

quarterly,

NUMBER TWENTY SIX Produced by Marc Ortlieb of 70 Hamblynn Rd Elizabeth Downs S.A. 5113 AUSTRALIA for FAPA. This issue will probably be a short one, due to the fact that X I neglected to renew my airmailing deposit in time to receive FAPA 174 by air. Yet another MAO'S TRAP PRESS production with electrostencils by Allan Bray. This issue supports AUSTRALIA IN '83.

As hinted in my previous contribution, I have transferred to a new school. This is quite a fascinating exercise, since I was in my previous school for five years, and had, as much as it is possible for a teacher to do, sunk fairly deep roots. What the new school means is that I must learn a whole new set of names, jargon, and behavioural patterns.

Fortunately, since both schools are in the same state, much remains the same. Thus a senior master/mistress is still the person in charge of the faculty; the school still contains kids from ages twelve to eighteen; and my paycheck still arrives on alternative Thursdays. However, there are several rather marked changes.

Take yard duty. Now, within Australian Schools, teachers are expected to spend a certain amount of their recess and lunch times patrolling the school yard, making sure kids aren't smoking, breaking up fights, convincing kids to pick up their litter, and reducing the incidence of pregnancy in teenaged girls. Yard duty organisation varies from school to school. At Morphett Vale I did recess yard duty around the library block and the bike racks every recess time for a week, and then had three weeks of no yard duty at all. The situation at Marden, my new school, is a little more drastic, largely because of tension between the Anglo-Saxon Australian population, and the Itallian Australian population of the school. Thus each yard duty area is policed by two teachers, and I do yard duty every Monday and Wednesday lunchtime, and every Friday recess.

SO far my role has been merely preventative. I've had to move on the occasional knot of students when tempers started to flare up, and I've found several kids who were messing about enough to earn themselves the temporary role of yard cleaners. However, I've yet to catch any smokers. That's one of the disadvantages of being a new teacher to the school. At Morphett Vale I knew where the smokers hung out, and half my entertainment while on yard duty was in working out new ways of avoiding the kids watek lookout sentries. At the new school, I haven't quite worked out where the smoking spots are, though I think I may have found one. (We have an American field scholar from Arkansas who spoke to the kids at a recent assembly and had their attention the moment he mentioned that kids at American schools were allowed to smoke.)

My transition from one school to the other has been eased a lot by the presence at the new school of an old friend from Teachers' College. He used to run the Teachers' College newspaper, for which I wrote the occasional article. He's also married to another friend of mine, so was able to help me quite a lot. In addition the school has had experience with sf nuts before. Paul Stokes, an Adelaide fan, did three terms contract teaching at Marden. (That in itself needs a little explanation I guess, Until recently, teachers in South Australia were appointed on a permanent basis. This meant that you had to do something pretty severe to get thrown out. Seducing a student of your own sex was one of the most reliable methods of leaving the department. However, with declining birthrate has come a declining need for new teachers, and the Education Department, realising that they have the whip hand, have stopped hiring permanent staff preferring to hire teachers on a term to term basis. This doesn't effect those of us who are alteady permanent, but anyone else wishing to teach takes short term contracts or nothing. The department uses this as a cunning way of extracting more work from teachers, since a person on contract realises that they must shine in order to convince the Department to hire them again.)

Anyway, with the advance knowledge that Paul gave me, and with my other friend Steve on the staff, plus the fact that after seven years of teaching I'm getting the hang of it, I had few difficulties adjusting. True, I seem to have gotten myself in with a group of teachers not altogether approved by the Principals, i.e. the crowd that play bridge in the staffroom, and who generally treat administrivia with the contempt it deserves, but that's a minor problem.

The kids themselves are much the same as kids anywhere, though I must admit to preferring the teaching conditions at Marden. Morphett Vale was an open space shhool, and that, deprived of jargon and hyperbole boiled down to a barn in which five or six teachers taught different subjects to kids at different levels, and generally had to shout to get above the noise of the other classes in the area. All the latest educational theory was followed dogmatically. If the latest journal said that kids learnt better in groups of heterogeneous ability, then the kids were put in groups of heterogeneous ability, whether common sense and teaching experience dictated the contrary or not. Marden, on the other hand, believes in grouping kids according to ability thus making teaching far easier, except in classes of disinclined kids, but teaching such kids is a trial anyway, and it is far better to have them all in one group rather than spread throughout the rest of the classes.

