

# AUSTRALIA IN 83

## Bulletin no. 4

The Australia In '83 Bulletin is being produced by the Australia in '83 Committee (Bidding Committee for the 41'st World Science Fiction Convention) to keep Australian Fans in in touch with what is happening with the bid. The Bulletin is produced four times a year, available within Australia and New Zealand, and costs \$3.00 for four issues. For those who subscribed with the first issue, subscriptions are now due.

Correspondence and articles or artwork are invited and should be sent to:

AUSTRALIA IN '83 COMMITTEE  
PO Box A491  
Sydney South, NSW 2000.

This issue written and produced by Peter Toluzzi. Artwork by Jane Taubman, John Packer, Dave Thornell, Mike Kumashov, Marjorie McLeay.

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### UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT:

Since the last issue of the A83B (Dated January 1980) there has been a lot going on. Perhaps most significant is the restructuring of the A83 bidding Committee; this was caused by a number of factors, the prime among these being Chairman Carey Handfield's decision to move to Melbourne, and a long and hard re-appraisal of just what the Bid was (or wasn't) doing. The new Committee is as follows:

CAREY HANDFIELD: Co-Chairman (Co-ordination)

ANDREW TAUBMAN: Co-Chairman (Enforcer)

ANTHONY HOWE: Treasurer; VERA LONERGAN: Correspondence Secretary;  
PETER TOLUZZI: A83 Bulletin Publisher; ROBIN JOHNSON: Guru; ERIC LINDSAY; JACK HERMAN; KEITH CURTIS; KEN OZANNE; SHAYNE McCORMACK; DALLAS JONES; KAREN LEWIS.

Melbourne: MERV BINNS; Adelaide: PERRY MIDDLEMISS, HELEN SWIFT;  
Perth: ROY FERGUSON.

So I will be editing the next few issues of the Bulletin, at least. This issue is somewhat late - I have been spending some time deciding just what I wanted to do with it, and also I wanted to leave production until after A-CON 8 so so I could have the chance for some long talks with Roy, Perry, and Helen.

As I indicated earlier, there has been a lot of serious discussion about the progress and prospects of the Bid, and quite a lot of dissention has been raised. I will hide none of it - so, be warned! This may be quite a heavy

issue. But first, a little Comic Relief:

MINUTES OF THE AUSTRALIA IN '83 COMMITTEE MEETING - 1/4/80

Members present: All bar Roy Ferguson.

Visitors: A strange-looking gent in a broad-brimmed hat and black cloak.

Carey Handfield opened the meeting and called for the previous meeting's minutes. Ken Ozanne moved that the minutes be taken as read. Seconded Robin Johnson. Motion passed.

Apologies were received from Roy Ferguson, who cited CIA surveillance.

MAJOR BUSINESS:

1). Committee Funding: Jack Herman moved that the \$500,000 donated by the PLO be accepted. Perry Middlemiss seconded. In discussion, Carey asked for details on any conditions attached to the donation. The strange-looking gent explained that he would be handling that particular aspect of things, but requested certain modifications to the plane being chartered to bring US members to the Con. Robin asked if the re-routing of the flight to include a fly-over of Tel Aviv was really necessary, and was suppressed by the Chair. Motion passed.

Peter Toluzzi reported that his fund-raising activities had been postponed due to unexpected police interference. Tony Howe was assigned to arrange bail, the return of the confiscated substances, and an increase in the contributions to the Drug Squad Benevolent Fund.

The Bribes Sub-Committee reported almost total infiltration of most other tentative bids for 1983. Only Sweden was still holding out, but thanks to some superlative infra-red photography by Merv Binns, it was anticipated that satisfactory results, plus a contribution to our A83 Bid, would soon be forthcoming from the Chairman of the Scandinavian Bid.

2). Intimidation: Perry Middlemiss reported that Stokes & McPharlin, Arms Broken On Request, had completed their training and ready for action. Shayne McCormack suggested they be sent on an exploratory mission to Baltimore. Moved Ken Ozanne, seconded Eric Lindsay. Passed.

