

# THE AUSSIECON FLYER



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The Aussiecon Flyer is a reincarnation of the Heicon Flyer and is designed to provide the latest information on the status of the group flight to the 33rd World Science Fiction Convention. Sent to all who have made a deposit or expressed an interest in joining the flight.

Well, this month is getting off to a hectic start but hopefully it will end with some relaxing on Florida beaches. About the middle of the month, the four of us are taking the train to Orlando. There we will stay at the Sheraton-Towers, which will, hopefully, be the site of the 1977 Worldcon. After staying there a few days to review the facilities, Don will have to return home. But Anite (age 7), Melanie (age 4), and I will visit my parents in Port Charlotte on Florida's west coast for a week.

One Wednesday afternoon last month, I aged myself for a few hours and joined the Senior Citizens group at Church. They were having a slide presentation on Australia and New Zealand which I wanted to see. So I wasn't going to let a simple thing like a few wrinkles (I have enough prematurely white hair) keep me away.

The gentleman who showed his slides visited Australia and New Zealand last February on a three week guided tour. He had seen and photographed a great deal and had thoroughly enjoyed himself. I spent quite some time talking to him afterwards, getting many ideas of what I want to see and do. By the time we were through talking, I was ready to leave immediately.



## GROUP FLIGHT NEWS

Departure: Air New Zealand, flight #555

Lv: Saturday, August 9 9:15p.m. Los Angeles International Airport  
Ar: Monday, August 11 10:30a.m. Sydney, Australia

Convention: Aussiecon, Southern Cross Hotel, Melbourne, Australia

Begins: Thursday, August 14  
Ends: Sunday, August 17

Stop-over in New Zealand:

Tentative plans are being made for the last three days or so to be spent in New Zealand.

Return:

Tentatively planned for Friday, August 29, but this depends on the desires of those going and possibly on the plans for NASFIC in Los Angeles.

## THE MUSIC SHOP

I don't like to keep harping the same tune all the time. But I want to make sure that all of us are singing the same song in the same key.

(1.) What we are organizing is a GROUP flight, NOT a charter flight. In other words we will be going on a regularly scheduled airline with people who are paying regular air fares. Most of them will be paying considerable more than us.

(2.) The two hundred dollar payments are suggestions to help you save for the trip. It is not really a requirement. We are simply doing this to help those who want to save the money ahead of time. It is deposited to an interest bearing account and you will receive whatever interest accrues.

(3.) The fifty dollar deposit plus any further payments plus interest earned by those moneys while in the account will be refunded in full by us anytime before we make payment to the airlines. After that refunds will depend on the airline policy. Because policy may change in March (when air fares are expected to change), we will quote airline policy in a later issue of Aussiecon Flyer. But you will have the information in time to help you make your plans.

(4.) Group flight from the East Coast: Because of the very wide geographic location of the group members, it is very doubtful that we could start the group flight from anywhere but the West Coast. (Los Angeles was chosen because that is where NASFIC is to be held Labor Day Week-end.) However, there are low cost "add-on" fares that must be purchased at the same time as the overseas ticket. These are less expensive than any regular economy fares.

## WHO ELSE IS GOING?

We are really pleased at the number of deposits that we have received. But we would like to see some more. The more people on the flight, the more we can divide up the group to give you more choices on such things as stop-overs, length of stay, etc. We need twenty-five people in each group. So pass the word to your friends and encourage them to join us.

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Samuel Edward Konkin, III, Box 294, Peter Stuyvesant Station, New York, N.Y. 10009  
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Bruce Pelz, 15931 Kalisher Street, Granada Hills, California 91344  
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Fred Patten, 11863 West Jefferson Boulevard, Culver City, California 90230  
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Next issue we will continue the list with those deposits we already have on hand plus additional deposits which we receive. Hopefully, we will again run out of space to list all the names.

What has a blue cover and is constantly being lost, or mutilated? What indispensable document do travelers convert into a shopping list, autograph book, or memo pad? What makes a favorite coloring book for a traveler's child?

You guessed it: a passport.

