

The Antipodean Announcer

Issue No. 4, January 1983

SEE THE SOUTHERN CROSS IN '85!

SOUTHERN CROSS FOR 1985 WORLDCON!

One of the things that made the 1975 World Science Fiction Convention held in Australia so memorable was the excellent facilities and accommodation provided by the Southern Cross Hotel in Melbourne. The Melbourne Bidding Committee for the 1985 Worldcon is pleased to announce that agreement has been reached with the Southern Cross to again be the site of a Worldcon in 1985, should Melbourne be successful in its bid.

Those who attended Aussiecon in 1975 will no doubt recall the excellent service provided by the Southern Cross and the general freedom from hotel hassles. They will also recall the convenience of all the convention facilities being on the same floor of the hotel.

Although the 1985 Worldcon will almost certainly have a much larger attendance than Aussiecon, the existing facilities at the Southern Cross can seat 1500 people, and it now seems extremely likely that the hotel will have a major extension of its convention space completed by 1985. This will avoid the need for us to use a number of hotels for program items, although we anticipate that some non-program items may be located in alternative nearby locations.

The Southern Cross is in a superbly convenient location, in the very heart of the city of Melbourne, close to shops, cinemas, theatres, and top-class restaurants as well as plenty of cheap eating places and bars (see separate article on 'Food and the Southern Cross'). It is adjacent to excellent public transport in the form of Melbourne's unique trams.

The hotel itself incorporates a wide selection of restaurants and bars, and includes a plaza featuring nearly seventy specialty shops and services, not to mention a modern bowling alley. The hotel has 426 guest rooms, each with individually controlled air-conditioning, bathroom and toilet, colour television, telephone, and fully-stocked refrigerator. Twenty-four-hour room service is available.

It is impossible to give any accurate idea of what room rates will be in 1985, but we would expect that we will be able to negotiate a substantial discount on rates for convention members, and we will advise these as soon as possible.

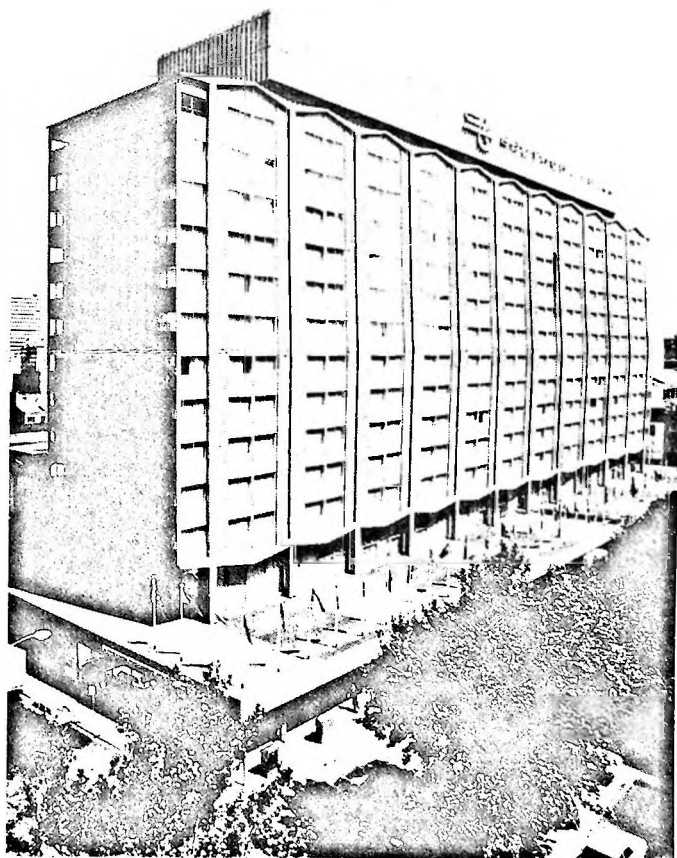
Convention facilities are excellent and flexible, with all facilities on the same floor, and currently consisting of two large ballrooms and several smaller rooms. These facilities, as mentioned before, are likely to be greatly expanded by the time of the convention.

All in all, the committee is extremely pleased with the facilities available, and with the very co-operative attitude of the hotel staff.

FOOD AND THE SOUTHERN CROSS

John Foyster, the Chairman of the '85 bid, recently had an enjoyable time touring the area around the Southern Cross Hotel, listing every restaurant he could find which was within a city block of the hotel. In fact, he got tired and gave up before completing the entire tour taking in the four blocks around the hotel. Even so, the list he came up with is impressive.

John found no less than 23 Chinese restaurants, 5 Japanese restaurants, and 17 other restaurants whose ethnicity (?) ranged from Mexican, through Italian and French, to Australian. Just beyond the



walking limit, John could see many more restaurants, including a McDonalds. Nor does his list include cheap take-away food places and coffee lounges, of which there are plenty.

Some of these restaurants open early, others open late. Many stay open until 2 or 3 a.m., and at least one is open 24 hours a day.

Obviously, one complaint *no one* will have about the 1985 Worldcon in Melbourne will be the lack of good food!

'The Antipodean Announcer' will be distributed free at major conventions around the world, or is included free if you subscribe to the bid newsletter, 'Kanga Ruse', which costs \$5 for one year. The 'Announcer' will contain items of interest about Melbourne, Australia, and Australian Fandom. 'Kanga Ruse' will contain detailed information about the progress of the 'Melbourne in '85' bid.

MELBOURNE · IN · 1985 ·

Tentative Dates Agreed

The committee has booked the hotel facilities between Thursday, 22 August and Monday, 26 August 1985, and unless something unforeseen turns up, these will be the dates of the 1985 Worldcon. So start making your travel plans!

