except for Oscar Wilde. Between 1803 and 1823 he published several articles in the Edinburgh Review on books about Australia. The man's foresight was uncanny: many of his predictions about the future of Australia have proved correct, and his observations on the Australian character are in many respects valid today.

About October: c\$2.00

ORDER FORM

Title	Copies Required
Australian Science Fiction Monthly : 12 Issues	_____
Annual Volume	_____
Australian Science Fiction Yearbook : 1970	_____
Australian Science Fiction Directory : 1971	_____
Australian Science Fiction Review : Bound Reprint	_____
Turner: Plumbers of the Cosmos	_____
Foyster: Ballard, Delany, Smith	_____
Best Short Stories of A. Bertram Chandler	_____
SF for Young Readers	_____
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Dexter: A Pickle for the Knowing Ones	_____
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AUSTRALIA IN . . . '70

MIKE HORVAT

My fantastic sense of timing placed me in Australia on the first day of the Moratorium. Twenty thousand gathered in Sydney, seventy thousand in Melbourne, and me in the middle of it all decked out in a bright orange suit which screamed "American GI." Fortunately my jungle training came in handy and I faded out.

On the 9th of May, having savoured the delights of Sydney for twenty-four hours (taking part in a wedding, not mine, at the Wayside Chapel, and watching "Hair" - a far better production than the San Francisco version, incidentally) I decided to call the only fannish phone number I had. Australian telephones are marvellously intricate, but with the help of no less than three operators I finally got through to... the sexiest voice this side of Milpitas. Diané Bangsund.

I couldn't think of anything halfway intelligent to say. I stammered out, "Is this the Bangsund residence?"

SHAYNE
McCORMACK

BRUCE
GILLESPIE

KEVIN
DILLON

REDD
BOGGS

MICHAEL
O'BRIEN

LEIGH
EDMONDS

GARY
MASON

PAUL
STEVENS

NEIL
RAHMAN

PETER
ROBERTS

BOB & LYN
SMITH

DENNIS
STOCKS

JOHN
BANGSUND

MERVYN
BINNS

ANZAPA

The Australian &
New Zealand Amateur
Press Association
wishes every success
to the Tenth Australian
Science Fiction
Convention

Membership enquiries
welcome: contact
Official Editor
Gary Mason PO Box A215
Sydney South NSW 2000

MICHAEL
CAMERON

LEE
HARDING

DAVID
GRIGG

JOHN
FOYSTER

MIKE
HORVAT

ALEX
ROBB

CAREY
HANDFIELD

PETER
HOUSE

ROBIN
JOHNSON

RON
CLARKE

JOHN
RYAN

PETER
DARLING

JOHN
BREDEN

MICHAEL
JOLLY

... "Yes." ... "My name's Mike Horvat. I'm a fan from the United States. May I speak to Mr Bangsund, please?" ... "Certainly, Mike. Glad to hear from you." ... (Pause.) ... "Hullo. John Bangsund here." ... By this time I felt like a complete ass. It was too late to hang up and run, so, choking, I went through the introduction bit again. John flattered me by saying, "G'day, Mike! Sure I know you; you're an ASFR subscriber, from - let me see - Tangent, Ohio." ... "Ah, Tangent, Oregon..." And John invited me to come right over.

I checked out of my hotel in Sydney, dashed down to Melbourne, and arrived some three hours after first calling the Bangsunds. All travel outside of Sydney is expressly prohibited by the US Government to R&R men, and this made the faunt all the more appealing. It's only six hundred miles from Sydney to Melbourne but from the change in atmosphere you would think it more like a hundred years. Melbourne seems to retain something of an English character, whereas Sydney is struggling to become another Los Angeles.

I got my first real inkling of the week-long language barrier I was to face, in the taxi between Essendon and Clifton Hill. We were cruising along at 60 mph on a small freeway when the cabby remarked how much better time could be made on this road now he didn't have to worry about the trams. "Trams?" I said, "Is that some kinda disease?"

I couldn't see much of Clifton Hill. We pulled into a narrow little street and I stood with my suitcase at the Bangsunds' front door. I knocked. The only reason I wasn't standing with heart in hand was that it was pelting along too fast and my hands were too sweat-slippery to catch it anyway. I'm not used to simultaneously introducing myself to strangers and moving in with them. Besides, here were actual science fiction fans - a species I'd heard and read about but never met. And a Big Name Fan at that!

