

Thyme = 22

appears every four weeks and is produced by Roger Weddall, of 79 Bell Street, Fitzroy, 3065, AUSTRALIA (telephone: 03 - 417 1341). Rates of subscription are as follows... AUSTRALIA: 10 issues for \$4; OVERSEAS (AIRMAIL): 6 issues for £3, DM12, US\$5 or local equivalents. European agent: Joseph Nicholas, 22 Denbigh Street, Fimlico, London, SW1V 2ER, UK. North American Agents: Teresa & Patrick Nielsen Hayden, 4337 15th Avenue NE, #411, Seattle, WA 98105, USA. 'Thyme' is also available for news, or as a trade. An "X" after your name indicates that this could be your last issue unless you... DO SOMETHING!

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'T WAS THE SEASON TO BE MOVING? CHANGES OF ADDRESS.

The Christmas-New Year period is not a time I suppose anyone would voluntarily pick to move house, but there have been a few shifts in the last month....

MELBOURNE: perhaps the most relevant move, with regard to this magazine: Roger Weddall, Mandy Horbury-Smith, Alan Samagalski and Mario Mirabile are now living at 79 Bell Street, Fitzroy, 3065, VIC (03 - 417 1841). Thanks Porky, Kinky, Luigi for the help without which we'd probably still be shifting (as it was it took from ten in the morning to eight at night). If we ever have to leave the place, Mario's washing machine is staying on the first floor. There will be a housewarming party on Saturday the 5th of February, to which all and sundry are invited - should be noisy, crowded and fun.

PERTH: Jane Taulman and Erik Harding have now moved into Flat 4, 87 Ley Street, Manning 6152, and Don Griffiths to 'number one???' (WASFA newsletter) of the same set of flats.

SYDNEY: Andrew Taubman has shifted to 127 Livingston Road, Marrickville 2204, in place of Joy Window and Gordon Lingard who in turn have moved to Andrew's old place at 49 O'Connor Street, Newtown 2042. Dave Ramsbottom remains at Marrickville, as do the two Canadian visitors Debbie and Ray. The well-presaged move of Jean Weber to the city of Sydney has finally happened. Jean is now to be found, on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday nights at 102 Johnston Street, Annandale (02 - 660 4798), and at other times at Faulconbridge, Eric Lindsay's place. However, all mail still to the Box at Sydney Uni. Speaking of Eric, he has had the phone put on (unbelievable, eh?) and the number is (047) 51 2258. By far the most unusual move, from Sydney to America, is Peter Toluzzi's; take it away, Peter:

'Due to a variety of events, having mostly to do with intense job dissatisfaction and changing priorities, I have decided not to move to the US in July/August, but rather to do so as soon as possible - during the first week of February. Because of my deep involvement in many aspects of Australian fandom, several questions are raised which I shall attempt to answer here. Firstly, DUFF:

'The 1983 race is already well underway, with votes already coming in. I have arranged for Jack Herman who has not nominated any of this year's candidates, and is thus neutral to take over the vote-collecting tasks. After FUNCON, at which the winner will be announced, Marc Ortlieb will take over administration of the winner's trip and will also conduct the 1984 race. I shall continue to remain associated with DUFF to the limits of my ability: fund-raising; assisting and advising the US administrator; et cetera. I shall still be producing my trip report, though whether copies will still be available by Syncon '83 remains to be seen - later in 1983 would seem more likely, although it will certainly be available before the end of the year.

With my wide knowledge of people in Australian fandom, I shall be able to carry out most of the secondary tasks associated with DUFF, namely: 'promoting ties between the two bodies of fandom': suggesting names and addresses for those interested in 'trading zines; helping organise itineraries and crashing space for travellers from either country, etc.. I also expect to be closely involved in/with the '85 travel, itinerary and accommodation arrangements...

'I shall' endeavour to keep in touch as closely as possible with Aussie fandom, and hope that people who have been sending me 'zines keep me on their mailing lists; and, of course, I'll be back for a month or so in '85...

'My audio-visual trip report will still be shown at Swancon 8; Transfinite will also ensure that FUDCON and GYNCON '83 will still see the show as well...

