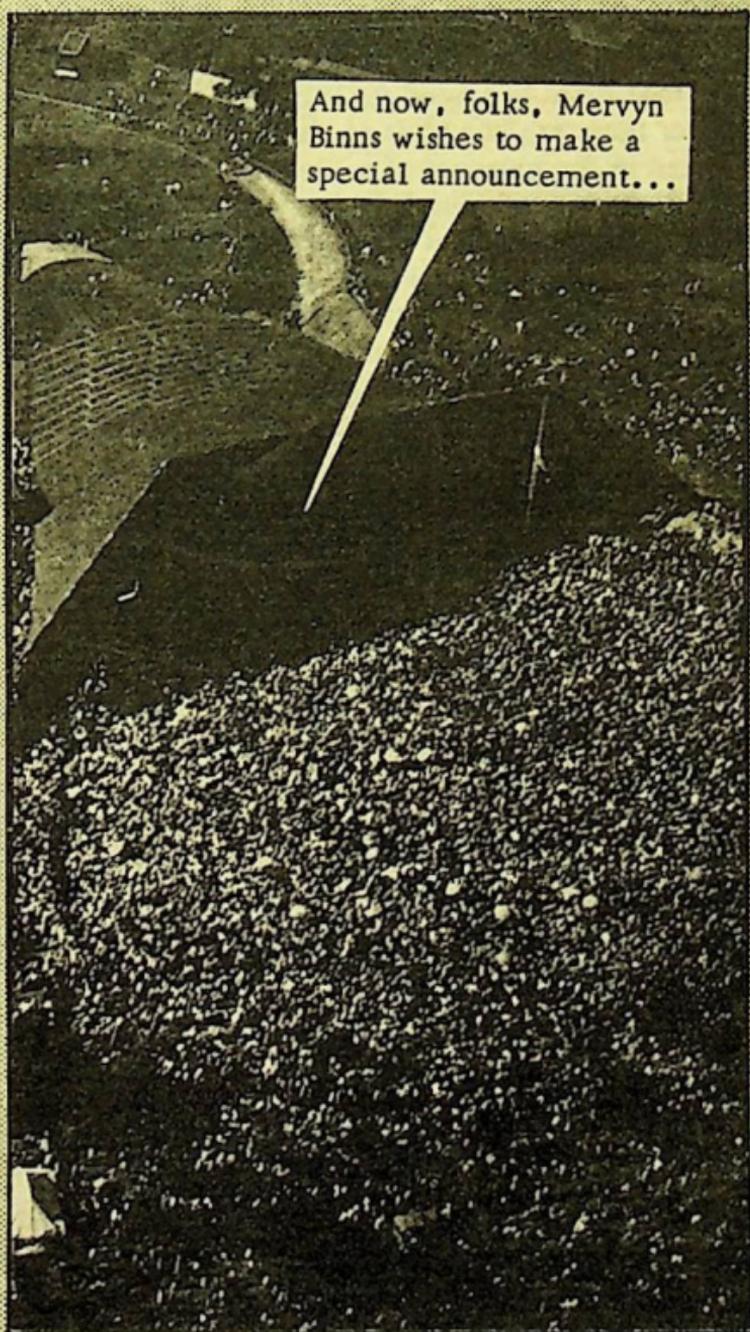


Australia in 75 Bulletin

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Published by the Australian Bidding Committee
for the 1975 World Science Fiction Convention
Editor: Leigh Edmonds Number One : June 1971



The rules governing the bidding for a World Convention seemed to make it highly unlikely that any such convention held in Australia - or any other country outside the USA, for that matter - would be successful.

The rules, which had only been introduced the previous year, called for the setting-up of a system whereby Worldcons could be held outside America in any year - but in that year an American National Convention (dubbed the "NasfiC") would be held. Obviously this NasfiC would virtually run in competition with the Worldcon. Since the majority of the world's sf fans live in America, any Worldcon depends for its success on the attendance of a large number of Americans; and since the minority of American fans has the resources to attend two big conventions in the same year and in different countries, it seemed likely that most of them would choose to attend the NasfiC rather than a foreign Worldcon.

Those attending the Easter Convention discussion did not like the idea of an Australian Worldcon which might easily turn out to be no different from any other large local convention. It was therefore agreed to appoint a committee to look into the possibility of having the Worldcon rules changed in such a way as to allow a non-American convention to be a Worldcon in fact, and not just in name.