Teaching English is just about the same in any South Australian secondary school. We don't divide the subject into two, as I gather is the case in the U.S.. For us, English literature and language are part and parcel of the same subject. In many ways I must admit I'd like to see the subject divided up, then I wouldn't have to answer the Question. (In English classes there is only one Question "What good's this gunna be when I get out into a job?") The other thing is that I am far more at home as a teacher of Lit than I am as a teacher of formalities. I have the feeling that the spelling and gramatical errors in my zines are more than adequate proof of that,

This does, of course, lead to difficulties, one being that different classes get £ different amounts of Lit and Language, depending on their teachers. My classes, for instance, get more Lit than Language, whereas those taken by Cath Doyle, the teacher in the next room, get more Language. There is no set sylabus. The senior master in charge of English, Jim Berry, determines which novels, plays and poetry should be used by each year level, and puts out a series of guidelines, giving in broad detail what should be dealt with each year, but there is no real co-ordination between classes until one gets to year eleven (16 year olds) where an examination designed by the school is given. In year twelve there is a state wide English exam which is sat by those who wish to gain university entrance qualifications.

Naturally proceedure varies between ability groups. Thus I will teach more language skills to a low ability group than I will to a high ability group. In general the higher ability groups have a better mastry of language skills, and those difficulties they do have can be corrected as part of their literature study. (As the result of an essay on Orwell's 1984 which I just marked for my bright year eleven class, I am going to spend a lesson or two on how to correctly use tense.)

I use every opportunity possible to introduce a little science fiction into my teaching. Thus my year eleven group are studying 1924, and I've been spending a lesson a week reading Lee Harding's DISPLACED PERSOM to one of my year ten classes. (I have this class on a Friday afternoon, and of the two strategies I've enwountered for surviving Friday afternoon lessons, I've found reading a story to be the most effective. The other is to use the lesson as a test lesson every week, but I figure that is a little unfair. If I know my brain is at its least effective on Friday afternoon, why should I assume the kids are in any better state?)

The other place where sf comes in handy is in my second teaching area -Science. I did my training in English and Biology. However, since the South Australian school system is up to its armpits in biology teachers, I tend to spend most of my time teaching English, with brief periods teaching general science. In our present system, kids do general science to year ten, and then may go onthe to Physics, Chemistry, Biology or Geology. The general science courses incorporate a littlex of each, and allow the kids to familiarise themselves with each area before making a choice at the end

The general science system does have certain disadvantages, in that most of our teachers are specialists in particular diciplines. Thus I've studied biology in some depth, and have certain training in physics and chemistry, however, my knowledge of geology is woeful, and what little I do have comes from looking at fossils as part of biology. Here is where science fiction comes to my aid. There is little training in astronomy in South Australia, since we have no observatory worth the name. However, I've cultivated an interest in theoretical astronomy, through Analog, Isaac Asimov's science articles in F&SF, and via other similar sources, so I've been able to set myself up as the school's resident astronomy nut. This means that I get to work with kids doing enrichment science courses. These are kids who are so far ahead of the rest of their classes that they are allowed three lessens per week to persue an area of interest, and kidswith an interest in science tend to want to get into a bit more astronomy as it is covered very sketchily in the normal science courses. Thus I go digging through old apa mailings to find those nice MASA things that Andy used to run through, and am able to work on stuff that is only two years out of date, as opposed to their text books which tend to be at least five years out of date.

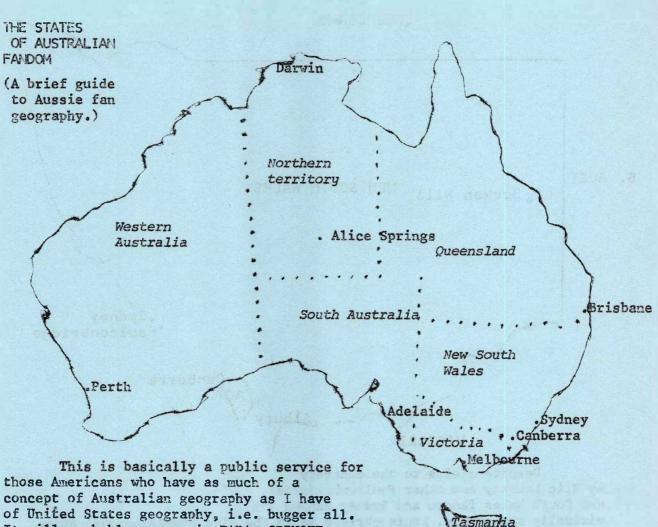
The science courses are, of course, far more rigidly defined than the English courses. There are a series of set texts, and kids are not permitted to progress to particular courses until they have mastered the material from other pre-requisite courses. Thus a kid is not allowed to continue with year twelve biology until he/she has mastered year eleven bidlogy. For those who can't cope with the academic science courses **thrue** there are non-academic courses aimed at giving the kids an understanding of technology and how it relates to them. Thus the alternate courses contain material on electronics, forensic science, and environment. (Considering the nature of most of the kids doing such courses, the inclusion of forensic science comes as no real surprise to me. Many of them are likely to find that forensic science has a lot to do with their future accomodations.)

