

AUSTRALIA IN '83 BULLETIN NO. 3

The Australia in '83 Bulletin is being produced by the Australia in '83 Committee (Bidding Committee for the 41st World Science Fiction Convention) to keep Australian fans in touch with what is happening with the bid. The Bulletin is produced 4 times a year, cost \$3/4, and is only available within Australia and New Zealand.

Correspondence and articles are invited and should be sent to:

Australia in '83 Committee
PO Box A491
Sydney South. NSW. 2000.

**Please note ** this is a change of address. Mail will still reach us if sent to the Brickfield Hill Box but it is better to send it to Sydney South.

This edited by Jack R Herman (with assistance from Jane Taubman).

JOIN A WORLDCON TODAY.

If we expect to get support for Australia's bid for a Worldcon from fans in other countries then we should support their Worldcons. This year's Worldcon is NOREASCON II being held in Boston, Mass. If you can afford the airfare, you can become an attending member for \$A27, or if you are not that rich, then, become a supporting member for \$A7. For your money, you will get all five Progress Reports, plus the Programme Book, published by the convention, plus the right to nominate and vote in the Hugo Awards.

DENVENTION II is the 1981 Worldcon, being held in Denver, Colorado. This is the convention whose members will vote for the site of the 1983 Worldcon. To vote, you must be a member, so it is important that Australasian fans join. Current costs are \$A22 - attending member; \$A14 - supporting.

You can send your money to the following:

NOREASCON II - Robin Johnson
PO Box A491
Sydney South
NSW, 2000.

DENVENTION II - Carey Handfield
PO Box A491
Sydney South
NSW, 2000.

cheques payable to NOREASCON

cheques payable to C Handfield

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January 1980.

WHAT'S BEEN DONE FOR THE BID - Carey Handfield

Bidding for a Worldcon is expensive. Since March last year we have spent \$800 on the bid. That is only the beginning: we will be spending a lot more between now and when the vote is taken in 1981.

A lot of the committee's time has been spent on fund-raising activities. The results to date have been very pleasing. I would like to thank everybody who has contributed to the bid. However, we can't afford to stop now. There is still a lot of money needed. To give people some ideas I will tell you what Sydney fans have been doing in the past few months to raise money.

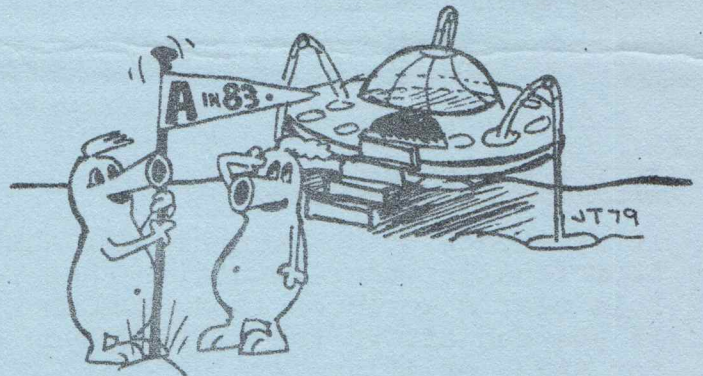
One of the best places to raise money is a convention. At Syncon 79 a total of \$254 was raised for A in 83. The convention donated \$100, the auction raised \$89, and Karen Lewis ran a couple of raffles which raised about \$50.

By my reckoning there are going to be 10 sf conventions in Australasia this year. If each con raised \$50, that would be \$500 to the cause.

If you are involved in running a convention this year, give a thought to Australia in 83.

Do you belong to any clubs which meet regularly? You can pass the hat around, or auction a few books to raise money. Andrew Taubman has raised over \$20, selling coffee at D&D meetings.

Finally, Tony Howe and Karen Lewis raised \$110 showing Star Trek and Twilight Zone episodes during lunchtimes at Sydney University.



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SOME COMING ACTIVITIES.

Way back in 1972, the AUSTRALIA IN 75 Committee made a film to promote their bid. It starred Paul J Stevens as 'ANTIFAN'. He spent most of the film going round killing members of the bidding committee in an attempt to stop the bid. It was only after the heroic effort of 'AUSSIEFAN' that 'ANTIFAN' was defeated in the end.

The film premiered at that year's Worldcon, LA Con, and was shown in the States for a year with great success.

One of our main activities at the moment is the making of a sequel to the first 'ANTIFAN' film, to be shown at this year's Worldcon, NOREASCON. The film is going to cost several hundred dollars, and take a number of months to complete.

