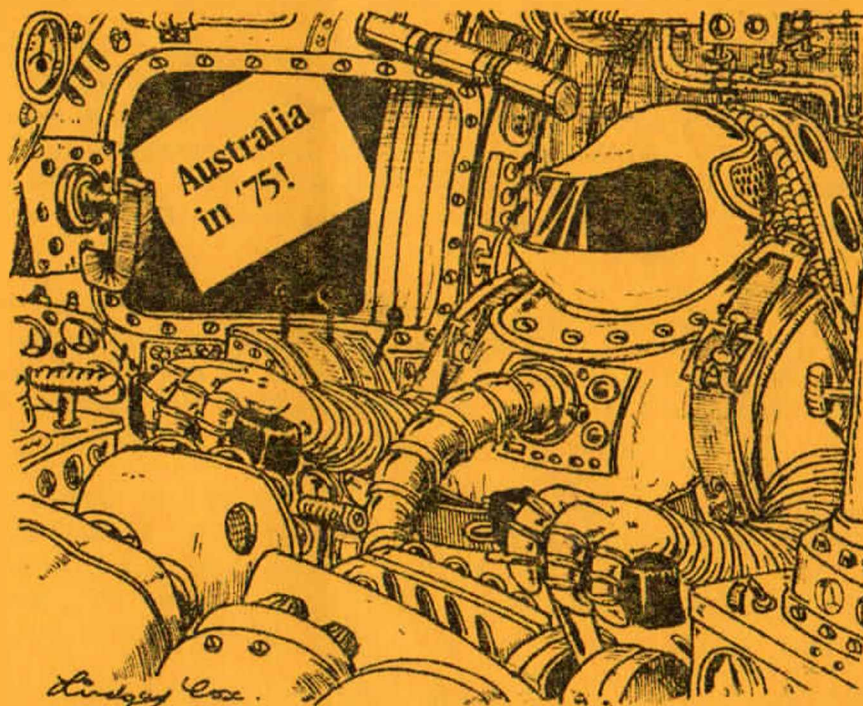




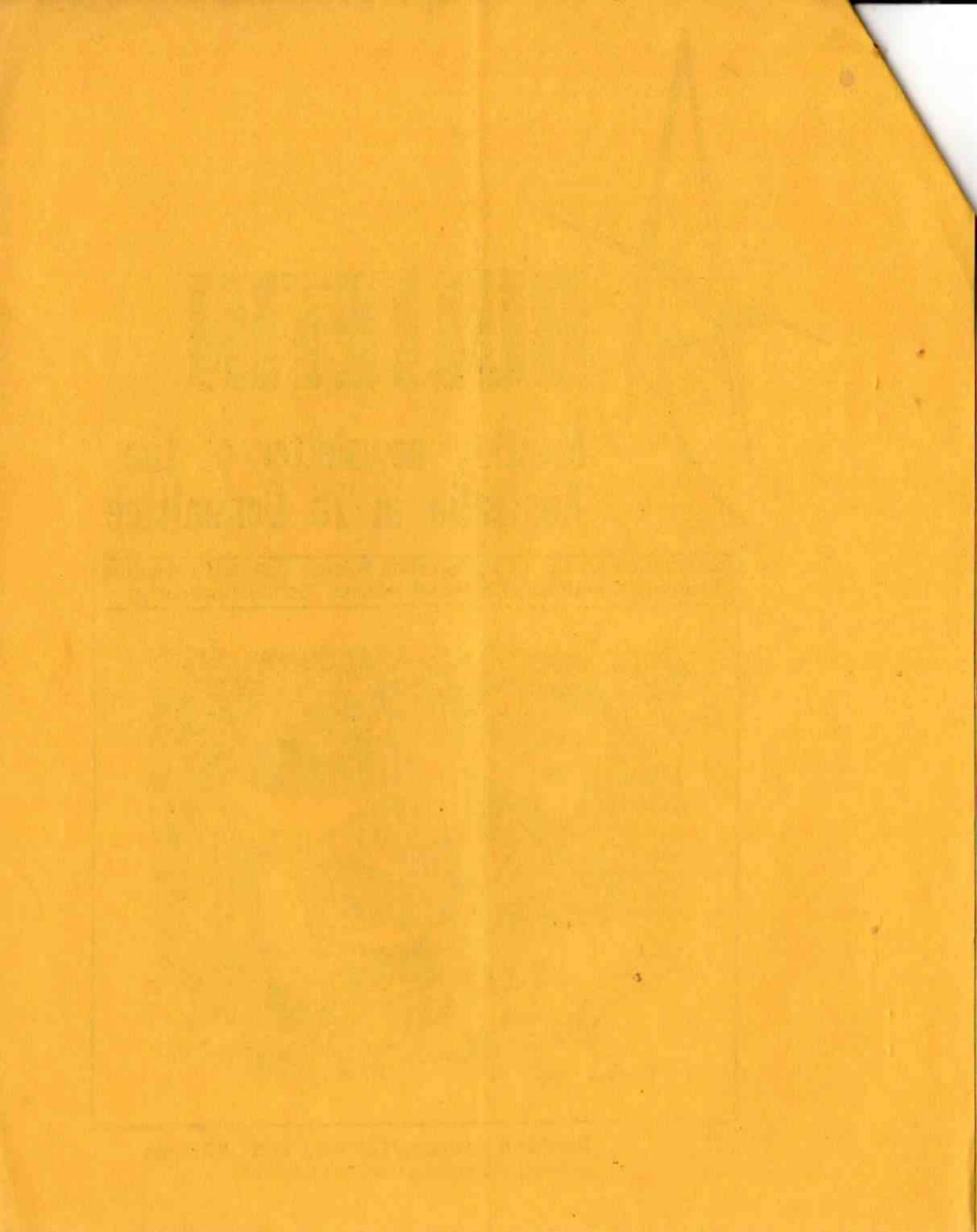
# BULLETIN

Monthly newsletter of the  
Australia in '75 Committee

Committee for the 1975 Australian Science Fiction Convention  
Bidding committee: 1975 World Science Fiction Convention



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WHY, SOMETIMES I'VE BELIEVED AS MANY AS SIX IMPOSSIBLE THINGS BEFORE BREAKFAST!  
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---David Grigg:an editorial

A final editorial for me. A farewell.

Much to my regret, I am resigning from the post of editor of the Australia in 75 Bulletin, though to be truthful, past issues have often been largely put together with lots of help from other, more skillful hands. I'm resigning regretfully because I am taking up a part-time course at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. And I at least have enough experience to tell me that study and full-time activity in ventures such as the bid for the World SF Convention in 1975 don't mix. But I do wish the bid and the committee all possible success and luck, of which they will need plenty.

But enough. Robin Johnson, a most capable and energetic person, and one, presumably with lesser demands on his time than mine (or he is just plain crazier), has offered to take over the editing of the Bulletin.

Before I go, of course, I want to start plugging things like mad.

First off is the DUFF campaign. I'd always felt that the original TAFF race was a thing most worthy and generous: the donation of money by the people interested in science fiction in one country to send one of their number to a country across the Atlantic seems to me both a sign of the unity of fandom as a whole, and a sign of the unselfishness of its members as individuals. Now DUFF offers us the chance to bring a fan from the United States across the Pacific to Australia. I urge you all to vote. A voting form should be enclosed with this publication.