The strange-looking gent outlined plans to use specially trained wombats to undermine the foundations of all hotels being considered as venues by opposing bidding committees. After some discussion, it was decided that Ken Ozanne should investigate the matter further, and that Jan Howard Finder should be contacted re the logistics of the plan.

Merv Binns moved that Alan Sandercock be censured over the mis-firing of the sabotage of the Noreascon Hotel. Seconded Helen Swift. Passed.

Gregor Whiley moved that the Committee contact Andrew Brown with the plans for THE TALL AND ARROGANT FAN COLLECTIVE to place all possible effort into demoralising Harlan Ellison. Seconded Leigh Edmonds. Passed (abstainers J Herman and P Toluzzi.)

CORRESPONDENCE:

1). Incoming: Request for the Vietnamese Ex-Patriate Science Fiction Association, Hong Kong Harbour, for aid in obtaining 20,000 visas for members planning to attend Aussiecon 2.

2). Outgoing: Request to the Atomic Waste Transport Workers Union that consideration be given to the A in 83 Committee should five kilos of plutonium fall off the back of one of their trucks.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE:

1). Jack Herman moved that the Committee give the VE-PSFA the required aid on condition that all members join Denvention and vote for Australia in 1983. Seconded Shayne McCormack. Passed.

FURTHER BUSINESS: Since there was no further business, Carey set the date for the next meeting as Friday 13/6/80.

He then declared the meeting closed.

-- from WHAT THE DORMOUSE SAID 4  
by Marc Ortlieb (from FAPA)

"HEY, MAN, WHAT'S HAPPENIN'?"

As I indicated previously, the A83 Committee in Sydney has been very busy over the last few months. We have produced a number of fliers, which have been distributed at several of the more important US regional conventions since Easter; about ten pages of the NOREASCON Program Book will consist of adds for the Australian bid; the new bidding film, THE REVENGE OF ANTIFAN, has been completely shot and is now in the editing stages (It will be officially premiered at NOREASCON, though we hope to have a print to show at SWANCON). See the story later this issue. We have arranged Bid promotion times with NOREASCON, as well as party and other details; a few Australian fan will be touring the States and keeping busy at some regional cons; and, perhaps most importantly, we have had a good long look at where the bid is going, and how to finance it.

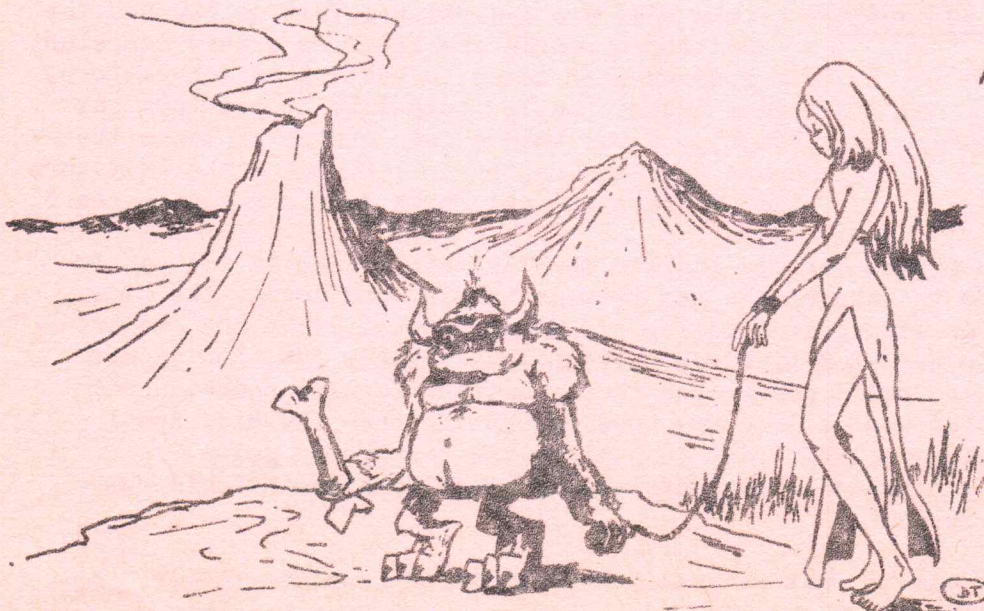
GRIPES

There have been quite a few of these. Letters, both from overseas (eg. Mike Glycer) and local; excerpts will be reprinted later. A report from Irwin Hirsh who recently spent some time in the US and Canada. Some strong points raised by Helen Swift at the A83 panel at Unicon VI. For example:

"You are an optimistic sort of person if you think the bid can still be saved, I am almost certain that as far as Australia is concerned, there will be no Worldcon here in 1983. I'd love to be proved wrong, but so far the Australian performance has been less than perfect, and more often than not, less than visible. If anyone has to take criticism for this, it must be the Committee."