HOTEL FACILITIES. - Robin Johnson

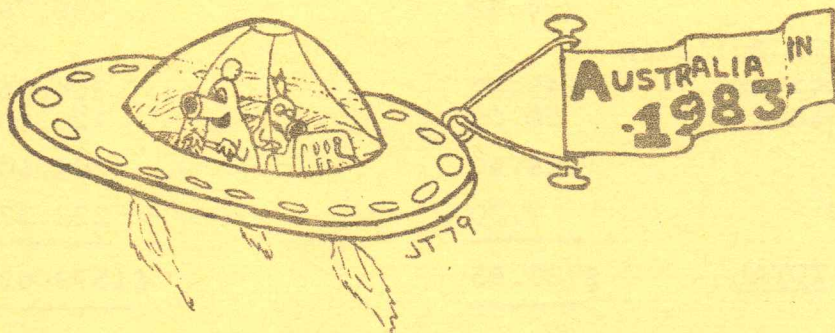
Following last issue's information (AUSTRALIA IN '83 BULLETIN No. 2, page 3), and further investigation:

Sydney has a choice of venues for a Worldcon bid in 1983 - the two major ones under consideration at the end of 1979 were the Sydney Hilton, possibly in conjunction with the nearby Centrepoint Convention Centre, and the New Chevron.

The Hilton's convention floor has approximately 15,000 sq ft of meeting and display area, plus another 12,000 sq ft on the floor above for Art Show and Huckster displays. The hotel itself has over 600 rooms, and is located in Pitt St, near Town Hall station, in the centre of downtown Sydney. The nearby Centrepoint complex has recently opened its Convention Centre with available areas of 30,000 sq ft.

The major alternative to these downtown sites is the New Chevron hotel in Potts Point. Recently taken over by new management, and in the process of refurbishment and extension, the Chevron is located near King's Cross railway station, and, as was found at the 1979 Syncon, a 24-hour entertainment district is a good area for a convention. The Chevron's Grand Ballroom accomodates 1600 people theatre-style, which is more than any other will admit. In addition to this, there are two other large rooms and several smaller ones making a total of 25,000 sq ft. Extension plans are not complete, but the number of rooms (203 only at present) is expected to more than double by 1981, and this brings the hotel into consideration.

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FRIENDS OF AUSTRALIA IN '83.

Do you support the Australian bid for the 1983 World Science Fiction Convention? Then become a Friend of Australia in '83, Anybody who donates a minimum of \$1 becomes a Friend.

Your money goes to cover bidding expenses, you also get a card stating that you are a 'FRIEND OF AUSTRALIA IN '83'. If we win the bid all Friends will be entitled to a free drink at the con.

People who have already donated money to the bid, in some way, will automatically become Friends. A card will be enclosed with this copy of the Bulletin.

FINANCES

EXPENDITURE July 1, 1979, to December 31, 1979.

	<u>Spent this period</u>	<u>Total to date</u>
Advertising	72.00	336.25
Overheads	11.45	50.32
Overseas promotions/directors	15.00	53.33
Australia in 83 Bulletin		
Production	104.00	138.89
Other costs	12.70	23.70
Administration	36.23	50.14
Printing	74.15	74.15
SeaCon	50.00	50.00
Misc	14.00	14.00
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>\$389.53</u>	<u>\$790.78</u>

INCOME

Donations	296.49	636.79
Australia in 83 Bulletin		
Subscriptions	149.86	314.86
*Advertising	50.00	120.00
Fund Raising	284.60	284.60
Miscellaneous	7.00	222.37
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>\$787.95</u>	<u>\$1578.62</u>

Balance - June 30th 1979	\$389.42	
Income for the period	787.95	
	<u>1177.37</u>	
less Expenditure	389.53	
Balance - January 1st, 1980	<u>\$ 787.84</u>	

* There is an outstanding amount of \$65 for advertising which hasn't been deposited yet and will appear in the next statement.

LETTERS TO THE BULLETIN

from Dallas Jones, 6 Meyer's Ave., Hunters Hill. 2110.

Seeing your desperate plea for letters in A in 83 Bulletin 2, I thought I would write. My main reason for writing is to bring up the question: "What will we call the con if we win it?" At the moment, it is "A in 83" and from what I have heard it has been suggested that we call it "Aussiecon II".