The other, more mundane thing, which I don't think I've advertised as yet is the fact that it is now possible to purchase posters of AUSSIEFAN, a cartoon character created by John Foyster and Gerald Carr for the LA Con progress reports. This is a handsome panel of the fannish superhero, on top quality card, measuring 11"x 16". Price is a mere 50c. Beats Che Guerava any day... You can get your poster from either the Space Age Bookshop, or the Committee address.

What other worthy causes? Don't forget Syncon, of course, the 11th Australian science fiction convention in Sydney during 11th-13th August. Looks to be a really first-class convention in every way, the best one we've ever had in Australia. And of course, the DUFF winner will be the guest of honour there. Enquiries go to GPO Box 4593, Sydney, 2001.

Someone tells me someone is holding a convention in Melbourne too, sometime. That right, fellas? Easter, they tell me. I've very conveniently lost me bit of paper I had all the information written down on, so I can't plug that one. Contact John Foyster, PO Box 96, South Yarra, 3141. Worst you'll get is a copy of Norstrillian News.

My own address has changed, too, it's now: David Grigg, PO Box 100, Carlton SOUTH, 3053.

Speaking of addresses, don't send mail to the Secret Master of Australian Fandom, it all goes to Harry M. Miller, who is setting it to music and producing a rock opera called "John Bangsund; Superfan".

## ADVENTION

The first Adelaide Science Fiction Convention ---Bruce Gillespie

Many people who attended the first science fiction convention ever to be held in Adelaide (including me) voted it the best Australian convention for a long time. It was Australia's first "live-in" convention, held in Melville House, a guest house/university camp site in the Belair National Park, about twelve miles from the centre of Adelaide. Most people arrived on December 31, and the committee was faced with providing meals a day earlier than expected. Like every other impossible job, they managed to do it. Food was provided by the committee for \$2.00 per person per day, accommodation was 50c a night. The food was mainly prepared by Joy Window, Monica Addington and friends, who kept on keeping on for four days.

