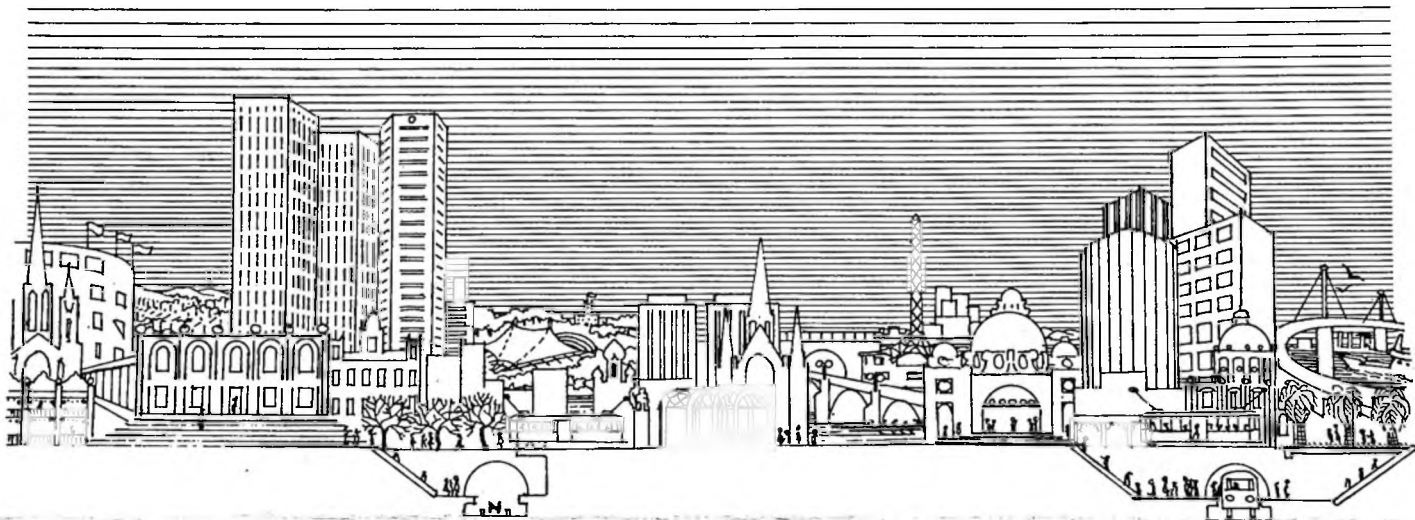


The Antipodean Announcer

Issue No.5, June 1983

COME TO MELBOURNE!



VOTE FOR MELBOURNE IN '85!

The ballot papers for the site selection of the 1985 World Science Fiction Convention have now been distributed. There is only one site listed on the ballot - Melbourne, Australia. Naturally, that pleases us no end, since we believe that we can offer you the most exciting, unusual and enjoyable Worldcon for years. But we still urge you most strongly to register your vote in favour of Melbourne, whether by postal ballot, or by personal vote at Constellation, this year's Worldcon.

There are a number of good reasons for casting your vote for Melbourne. Firstly, you will be having a positive say in selecting the site. In years to come, when old fan and tired sit back and say nostalgically: "Ah yes, I remember Melbourne, in 1985 it was...", you'll be able to say in reply:

"Melbourne in '85? Yep, I voted for 'em, you know."

Secondly, though Melbourne is the only site listed on the postal ballot, that does not prevent either a last-minute write-in bid from another city, nor a bid launched at Constellation itself. We are keen to bring you the Worldcon. We wouldn't like to miss out because all our supporters thought that they didn't have to bother voting.

Thirdly, and to you probably most importantly, voting for the 1985 Worldcon site automatically makes you a supporting member of that convention. By joining at such a stage, you will be obtaining the cheapest possible membership of the Worldcon, with your supporting membership convertible to attending at the lowest rate. It will also mean that you will receive *all* of the convention publications. And we plan to make them collector's items.

You don't want to miss out, do you? No. So, the message is simple: Vote for Melbourne in '85, and feel that warm inner glow!

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TRAVEL TO MELBOURNE IN 1985

We are pleased to announce that we have made arrangements with Air New Zealand to act as the official airline for the planned 1985 Melbourne Worldcon. Air New Zealand was the official airline for Aussiecon in 1975, and brought many visitors to Melbourne for that convention - they are looking forward to carrying old friends and making new ones in 1985.



We are at present holding discussions with Air New Zealand and travel agents in Australia and other countries to arrange for the best value individual and group travel to Australia. If you have the time, as well as attending the Worldcon, you will be able to see this fascinating country and sample the delights of the South Pacific. We will be distributing details of travel plans at Constellation, and we hope to have travel experts at Baltimore to answer any questions you may have. Otherwise, contact us here in Melbourne for detailed information.

Our advice is to start planning now for a great holiday in Australia in August, 1985.

THE BID

Melbourne, Australia, is bidding for the right to hold the 43rd World Science Fiction Convention in 1985.

The main hotel will be the Southern Cross, Melbourne, where the very successful 1975 Worldcon, Aussiecon, was held.

The convention will be held between Thursday, 22 August and Monday, 26 August, 1985.

MELBOURNE · IN · 1985 ·

AUSTRALIAN RULES, O.K.?

by
Irwin Hirsh

In December 1982, while introducing a guest on one of his radioshow, announcer Terry Lane said: "While not many people know it, 1982 was the year in which a significant change occurred in Australian society."

For a brief moment I was relieved. Someone else had also taken note of the most momentous Australian event of 1982. But, to my dismay, Terry Lane's guest merely went on to talk about how the unemployment cycle had changed. I'm still wondering when more people are going to notice that in 1982, for the first time since 1929, the Collingwood team did not head the Victorian Football League's premiership table.