Leigh Edmonds, author of this letter (to FORERUNNER, February 1980) goes on to compare our activities on a timetable basis, to AUSSIECON's, and notes that the interstate agents have not been informed adequately of the goings-on (a view that has been echoed by one of the agents, Helen Swift).

He continues: " Australian fans lack a feeling of mutual striving towards that goal, and until they achieve that unity the slogan is hollow. It is up to the Committee to show the convictions of their actions before the rest of Australian fandom can be expected to follow."



A PORTFOLIO OF THE  
"AUSTRALIA IN 1983  
COMMITTEE"

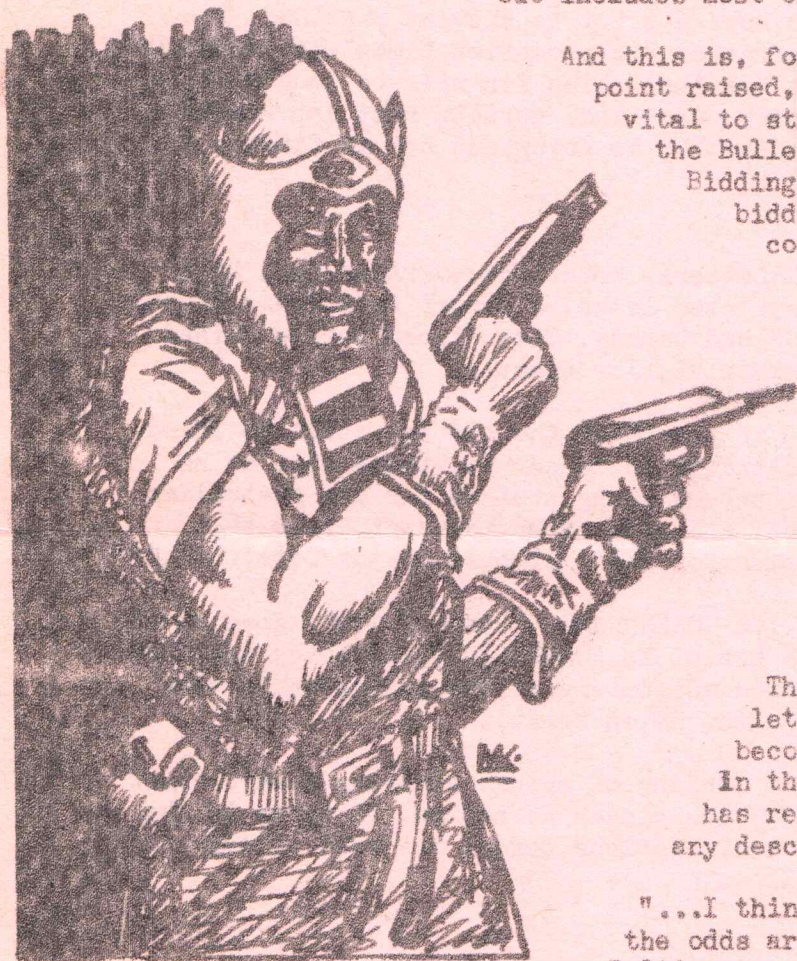
#1: CAREY HANBFIELD:

Co-Chairman  
(Coordination)

Some of Leigh's points are valid; others are less so. In particular, I feel that the timetable aspect is less crucial now that US fen are more used to the concept of outside bids; we must not lag behind other bids, or appear less strong, but the overkill is not necessary this time to convince them of the viability of an Australian bid. However, given the many advantages the Baltimore bid holds - particularly their larger budget and greater accessibility - we will certainly have our work cut out for us if we are to win the bid.