The first night settled into a general discussion group, which ended when one of the Committee members arrived at the Convention at about one o'clock in the morning. His girlfriend wanted very much to meet John Bangsund, about whom she had heard a great deal. John Bangsund had however been asleep for several hours, but some people decided to wake him anyway. A group of people went over to the dormitory, turned on the light, and debated whether or not to wake John. At last John put his head out of the blankets, said: "I keep telling you fellows: no autographs after midnight," and fell back asleep. The committee member's girlfriend got her interview. Next morning, John Bangsund maintained that the event didn't happen because he couldn't remember it happening.

People then tested their hard beds, finally got to sleep about 3am if they got to sleep at all, and most woke up at about 7 or 8 in the morning. Breakfast was on at 9, and people began to think about a convention by 2 o'clock in the afternoon on New Years Day. After registration and welcomes, Paul Anderson, Bill Wright, Robert Bowden, Alan Sandercock and Bruce Gillespie debated the merits of various magazine, anthology and book editors. Luckily Lee Harding arrived at this point, and improved the program greatly by debating at length with Robin Johnson, Blair Ramage and other members of the audience.

Jeff Harris led a very interesting panel on 'pseudo-science in science fiction' for which he had done a fair amount of research. A disintegrating 15mm print of Richard Fleischer's FANATASTIC VOYAGE preceded tea. After Bruce Gillespie's Guest of Honour speech, the first part of a spirited auction followed, conducted by Monica Addington. FIVE MILLION YEARS TO EARTH, a magnificently horrifying film based on QUATERMASS AND THE PIT sent everyone to bed in a state of cold shivers.

This was the last pretension to a program during the convention. The sun came out the next day. Everyone moved outside for the second part of the auction, and Lee Harding mustered some spirited bidding for piles of musty pulps and comics. People got sunburnt, or went for rides on a motorbike which had mysteriously turned up. Alan Sandercock tried to insist that we stick to the program. He tried to arrange a panel outside, based on the topic: "Robert Heinlein - The Man You Love to Hate". I remember that there were other people on the panel besides Blair Ramage, Alan Sandercock, John Hewitt and myself. Unfortunately, Blair was the only person who wanted to talk about Heinlein. Harding, Bangsund and company didn't want a panel at all, and the rest of the panel members couldn't be bothered arguing with Blair. So Blair talked about the virtues of Heinlein, Harding and Bangsund made jokes at the expense of Heinlein and Blair, and the rest of the panel tried to pretend that

they had nothing to do with it. At one stage, John Hewitt was taking photos of the audience while the audience conducted the panel discussion.

Mild Lunacy followed the panel. John Bangsund began to play the piano. Merv Binns began to whistle and sing (he even smiled as well). The rest of us gaped in astonishment. Lee Harding began to dance some Fred Astaire routines. The convention became a singalong and mainly stayed that way. Tea disintegrated into complete lunacy. There were loud cheers for the committee, finishing with a round of "Happy Birthday, Dear Tolkien", and a final toast to Alphonso the Wise. "Speech, speech!" said somebody. "He can't make a speech" said John Bangsund, "He's been dead for six hundred years." Redoubled cheering. By this time the honourable committee member's girlfriend was seated between John Bangsund and Lee Harding.

Alan Sandercock tried to tell people about Australia in '75, but nobody was listening, and then Dracula (alias Paul Stevens) interviewed a cretinous monster, a lunatic film director, and a drunken critic "who really doesn't know much about films" (ably portrayed by Merv Binns, Lee Harding and John Bangsund in that order.). The Adelaide fans disposed of Dracula by rushing at him with crosses mounted on broomsticks. Those people who could still see watched Byron Haskins' very good sf thriller, THE POWER, and most people retired by 2am. Some people went on a midnight hike, and arrived back at 4am. A lot of people had to head back interstate the next morning, but the pleasant atmosphere lasted most of the day.

During Adventon, Bill Wright and I decided that (a) all future Australian conventions must be live-in, (b) all future conventions must have a piano, and (c) no future convention need have a program. Thanks very much to the convention committee, and all who turned up.