This committee was appointed. It corresponded with people overseas, advertised widely in overseas fanzines and convention handbooks, and managed to have a couple of representatives at the 1970 Worldcon in Heidelberg, Germany.

At Heidelberg the rules were changed, and in a way which favoured our prospects. There is still the possibility that a NasfiC might be held in competition with a foreign Worldcon: the new rules do not specifically exclude that possibility. But mainly they provide that a Worldcon may be held outside America whenever some other country makes a successful bid for it.

Robin Johnson (one of the Australians who went to Heidelberg; the other was Ron Clarke) reported in detail to the 10th Australian Convention in Melbourne at the New Year, and the convention made the definite decision to proceed with the bid officially. The committee elected the previous year was now empowered to bid for the 1975 Worldcon on behalf of Australian fandom.

Between the New Year Convention and the simultaneous Easter Conventions in Brisbane and

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Melbourne, the committee has been active in forwarding the Australian bid. Visible activity has been mainly confined to advertising the bid in overseas convention Progress Reports - the NorEasCon (the 1971 Worldcon in Boston) and the LA Con (the 1972 Worldcon in Los Angeles). A committee member will attend NorEasCon, and several plan to go to Los Angeles next year. But most of the activity has been "invisible" - the constant keeping up of correspondence with people around the world whose co-operation and advice we need if we are to succeed. We have to know what sort of things need to be done - and not just in general, but in precise, finicky, boring detail.

Lately we have felt that while what we are doing is of the utmost importance and urgency, we haven't been doing enough about keeping in touch with the people we are doing all this work for: you, the Australian fans. You have a right to know what is going on, and we are determined that from here on you will have every opportunity to do just that.

That's what this journal is for. In future issues we will be telling you more and more about what we are doing. But, more than this, we will be telling you about things which we feel you could do to help.

A Worldcon bid involves a lot of publicity, politics and money, but in the final analysis a Worldcon is for people. It is the individual person who has to be convinced that it should be Australia in '75, and to a large extent it has to be the individual Australian who convinces him. We have a good committee, we think, but we don't know everything, and we can't do everything. We need your help.

The Convention Site

After a great deal of thought, talk and correspondence, the committee has decided that (if our bid is successful) the site for the 1975 World Science Fiction Convention will be Melbourne.

Originally it was felt that Sydney would be the better choice, since it is probably better known to people overseas, but, as it turned out, most of the overseas people we have spoken or written to prefer Melbourne. (And, of course, anyone flying in from overseas would have plenty of opportunity to see Sydney as well.) The other good reason for choosing Melbourne

is that Melbourne is, and has been for some years, the strongest centre of fan activities in Australia. This situation could change, but it is the situation the overseas people know, and as of this moment it is the Melbourne fans they most want to meet. Having said that, we want to stress that our bid will continue to be for AUSTRALIA in '75. This is an Australian convention we are working for.

(Oddly enough, when the committee first started discussing the site, most of the Melbourne people favoured Sydney, and most of the Sydney people Melbourne. This might have had something to do with the growing awareness of the immense work which would need to be done by the host city. Looked at in this light, the Melbourne committee members lost out.)

DUFF

One of our big projects in connection with the bid is to launch a fund to bring an American fan to the 11th Australian Convention next year.

DUFF stands for "Down Under Fan Fund", and the idea is based on the well-known TAFF ("Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund") system. Nominations will close probably in October this year, and voting in May 1972.

The fund will be raised in the traditional way of selling votes, but in addition the committee has pledged \$500 to the fund.

We'll tell you more about this in future issues.

Fanzines

Within science fiction fandom the most active and effective form of communication is the fanzine. Fanzines have an immense influence on the way fans think - and vote.

We want Australian fans to become more and more involved in fanzines - in two basic ways.

First: If you publish a fanzine, send copies to overseas fans. If you don't know who to send them to, we'll send you a list. If you can't afford to produce the extra copies needed, tell us, and we'll see what can be done about it.

Second: Whether you publish a fanzine or not, write to the overseas fanzine publishers. Nothing gladdens the heart of a fanzine publisher more than a letter of comment: even if he doesn't publish it, he knows you are interested enough in

what he is doing to take the trouble to let him know you are interested. When you write, you don't need to make a great pitch for Australia in '75. You've done that already, simply by sending him a letter.

We would like to see every Australian fan who can write a letter (and that means every Australian fan - even you-know-who) adopt at least one overseas fanzine as his very own responsibility. To determine, no matter how good or bad that fanzine might be, to write a letter of comment on every single issue.

