



THE AUSSIECON FLYER

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Number 7

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. It is sent to all who have made a deposit or expressed an interest in joining the group flight.

THIS IS THE LAST AUSSIECON FLYER THAT WILL BE SENT TO EVERYONE ON OUR MAILING LIST. FUTURE INFORMATION WILL BE SENT ONLY TO THOSE WHO HAVE MADE A DEPOSIT TO JOIN THE GROUP FLIGHT. NEW GROUP FLIGHT MEMBERS WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL JULY 10TH, THE DATE WE HAVE TO HAVE FULL PAYMENT.

In this issue we are concentrating on the various means of seeing Australia. As you plan your trip, please remember that Australia is a big place and we will be there in the winter. If you want more information on seeing Australia on your own, please let me know. I will send you the information that you need or have the travel agent send it to you. Information such as train and bus schedules and maps is available but it is impossible to include them in this flyer.

Winter averages	Maximum		Minimum		Sun hr
June July Aug	°C	°F	°C	°F	
Adelaide	16	61	8	46	4.6
Brisbane	21	70	10	50	7.2
Cairns	26	78	16.5	61	6.8
Canberra	12	53	1.5	33	5.2
Darwin	31	87	20.5	69	10
Hobart	12	53	5	41	4.5
Melbourne	14	57	6	43	3.9
Perth	18	64	9.5	49	5.4
Sydney	17	62	8.5	47	6

ITINERARY

The following is the itinerary that has been presented to us by our travel agent, George Keulen. This itinerary is subject to modification so if you have any suggestions or comments please let us know as soon as possible.

- August 9 (Saturday) Depart Los Angeles on Air New Zealand flight 555 at 9:15 p.m. After a brief stop in Honolulu, onward to Sydney. Loose a day crossing the International Date Line.
- August 11 (Monday) Arrive Sydney at 10:30 a.m. Transfers provided to the HYATT KINGSGATE HOTEL.
- August 12 (Tuesday) Time to explore the fascinating city of Sydney. Night train departs at 8:10 p.m., arriving in Melbourne at 9:55 a.m. on Wednesday, August 13.
- August 13 (Wednesday) Day train departs for Melbourne at 7:45 a.m., arriving at Melbourne at 8:20 p.m. For passengers that are flying to Melbourne, TAA flight 407 departs at 1:15 p.m., arriving in Melbourne at 2:25 p.m.
- August 14 (Thursday)
to
August 17 (Sunday) Enjoy the 33rd World Science Fiction Convention at the Southern Cross Hotel.
- August 18 (Monday)
to
August 25 (Monday) One full week to explore Australia on your own.
- August 26 (Tuesday) Regroup in Sydney at the HYATT KINGSGATE HOTEL.
- August 27 (Wednesday) Transfer provided to Sydney airport for departure on Air New Zealand flight 556 A, departing at 2:00 p.m. Arrive in Auckland, New Zealand at 6:50 p.m. Transfer provided to Travelodge Hotel.
- August 28 (Thursday) Morning tour of Auckland.
- August 29 (Friday) Early morning departure for Waitomo Caves. (Entrance fee and lunch at Waitomo Hotel included.) Afternoon drive to Rotorua. Overnight accommodations at the Rotorua D.B. HOTEL.
- August 30 (Saturday) Morning sightseeing tour of Rotorua. 1:00 departure for Auckland to connect with TE 556 departing at 8:10 p.m. Gain one day crossing Date Line.
- August 30 (Saturday) Arrive in Los Angeles at 4:00 p.m.

FOUR WEEK TRIP

Unfortunately, a total of twenty people have not indicated that they wish to go on the four week group flight. Unless another four or five names are received by June 20th, we will have to drop that plan. So if you want to go for four weeks and for some reason have not told me, please let me know as soon as possible.

VISAS

Although a visa is not necessary for New Zealand, it is necessary for Australia. You may obtain the form for the visa by writing to one of the following addresses:

IN CANADA

Australian Government Trade Commission, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce Building,
34th floor, 1155 Dorchester Boulevard, West, Montreal

Australian High Commission, Royal Bank of Canada Building (6th floor), 90 Sparks
Street, Ottawa

Australian Government Trade Commission, Suite 55, Guinness Tower, 1055 West Hastings
Street, Vancouver

IN U.S.A.

Australian Consulate-General, Suite 2212, 111 East Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois
60601

Australian Consulate-General, Suite 912, 3550 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles,
California 90010

Australian Consulate-General, International Building, 636 Fifth Avenue, New York,
New York 10020

Australian Consulate-General, Crocker Plaza, 360 Post Street, Union Square, San
Francisco 94108

Australian Embassy, 1601 Massachusetts Avenue, Washington D.C. 20036

TIPPING IN AUSTRALIA

Tipping is not obligatory. The following is general practice:

- 1) Porters: Shipping and rail terminal porters have set scale of charge: airport porters not usually tipped.
- 2) Hotel porters: 20 cents - 25 cents.
- 3) Hairdressers and shop assistants: No tip expected.
- 4) Food and wine waiters at hotels and restaurants - 10% of the charge.
- 5) Taxi drivers: no tip expected.