Odd, really, considering that 107,536 people were at the Melbourne Cricket Ground to witness the event, not to mention the six or seven million who watched it live on television.

On September 25, 1982, Carlton won its 14th V.F.L. premiership, overtaking Collingwood's 13 premierships as the most ever won by one team in the competition. I've been looking for some sort of similar achievement in other sports and other countries to parallel this achievement, but the closest I can come up with is to say that if Arsenal had the fanatical following of Manchester United, Liverpool's winning of its 9th F.A. Cup in 1976 to overtake the record Arsenal had held since 1953 would be something like it.

If I'm appearing to be obscure, forgive me. It is only that I find it hard to describe a game - Australian Rules Football - that I've been following for 17 years in a short article destined largely for an audience I don't know, and who may not understand the game, which is played regularly only in Australia. Yes, I know that Australian Rules football is telecasted weekly on American TV and that the V.F.L. Grand Final at least has been telecasted in places such as Hong Kong and the United Kingdom for years, but I'm talking about *really understanding* the game. Not just the rules and how the game is played, but an appreciation of the essence of the game. Or rather, the living out of the essence of the game.



If my only contact with Aussie Rules football was the weekly TV replay of the highlights of each week's matches I would be a totally different person than I am today. I would have no appreciation of the love/hate relationship that goes with supporting Collingwood (basically, if you support Collingwood you do so quite fanatically, while if you support one of the other eleven V.F.L. teams you have a fanatical hatred of Collingwood). None of the other teams brings out quite the same emotions from the football public.

Nor would I understand such terms as the Ron Barassi Lip, the John Kennedy Raincoat or the Tom Hafey T-Shirt; terms which go a long way towards describing the personality and style of three of the most successful coaches in V.F.L. history. The list describing the essence of the game is endless.

The home of football is the Melbourne Cricket Ground, a monolithic stadium capable of holding a crowd of about 115,000 (yes, they also play cricket there, but only during the gradually shrinking non-football season). The M.C.G. is also the ground at which I attended my first football game. I don't actually remember anything of that 1965 Melbourne v. Carlton match, but I still retain the memory of the car trip to the ground and looking down one of the flights of stairs at the back of the southern stand and thinking: "I *climbed* that!" I don't think my five-year-old legs had ever climbed so many stairs. Seven years later I took an even more tiring journey up one of those flights of stairs - not even a broken leg was going to stop me from seeing the 1972 Grand Final.

I've stood for hours on a cold, wet July afternoon (mid-winter here) while watching a football game and I've gone without food, sleep and a comfortable bed while queueing overnight for tickets to the Grand Final and all I can say is that it has all been worth it. I mean, I was there when the final siren went off to indicate that North Melbourne had finally broken through to win its first premiership. And I was there when Phil Manassa made his brilliant run in the 1977 Grand Final Replay and when Wayne Harmes punched the ball back into play in the 1979 Grand Final and when Peter Bosustow kicked the goal of the year during the 1981 Semi Final. All these are moments that are part of Australia's folklore and will be talked about when we are all long gone.

Though, now that I think about it, every V.F.L. football match is part of Australia's folklore. And on Saturday, 24 August 1985, six such matches will be played in Melbourne. You could take the short tram ride from the Southern Cross Hotel to the Melbourne Cricket Ground to see the match played there. (Wow! A tram ride to see an *Australian Rules Football* match! That would be something to tell your grandchildren about!) Though if you really want to see a top team in action, I would suggest seeing Carlton play. I know that is what I will be doing that afternoon, and you're all welcome to come with me and join me in giving that heart-warming cry:

"Carn the mighty blues"

THE BIDDING COMMITTEE

Central Committee: John Foyster, Chairman; David Grigg, Deputy Chairman; Peter Darling, Secretary; Christine Ashby, Treasurer.

Extended Committee: Derrick Ashby, Carey Handfield, John Bangsund, Mervyn Binns, Justin Ackroyd, Steph Campbell, Irwin Hirsh, Chris Johnston, Andrew Brown.

Interstate Agents: Sally Beasley, W.A., Marc Ortlieb, S.A.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Write to: Melbourne in '85 Bidding Committee,
GPO Box 2253U,
Melbourne 3001,
Victoria,
AUSTRALIA

or to our agents in other countries.

OUR AGENTS:

Belgium:

Andre de Rycke, Eedenplasstraat 70, Evergem, B-9050, Belgium.

France:

Pascal J. Thomas, 11 bis Rue Vasco de Gama, Paris 75015, France.

Netherlands:

Annemarie van Ewyck, Witte Van der Laan 21, Wateringen 2201KA, Netherlands.

New Zealand:

Tom Cardy, 783B George Street, Dunedin, New Zealand.

Scandinavia:

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

United Kingdom:

Joseph Nicholas, 22 Denbigh St, Pimlico, London SW1V2ER, United Kingdom.

United States:

Joyce Scrivner, 2732 14th Ave South Lower, Minneapolis, MN 55404, U.S.A.

Jan Howard Finder, PO Box 428 Latham, NY 12110, U.S.A.

West Germany:

Waldemar Kuuming, Herzogspitalstr. 5, Muchen 2, D-8000, West Germany.

This is the last issue of 'The Antipodean Announcer'. It has been distributed free at conventions around the world, or been made available to subscribers to the bid newsletter, 'Kanga Ruse'. Back copies of the earlier issues are still available, and like this one, they include information about Melbourne, Australia, and Australian fandom. If we are successful in winning the bid for the 1985 Worldcon, our next major publication will be Progress Report #0, giving you details about the convention itself. And of course, there will be the usual series of Progress Reports and eventually Program Book to follow.