

RUMOUR OF THE MONTH

DEPARTMENT

Aussiecon Two is chartering a railway carriage to bring people from Darwin to Melbourne for the convention.

(Courtesy Terry Stroud - heard at Circulation Three)

This is one of my favourites. The main problem with it is that there is no railway from Darwin linking with any railway into Melbourne. As far as I'm currently aware, the convention has no members in the Northern Territory. Does anyone know of any Northern Territory fans or fan groups?

That the Victoria Hotel is setting up an annex in Ballarat to cope with the overflow from Aussiecon Two.

Clearly a piece of malicious rumour mongering by the Ballarat North Fan Society .

LETTERS

JOHN PLAYFORD As regards Megan's policy on smoking, I agree with most of it. As an P.O. Box 542 occasional smoker, I can sympathise with both points of view. Manuka Certainly those who stay in a clouded area (smoke-wise) for lengthy ACT 2603 periods of time have increased risks of cancer...but I think that preventing a smoking section for panels would be a mistake, and a blanket "no smoking" policy would be an infringement of civil liberties. So long as films are smoke-free and non-smoking zones are available, why should we go over-board? After all, drinking can be somewhat hazardous for passers-by, if they interact adversely with drinkers, but we would not want to take prevention of the risk of accident to an extreme. The essential point is, I think, that non-smokers should have a reasonably smoke-free venue available to them, and that there should be give and take on both sides. (On the other hand, "Civil libertarians for cancer" sounds gross..... I'm working on Costigan at work at the moment and am very conscious of the fine line between cost and detriment in the area of civil liberties.)

I think you've missed Megan's point, which is that, in a small room, with inadequate ventilation, it is impossible to adequately segregate smokers from non-smokers, unless you put in a glass wall and airlocks. It's not merely the cancer aspect that is being considered, but the physical discomfort that smoky atmospheres can cause non-smokers. The drink analogy isn't really a good one. Under most conditions, one can avoid an angry drunk. It is impossible to avoid smoke in a room full of it, without resorting to scuba tanks.

ERIC LINDSAY I'll go along with Megan on the basically no-smoking nature of cons. P.O. Box 42 Some provisions should (and must) be made for addicts, but let's Lyneham not forget that, in its natural state, air is not polluted with ACT 2602 smoke.

SHAYNE T KEENAN I would like to put forward the following ideas/suggestions/questions: 21 Albert St Horsham a) Has some important person - Premier, Prime Minister or the Vict 3400 like been invited either to open Aussiecon Two or to have some special part in the convention?

b) Perhaps Mr Barry Jones, MP and Minister of Technology could/would make an ideal speaker on Australia's attempts at advanced technology. All press coverage seems to indicate that he is an ideal speaker.

