



aussiecon two progress report #0

AUSSIECON TWO:
43rd World SF Convention,
Melbourne, Australia,
22-26 August 1985

Aussiecon Two will be the 43rd World Science Fiction Convention. It will be held between 22 August and 26 August 1985, in Melbourne, Australia. The main hotel will be the Southern Cross, where all basic convention facilities are at the same level. However, to cover the range of activities we want to present, it has been necessary for us to take space at another nearby hotel, the Victoria, only one block away. Accommodation space has been reserved at both hotels.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Write to:

Aussiecon Two,
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.

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.

West Germany:

Waldemar Kumming, Herzogspitalstr. 5, Muenchen 2, D-8000, West Germany.

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.



GENE WOLFE
PROFESSIONAL
GUEST OF HONOUR

AUSSIECON II is proud to have as its Professional Guest of Honour a writer who has achieved great and justified acclaim for the quality of his work -- Gene Wolfe.

His first story was published in 1967 in *Orbit*. Within a few years his work was regarded as the flowering of a unique and valuable talent. He received acclaim particularly for his remarkable three-part novel, *The Fifth Head of Cerebus*, first collected in 1972.

He won a Nebula Award in 1974 for his story *The Death of Doctor Island*, a story thematically linked with his earlier story, *The Island of Doctor Death and Other Stories*, nominated for a Nebula in 1971.

Each volume of his just-completed series, *The Book of the New Sun*, has been widely praised for the quality of its language and the freshness of its imagination, and the tetralogy seems destined to be an enduring classic of the science fiction genre.

He has also written a non-sf novel, *Peace*, published in 1975.

Gene Wolfe gave us the following "reasonably honest biography" of himself:

"I was born on May 7, 1931 around three o'clock in the morning. This makes me a Taurus with milkmen rising. It happened in Brooklyn, New York, a Manhattan suburb that was a lot nicer then, as who wasn't. It irritates people no end to find that my parents weren't living in New Jersey at the time, but I can't help that.

"We lived in various east-of-the-Mississippi places until I was six or seven, moved to Dallas, Texas, stayed for a year and pushed on to Houston, where I grew up. I went to Edgar Allen Poe Elementary School (Houston likes to name schools for southern poets and heroes, and it considers Poe one of them. *He* was born in Boston). And so on. Eventually I got to Texas A & M (a cow college); eager for further failure, I dropped out and was drafted. I was a Korean War infantryman of the type who is more familiar with a shovel than a rifle. (While unzipping a ration can, I sliced the ball of my thumb wide open; an ungrateful government refuses me the Purple Heart to this day.)

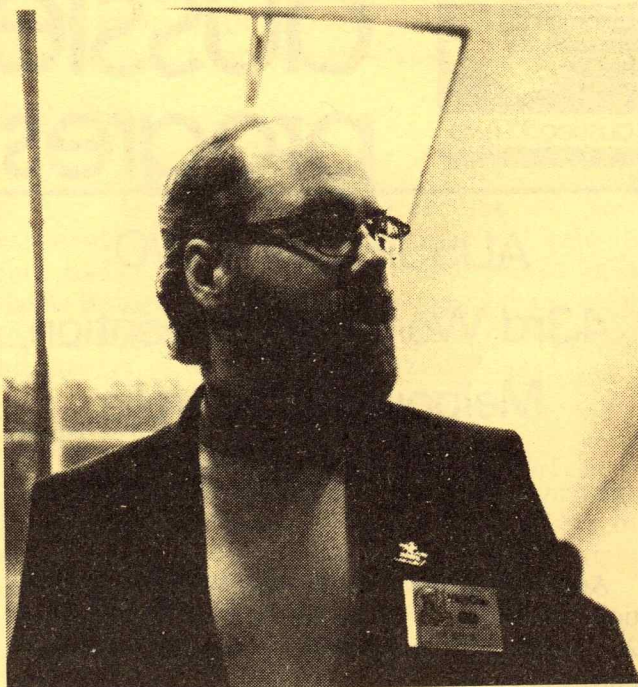
"The war over, I was laid off. I returned to Houston and enrolled in the University of Houston, from which I was laid off in 1956. (While a student there, I had the unsettling experience of teaching an evening class without knowing where the light switch was. The room grew darker and darker. Eventually, I pointed to the most resourceful-looking freshman and snapped, "You! Turn on the lights!" It worked.)