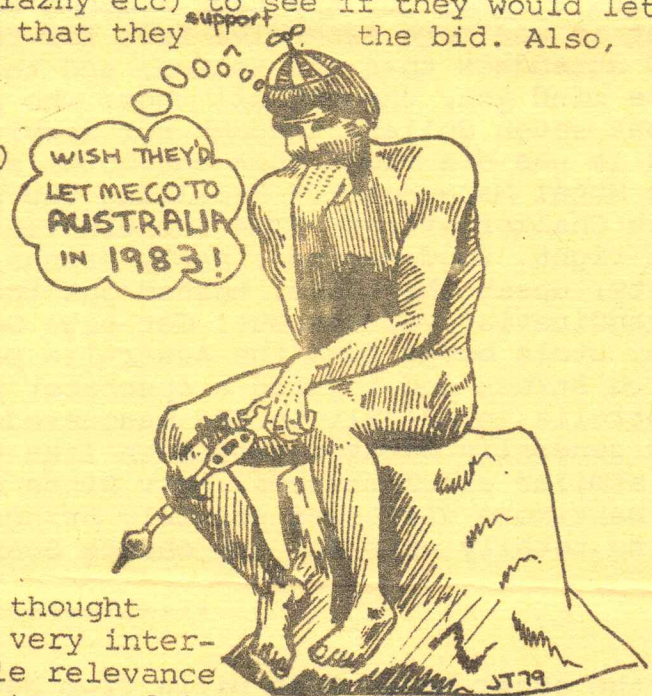
I would suggest that once we have decided the site a contest be conducted to choose a name. Either a number of names be selected and voted upon by Australian fandom, or the name be chosen by a panel of Australian fans.

If the site selected was Sydney, my suggestion for the name of the con would be 'HarbourCon'; the reason for this is obvious as the Harbour is Sydney's greatest asset.

The main task we should be doing now is advertising to let everyone know (be it in Australia or the rest of the world) that we are bidding for the convention and that we can do a good job if we do win the bid. Therefore, I feel some thought should be put into advertising in the large circulation prozines (e.g. Analog, IAsfM and Starlog) and, also, contacting recent visitors to Australia (LeGuin, Aldiss, Zelazny etc) to see if they would let us use their names in stating that they ^{support} the bid. Also, it might be possible to get in contact with some of the more well-known fan groups (LASFS, Minn SFS, Toronto etc) and see if they will support the bid.

The other thing I would like to know will there be a Writers' Workshop held in conjunction with the con if we win the bid? I assume if we do have a Workshop, then the Guest of Honour will be one of the writers in residence.

On the Bulletin, itself, it was quite good and although I thought the article by Ron Graham was very interesting, I thought it had little relevance to A in 83. I would be more interested in seeing more about what happened at Aussiecon, how the bid was mounted then, how the con ran, what problems were faced and how were they solved. Also, if you can't find anything else, why not reprint Ursula LeGuin's GoH Speech. Also, maybe an information section on what a Worldcon is etc could be included.



OVERSEAS NEWS

OVERSEAS AGENTS.

We have a number of agents overseas who are going around conventions, handing out flyers, signing up 'Friends of Australia in '83' and, generally, promoting the bid.

These are:

Greg Hills	New Zealand
Marty Massoglia	USA - West Coast
Fred Patten	USA - West Coast
Jan Howard Finder	USA - East Coast
John Millard	Canada

In a recent FILE 770, Mike Glycer reports the following:

COPENHAGEN IN '83: A contest is proposed to seek out someone with a favourable word to say about the Scandinavian bid, including the Swedes. Anders Bellis, of Stockholm, wrote the following testimonial to a recent Swedish con, on personal letterhead emblazoned "Scandinavia You See - In 1983": "Recently we had the yearly big con in Sverifandom, this year arranged by Sam J Lundwall and his publishing house, Delta Forlags AB. ... It was the eleventh con I attended, and it was the worst. The most boring con I've been to, actually. It has already got the name Fiascon among the Sverifen. Not to mention that it was more expensive fees for this two-day con with about 150 attendees than for SeaCon, and that Lundwall actually, on purpose mind you, cheated all those who payed for the dinner out of about seven dollars through not serving all the food he had promised. And it was his order that the hotel should not serve it - we asked the Hotel Management." Recalling the bidding activities at Brighton, Jack Chalker writes: "The Scandinavians at SeaCon made an impression all right. Loud-mouthed, nasty drunks, they raided the Baltimore party, upset the table, turned out the lights and screamed 'Scandinavia, ya! Get out! Get out! Go to Scandinavia party only!' They stole booze from the Australia party, threw objects (one of which struck and injured a spectator in the audience) at the Australia in 83 skit in the masquerade, tried to trip Australians, and generally behaved very much like Hitler's brownshirts might have in similar circumstances. Merv Binns of Australia and Mike Walsh of Baltimore discussed possibly bringing them over on a tour of the US to totally wipe out any chance Scandinavia might have."