Carey Handfield made replies to Leigh's comments in the March FORERUNNER; most importantly:

"Leigh is wrong when he says there is a lack of mutual striving... People seem to forget that the A83 bid is more than just the people on the bidding committee but includes most of Australasian Fandom!"



And this is, for me, by far the most important point raised, and the one I consider it most vital to stress throughout this issue of the Bulletin. That is, the role of the Bidding Committee is to coordinate bidding activities and act as official contact point; it is *not* to single-handedly win the bid. As we have been saying all along, that will take a tremendous amount of work and support from everyone! And if Leigh (who, to his credit, was very active in most aspects of AUSSIECON) is unwilling to make much effort to actively support the bid, he has no right to complain about other people's inactivities.

The March FORERUNNER has a long letter from Irwin Hirsh (how did FR become the forum for this discussion? In the last six months, the Bulletin has received *no* letters or feedback of any description!); he says:

"...I think we can still win the bid, but the odds are against us. This is because the Baltimore people are known as a very competent group when it comes to putting on conventions, and a lot of people would like to see them get the bid. I was told a fair number of times that - apart from the Boston in 1980 bid - the Baltimore bid is the strongest North American bid in years.

#2: ANDREW TAUBMAN  
(Co-Chairman - Enforcer)

"I've been trying to equate our bid back to the 'Britain's Fine in 79' bid to see what we should do to make up the gap between winning and losing the bid... Britain didn't have as strong an opposing bid as we have... Right now, we are at the same stage (in terms of time) as Britain was in early '76. And it was at this time that there was a resurgence in the British fanzine scene, and I have no doubt that that went a long way towards winning them the bid. And I feel that the bid played a large part in getting the resurgence going. Obviously, what our bid needs is for some really great fanzines to come out of Australia, and quickly."

I agree with Irwin's point; what we really need to do is convince people that Australian fen are interesting and worth meeting. And it's not too late...

for months we've been urging people to produce fanzines, for largely overseas distribution; unfortunately, the only area currently producing many fanzines is West Australia... while most WA faneds are enthusiastic they are also somewhat inexperienced, and it shows. Still, they are doing something!

If you haven't the time or resources to produce a zine of your own, there's nothing to stop you from getting a few friends together and producing a cooperative fanzine - and this is one of the areas in which we need the most help. Jean Weber (13 Myall St., O'Connor 2601) is planning to produce an AUSSIECON Memorial Fanzine in time for SWANCON (the fifth anniversary). Jean is looking for articles arising from or based on Aussiecon; artwork, new articles, reprints, serious or silly... she is especially looking for material from those for whom Aussiecon was their first convention. Jean wants the material (or to know that you're writing) by July 1'st. Hopefully offset reproduction... please help!



#3: ROBIN JOHNSON  
(Guru)

Irwin also goes on to mention the possibility of withdrawing our bid for 1983, and trying for a later year (eg. 1987 - no bids known yet). This is an option which had been discussed by the Committee, and after some deliberation had been discarded. Jack Herman gives some good reasons in his reply to Irwin's letter:

"I am somewhat sceptical of Irwin's last point. The clear implication is that an overseas bid stands no chance against a strong US bid, and if faced with such a bid an overseas bid should withdraw lest it lose. The obvious result is, if a strong 1987 bid emerges, we delay again (to 1990?), and thence to 1993, etc. It has not yet been proved that a strong US bid must roll a good overseas bid, and 1983 is as good a time as any to test such a proposition."

This topic is also discussed by Mike Glycer (editor of the excellent US newszine FILE 770), in a letter to the May FORERUNNER. He considers the possibility that we may be asked by the Baltimore Bidding Committee to withdraw in favour of their bid, in return for future support - and he lists a number of reasons for not doing so (mostly because the support of a host city's fandom, for various reasons, has in the past proved ineffectual).