"I graduated, married the girl who had lived next door when we were both around two, and began to write. Nine years later, I began to sell what I wrote. One story sold to Fred Pohl, and several more to Damon Knight. I continue to write, though it appears that writing causes one to get fat and lose hair.

"I'm at work now on a novel called *Free Live Free*. It is about a shabby novelty salesman, a fat streetwalker, a nearsighted unemployed private investigator, and a beautiful but shifty witch who comes to live with a mysterious old man because he offers them free rooms."

ART SHOW

We are planning an art show with an emphasis on kinetic/dynamic/electronic art, and we would be particularly pleased to hear from you if you are working in these unusual forms. However, space at the art show for all types of art is expected to be limited, and we will need to know in advance of what material people will be bringing. If you plan to bring artwork for display, please write to us for details of our policy, and for information on customs requirements.



TED WHITE FAN GUEST OF HONOUR

Ted White has achieved renown in the sf field as a writer, an editor, and a fan -- perhaps especially as a fan. AUSSIECON II is proud to honour both his professional and fannish achievements by asking him to be our Fan Guest of Honour.

Born in 1938, Ted White has long been associated with science fiction. He was assistant editor of *Fantasy and Science Fiction* between 1963 and 1968, and then the sometimes controversial editor of *Amazing Stories* and *Fantastic* for about a decade from March 1969. Later, he had a year's stint as editor of *Heavy Metal*.

As a fan, he is well known for his fascinating, though often aggressive letters to fanzines, for his fanzine reviews, for his editorials and for his column in *Algol* and other leading fanzines. He was one of the first fanzine fans to take notice of comics fandom, and in his own publications, such as *Stellar*, *Void*, *Minac*, and very recently, *Pong*, set very high editorial and publishing standards, encouraging the best from both writers and artists.

He was the winner of the Hugo for Best Fan Writer in 1968, and was co-chairman of NYCON 3, the 1967 World SF Convention.

In his 'spare' time, Ted White has worked in the music business, writing material in his earlier days for both *Metronome* and *Down Beat*, and more recently presenting music programmes on radio and occasionally playing in groups.

THINGS TO DO BEFORE AUSSIECON II

by
Linda Lounsbury

As Soon As Possible

Begin saving money. Two to three dollars per day should be about right. Suggestions: start a payroll deduction to a Christmas Club account. Start a separate savings account or money market certificate, preferably one with a long maturity date (you have 18 months before you'll need the money).

Start getting to know Australia and Australian fans. After all, if you have friends Down Under, maybe they'll let you sleep on their couches a few nights.

The nearest public library has books on Australian history, geography, and travel. Travel agents will be happy to send you brochures describing tours and current fares (before booking, however, check with the official Con airline, Air New Zealand - see separate article).

For getting acquainted with fans, it would be useful to get to know Australian fanzines. Fanzines are available for The Usual - that is, letters of comment, artwork, fanzines in trade, or articles for publication. Some are available for money - but check first. Listed below are a few of the better Australian fanzines. Ask about the others. All addresses are in *Australia*. That means you'll have to write *airmail*:

WAHF-Full: Jack Herman, Box 272, Wentworth Building, Sydney University, Sydney, New South Wales 2006.

Xenophilia: Richard Faulder, c/o Department of Agriculture, Yanco, NSW 2703.

The Hag and the Hungry Goblin: Derrick & Christine Ashby, PO Box 175, South Melbourne, Victoria 3205.

Q36: Marc Ortlieb, PO Box 46, Marden, South Australia 5070.

Ornithopter: Leigh Edmonds, PO Box 433, Civic Square, Canberra, ACT 2608.

Thyme: (a newszine), Roger Weddall, 79 Bell Street, Fitzroy, Vic. 3065.

To join Amateur Press Associations, (apas) write to:

Applesauce: Vera Lonergan, PO Box 148, Earlwood, NSW 2206

Anzapa: Gary Mason, PO Box 258, Unley, South Australia 5061.