---Bruce Gillespie, January 1972

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funny, that's not quite how I remember Adventon...what stood out most, I think, was when I caught Sabina Heggie, one of the prettiest of femmefans, reading a copy of PLAYBOY. "Comparing?" I asked. "No," she said, "it's just that I like to read science fiction."

And from one femmefan to another, here's Shayne McCormack.

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HOTELLING IT ---Shayne Mc Cormack

One of the most important features of a world convention, possibly the most important outside the site, is the hotel in which the Con is held. Yet finding a suitable hotel is not always as easy as it might seem.

Melbourne has more or less been forced to take up the load, since it is in Melbourne that all the fannish action takes place. But Melbourne, unlike Sydney, is not really equipped, I feel, to cater for conventions of any real magnitude.

Sydney has three major hotels capable of taking a World SF Convention. These are the Chevron, the Wentworth, and the Menzies.

Being one of the two Sydney members of the Ain75 Committee (soon I'll be the only one) I felt it my duty to look into Sydney's convention facilities in

case it ever became a matter of moving the site to Sydney through lack of suitable hotels in Melbourne.

The Chevron I didn't even check on. The price of renting space in that hotel would probably be the same as that of the Southern Cross in Melbourne - extraordinarily high. But the Menzies and the Wentworth I did check, and was pleasantly surprised. Well, not so much surprised by what I found, but at the prices the hotels wanted for the use of the facilities.

The Menzies hotel is one of the top hotels in Australia and is situated next to Wynyard station opposite the attractive Wynyard park. The Menzies has set aside a complete floor for special functions, a total of six rooms on the one floor, plus another small room on a separate floor. The hotel has approximately 250 rooms at the usual rate charged by a high class hotel. They ask \$500 a day for their six rooms.

The Wentworth is even more spectacular, and of course, a bit more expensive. Taken by most travellers as being the best hotel in Australia, the Wentworth also has an entire floor set aside for special functions, this time a Grand Ballroom holding 1200 which can be divided up into two or three rooms (which can also be divided up), plus four other rooms on the same floor which can be cut up as well. The price of the Grand Ballroom is \$600 for the first day, and \$500 a day thereafter. The hotel provides translating services, closed circuit television, a central electronic control room, a special convention kitchen, private stairs, a registration lobby, microphones, a heavy duty special elevator, recording facilities, and just about everything else any convention would need - for extra, of course.

Syncon II is being held in one of Sydney's many smaller Motor Inns, many of which have convention rooms. We started off with a list of approximately 15 possible sites, and narrowed it down to two, the final choice being the Squire Inn. It has modern convention facilities, is capable of holding a national convention without being overcrowded or lost in un-fannish surroundings. The Squire Inn was picked because it was close to the city, gave the best facilities for what we wanted, and most important, was willing to bring prices down drastically.

I can only hope, along with the rest of fandom in Australia, that Melbourne will be able to offer similar facilities in the next three years. If not, we might have to change the motto to "Sydney in 75!" ?

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Naturally, I disagree quite strongly with Shayne's views as expressed above, and I think she is wrong about the lack of good hotels in Melbourne. Anyone send us a good refutation of Shayne's article?

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DONATION NOTATIONS ---Robin Johnson

At our recent meetings, the Australia in 75 Committee has decided to ask for assistance our projects directly rather than make general appeals for money and then allocate it ourselves. If you feel, as several people have indicated, that it is hard to see exactly where a donation gets used, this is an opportunity to see that all your money goes on something that you are interested in.

The main financial outlays, outside the DUFF contribution due later this year, are for publicity overseas. Thus we want to place advertisements in the Program books of the following conventions:

Lunacon, the New York regional convention over Easter  
Boskone, the New England regional during April  
Westercon, the West Coast regional in July  
Eurocon, in Trieste on July

These will all cost about \$10.

The A75 advertisement in the Program Book of the LA Con, this year's World Science Fiction Convention to be held Sept 1-4, has already been planned for. In addition to this, however, we would like various Australian individuals or groups to sponsor advertisements in this book, aimed at displaying the range of interests of fans here. These should be all arranged through John Bangsund, The Advertising Officer of the committee, who can quote costs and help with the arrangements.

It is important to remember that now there is to be a postal vote on our bid, the LA Con is the last World Convention before many people vote. Therefore we must get the best possible impression over at that time, particularly to people who will not be going to the Toronto convention in 73. We must make a good impression since to vote for us, it will be necessary not only to buy a membership in the Toronto Convention, but also to pay an extra \$2 which goes to the winner of the competition. (We will be asking all of you reading this article to do this: the \$2 will come off the price of the membership of our con.)