Mike makes many other important points:

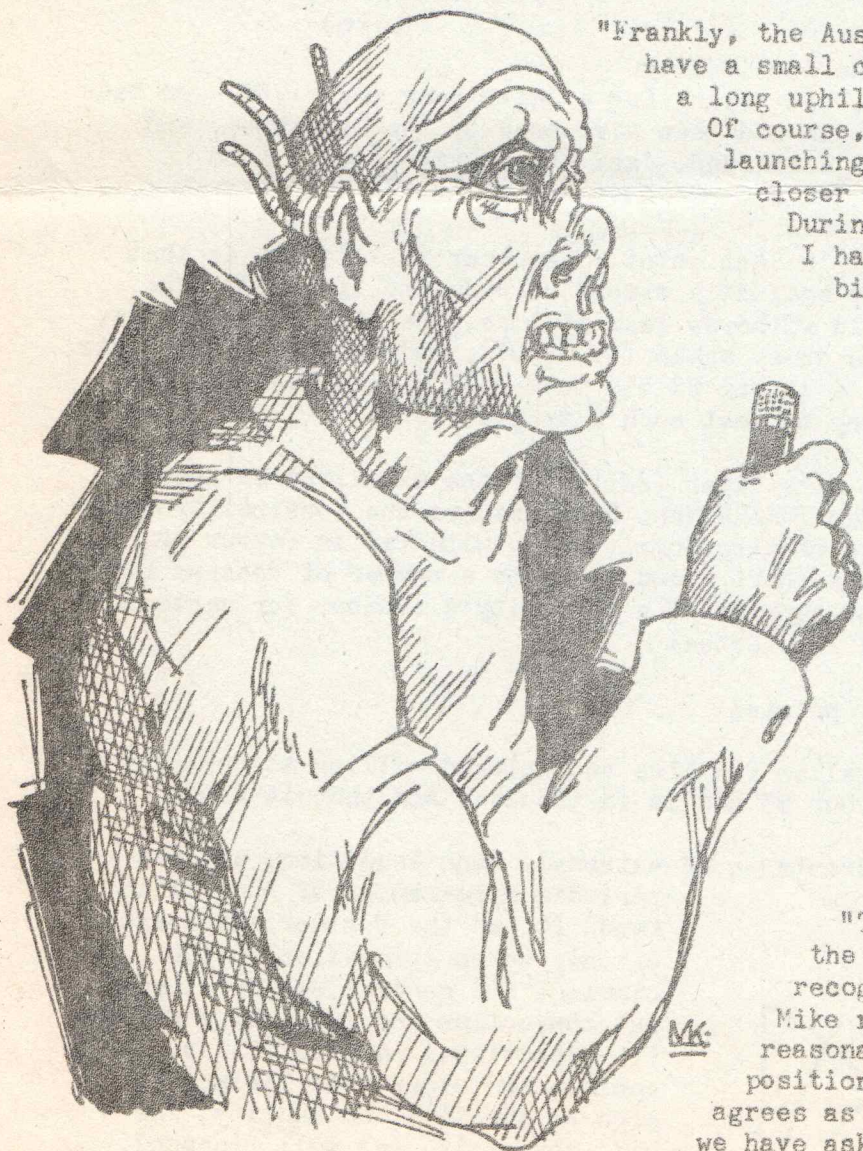
"You (Jack) are the first Australian fan I've encountered willing to publicly consider the possibility that your 83 bid is in trouble. And that it is.

The first Aussie bid had the advantages of extremely long lead time, and the periodic appearances of Australian fans. It had the further advantages of only token opposition in the bidding, and general support throughout convention and publishing fandom. Its promotional parties, films, comics, and other advertising were high in quantity and quality. The bid, obviously, was well financed.