At present, due to a slight over supply of science teachers in the school (At least by Ed Dept standards), I'm being used in the laboratory rather than in the classroom. Previously smience classes of thirty were expected to do lab work with only one teacher supervising. This made lab classes particularly unvieldy, and, in several cases dangerous. A frisky group of fifteen year olds can do untold damage, both to themselves, and more importantly, to valuable equipment. Since our school had a few spare science teacher hours floating around it was decided to ensure that each lab class had two teachers. This is quite fun for me, as I get to meet a lot of kids I wouldn't otherwise have met, and also it is giving me a painless induction to the labs in the school.

It also means that the two teachers can complement each other. Thus when the class are doing astronomy or biology, I can provide certain source materials and information, and when geology is on, I can sit back and learn a little practical geology myself.

But enough of this shop talk. (Teachers are notorious for it) Let's get on to something a bit more fannish. Please note that one subject I don't teach is geography. Thus, any geographical inaccuracies...

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of United States geography, i.e. bugger all. It will probably appear in FAPA, SPINOFF, and STIPPLE APA, so My Apologies to all those who belong to all three.

Australia basically consists of a few cities with an awful lot of countryside between them. Despite out reputation as an agrarian culture, over ninety per cent of our population is concentrated in cities, most of these being in a narrow belt around the coast. The east coast is the most populous part of the country, with Melbourne and Sydney vying for position as the country's premier city. This rivalry extends to just about everything. In Sydney, the most popular sport is rugby union. In Melbourne the most popular sport is Australian rules football. Helbourne swears by Fosters lager. Sydney swears at Fosters lager. Indeed, when the colonies that were to form the Commonwealth of Australia got to considering federation, the main problem faced was whether Victoria or New South Wales was to contain the capital. Finally a compromise was reached, and a new area, the Australian Capital Territory was set up, halfway between Melbourne and Sydney. Canberra, the nation's capital, has suffered all the discomforts of being a compromise ever since. Meanwhile the rivalry between Sydney and Melbourne has not diminished, and even makes itself felt in fandom.

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Hobart

QUEENSLAND S. AUST NEW SOUTH WALES. Broken Hill Sydney Faulconbridge anberra Albury VICTORIA Despite claims to the contrary by Eric Lindsay and other Faulconbridgians,

New South Wales fandom and Sydney fandom are virtually synonymous. Faulconbridge is in the Blue Mountains just above Sydney, but is quite close enough for Eric to commute to Sydney by train. True, there are fans who don't live in the immediate vicinity of Sydney. Joan Dick, for instance lives in Albury, and Jon Noble spent an unpleasant few years in Broken Hill, but, in general, N.S.W fandom does centre on Sydney. (Letter hack Richard Faulder is at present living in Yanco, but the map I have here doesn't even register it.)

N.S.W. GROUPS

THE SYDMEY SCIENCE FICTIO^M EOUNDATION if any group could be said to act as the nucleus of Sydney Science Fiction Fandom, it would have to be the SSFF. The Foundation meets once a month in the house of a non-active member, who puts up with them largely because they keep the SSFF library at his house. The Foundation or its members run Syncons, and the Sydney based apa, APPLESAUCE, is collated at SSFF meetings. The Foundation newsletter N THE FORERUMBER became, under Jack Herman's editorship, one of the most frequent Australian zines since Fanew Sletter folded. Meetings are noted for entertaining auctions, often run by Keith Curtis, and impeaching the president, a long standing sport. There is also a one armed bandit which provides much amusement.

THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION SUSFA has successfully nurtured a fanzine, ENIGMA, and several noted sercon fannish talents such as Van Ikin and Richard Faulder. THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY TOLKIEN SOCIETY As above, except Tolkien centred. Puts on a Tolkien fest once a year, and has, on occasions, put out a fanzine, THE EYE. This year the TolSoc are running the Australian Tertiary Science Fiction Association convention Unicon VII, known to its friends as TolCon, and to its intimates as LudCon. (Other aliases include Syncon 81, and "Arry the Knife") Noted members of the TolSoc are Jack Herman, Judith Hanna and Jon Noble. THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY The Uni of N.S.W.

major university. UNSWSFS has produced a fanzine, Scytale, and is presenting

a convention with Larry Niven as GoH in May. There is also a strong war gaming group connected to UNSW. UNSWEFS has been known to claim responsibility for Peter Toluzzi.