Another promotion the Committee would like to see is the display and sale of Australian fanzines at these overseas conventions. The editors concerned are doing all they can to get their publications known overseas, but there is always room for assistance by passing on names and addresses or buying copies to post to fans abroad directly.

If you would like to help in any of these schemes, please contact Bill Wright, GPO Box 4039, Melbourne 3000. If you wish to send money, specify the scheme you are most interested in, and you will have your name entered as one of the sponsors of that project, together with having your money go directly to the most worthy cause in your own opinion.

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#### LETTER WRITERS WRITE LETTERS

Ed Cagle- Route #1, Leon, Kansas 67074 USA

Dear Mr Johnson: the prolific Bruce Gillespie has instructed me to post this certificate of American fiscal irresponsibility to your address, for the purpose of supporting The Cause in 1975. It seems little enough to do. (I'm rather in favour of the whole idea myself).

In the event that the Yankee Dollar should suddenly be devalued even more than it has to date, rendering this Tenner relatively worthless and not worth the trouble it would take to go to the Bank to exchange it for Australian currency, it will serve quite well as a bookmark. In this case please write me a hasty note, and I will try to arrange for a proper form of barter to send your way.

The wistful countenance depicted on the face of the \$10 bill, if such informat-

ion is of interest to you, is a startlingly accurate portrait of one of the Foundering Fatheads of this land of America, Alexander T.N. ('Hammy') Hamilton. Ham, as he was known to other patrons of the Dead Hog Bar and Grill, located at the crossroads below the slaughterhouse on the New Stablehand, Vermont Road, also served America in other capacities. Most notable among them are: quart, half-gallon, and that famous early American unit of liquid measurement, the Shit Pot Hatfull.

Old Ham certainly made America grate.

Much success to you in boosting the CAUSE, and may it come easy to you.

AUSTRALIA IN 75!! HEAR HEAR!!      Respectfully--Ed Cagle

A.M.Bell, 13 Johson St, Northcote

Dear Mr Grigg--Thank you for continuing to send me your interesting publication, "A75Bulletin". I am sure that it would be more interesting if more people would write for you and to you, but even as it is it is a worthy publication for a worthy cause.

I enclose a money order for \$4.00 for two year's subscription.

Please tell me: does the title of your editorial mean that you are some kind of pinko poofter?

Forgive me. I do love Lewis Carroll, and love to see that young people still seem to read him. To tell the truth, I think it is this evidence of some kind of culture on the part of science fiction fans - or at least, on your part, and I don't know how typical you are - that has forced me to part with four bucks for your journal.

I do wish you, and the committee, the best of luck in your endeavours to bring the World Convention to "Australia in 75".      Yours Truly--A.M.Bell

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Not a pinko poofter, more a long haired commie hippie  
freako with strong heterosexual tendencies....  
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BIG BLANK EMPTY SPACE WHICH I SHALL PROCEED TO FILL WITH RUBBISH

"The optomist considers this the best of all possible worlds. The pessimist fears that this is true." -James Cabell

"As breathing is my life, to stop I dare not dare." -John Lennon

"Seemeth it a small thing unto you to have eaten up the good pasture, but ye must tread down with your feet the residue of your pastures? And to have drunk of the deep waters, but ye must foul the residue with your feet?"  
--Ezekiel, 34:18

"We'll all be a-doubling, a-doubling, a-doubling, / We'll all be a-doubling in thirty-two years. / Two times two is four! / Two times four is eight! / Two times eight is sixteen, / And the hour is getting late!" --Pete Seeger



A NOTE ON THE COVERS:

Front cover: Illustration by Lindsay Cox, design by John Bangsund

Back cover: Illustration by Liz Kinnaid, design by John Bangsund: this is the committee's advertisement in the first Toronto progress report, and will possibly be used in other overseas convention publications.

FANZINE PUBLISHERS:

Would you like "Australia in 75!" cartoons for your publications? The committee is beginning to stockpile some excellent fillers by Terry Jeeves, Lindsay Cox and others. A small charge is involved, probably about a dollar, for electrostencilling and postage.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO "A75 BULLETIN":

\$2.00 per year, payable to "Australia in 75 Committee", addressed to the Secretary, GPO Box 4039, Melbourne 3001. The Bulletin is not available outside Australia.



**'Vnto this llande there commeth  
very fewe Strangers, for that it  
standeth out of the way.'**

**- Marco Polo**

We'll make it worth your effort, friend.

**THE AUSTRALIA IN SEVENTY-FIVE COMMITTEE**  
GPO BOX 4039 MELBOURNE 3001