I can't see a single parallel between



the Aussie bid which won the 1975 Worldcon, and the bid attempting to win in 1983. 1) You had shorter lead time to begin with, and the bid has still to make any serious impact on American fandom. 2) Although various Australian fans have visited the US in the past few years, none of them have promoted the bid. 3) Far from being faced with a weak and unpopular opposition, this Aussie bid faces a very savvy, popular, and well-financed opponent in the form of Baltimore. Their tentative budget runs between two and seven thousand dollars, depending on contingencies. 4) The Australian bid does not enjoy any kind of automatic support from any sector of fandom. Even though a number of fans, myself included, are committed to the Aussie bid, our help will be insignificant if the bid itself is unsound. Fortunately, Baltimore's support has not entirely coalesced, but should Australia fail to launch a serious bid by Noreascon, in full panoply, it will be far enough behind that can never recover. Australia, having won once, has lost most of its romantic underdog appeal - though that is not to say it can't be revived. 5) Aussie promotional material only enjoys what circulation it has in America courtesy of Jan Howard Finder. The bid has failed to make use of its friends, which will prove fatal. Plainly, it is far cheaper for an American to do your promo work than for you to do it yourself. (ie. Flyers at cons, hosting parties, running adds.) It is critical that Australian fans travel to American cons - yes, it's expensive, but there is no substitute for pressuring in the flesh - all the same, many hands make light work. 6) I doubt that the bid's financing is very strong. ((Mike here describes a method of raising financial support, similar to our "Friends of Australia In '83" group, which we may adopt. PT.))



"Frankly, the Australia in 83 bid seems to have a small chance, and only prospects of a long uphill fight against Baltimore. Of course, the longer the bid delays in launching effective publicity, the closer it comes to having no chance. During my time in fandom (1970 on) I have occasionally heard Worldcon bidders say "We're saving ourselves for a big push around balloting time." I have never seen any of those bids win. To borrow a phrase, "October the first is too late."

Even briefer, "Move it or lose it."

Mike's letter was written in March; a lot has happened since then, and we've acted on a lot of his advice. Jack's reply to the letter stated:

"Those who were present at the Unicon A83 meeting will recognise some of the points Mike raises. I think that is a reasonable summary of our current position. The A83 Committee obviously agrees as well, since in recent times we have asked our friends in the US to distribute flyers at several recent Cons, and have taken advantage of Bert Chandler's

#4: PETER TOLUZZI

(Publications)

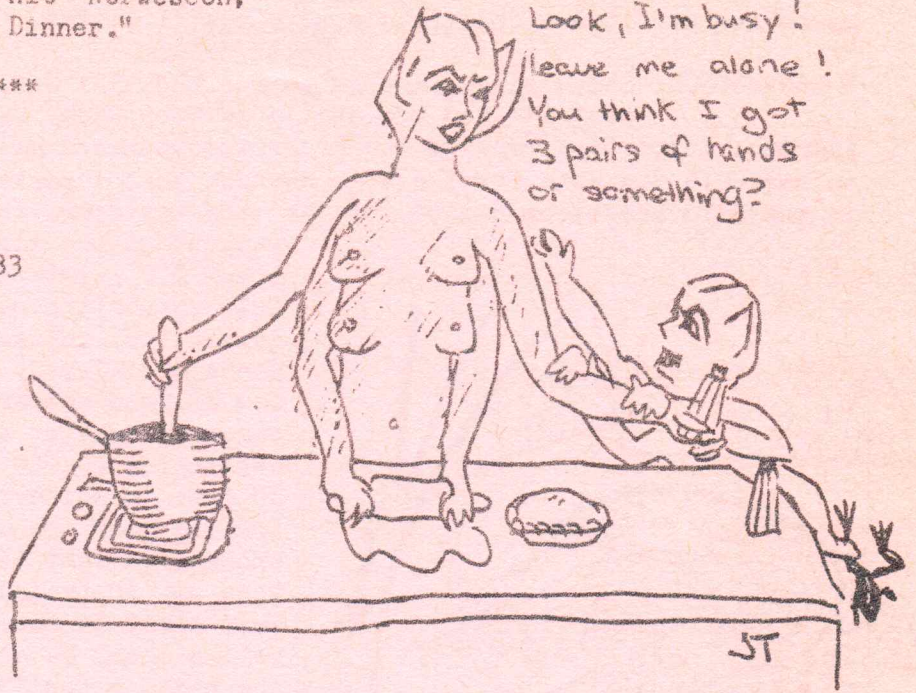
recent trip to the States to "hit" Norwescon, Balticon, and the SFWA Awards Dinner."

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So much for gripes.

WHERE TO FROM HERE?

Obviously, the AUSTRALIA IN '83 Bid was, and still is, in trouble. A portion of this blame devolves on the Committee; an equal share is due to the widespread lack of *active* support throughout Australia. When one considers the amount of work and effort that people like Jan Howard Funder have put into helping the bid, our apathy looks pretty bad.