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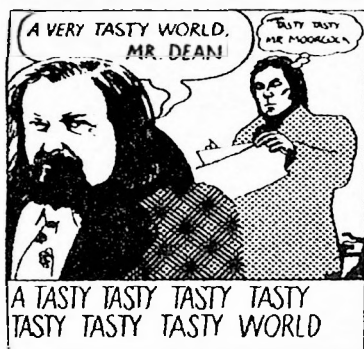
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John met me at the door, and his quiet manner put me a bit at ease right away. Hovering around him was Leigh Edmonds. Three feet inside the door and I lost touch with Vietnam and the world I'd been in since February '69. Books... piles of books... shelves of books. John and Leigh had to drag my attention back, I was so starved for half calf bindings, first editions, black letter...

Trust me to pick an ideal time for a visit. Diane wasn't feeling well and had taken to bed earlier in the week. We chatted, all of us, in the bedroom for a while, then drifted into the living-room for a Mozart-and-claret combination which could win John the Nobel Peace Prize.

If I could hold my memories better I would walk you through the next few days with me and perhaps share the hospitality I experienced. There was a trip to the old goldfields town, Ballarat, where Diane and I were photographed beside a stone lion, one of a pair, and a sign reading "Keep off the Lions". And double-headed icecream cones and pasties and fish'n'chips and dim-sims: I told John he could make a fortune in the States starting up a chain of "Dinkum Aussie" food bars, and he said we deserved it for inflicting Colonel Sanders on them. John took me to Leigh's place on the Sunday, and I met Paul Stevens and Peter Darling (who was down from Sydney) and others. We visited the Melbourne Science Fiction Club. I ransacked the bookshops, and rode on a tram - a cable car - in fact on two trams, since I went way past Clifton Hill coming out from the city and had to catch another one back. (Later I learnt I had changed trams in that legendary suburb, Northclump.) But mostly that week I rested. I still wore my jungle manners, and I didn't want to meet people so much as relax a bit. Consequently I didn't get to meet many of the people about whom I've since heard so much.



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About six weeks later I made it back to Melbourne again. Again I stayed mainly with the Bangsunds, this time in St Kilda. Gary Mason and Robin Johnson took me in for a couple of days in Sydney, exposing me to another branch of Australian fandom. On the first trip I had swooped on them, unannounced. The army had captured an AWOL GI, and I gladly gave him my seat on the return flight. I phoned Gary, introduced myself (always an unpleasant task), and with that unfailing Australian hospitality he took half a day off work and showed me around Sydney. Around the bookshops (of course), and across the famous Harbour Bridge, through the underground railway network (the like of which I had never seen) and finally to French's Forest for a marvellous dinner. I relaxed, read Anzapa mailings and continued my "unwinding" procedure. Robin offered me a bed, but circumstances prevented my accepting and I left Sydney thoroughly exhausted the following morning.

My memories of Australia as a country are dim. The people I met, on the other hand, stand out vividly in my mind.

John Bangsund: Short, stout, bearded and penetrating ... marvellously literate... a fan of Hardy, Johnson and belles lettres... certainly a scholar in the old sense of the word. He has difficulty in applying his ample talents to tasks either uninteresting or unrewarding.

Diane Bangsund: Tall, attractive and practical... quite capable with either a pot or a pen... authoress of an unpublished four-volume tome entitled "How A Family of Two Can Consistently Feed Twelve". She is an unusual combination of capable career woman and little girl.

Leigh Edmonds: Tall, slender, with a shock of hair that made my own military stubble blush... Leigh

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hunkers about dramatically... enjoys people... science fiction is for him primarily the mountain pass which leads to a motley valley of characters. He gives the impression of having four elbows, but this is a ruse to set those around him at ease and hide his truly sophisticated soul.

Paul Stevens: Cadaverous, tall, mysterious... if enthusiasm were auto parts he'd put Holden out of business... opinionated, and rightly so... delicious sense of humour. A difficult person to keep in the background.

Peter Darling: Medium height, heavy-set, and always with a smile... splashing around constantly in good cheer... eager to plunge right into a project and get it done... perhaps a little intolerant of a slave to whimsy. He will go through life as the unanimous choice for committee chairman.

Gary Mason: Peter's twin, only with wavy hair where Peter's is straight... often on the defensive and adamant... an argumentum ad hominem upsets him... quietly humorous... subtle, but direct when needed.

Robin Johnson: Well-read and well-informed... speaks well... strikes me as too literate to be a computer programmer. His sense of humour is "knee-slapping" with a veneer of civilization.

I met others in the sf world in Australia, but I didn't get to know them well enough even for this outline of first impressions; among them were John Breden, Noel Kerr, Mervyn Binns, Stuart Leslie, Peter House and a whole gang of fans at the Melbourne SF Club.

One of Melbourne's fannish assets is its clubrooms.*** I was lured there with tales of the club library, wondrous stories of a mummi-fied hydraulic elevator (which would, I was assured, gurgle pleasantly if only it were working), and by pure force. After what must

There's no question about it!
These two front ones have got to go!