'My move to the US involves plans for me to try to build a career as a science journalist - wish me luck! My new postal address, after 4/2/'83, will be (until further notice): % Box 177, Wilmot, WI 53192, USA. After the first month or so I shall probably be living in Chicago, and will keep in touch. In the meantime, Rob McGough will be maintaining my Australian postal address, so mail will eventually reach me; equally, DUFF mail will be passed onto Jack as appropriate. Any further mail to DUFF before Easter should be sent to Jack Herman, Box 272 Wentworth Building, Sydney University, NSW 2006, Australia. Marc Orlieb and Justin Ackroyd will take over all fund-raising activities, including the auctioning of all items I brought back with me from the US (about \$755 has been raised already).

"I have many mixed feelings about this move, and will find it hard indeed to leave behind my many friends in Australian fandom. Though I am not Australian by birth, I have lived here now for twelve years, and my fannish history is Australian through and through. Believe me, it was a tough decision...

'I will still be attending SWANCON 3 before my departure; I shall be driving there by way of Melbourne and Adelaide, and hope to see many of my friends along the way, to say goodbye. Or rather, make that *au revoir*....'

In a later part of the letter, Peter went on to say: 'This whole thing scares me shitless - as well it should. It's the biggest step I have ever taken in my life... but the anticipation, excitement and positive feelings far outweigh the fear. Wish me luck....' ... and indeed I'm sure we all do. I hope everything works out as well as it promises to; Sydney and Australia in general will be a quieter, less exciting place with you gone.

[illegible]

The Down-Under Fan Fund

As Peter said, the DUFF race (see last issue for more details) is now well underway, and in the interests of a more lively competition, it seems to me a good idea to give the least-known candidate a little more exposure. I mean, everyone knows that Jerry Kaufman has great taste in music, and is a generally good bloke; Jan Howard Finner has been a tireless supporter of the '85 Worldcon bid; and Alexis Gilliland has won all those awards, but what of Charlotte Proctor? In a letter not specifically intended for publication, Charlotte writes (and I shamelessly edit):

'I am married, have 4 children. My husband, Jerry, is an Editor with the *Birmingham News*. He gun-smiths for fun and profit. We've both been active in the SCA and are territorial Baron & Baroness of the local group, but our other hobbies are in ascendancy at the moment just now. Jerry is not in fandom.

'Oldest (only) daughter Valerie is married and living at home as is her husband Jerry Wayne. They are fans, and Jerry was my right-hand man at Boshcon ((BobShawCon)).

'I've been (before discovering fandom) Super Mother, Cub Scout Den Mother, Parent-Teacher Association President, and active in church work with the WCTU (the Women's Christian Temperance Union!). ((Well, it is nice - and honest - of Charlotte to show us both sides of her character....)) From this conservative, very mundane background, came I.

'I grew up reading, like everyone else in fandom..discovered SF at an early age.. never thought of going to cons..was a loner..gave up trying to find like-minded people.

Started raising a family..packed away my collection. When Valerie was 10, I gave it to her. She, too, was a reader; she, too, was a loner; she, too, loved SF. She read about cons and begged to go. When she was 14, there was a con listed in the town where "Grandma" lived. We went. She loved it. I was hooked. There is a slide they love to show, of me at my first con, over eight years ago: I look weird in my polyester suit and my "I'm-not-quite-sure-about-this" expression.

'Valerie and I went to cons from then on. We ran with different crowds and pretended we didn't know one another. I was always embarrassing her. People were always telling her things like, "Some man just carried your mother off down the hall." It was just good, clean fun, but she's rather prudish. We opened our room to poor hucksters and femme-fen who didn't have a place to sleep. Cons, and crowded rooms, were lots of fun.

'My fannish history is linked to Birmingham's. I began to notice that I would run into the same people from Birmingham at other cons, although we never saw each other in Birmingham itself. Frank Love, Wade Gilbreath, Meade & Penny Frierson. We talked about starting a club long before it ever happened, although when Penny, Wade and Frank started it up I stayed away for three or four months, because I have this tendency to somehow end up in charge of things, and I didn't want it to happen here. Ha! For all the good it did me! Now I'm Supreme Despot... Kingmaker...you name it.