#5: VERA LONERGAN  
(Correspondence Secretary)

But parcelling out blame is, at the moment, a luxury we cannot afford. The general concensus is that the bid is *not* dead and can be saved... but it won't be easy. The work gets heavy *now* - it already has done so for most of the Committee. But let me stress again that there is NO way that a dozen people in Australia can singlehandedly beat the Baltimore (or, for that matter, Copenhagen) 1983 Bid. We need you. Now.

AUSTRALIA IN 1983 NEEDS YOU!

We've said it before, and we'll say it again - this time, probably for the last time. The A83 Committee can coordinate, it can raise funds and organise advertisements, it can liase with our agents and our other friends, and produce bidding films and leaflets... but even given all this, the bid will fail without your help. It really is up to you.

\* FUNDS: A look at our latest Balance sheet will show you that we are already running over budget, and we still need lots more money to have any hope of competing with Baltimore. A lot of people have been very helpful, and deserve many thanks - John Packer and Jane Taubman have produced much artwork and badges, the Wasfen have sold many Vegemite badges and given us the profits, the last few conventions have been generous with their A83 auctions - and we are very grateful to these people and others who have helped. But I'm afraid we still need more - hence, "The Levy": we are asking *everyone* for a donation of

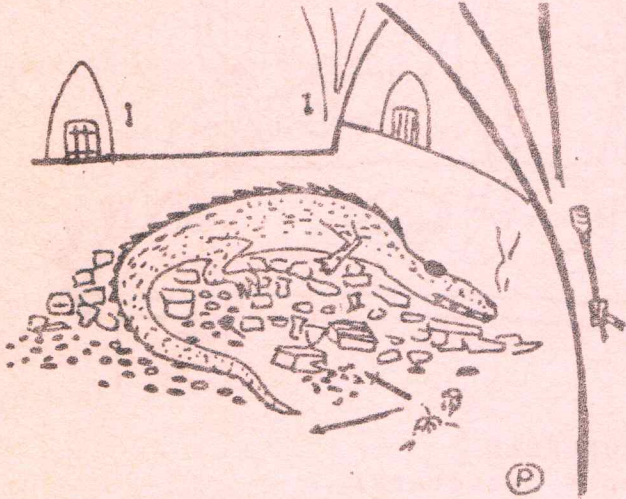


#6: The Rest Of The "AUSTRALIA IN '83"  
COMMITTEE

about 1% of what it would cost to go to a Worldcon in the States - that is, maybe ten or fifteen dollars. We hope you'll listen.

\* DENVENTION: Supporting memberships for the 1981 World Convention currently cost \$14 and are available from Carey Handfield at the A83 Committee address. Supporters receive the Programme Book and all literature, and the right to nominate and vote for the Hugo awards. Most importantly, they may also vote in the Site Selection Ballot for the 1983 Worldcon. This will cost an extra

payment at the time of voting - probably about \$10 - but this payment also acts as full supporting membership in the winning convention, regardless of whom you vote for. There are already over 125 Australian and New Zealand members of DENVENTION; this compares against about 60 for Baltimore/Washington DC, 60 from England, and perhaps 30 from Scandinavia. So the figures are looking good now - but this is not nearly enough; we want to have, if possible, more than 300 Australasian members; that would just start to constitute a significant voting bloc. We are helped by the fact that the bidding for 1983 is taking place at a West Coast Worldcon (which is where much of our US fannish support is located - this fact alone indicates that, if we pulled out of the 1983 bid, we really could not bid again until 1989, as New York is already considered likely to win the 1986 bid.) So,



#7: ANTHONY HOWE

(Treasurer)

if you're not already a member of DENVENTION, join SOON (before the rates are raised again). And, it goes without saying, that anyone who hopes to get to just one overseas Worldcon in the next few years be aiming at attending DENVENTION!

\*FANZINES: Let me again repeat my earlier comments: we must convince the other voters that Australian fans are interesting and worth making an effort to meet; and perhaps the best way to do this is to produce and distribute a fanzine. It can be almost any kind of zine: humourous, sercon, personal, club-oriented, special interest (eg. D&D, "Hitchiker's", even poetry); there are many ways, both cheap and expensive, of reproduction; if you can't afford to do it yourself, get some friends together to help. Overseas mailing lists are easy to obtain - write to the Committee, ask Merv Binns or Eric Lindsay for ideas - and overseas distribution is very important.