THE FAULCONBRIDGIANS Probably the most fannish small town/suburb in the

country. Residents of Faulconbridge and its environs include Eric Lindsay (Gegenschein), Ken & Marea Ozanne (Crabapple), Ron & Sue Clarke (The Mentor) and Bob & Margaret Reip. (Jon Noble also lives in the area, but cannot really be considered a hard core Faulconbridgian.) This group has run several Medventions in the Blue Mountains.

THE AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION produces SCIENCE FICTION MEWS for the Association at irregular intervals.

N.S.W. FANNISH LANDMARKS

GALAXY BOOKSHOP Managed by Shayne McCormack, Galaxy acts as a gathering

point for the Thursday night eating crowd, who are noted as being one of the few dining out groups that spend more time trying to decide where to eat than they do actually eating. Galaxy also acts as a focal point for the various media groups which Sydney has in abundance.

SYDNEY HARBOUR This wonder of modern set design was put together for the second antifan movie, and was considered so successful that the Sydney Council decided to keep it, though they did take the precaution of sealing up the plughole which played an important role in the film.

THE SYDMEY OPERA HOUSE One of fandom's great white elephants. It was originally intended to represent the Dalek Space Ship in the SUSFA film THE DALEK INVASION OF SYDMEY. Has since been used as a venue for dramatic productions.

KINGS CROSS Area of ill repute, providing vast acrages of pinball machines for Sydney fandom. The New Crest Hotel has acted as venue for several cons, despite the fact that it doubles as a gay bar at night. When panels get boring, fans have the option of playing Spot The Pro from the first floor windows.

THE DOMAIN Sydney park set aside for fannish frisbee players.

N.S.W. FANZINES

There's really not much point in my running a list of N.S.W. fanzines here, as such a task is regularly performed in Jack Herman's FORERUNNER and Ken Ozanne's CRABAPPLE. For further info, contact Jack at 1/67 Fletcher St Bondi N.S.W. 2026 AUSTRALIA, or Ken at 42 Meek's Crescent Faulconbridge N.S.W. 2776 AUSTRALIA.

THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

The A.C.T. is basically Australia's equivalent of District Columbia, or whatever the D.C. after Washington stands for. It consists of the city of Canberra, its suburbs, and enough land to ensure that people don't mistake it for part of New South Wales. It is a fairly recent city, and has the highest population of public servants in Australia, thus justifying the title Seat Of Government. (It might pay to think of it as a smaller version of Asimov's planet Trantor during the declining days of the Empire. Our Prime Minister certainly does do excellent despot imitations.) Since it isn't on the coast, a lake has been built in order to allow the inhabitants to indulge in the great Australian sport of going to the beach in order to drink oneself silly and get sunburnt. I also have it on good authority that the road network is basically circular, thus symbolising the tendency of the government to go round and round in ever decreasing circles.

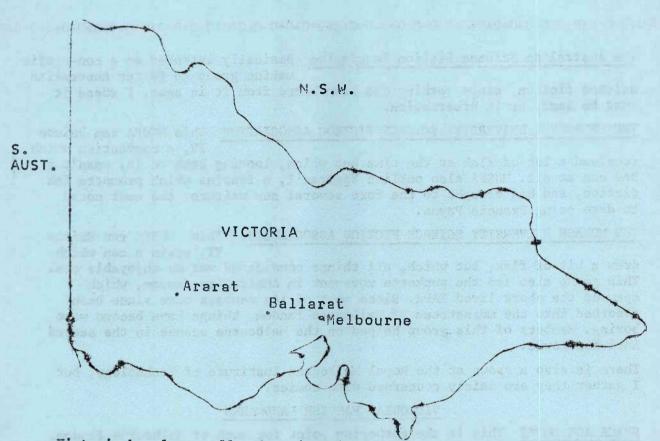
A.C.T. FAN GROUPS

The Canberra Science Fiction Society has had a checkered career. Until recently it appeared to be hibernating, but there has been a resurgence of interest, and the club has risen from its ashes. In addition there is a Canberra Fantasy Film Society. However, the transient nature of most Canberra inhabitants does not bode well for a stable club scene. Noted residents and ex-residents of Canberra include Jean Weber, who put out the Aussiecon Memorial Fanzines, and who also publishes Weber Woman's Wrevenge; Leigh Edmonds and Valma Brown; Neville Angove; Steven Gunnell and John and Sally Bangsund.