These dates will allow US members to attend both the Melbourne Worldcon and the North American Science Fiction Convention (NASFIC) if it is held on the traditional Labor Day Weekend, as well as to spend some time touring Australia and getting to know the local fans.

If things work out as we hope, these dates will also be within the local school holidays, which would be a great convenience for those fans who are teachers, those who are parents, and those who are students. However, there is some uncertainty here, as the Education Department may be changing its term structure within the next few years.

We think that these dates represent the most convenient time for the majority of people, and conform generally with the results of a questionnaire that was distributed by the Melbourne in '85 Committee at the Chicago Worldcon last year, seeking the views of fans on the best dates.

The results of the questionnaire indicated that August and September were the preferred months, with June, July, and December the least popular months. Most American fans preferred US Labor Day as

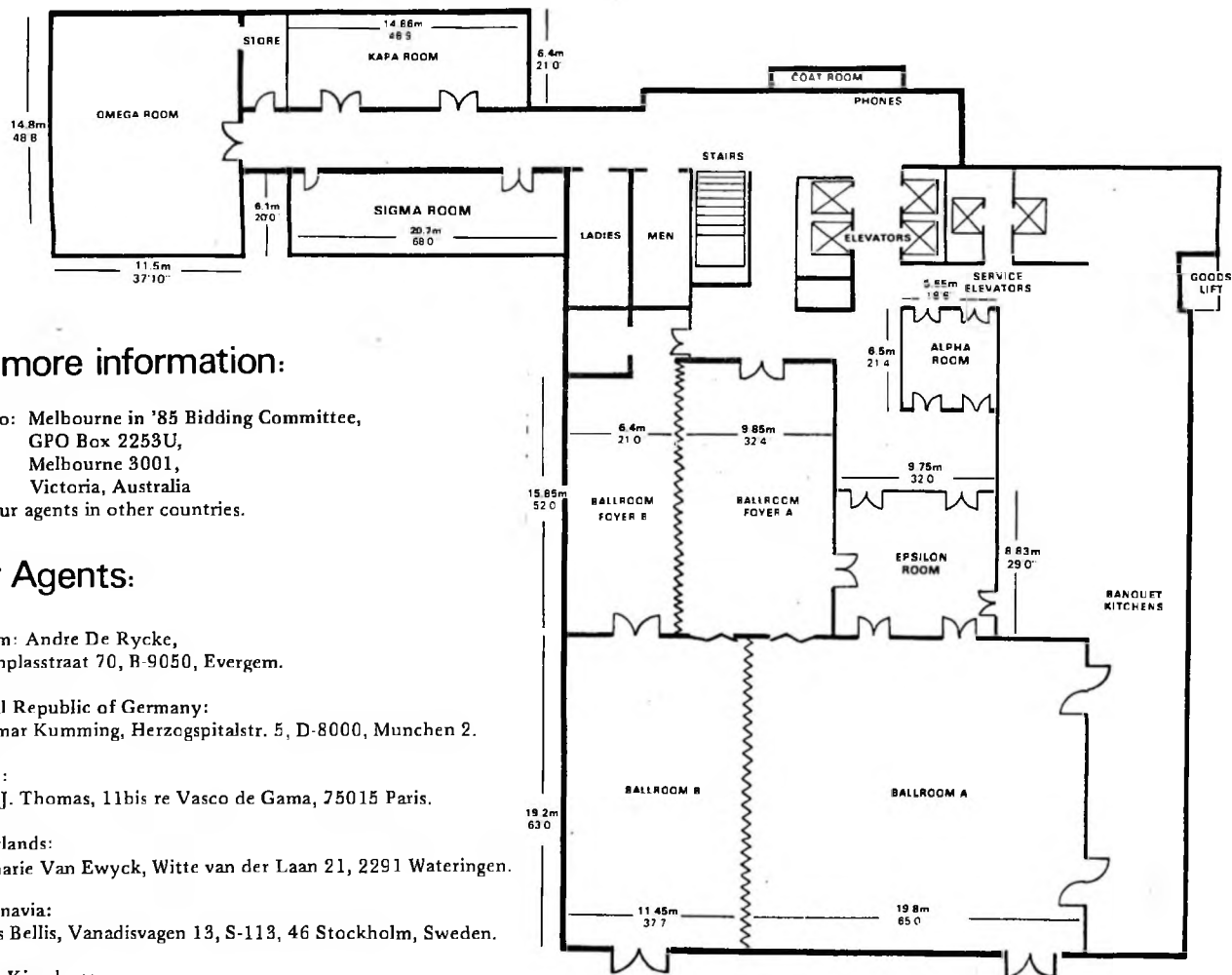
the actual date, but mid-August came second, and we believe there is great value in allowing fans the chance to attend both the Worldcon and the NASFIC. The overwhelming majority of respondents preferred a convention that ran across a weekend, rather than through Monday to Friday.

The questionnaire also sought the views of non-Australian fans on whether they would be likely to come to an Australian Worldcon, and how long they would like to spend here. Approximately 18 per cent of respondents said they were certain to come, with a further 60 per cent saying they thought they would be likely to attend.

S F COMMENTARY REPRINT

S F Commentary, published by Bruce Gillespie, is one of the greatest of those fanzines concerned with the serious discussion of science fiction. The first eight issues of *SFC*, consisting of some 200,000 words of criticism, wit, and general brilliance, have now been republished in an elegant edition. An absolute bargain at \$40 a copy, *S F Commentary Reprint Edition: First Year 1969* is available from Bruce Gillespie, GPO Box 5195AA, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia 3001.

CONVENTION CENTRE FLOOR PLAN



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