If you really can't manage a zine of your own, the least you can do is get other fanzines from overseas, and write letters of comment. You'll get your name, and Australia, seen by many people - and, who knows - you might even find the inspiration to produce a zine of your own. Be sure to mention "A83" or something similar on the letter and envelope. Failing either of these ideas, you could try joining an overseas apa - again, if you are short on information or ideas, write to the Committee for help.

REMEMBER: This is just about your last chance to help us win the Bid; time is running out. If you can't or won't help us now, you had better start saving for your plane tickets.





## FINANCES:

For the period 1st January 1980 to 1st May 1980.

### INCOME

Donations	\$ 38.73
Subscriptions	\$ 66.00
Ads in Bulletin	\$ 65.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 13.00
Fundraising - Unicon VI Auction	\$118.40
Sales : Fanzines, T-shirts etc.	\$ 47.00
Donations for Anti-Fan film	\$717.05

\$1065.18

### EXPENDITURE

Ads in U.S.A. Progress Reports and Programme Books.	\$ 72.00
General Postage	\$ 50.64
Printing and postage of the Bulletin	\$ 39.30
Administration (copying etc.)	\$ 29.28
Printing of Flyers and Cards	\$ 82.88
T-shirts for filming and sale	\$ 81.25
All film expenses	\$917.65

\$1273.00

Balance at 1st May 1980 - \$ 573.63

(Two comments: the A83 Film cost about two hundred dollars more than was raised in donations; and about another two hundred dollars have been spent since this report was written on NOREASCON Programme Book ads and other promotion.)

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### "THE REVENGE OF ANTI-FAN"

One of the most vital factors in Australia's success in winning the 1975 Worldcon was undoubtedly the ANTI-FAN promotional film which was shown at two worldcons and nearly every major regional convention in between, during the year leading up to the final bid. It was probably more responsible than any other single thing for the popularity of our bid, and we are confident that its sequel, THE REVENGE OF ANTI-FAN, will have much the same effect.

We had been planning to produce a sequel for some time, and a lot of ideas were lying around half-formed; at a meeting at Unicon VI about a dozen people got together with Paul Stevens (creator and inspiration, as well as star of the first ANTI-FAN film) and thrashed the whole thing out. As a result of this meeting, a script was ready two weeks later, and filming began shortly after. The Melbourne shooting went quite well, according to reports; the Sydney filming, which I attended and participated in, was tremendous fun and almost an unqualified success. The plot details the return of Anti-Fan, his orgy of murder and destruction as he attempts to sabotage the Australia In 83 bid, and the guile displayed by the A83 Committee as they overcome early setbacks (eg. the death of Jack Herman and Shayne McCormack, the destruction of several of Sydney's leading landmarks) and eventually succeed in winning Anti-Fan over to their cause.

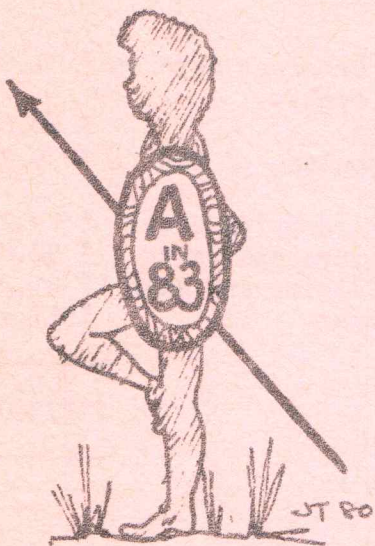
If the finished product bears any resemblance to the script, the resulting film will be hilarious and a major support to our bid. Once again, we will have a great debt to owe to Paul Stevens and John Litchen (the cameraman).



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# AUSTRALIA in 83

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**BULLETIN NO. 4 - JUNE 1980**

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SOUTH YARRA  
VIC 3141

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SYDNEY SOUTH, NSW 2000  
AUSTRALIA