'I should mention here, that through Valerie's contacts in fandom we met with the 'Southern Ghod of Fandom', Hank Reinhardt, who also lived in B'ham. Our families became fast friends, and I went around with Hank at conventions (at first); it never hurts to hob-nob with BNPs.' (('Big Name Fans' - a term once used seriously, nowadays with more than just a touch of satire/parody))

Charlotte has also been pretty busy with all sorts of fannish activities - she is currently editor of a club-zine, 'Anvil', 'Recording Secretary' of the Atlanta in '86 WorldCon Bid Committee, President of this that and everything else (including vice) at the B'ham SF Club, host to Australians Marc and Peter when in the area, and lots more besides - one of the more active people in Southern US Fandom, socially and work-wise.

.....

Meanwhile, Jan Howard Finder has been keeping himself busy - as a purveyor of grog to American fandom! Printed below is an excerpt from the short letter circulated before CONSTELLATION, this year's upcoming WorldCon,...

'Dear Fan, as you may know, *Beam's Choice* is synonymous with the name Wilson "Bob" Tucker. It has come to my attention that the Jim Beam Distillery will produce a Special Label for its products, if they can sell at least 150 cases. This may sound as if it were a lot, but consider the number of fen who drink, the number of cons and the opportunity for a con or group of fen to raise money for a fund, such as TAFF or DUFF. What I need are Statements of Intent to Purchase - IN CASE LOTS ONLY! There are 12 bottles to a case. - in excess of 150 cases of *Beam's Choice*. If I receive these Statements, a Special Label of *Beam's Choice* may be available at CONSTELLATION. ((Does this remind anyone else of the sort of thing Franklin Mint get up to?))

The estimated cost per case at CONSTELLATION is \$110 for litre bottles, and \$90 for fifths. Shipping charges, if shipping is necessary and can be done, would be extra.

Thus, fen and cons alike have a chance to obtain a Special Libation and honour one of the best known and loved authours/fans, one Wilson "Bob" Tucker. If possible, the label will feature the drawing of Tucker by artist George Barr; the drawing was presented to Tucker at LASTCON*TOO, when he was their Guest of Honour.'

And in a later letter, with the 'Melbourne in '85 'Worldcon in mind, Jan writes:

'...as to how to get the booze to Australia, well, assuming that Australia wins the bid, the bottles could be sent to LA and then broken out, with each of the fen coming down bringing one bottle each... Otherwise shipping costs might be a bit high. I'll check with Beam's about their shipping the booze directly to one of their distributors in Australia. This might solve the problem, tho the price would probably be a little higher than in America, due to shipping costs.'

Well, probably the best thing to do, if your fancy is taken by this idea, would be to write Jan himself, at PO Box 428, Latham, New York, 12110, USA, as he would seem to be the one organising the whole thing. More details to follow?

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GUFF: all the news that's fit to print?

John Foyster, Australian administrator of GUFF, wishes to sound out an idea, the original version of which was proposed by Chris Priest, in England. Chris suggested that, in lieu of candidates to stand for GUFF this year, the money raised that was to send someone over to Britain might instead be used to sponsor the bulk-mailing of fanzines from Australia to the UK and vice versa.

The whole thing is naturally only tentative at the moment, but John estimates that you'd be looking at about £60 (\$100) at each end to help with the mailing costs, and that amount would be spread out over the year. Exactly how the system would work would not be known until the applications from fanzine editors came through (or would they be asked to participate?), but in the very first place, John assures me that, at least as far as he is concerned, the subsidizing programme would not take quality into account, and would be designed to give everyone a go. Quarterly mailings were an idea mentioned.

The idea is of necessity vague on almost every point at this time, and John would like to hear from anyone who has suggestions to make regarding the level of subsidy, frequency of mailings; whatever. He would especially like to hear from those who edit fanzines or the like, e.g.: Crux, Pariah, ASPN, Sikander, TSN, Ghostopper, Warp, The Mentor, Cygnus Chronicler, Science Fiction, Forerunner, SF Commentary, Ornithopter, Wahf-ful, Yggdrasil, WWW, Thyme, Q36 and so on....

