

# Redback

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*Redback* #2 is the second of a new series of newsletters for the Down Under Fan Fund, published by the North American DUFF administrator, John D. Berry, 525 19th Avenue East, Seattle, Washington 98112, USA. *Redback* is sent to everyone on the current DUFF mailing list (that is, recent voters and contributors, and known Interested Parties) and is available for contributions of money or auctionable material to DUFF. Enclosed with this brief issue is the ballot for the 1990 DUFF race. *Redback* is distributed in Australia and New Zealand by the Australian DUFF administrator, Terry Dowling, 11 Everard Street, Hunters Hill, NSW 2110, Australia. (February 9, 1990)

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## Turkich vs. Weddall

The race is on. Who will be the turtle, and who the hare? Which one is Daphne, and which Apollo? Will Atalanta pause for the apples? Only *you* can determine the outcome!

Two brave, relentless Aussies, from opposite ends of the austral continent, are vying for your vote in the 1990 DUFF race: *Greg Turkich* (from Perth) and *Roger Weddall* (from Melbourne). The winner will assume the duties of Australian DUFF administrator, and will make the trip, at DUFF's expense, to this year's North American Science Fiction Convention, ConDiego, in San Diego, California, and to as many fannish centers of North America as time, stamina, and money allow. The outcome, as always, depends on the yeas or nays of the active members of the science-fiction community on both continents (or anywhere else that someone cares to send a vote from, for that matter) who have made a minimum donation of two dollars for the privilege. Since DUFF survives entirely on the participation and the donations of fandom, we encourage you to vote and to donate as much as you can afford in excess of the two-dollar minimum. (You can donate without voting, of course, at any time.) If you'd like to see hard evidence of why you should vote for one candidate or the other, I suggest that you bug them both to produce scads of wonderful fanzines to entertain us all, or importune them for the price of a drink, or whatever. To see what Greg and Roger have to say for themselves, look on the back of the 1990 voting form, enclosed with this issue of *Redback*, for the candidates' platforms.

## Money

The financial situation of the American half of DUFF improved dramatically with a single donation: the Atlanta in '86 worldcon committee donated \$1000 to the fund. Since I had no inkling that such a sum was forthcoming, the arrival of the check and a brief note from Jim Gilpatrick was a very welcome surprise.

Other donors since last issue include Don Fitch (who handed me a check at Ditto for \$50), Rusty Hevelin (from the auction at Chambanacon), Janice Murray (from the fanzine room at Orycon), Jerry Kaufman (sales of his trip report), the auction at Ditto, and a nearly anonymous donor who sent two bucks in cash and identified him- or herself only as "L.R." Thanks to Rusty Hevelin for auctioneering at Chambanacon, and to Bruce Pelz for auctioneering at Ditto.

Donations of auction material have come from Bill Ware, Ray & Barb Van Tilburg (at the Chambanacon auction), and Donya White — and once again I'm sure that I'm leaving somebody out.

Previous balance	\$565.34
Income	1,197.51
Total balance in U.S. fund	\$1,762.85

The total in the Australian DUFF fund, as of January 15, 1990, was \$1190.50 in Australian dollars.

## Terry Dowling's trip report

In a daring break with fannish tradition, Terry Dowling, who as you'll notice is the current Australian DUFF administrator, and who took his DUFF trip in 1988 to the worldcon in New Orleans and to various points around the United States, has finished his trip report. And published it. Terry told me he felt that a DUFF winner ought to write an account during his or her term as administrator, and that's exactly what he's done. This seems like an excellent tradition to establish.

Called *Prints from a Far Land*, the account runs 52 pages of densely packed type, in A4 format, illustrated with photographs, xeroxes of significant kipple from the trip, and cartoons and drawings by Kerrie Hanlon and Terry. The text is co-authored by Kerrie Hanlon, who traveled with Terry; the bulk of the report is in Terry's words, while Kerrie's form a commentary and counterpoint at various moments. Terry was in North America for three months (Kerrie slightly less, since she had to go back a week early); this is a largely chronological account by two articulate Australians of a season in America.

Write to Terry for details of how to get your own copy of this trip report. I expect to have copies for sale in North America before too long, but at the moment all I have is a single advance copy.

I've also got extra copies for sale of earlier trip reports, by Jerry Kaufman and by Marty and Robbie Cantor. Five dollars apiece, plus one dollar postage.

## Auction soon

I've received an enormous amount of material, most of it fanzines but some of it books and other *objets de skiffy*, that is intended for auctioning. There's so much that I haven't had time to sort it and catalog it yet, but by next issue I'll have at least part of it ready to be auctioned by mail. Watch for it.

## Why "Redback"?

Well, nobody did ask, but I'll tell you anyway. As Australian readers will know quite well, the redback is one of the most dangerous — and unfortunately common — spiders in Australia. It's much like an American black widow spider (in fact there's a theory that they're the same crittur with only slight variations), though the redback is distinguished by a red mark on its back. While there's nothing poisonous about this fanzine (unless you take really violent objection to my prose style), "redback" has the two advantages of being catchy and being recognizably Australian. It also has the third advantage of not having been used before as far as I know.

A much smaller number of Australians, and probably no North Americans at all, will recognize "Redback" as the name of a very tasty beer from a small Australian brewery. Living as I do in the heartland of small-scale commercial brewing (microbreweries) in North America, I felt it incumbent upon me to investigate the state of the art while I was in Australia. It was Perry Middlemiss, I believe, who was responsible for introducing me to Redback beer, at a crowded brew pub in Perth during last year's Swancon. The logo on the brown bottle is a simple splotch of red — originally a splash of red paint, although now it's printed on. The red splotch recalls the spider's mark, and in the brewery's earlier, impecunious days it served as a way of claiming bottles recycled from other brewers bottles and refilled with Redback's own brew.

You asked. Well, no you didn't.