The fate of thousands of passports issued each year to American travelers isn't a happy one. The normally congenial officials in the Department of State's passport Office are now so concerned with the fate of passports, and the travelers who use them, that a special campaign has been launched to inform travelers of the proper care and handling of their most important possession.

A passport is designed to identify a person as a citizen of a particular country. It contains not only a photograph of the person, but basic information on his place of birth, residence, age, nationality, and the places he or she may visit. A passport is an official government document to be used only by the person or persons to whom it is issued. It is not a toy.

The use of a passport requires signing your name as indicated on page two of the passport. It is not valid unless it is signed by the bearer.

1. Fill in all information required on the inside front cover. In case of accident, or other circumstances, it may be necessary to contact the designated agent of the next of kin.
2. Notify the Passport Office, Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20524, if your passport is lost, stolen, or, if abroad, notify the nearest American Consul.
3. Check the visa requirements of the countries you plan to visit. This is the travelers own responsibility.

Among the things you should never do is to loan the passport for use by a friend or stranger. Don't use it as collateral or modify it in any way. It is not a notebook, scrap book, or autograph book. The only entries that can be made in it are by customs and consular officials to note arrival or departure in a country or to insert a visa. You should keep it with you at all times; don't pack it in the luggage. You'll probably be required to show it when you register for the night and when you cross borders.

To obtain a passport you must present yourself in person at a passport office or, as in some cities, at a Federal Courthouse. It is recommended that you first make a phone call to check the current requirements for a passport and the current address of the office nearest you that can handle passports. It is wise to take proof of birth to establish citizenship and naturalization papers, if needed. Travelers should also have two duplicate photographs not more than six months old. These photographs may be either in black and white or color and approximately 2 1/2 inches by 2 1/2 inches in size.

With the next "Aussiecon Flyer" we will insert a passport application for everyone who has sent a deposit.

## MELBOURNE

Melbourne, which will be our host city for Aussiecon, has a population of 2,608,000. It is noted for its parks, gardens and tree-lined street, its art galleries and shopping arcades. It is a major financial and industrial centre.

ACCESS: By rail: From Sydney: "Southern Aurora", "Spirit of Progress" and Intercapital "Daylight Express".  
By road: From all mainland capitals: express air-conditioned coaches by Pioneer-Gray Line and Panther Intercity Express.

LOCAL SIGHTSEEING

Panaramic Views: Observations Deck, National Mutual Building, Collins Street - open weekdays: ICI Building, Nicholson Street.

Parks and Gardens: Melbourne has 1750 acres of gardens and parklands - of interest are Royal Botanic Gardens, off St. Kilda Road; King's Domain, on the banks of the Yarra River, site of Myer Music Bowl; Treasury Gardens, near Parliament House; the Zoological Gardens in Royal Park; and the Maranoa Gardens at Balwyn, 7 miles from the city, noted for its collection of some 2000 Australian native trees, shrubs and plants.

Art Galleries and Museums: National Gallery, St. Kilda Road, has Australia's largest art collection - 25,000 items; Institute of Applied Science Museum, Swanston Street, has working models and a planetarium; National Museum, Russell Street, displays Aboriginal artifacts, Australian birds, animals and minerals; The Percy Grainger Museum, University of Melbourne, has the personal effects of the composer and pianist Percy Grainger (1884-1962); Gallery of Handicrafts, Arts and Crafts Society of Victoria, 3 Crossley Street, has Australian ceramics, weaving and hand-made jewellery; Gallery of Primitive Art, 5 Crossley Street, exhibits Sepik wood carvings from New Guinea. A full list of commercial art galleries is published in the "pink pages" of the Melbourne telephone directory.

Parliament House, Spring Street: Open on weekdays. Apply Sergeant-at-Arms.