[illegible]

FFANZ - and they're off!

On the page opposite is the official voting form for FFANZ '83 - proof enough that the fund is alive and well, if not very well organised. *Thyme* has to hand a list, from Frank Macskasy the New Zealand administrator of the fund, of the names of four people who have been nominated by one of their fellow kiwifens.

The names, and their nominators, are as follows:

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<u>Nigel Rowe</u>	<u>Sue Dickie</u>
<u>Michelle Muysert</u>	<u>Greg Hills</u>
<u>Graham Ferner</u>	<u>Michelle Muysert</u>
<u>Tom Cardy</u>	<u>Roland Sansford</u>

Although Thyme is able to independently verify that both Nigel Rowe and Graham Ferner have been nominated by Australian fans, John Newman is not, as of 17/1/'83, yet in possession of the names of any of

the Australian nominators, and so it remains uncertain as to whether Michelle Muysert or Tom Cardy are/ will be eligible for this year's vote, and of course official confirmation of the Powe and Ferner nominations by Australians must also be waited for. Additionally, John reports that an error in the way the rules for the competition were drawn up means that, if one were to go by the book, three people must nominate each candidate (one nominator, one NZ seconder and one Aus seconder). So it is possible that, technically speaking, no-one was eligible for FFANZ '83, at close of nominations on New Year's Day. What a fine kettle of fish.

However, if rules and technicalities are something the administrators are not too hot on, still no-one could deny them their ability to raise money. Frank Macskasy, current NZ administrator of the fund to bring a kiwifan over to Syncon '83 in June, writes to say that he has NZ\$73.55 in hand, and at the Australian end of things John Newman has collected approximately A\$130 to date - \$75.00 of that was generously provided by the Sydney SF Foundation, with the rest consisting of individual donations. Peter Toluzzi also reportedly has some money for FFANZ in hand, raised in auctions - did he sell some of those slides from his audio-visual trip report? In any event, that gives FFANZ a current working total of approx A\$200 - a healthy start indeed.

Concerning the voting form opposite, John kindly consented to run up a form to appear in this issue of *Thyme*, even though the 'platforms' of all four candidates (assuming they're all four of them eligible) have not been passed onto him by Frank yet. The platforms, in the candidates' own words, are short statements prepared by each person standing for the trip, explaining why they should win.

F F A N Z

The Fan Fund of Australia and New Zealand

Well, folks, FFANZ is under way! Four nominations have been recieved, for Tom Cardy, Nigel Rowe, Michelle Muysert and Graham Ferner, and so the voting is on. There's a form down below and it will only cost you \$2. Please remember that you may only vote once, but we hope you will get all the fen you know to vote as well! Send the votes off to the administrator nearest you, and if you don't feel they are likely know or remember you, get someone who is known to them to endorse your form.

The endorsement procedure is to ensure that voting is 'for, and by' fans, and is not intended to make it hard for anyone to vote. If you have any problems or doubts about placing your vote, please contact an administrator and he will be glad to help out.

Remember, the voting is "Optional Preferential", which means that you must put the number '1' in the box next to the person you most want to win, and '2' for the next preference, and then '3' and '4'. You do not need to vote for all the candidates, or any except the one you want.

Due to communication problems, I cannot print the candidate's FFANZ platforms as I don't have copies of all of them. Next time, honest!

The fund itself is not going too bad for this early stage, but now needs to really get going. In total, between Melbourne and Wellington accounts, we have a bit over \$200, with a large part of that (\$75) being a donation from the Sydney Science Fiction Foundation! That's support!

This next couple of months is the time that everyone who's been busy planning a fund raising event had better get busy! If you have anything to donate to be auctioned at a coming con, or just money (!), let's have it! I hope to print a list of contributors, with special mentions for those especially successfull in fund raising (unless you're too bashfull!) If you have a good idea for raising money, don't tell us, do it! (well, tell us too.) Also, when you have raised funds, as I know some of you have, please get them into us, so the FFANZ account reflects your efforts.