September 1983 to December 1984:

Continue to do all of the above. Save money, read, write, trade fanzines.

January 1985:

Begin checking out travel arrangements. There will be package tours organised both to Australia, and within Australia. There's plenty to see in Australia, so you'll need to plan. Consult with travel agents or the ConCom on options on stopovers, longer stays, etc. Compare and contrast.

February 1985:

Call your local post office and ask how to go about applying for a passport, and about applicable fees. Do it now and get it over with.

March 1985:

Once you receive your passport, send it to the nearest Australian consulate (one such is the Australian Consulate, 111 East Wacker Drive, #2212, Chicago, IL 60601), to have a visa stamped



on it. This is free, but you must have a passport valid for 6 months after the date you enter Australia (even if you plan to stay for only a few weeks). Send the passport Certified Mail.

Arrange your vacation time at work. Get as much time as you can. It's hardly worth the trip for only two weeks. In four weeks one can scratch the surface. Six to eight weeks would be nice, if you can manage it.

April 1985:

Begin writing local fans, hotels, and other ground arrangements where you might require reservations. Late August is a school holiday so you will be competing with local tourists. Warn your friends in Australia that you are planning to visit and ask for advice on itinerary. Study airline, train, bus and boat schedules to see what's possible.

May 1985:

Keep writing people as your plans firm up. Ask the local representatives of the U.S. Treasury Dept. for a pamphlet on customs regulations for returning tourists. If you plan to carry foreign-made equipment (e.g. a Japanese camera) with you, get a receipt certifying it was yours before you left - to avoid paying duty upon re-entry!

June 1985:

Make your reservations and pay for your airline

tickets. Most APEX (advance purchase excursion) fares require 21 to 45 days advance purchase.

July 1985:

Buy travellers checks. It may be advantageous to buy American dollars (depending on how exchange rates are moving), but you will need to find banks open in Australia in order to cash them. Be advised that travellers checks are subject to a stamp tax on a per-check basis, so it would be cheaper to have larger denominations.

August 1985:

Pack (a further article on this later). Arrange for someone to feed your cat, etc. Get plenty of sleep the night before you leave and the night after you land. Sleep on the plane if you can.

At the Convention:

Enjoy yourself!

MEMBERSHIP RATES

If you voted in the 1985 Worldcon Site Selection Ballot, you are already a Supporting Member of **Aussiecon Two**. To convert from a Supporting to an Attending Member will cost you US\$15 or A\$17 (or the equivalent amount of US dollars in your local currency). For those who did not vote, the following rates will apply up until 31 December 1983:

Supporting Membership: US\$25 A\$28
Attending Membership: US\$40 A\$45

FUTURE PROGRESS REPORTS:

Progress Report 1 will be mailed by 1 February 1984. PR2 should be published at the beginning of August 1984.

Advertisements will be accepted for Progress Report 1. You should book space by 1 November 1983, and have artwork to us by no later than 15 November. The following rates will apply:

SIZE	IMAGE AREA	FAN	PROFESSIONAL
Full Page (A4)	180mm x 270mm (7" x 10.5")	US\$75, A\$85	US\$150, A\$170
Half Page Vertical	85mm x 270mm (3.25" x 10.5")	US\$40, A\$45	US\$80, A\$90
Half Page Horizontal	180mm x 130mm (7" x 5")	US\$40, A\$45	US\$80, A\$90
Quarter Page	85mm x 130mm (3.25" x 5")	US\$25, A\$28	US\$50, A\$56

A professional organisation is defined as one which pays a full-time salary to one or more people.

NOTE WELL: Advertisement bookings and payments may be sent to any of our agents, in your local currency. However, artwork *must be sent* directly to the following address:

Aussiecon Two Progress Reports, c/o David Grigg, 1556 Main Road, Research, Victoria, Australia 3095.

You should allow 7-10 days for airmail from the USA or Europe. Surface mail will take 2-3 months, and is thus not recommended.

Americans in particular should note these advertisement dimensions carefully, as they are not the same as those in recent Worldcon PRs.