On the other hand, Greg Hills from New Zealand has written:

"I've heard from people involved in the Swedish Worldcon bid; Ahrvid Engholm and Anders Bellis. They look woefully active, and have the sort of 50's outlook that many older fans might be affected by. They are getting into FAPA and other places in the US. This infiltration could be very effective - they seem to have unlimited cash. ... you can tell Ain83 from me that unless more Aussiefen get 'into' US fandom, apart from John Foyster, Sweden can make up a lot of ground on you. They even have an Aussie agent: Christina Persson, 16 Edward St, Belgrave. Vic. 3160."

ENTHUSIASM AT WELLCON - Vera Lonergan.

Probably one of the best decisions of my life was offering to help publicise A in 83 at Wellcon, New Zealand's first Sf con, which was held in Wellington over their Labour Day weekend, 19 - 22 October, 1979.

Propagandising gave me a reason to speak to almost everybody at the con, and I found them the friendliest bunch of fans you could ever hope to meet.

As the programme was over-crowded with movies and lectures, which ran on into enthusiastic audience discussion sessions, (which cut into the time allotted for breaks) there wasn't very much time left between scheduled items. What there was couldn't be wasted on gradually building up acquaintances, it was rush in, make my spiel, sign them up, take their money, and move on to the next victim. This procedure may sound rather impersonal, but it wasn't really. People who had already joined, persuaded their friends to do likewise, and brought them to me, and they took a proprietary interest in my recruiting, often coming over to check on progress and have a chat.

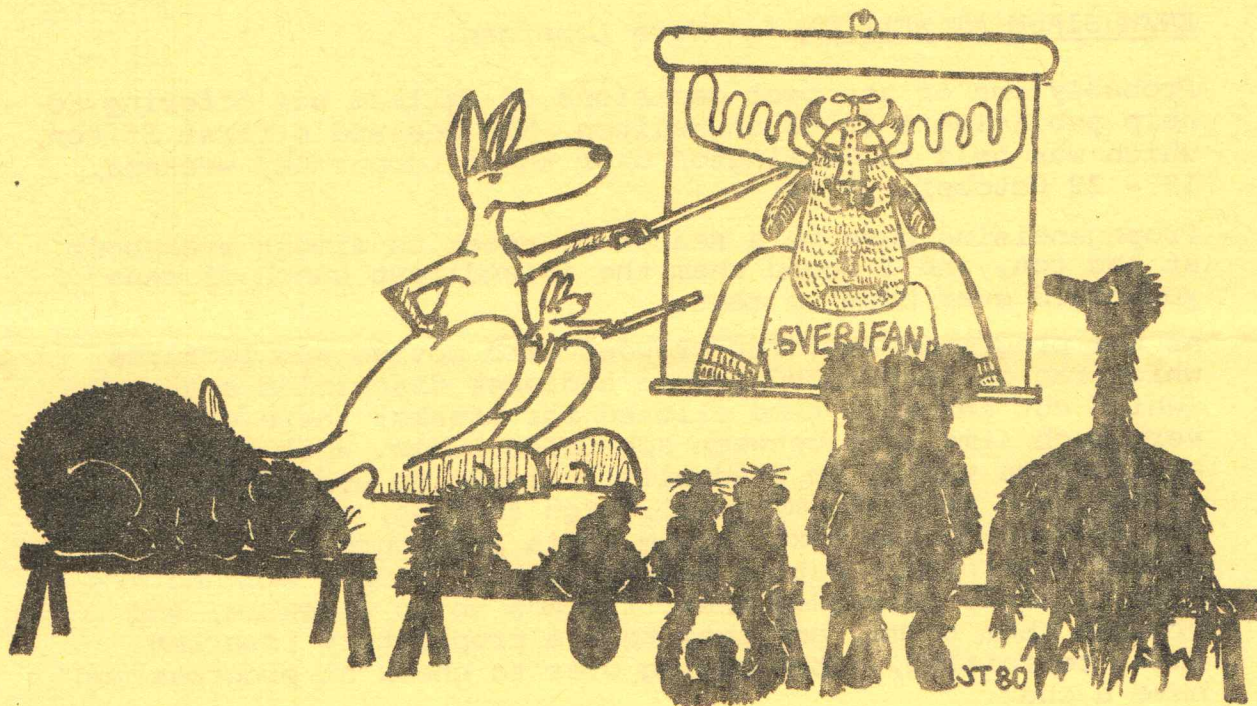
As always, it is the people that make a con successful, and those at Wellcon were marvellous. They were all friendly, outgoing, interested, and enthusiastic about all aspects of Sf, and they all enjoyed their first taste of conventions.