The first Canberra Science Fiction Convention is to be held in October of this year.

& Canberra isn't noted for fannish scenery, though there are those who would class the War Memorial as fannish, and I guess any lake large enough to be used as a test bed for Leigh Edmond's Ornithopters would have to be considered vaguely fannish. There is even, I am led to believe, a science fiction bookshop in Canberra, but having never visited the place I can't really think of much else worthy of mention.

(I gather, from a letter in Weber Woman's Wrevenge, that the number of place names used in Australian addresses tends to confuse U.S. fen. Basically the name of the city applies only to the very centre, and suburbs start once one is out of the shopping district. Thus ADELAIDE refers to the square mile of shops and administration. Once you're out of that each postcode district has its own name (almost each district anyway))



Victoria has long suffered an inferiority complex through being smaller than New South Wales, and through being a later established state. In order to make up for this, it has inflicted the rest of the country with Australian Rules Football, and a grazier from the western part of the **wate** state who now lives in Canberra and does Prime Minister impersonations. As with N.S.W., most fans live in the Melbourne Metropelitan area (That is not to say that N.S.W. fans live in the Melbourne Met Area... but... Damn it. That's what I get for composing straight to stencil.)

Again there are exceptions. John Alderson, noted sheep hurter and faned and historian and article writer lives near Maryborough, but since I couldn't find that on my map, it isn't included. James Styles, world traveling crudzine producer lived in Ararat, and Bruce Gillespie once taught in Ararat, though I don't think Bruce is willing to take any blame for James. In addition Leigh Edmonds owns a house in Ballarat. Adelaide fan Paul Stokes once taught at Kyabram, but I can't find that on my map either.

VICTORIAN GROUPS

THE MELBOURNE SCRENCE FICTION CLUB Probably the oldest club still active in Australia, the MSFC has a strong leaning towards film, and, under the guidence of Paul Stevens and Merv Binns has done a lot for Australian SF Film fandom, in addition to having a lot to do with both Anti-Fan Films. While not exactly connected to the MSFC, Merv Binns' zine Australian SF News is one of the most professional looking newszines one is likely to see outside the U.S.. Having Space Age Books as a gathering point also helps.

The Australian Science Fiction Foundation Basically intended as a non-profit making group to foster Australian science fiction, since nothing has been heard from it in ages, I guess it must be dead, or in hibernation.

THE MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION This MUSFA ran Unicon IV, a convention which received a lot of flak at the time but which, looking back on it, wasn't a bad con at all. MUSFA also publish Yggdrasil, a fanzine which promotes fan fiction, and has brought to the fore several new writers, the most noted

THE MOMASH UNIVERSITY SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION. This MUSFA ran Unicon VI, again a con which drew a bit of flak, but which, all things considered was an enjoyable con. This group also led the punkette movement in Australian fandom, which spawned the short lived ZAPA. Since most of its members have since been

absorbed into the mainstream of Melbourne fandom, things have become more boring. Members of this group helped on the Melbourne scenes in the second Anti-fan movie.

There is also a group at the Royal Melbourne Instirute of Technology, but I gather they are mainly concerned with comics.

VICTORIAN FANNISH LANDMARKS

SPACE AGE BOOKS This is the gathering point for much of Melbourne fandom. There was a regular eating crowd which claimed descent from the Degraves group, but I don't know whether it is still active. Merv throws parties on special occasions, and the facilities are quite regularly used.

THE VICTORIAN ART GALLERY Constructed specifically for the first Anti-fan movie, after which it was taken over by the

Victorian Government who, it is believed, store paintings and things in it. The waterfall window at the front is particularly pretty.

THE SOUTHERN CROSS HOTEL The site of Aussiecon. Sigh.

to date being Francis Payne.

BALLARAT A gold mining town known for its daffodils.

<u>GRONG GRONG</u> A sheep station imortalised by the Le Guin Writers' Workshop. I have a photograph of an auction poster advertising it.

VICTORIAN FANZIMES

Again its probably best to see Ken's Crabapple for details. At present Victoria houses ANZAPA. John Foyster is also producing CHUNDER fairly regularly, and that is well worth getting. The quantity of Victorian fanzines has declined of late, though Bruce Gillespie's SF COMMENTARY, and the occasional Bangsund apazine show that the quality is still there. However, as far as activity goes, N.S.W. seems to have taken the lead. (This seems to be a cyclical thing, Melbourne and Sydney having continued their general rivalry into the fanosphere. There is generally quite a lot of mild mud throwing between the two cities, a phenomenon regularly stoked by John Foyster when he's running short of material for CHUNDER.)