TRAVELING IN AUSTRALIA

In a recent letter Robin Johnson gave the following suggestions and advice:

I hope everyone is aware that Brisbane is still a long ways south of the Barrier Reef. People who want to go to the Barrier Reef should be aware that the period immediately after the convention is school holidays, a very busy time for the resort areas. Each of the resorts has its own character. Heron Island, one of the few where scuba gear can be rented and recharged, is actually part of the Reef itself. It is about 40 miles offshore from Gladstone or about ninety minutes by F27 propjet (A\$28.40) to the north of Brisbane.

As for the trains between Sydney and Melbourne there are a few points to consider. The central railway station in Sydney is a mile or more from the Kingsgate Hotel, but the taxi fares would only be about \$1.00. Also the taxi transfer (should you decide to use it) from the Mascot airport to Kings Cross where the hotel is located, should only be about two to three dollars, as it is about four miles.

The train fares between Sydney and Melbourne have risen as of June 1, and are now \$20 each way economy with no discount for round trip. First class with berth will be about \$35 each way as a guess. There are three trains daily, two economy class ones, and the Southern Aurora (Roarer for short) is all first class with berths. The Roarer leaves at 8 p.m., arriving at 9 a.m. Since it is overnight, it has the advantage of saving on a hotel room.

The economy class train does not have sleepers and is not the most comfortable means of travel on earth. The seats do not have footrests like coach seats in American trains, and some do not recline, being in compartments like European trains. Smoking or no-smoking seats should be specified when booking.

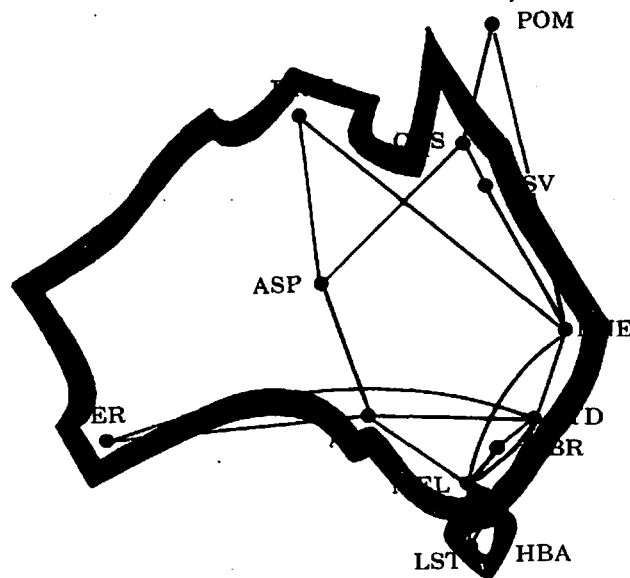
Although the convention does not start officially until Thursday, August 14th, we are hosting a welcome party on the previous day. People arriving on the day train (The Intercapital Daylight) will not miss out, nor will the people flying in that afternoon. In fact they will undoubtedly find themselves given jobs to do.

We are planning a day trip on Monday the 18th to Ballarat and Sovereign Hill, which is to cost \$6.00. This will return to Melbourne around 6:00 p.m., so people checking out of the hotel will have to either check out before the morning departure, or extend their stay. The trip arrangements are mentioned more fully in the latest Progress Report.

JOURNEY TIME COMPARISONS

Sydney to:	Road Miles	Jet Time	1-Way Econ. Fare	Rail Time	Bus Time
Adelaide	885	1.50	\$ 56.30	25.15	23.40
Alice Springs	1844	5.20	\$116.40	64.30	56.25
Brisbane	630	1.10	\$ 38.20	15.30	17.45
Canberra	192	0.30	\$ 16.20	5.00	4.45
Darwin	2533	6.30	-----	-----	92.50
Hobart	717	2.30	\$ 66.10	18.00	19.30
Melbourne	896	1.10	\$ 36.50	13.00	14.30
Perth	2490	5.20	\$150.70	65.45	72.15

Other discount airfares are also available but the saving does not seem to be as great, especially if you want to cover a lot of territory.



AUSTRALPASS

The railways of Australia now have an Australia-wide tour ticket known as "AustraliPASS" which is available to overseas visitors. It entitles the holder to unlimited first-class travel (or economy class if first class is not available on any particular section) on the Government Railways of Australia. The cost of the ticket will cover the base rail fare and seat reservations. Sleeping berth and meal charges will be additional. A fourteen day pass is approximately \$U.S.94.00. A twenty-one day pass is approximately \$U.S.147.00

If you want more complete information on any of these means of travel, please drop me a note and I will see that you receive more information.

The Aussiecon Flyer
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08003