They quickly realised the advantage of getting a Worldcon on their doorstep, and I was overwhelmed by people wishing to join Denvention, and donate money to the bid. Some of them had to try several times before I managed to sign them up, and Greg Hills, the NZ agent for A83, has since enrolled even more people in the cause.

If we get the '83 Worldcon (and it won't be the NZers' fault if we lose the bid), we can expect a large contingent of eager guests from our closest neighbour.

I only wish the response in our own country was as enthusiastic. Come on Aussies, how about more of you playing a more active role in helping the bid. We need a lot more support before we can allow ourselves to start acting complacent. The con committee can't be expected to do it all alone. More help and a lot of money are needed to make our bid successful.





SEACON SUMMATION - Robin Johnson

Jack Herman handed me a pup. "Just boil down the three Sea-Con reports in the current mailing of ANZAPA, please, Robin", he said. "OK, Jack", I said. "I'll render it for you - when do you want it?" I might have guessed - "Already". So, I opened up the October mailing of the Australian and New Zealand Amateur Publishing Association, to find one biased, one-sided but thorough (though brief) run-down of the 1979 World Convention in Brighton; one hilarious anecdote related to the 'Fancy Dress Parade' (as the English insist on referring to it); and the first part of what will be a long and interesting report, which, unfortunately, for my purpose, finishes before the start of the Convention. So this piece will be a re-hash of the biased etc piece, which happened to be by me.

SeaCon '79 had 3300 attendees. That makes it the largest World Sf Convention but two or three held in the USA, and, certainly, the largest in terms of international participation. As well as a rumoured 1300 North Americans, and representatives of most European nationalities, there were South African, Jamaican, Japanese and a large group of Australian fans. The facilities were vast, and some people probably never found all the rooms, but only a small proportion of the attendees were staying in the hotel - in fact, people were billeted all over Brighton and Hove. This made it hard to find people.

There were four basic programmes running concurrently. The main programme room seated 1200, with wide aisles and a balcony all round the upper level, and was where the opening and closing ceremonies, the Hugo Awards and the Masquerade, and main panels and speeches were given. An alternative programme room had readings, a play, auctions etc, while a fan room provided a meeting and relaxation centre as well as occasional programme items of fannish interest. The film programme was popular and ran throughout the convention, and in addition, a large exhibit on the science fiction and fantasy film took some of the space in the huge Art Show room. A book room on two levels had exhibits by publishers as well as tables from both new and used book dealers. The Star Wars people and the Alien producers each had exhibits in the Art Show room, together with Young Artists, and there was another hall with a display from Dragon's Dream of original art from their last few and next few books.

The opening ceremony involved some Naughty Nineties' bathing belles, the London Caledonian Pipe Band, and Fritz Leiber & Brian Aldiss, the Guests of Honour, together with Bob Shaw, the MC, and Peter Weston, the Chairman. The Seacon design of Harry Bell on a huge flag was a backdrop to the stage throughout, after being raised during the opening ceremony.

The Australians at the Con, about 20 in number, set up a table in the Fan Room to give out information about Australia and the '83 bid. The most popular giveaways were small koalas that clipped onto lapels, or, in the case of our American agent, Jan Finder, his hat-brim. Another strong Aussie presence was at the Fancy Dress - a large group portrayed characters from Cordwainer Smith's Norstrilia stories, in costumes designed by John Breden. The large Scandinavian group attempted to disrupt the spoken part of the presentation, assisted by a faulty mike, but was successful only in gaining us sympathy. The Scandinavian bid for 1983 was run by some people from Southern Sweden, who want to run the Convention in Copenhagen. Many of their supporters were young, noisy and not too knowledgable about Worldcon politics or tradition. The other bid is from Baltimore, and when the Business Session made it clear that there was no chance of changing the rotation system so that they could put in a bid for Washington in 1984, the Baltimore in '83 bid emerged. The other result of the Business Session was to confirm that bids from outside North America could be placed for any year.

The Hugo ceremony did not produce many surprises, though Christopher Reeve (Superman) in accepting the Best Dramatic presentation, referred to the obvious sentiment in favour of The Hitch-Hikers' Guide To the Galaxy, which probably only failed to win because it had only relatively recently been heard in America. The Ditmar Awards had been presented earlier.

WISH THEY'D LET
ME GO TO
AUSTRALIA in 83!