PAUL STEVENS

(Count Dracula) and

PETER HOUSE

(The Mummy)

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AT THE CONVENTION

and advise that their
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in the above roles
are available by
arrangement



have been a circuitous drive we pulled up in front of McGill's warehouse. Leigh and Paul saw their castle. I saw a dingy alley framed on both sides by canyons of dirty bricks. The sky was a grey dribble overhead. I can't imagine a more amenable setting for a science fiction club. The boys fairly bounded from car to curb, nostrils dilated, and raced to an iron door which could have successfully withstood the attacks of Attila the Hun... and looked just about old enough to have done that.

We climbed the stairs to the clubrooms and I suddenly understood why there aren't more women in fandom. I doubt they could stand the "maleness" of such a place as the Melbourne SF Club. The kitchen caught my eye right off: there was a high-rise disarray there that must surely have contained anything one could possibly have wanted, somewhere in its cascading mountain of refuse. Very masculine. The library was in a bit better shape. Spread around the back of the room, its half-formed stacks and spilling shelves contained a genuine FAN-CYCLOPEDIA, a bushel of Wonder Stories Quarterly, complete runs of Galaxy, F&SF and most of the Astoundings. Sigh. On the whole the place reminded me of an island I once read about on which two shipwrecked fellows were devoured by mould. All this is not to say I wasn't impressed with the place: in fact it was so very similar to my church in Tangent that I got misty just being there. ***

What is there to say about the character of Australian fandom? I can only speak for the individuals I met - and to a man they were pleasant, interesting and outgoing. They made my visit Down Under truly memorable.

*** The clubrooms are, alas, no more. City health authorities banned the building's use as a meeting-place during December 1970.

*** Mike doesn't go to a church which looks like the MSFC: he owns one, and keeps his books in it.



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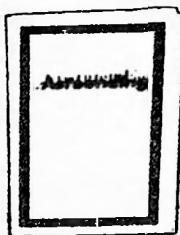
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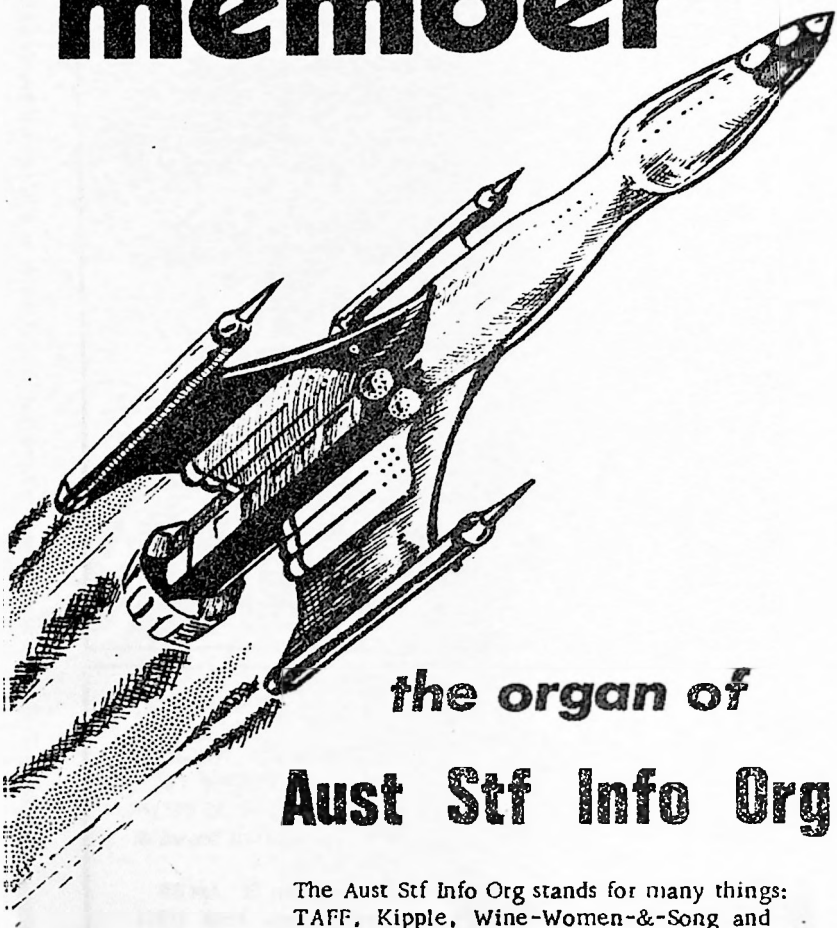
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