TASMANIA

Michael O'Brien lives in Hobart, and claims that there is a local club with media orientation. Francis Payne did his internship at the Royal Hobart Hospital, and Mike O'Brien's father once threw Bert Chandler out of the pub the family runs because he felt that Bert was a bad influence. Keith Taylor and Sally Bangsund both come from Tasmania; So do Tasmanian devils. My brother lives there. Danmit. I can't even fill the map with info on Tassie!!! Nobart

N.T.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Anno Saanool

Death at the Beach

Despite its size, South Australia is # SOUTH AUSTRALIA sparcely populated, being exceptionally dry. The Adelaide Metropolitan Area houses virtually all of S.A. fandom, though I did spend a bit of time in Naracoorte. (Rod Hanna spent a while at Woomera.)

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South Australian fans are basically very individualistic, and clubs have not been particularly well supported. Adelaide fans tend to orient themselves on either Melbourne or Sydney, with a recent tendency to look to Perth in a couple of cases. There was a brief flowering of Adelaide enthusiasm during which an Adelaide apa was founded, and Adelaide seriously considered taking on the A in '83 bid, however, that has since fizzled, and Adelaide has Naracoorte sunk into comfortable apathy, with the exception of the occasional convention

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S.A. FAM GROUPS

ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION

Ausfa has the longest continuous history of the South Australian clubs, having been founded in 1971. It has had its ups and downs

as far as activity goes. Under Perry Middlemiss's editorship the club zine Spectre was excellent. The new clubzine Memesis looks hopeful.

THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY Though not dead yet SASFS is

very ill. Members do gathee

at the Black Hole Bookshop of a Friday night. SASFS has run a national convention and various elements of SASFS are running this year's national Advention '81. The club zine THE DAILY TRIFFID has never come remotely close to meeting its printing dates.

THE AUSTRALIAN DARKOVER COUNCIL Run by Jill Curtin, this group pits out a newsletter, and tends to co-ordinate other

specific author fandoms.

THE S.A. ON SCREEN FAN CLUB A media group.

There are, of course, the standard assortment of Star trek and Dr Who groups.

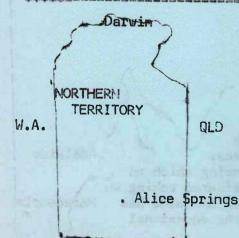
S.A. FAN LANDMARKS

THE BLACK HOLE BOOKSHOP Run by the eternally pessamistic Paul Day, the Black Hole is barely a landmark, as it is underground and extremely difficult to find. Never the less, it acts as a gathering point for Adelaide fans of all persuasions.

Realising the drinking habits of visitors to South Aust, THE BAROSSA VALLEY grape growers set up a wine making region specifically for the entertainment of visiting fen and pros.

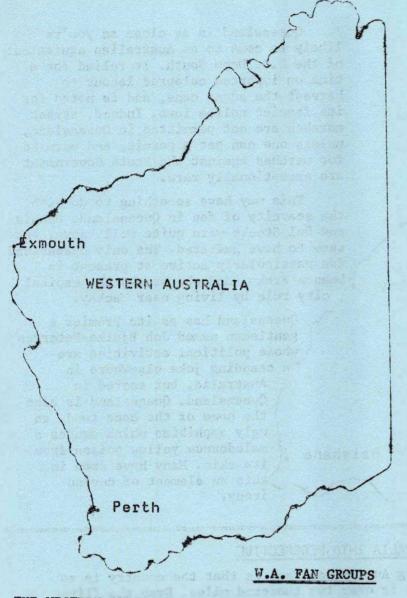
S.A. FANZINES

These are noted more for their failure to meet deadlines than anything else. Allan Bray's NEW GENESIS is due RSN, as is Roman Orszanski's NIBWIN. The Darkover Newsletter is fairly frequent. Ausfa's NEMESIS could well become a regular feature. Other than that there's only Trek stuff and Q36. (Sorry, John Packer is threatening to put out PROBABILITY FACTOR 2 any day now.) after fin after and season and seas



Northern Territory is even more of an enigma than is Tasmania. Rumours have been circulated about an N.T, group and a fanzine, but I haven't seen anything to date. The Northern Territory is only now being granted the status of State, having been up until now looked after by South Australia and the A.C.T.. It is very sparcely populated, though appears to have quite a wealth of minerals. It suffers from cyclones and plagues of dingo jokes. Noted landmarks include Ayres Rock.