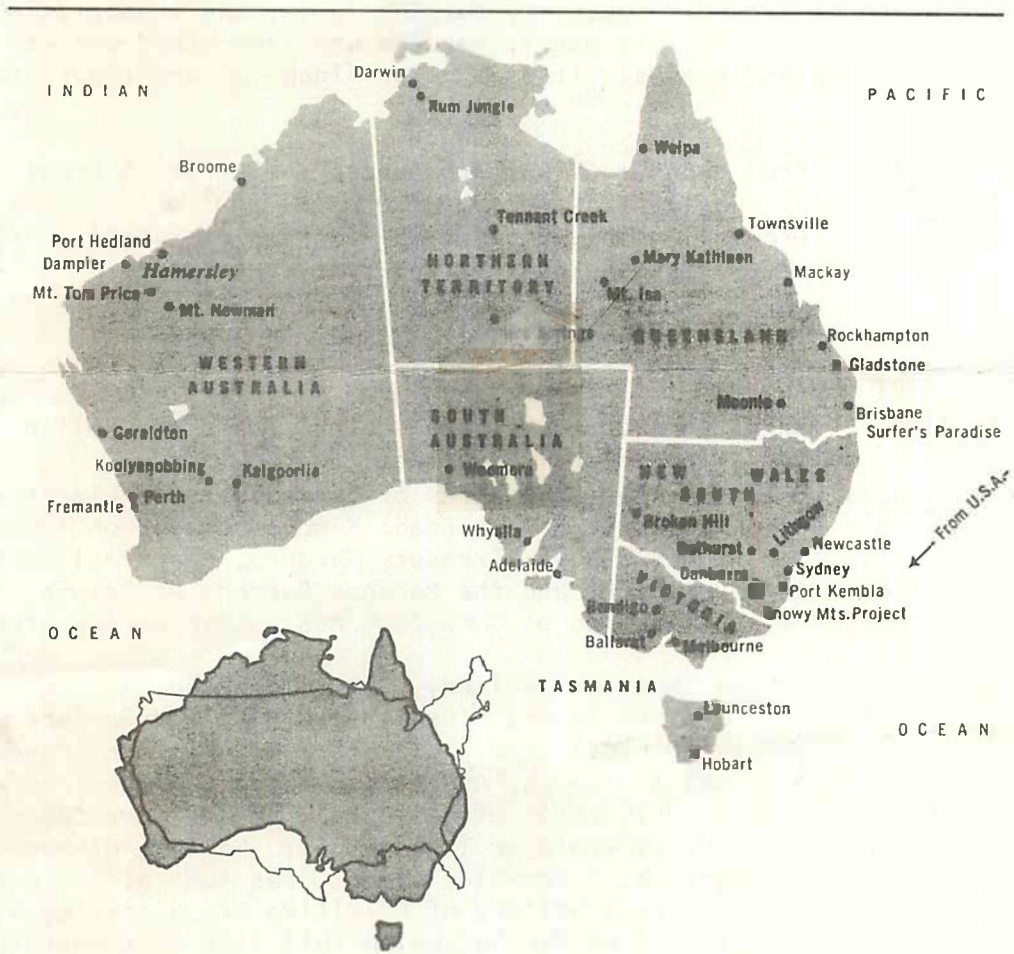
Historic Houses (all open daily): "Como", South Yarra, an elegant colonial mansion, dating from the 1860s, owned by the National Trust; Governor La Trobe's Cottage, a relic of Melbourne's early years; Captain Cook's Cottage, Fitzroy gardens, preserved as a museum, honouring the discoverer of eastern Australia; Emu Bottom, Victoria's oldest homestead.

Tram Rides: Melbourne has retained its trams which provide an economical and interesting means of seeing the city.

AREA SIGHTSEEING

Healesville Sanctuary: The Sir Colin Mackenzie wildlife sanctuary, 39 miles east of Melbourne, gives visitors the opportunity to see Australian native animals at close quarters in natural surroundings. A Platypussy houses Australia's living fossil, the duck-billed platypus. Other animals include koalas, emus, and wombats.

Dandenong Ranges: Wooded hills, lakes and gardens an hour's drive from the city. Special attractions include Sherbrooke Forest, home of the lyrebird; Olinda, with a 100-acre rhododendron garden and William Rickett's sculptures of Aboriginal subjects; Kallista, an Art Centre where Australian paintings may be bought.



Maps of the United States (excluding Alaska and Hawaii) drawn to scale show that Australia with 2,967,909 square miles is approximately the same size as continental U.S.A.

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