This will cost you time and effort and money. But - quite apart from doing something very constructive and valuable and personal for Australia in '75 - you might even enjoy it.

Where do you start? If you have literally never written to a fanzine publisher, start here:

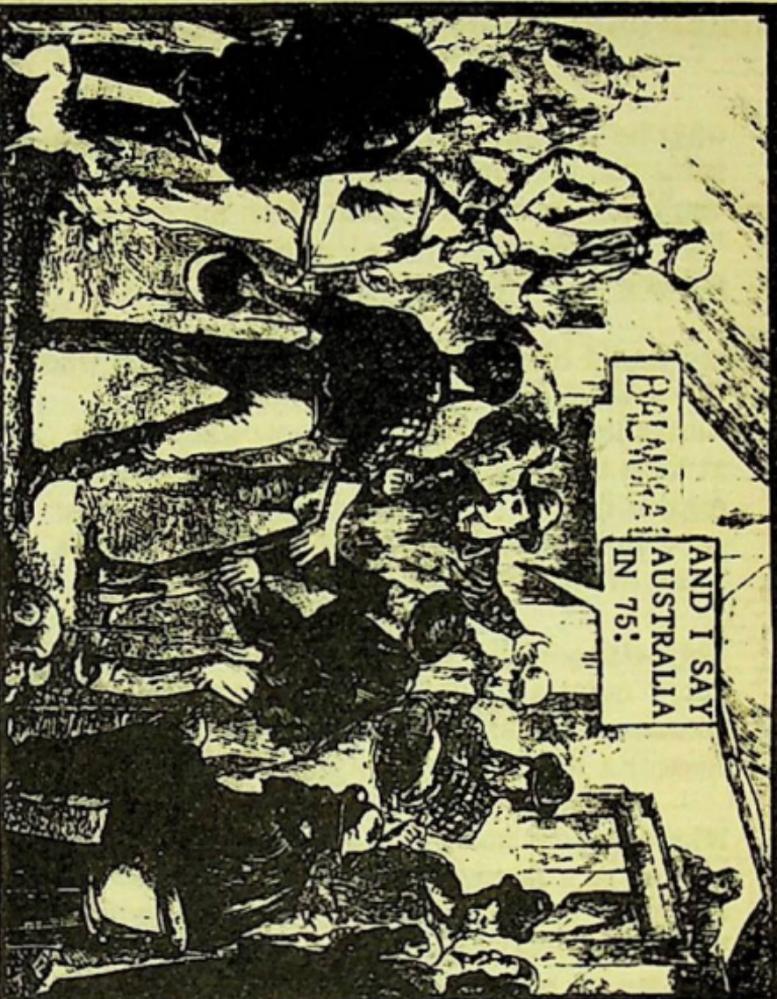
1. Write to John Bangsund, GPO Box 4946, Melbourne 3001, for a copy of ASFM 2. ASFM is defunct, but on page 30 of that issue there is a list of Australian fanzine publishers.
2. Write to some of those Australian publishers and ask for samples. Enclose a few stamps as encouragement.
3. When you get these local fanzines, write letters to their editors. They'll love you, and send you more. Some of the fanzines will contain lists of overseas publications.
4. Start writing overseas. If you don't get enough information about overseas fanzines from the local ones, take the big step and subscribe to one of the publications which regularly reviews fanzines. Among them: HAVERINGS (Ethel Lindsay, UK: local agent John Bangsund: 6 for \$1) CHECKPOINT (Peter Roberts, UK: local agent David Grigg, 1556 Main Rd, Research, Vic 3095 :8 for \$1) LOCUS (Charlie Brown, USA: local agent Bruce Gillespie, GPO Box 5195 AA, Melbourne 3001: 10 for \$3.50).

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NEXT ISSUE:

We need a volunteer to compile a checklist of current overseas fanzines. You'll get all the help we can give you, but it'll still take a fair bit of work. Deadline: 26th June.

And we want to run a checklist of all clubs, publications, agents for overseas fanzines &c. If you think the information we have is inadequate or outdated, please get in touch. Same deadline.



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PUBLISHED BY THE AUSTRALIAN BIDDING COMMITTEE FOR THE 1975 WORLD SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION
Editor: Leigh Edmonds 28 Ardmillan Road Moonee Ponds Victoria 3039
Designed & printed by Paragon Books Melbourne