S.A.



Isolated from the more civilized parts of Australia by a large desert called the Nullarbor Plain and by economic factors known as the High Price Of Tickets for a Plane, Western Australian fandom has evolved into a pretty unique form. Not only that, but it is probably the most enthusiastic group of fans in the Southern Hemisphere, with the possible exception of New Zealand fandom.

Since Swancon I, W.A. has had a convention per year, last year's Swancon V being the Australian National Convention. Large quantities of fanzines have also been flowing from Western Australia, though, in some cases, the zines are so typical of the W.A. idiom that they are incomprehensible to the outsider. Once again, the state capital, Perth, provides the centre of W.A. fandom, though American fan Mark Sharpe was. For a while, stationed at Exmouth.

THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN SCIEMEC FICTION ASSOCIATION

Wasfa seems to be Perth's equivalent of Sydney's BLACK DUCK'S TALK

Foundation. It has a fanzine, at present titled THE BLACK DUCK'S TALE, and, I gather, organises all sorts of fun events.

SOUTH WARREN A house that has the same sort of connotations for Perth fen as Moira Crescent had for Sydney fen, and that The Magic Puddin Club had for Melbourne fen. One of those houses in which one can find just about anyone if one waits long enough.

In addition there is a University group, UNISFA, and a media group Federation Outpost Colonies. While not in himself constituting a group, Grant Stone has a fanzine library funded largely by the Murdoch University.

W.A. FAN LANDMARKS

SOUTH WARREN See above.

Queensland is as close as you're likely to come to an Australian equivalent of the U.S. Deep South. It relied for a time on imported coloured labour to harvest the sugar cane, and is noted for its fascist police laws. Indeed, street marches are not permitted in Queensland, unless one can get a permit, and permits for marches against the State Government are exceptionally rare. This may have something to do with the scarcity of fen in Queensland. Dennis and Del Stocks were quite well known, but seem to have gadiated. The only Queensland fan particularly active at present is OUEENSLAND Leanne Frahm, and she breaks the capital Mackay city rule by living near Mackay. Queensland has as its Premier a gentleman named Joh Bjelke-Petersen whose political activities are a standing joke elsewhere in Australia, but sacred in Queensland. Queensland is also the home of the cane toad, an ugly amphibian which exudes a malodomous yellow poison from Brisbane its skin. Many have seen in this an element of devine irony.

PUTTING AUSTRALIA INTO PERSPECTIVE

The main problem facing Australian fans is that the country is so bloody big. From Sydney to Perth is over two thousand miles. Even the flight from Adelaide to Melbourne, a mere four hundred miles, costs one hundred and sevemty dollars return. Thus any interstate fandom either takes a hell of a long time, or costs a lot. (One Perth group travelling by car to Syncon '79 had two cars breakdown during the course of the journey). The only alternative to car and plane is the bus or rail services. What the bus makes up for in time it loses in comfort, and what the train loses in comfort it also loses in time. (It is reputed that a Queensland train passenger got off the train when it made one of its frequent stops in the middle of barren bush. When asked what he was doing he replied that he was going to pick some flowers. The train conductor informed him that there were no flowers out there to be picked, but the traveller explained that he had a packet of seeds with him.)

The other thing which increases fan isolation is the high cost of postage in this country, but I don't really want to talk about that at present. When I talk about postage costs I tend to cry a lot.

AUSTRALIAN FAN MIGRATORY PATTERNS

Despite the distances involved, many Australian fans do migrate between fan centres. Reasons for such move vary, but usually relate to job opportunities with interstate fan romances running a close second. Below is a rather incomplete list of such moves.

Peter Darling N.S.W. - Vict Gary Mason N.S.W. to S.A. Robin Johnson Vict to M.S.W. John Bangsund Vict to ACT to S.A. to Vict Linda Smith N.S.W. to S.A. Rod Hanna S.A. to M.S.W. to S.A. Margaree Sanders S.A. to N.S.W. Rob McGough W.A. to N.W. to W.A. to N.S.W. Joanna Masters W.A. to N.S.W. to W.A. John Newman N.S.W. to Vict Mark Hennessey W.A. to S.A. Judith Hanna W.A. to N.S.W. to W.A. to N.S.W. Van Ikin N.S.W. to W.A. Dave Evans Vict to A.C.T. Leigh Edmonds Vict to A.C.T. Valma Brown Vict to A.C.T. Paul Stokes S.A. to Vict to S.A. Mark & Lou Denbow S.A. to N.S.W. Mandy Herriot S.A. to Vict Frank Payne Vict to Tas to Vict Keith Taylor Tas to Vict Sally Bangsund Tas to Vict to A.C.T. to S.A. Carey Handfield Vict to N.S.W. to Vict. to Vict.

There are no doubt dozens of moves I've missed in between, not to mention the incredible amount of moving within each city that fans seem to indulge in.

AUSTRALIAN CLIMATE

Naturally the Australian climate is incredibly variable, considering the size of the place. The picture one is given of Australia is of a dry and barren country, and certainly much of the interior is dry and barren for much of the year, and, in several places, for many years on end. However, Australian cities tend to be situated in places more comfortable for Europeans, and, in the main, these cities are cited in fairly temperate climates. However, our definition of temperate often doesn't match the definition given it by those living in England or the states, so I'd better qualify that.

SYDNEY Generally pleasant weather. Can be rather wet at times, and also gets temperatures in excess of 35°C. I've never heard of snow in Sydney. Being close to the sea makes the temperature easier to take.

CANBERRA I can't say much about Canberra's climate. I gather it gets quite cold there, by Australian standards. The political climate is certainly chilly.

MELBOURNE Has a reputation for being cold and wet, which has been borne out on numerous occasions. However, it also has some scortchers on summer. Again being close to the sea helps.

ADELAIDE The city proper is built inland from the sea, and doesn't benefit quite as much from the sea's moderating effects. Thus we get some very hot days in summer (42°C+) Winter seems quite damp, but the temperature rarely drops below about 5°C.

DARWIN Tropical climate. Very hot and humid. Monsoons in summer.

HOBART If any capital receives snow it would have to be Hobart, though even here the sea front location moderates the weather. Take a rain coat too. (Hobart locals complain if the temperature gets above 30'C)

PERTH In general tends to be hotter and drier than Adelaide, though this year Adelaide has been getting Perth's summer, and Perth's had a fairly cool time. Again no chance of snow.

BRISBANE Hot sub-tropical. Subject to the tail end of monsoon weather. Queensland is generally referred to as the Sunshine state. If you want bananas, pineapples, mangoes and peanuts, this is the place.

Those wanting snow are directed to the snowy mountains which do have snow during winter. For hot and dry, Marble Bar in the north of Western Australia is reputed to be quite effective.

A FEW USEFUL FAN ADDRESSES

Jack Herman (SSFF Applesauce) 1/67 Fletcher St Bondi N.S.W. 2026 Ken Ozanne (Grabapple) 42 Mecks Crescent Faulconbridge N.S.W. 2776 Ron & Sue Clarke (The Mentor & Austrek) 6 Bellevue Rd Faulconbridge 2776 Jean Weber (Aussiecon Memorian Fanzine) 13 Myall St O'Connor A.C.T. 2601 Leigh Edmonds & Valma Brown (Giant Wombo Ornithopter) P.O. Box 433 Civic Square A.C.T. 2608 Canberra SF SOCIETY P.O. Box 168 Belconnen A.C.T. 2617 Space Age Books 305/307 Swanston St Melbourne Vict 3000 John Foyster (Chunder) 21 Shakespeare Grove St Kilda Vict 3192 Bruce Gillespie (Sf Commentary) GPO Box 5195AA Melbourne Vict 3001 Richard Faulder Yanco Agricultural Research Centre Yanco N.S.W. 2703 Allan Bray (SASFS) 5 Green Ave Seaton S.A. 5023

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Leanne Frahm 272 Slade Point Rd, Slade Point QLD 4741

Letters to people on this list should get either letters or fanzines in return, and I'm sure many of them would just love to correct a few of the misconceptions I've been spreading about their states.

AUSTRALIA IN 183

Naturally this rave has had a purpose, and that is to remind you that Australia in bidding for the 1983 World Science Fiction Convention. We think that we have a really great country, and we'd like to get a few more of you across here to second our opinion. The easiest way to do this, is to convince you to vote for us at Denvention. However, I think the country speaks for itself. Ask any pros or fen who have visited about Australian fan hospitality. Ask them about the places they went. Ask them about our funny animals and excellent wine and beer. You know, if you get to an Australian World Convention you would literally be able to meet every attendee.

For further information contact the A in '83 bidding committee PO Box A 491 Sydney South N.S.W. 2000 AUSTRALIA.

AUSTRALIA IN 183