A suggestion from Frank Macskasy is that some fen may have some amount of money that they could lend us, so we would get the interest. How about it? (I've one offer already, of \$200).

FFANZ Voting form

"This is my vote for the 1983 FFANZ ballot. I have placed a '1' in the box next to my first preference, and may have numbered the others as 2nd, 3rd and 4th preferences."

Name: _____ Signed: _____

Address: _____

☐

Tom Cardy

☐

Nigel Rowe

☐

Michelle Muysert

☐

Graham Ferner

If voter not known to administrator, the vote may be endorsed below.

Name: _____ Address: _____ Signed: _____

Post to: Australia: John Newman, PO Box 4, Thornbury Vic. 3071

WITH \$2 New Zealand: Frank Macskasy, PO Box 27274, Wellington

F U N C O N . . F U N C O N . . F U N C O N . . F U N C O N . . F U N C O N . .

FUNCON, the 1983 edition of Melbourne's annual 'Roll away the Stone' festival is getting bigger. So much bigger, in fact, that we decided it needed a real Progress Report. Any day now there'll be one. (It's all in my head...) Let me just repeat the dull, boring, dreary details we all know so well, while I think of something else to tell you.

FUNCON, April 1st to 4th, is a science fiction convention. SF fans will descend on the QUEENSLUDGE MOTOR INN, Queens Rd. in Melbourne and lower the tone of the whole area..., well no, that's not true but they'll have a hell of a good time. As many as possible will stay in the hotel, at the very reasonable rates of \$45 for a double room. All the rooms are doubles, and not only are they enormous but they have balconies from which you can see some of the best views available of parklands and cityscapes. If you are interested in staying in one of these rooms, to better enjoy the parties, panels, films, masquerade and all, then we must have \$20 deposit from you by mid-february, and details on which nights you'll be in the place. Of course, this is where I should tell you that if you are one of the very few people who have not yet joined you can do so for only \$15 (supporting membership is only \$5 but you don't get to attend then!)

Well, that's the important stuff. The Queenslodge is really quite a promising looking venue. The whole top floor opens out into convention area with a folding door down the middle. The view from this lot is just amazing! (Sorry to go on about the view, but when was the last time you went to a con where there was anything outside the windows but other hotels?) St Kilda is not far away, so it won't be much problem to get food, snacks and such, and there's parkland for Frizbees and stuff (with an ity-bity freeway in between, no problem).

Even 'tho the address is 'Melbourne', you might as well call it St. Kilda or Albert Park. It's only called Melbourne because it's near St. Kilda Rd. which has honorary status as part of the city, I figure.

The current program will be published in PR 1, this week, and has both a fair scattering of the usual film/panel/quiz stuff plus some new 'wrinkles'. As previously advertised, the Masquerade will be on the theme of the Interstellar Circus, and the 'Costume Resource Centre' will help dissorganized souls like me dummy up a costume. Join Now!!

FUNCON - PO Box 4, Thornbury, Vic. 3071

Please find enclosed \$_____, being FUNCON membership (and room deposit if necessary) for the following. (Rates: Attending \$15; Supporting \$5)

I/We do/do not require a room booked for the nights of _____
(Room deposit \$20)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tom Cardy and Rick Thompson from Dunedin, Glen Coster from Christchurch and Duncan Lucas, Cathy Simon, Graham Ferner, Don Birch and Peter Hassall from the Auckland region (did I miss anyone out? If so, my apologies) stayed at Frank's place, the Royal Residence and a couple of other places for the duration, and a jolly time was had by all. Some people were there only for a couple of days, while some stayed a couple of weeks. In retaliation, Frank Macskasy is intending to inflict himself on Dunedin in February, and in the end who knows where it could all lead. Anyway, it's a good idea, this sort of thing - or so the people who took part in it say.

Meanwhile, speaking of recent happenings, the 'Bad Taste' spectacular that follows Mr Ogden around from year to year in Perth was held, as reported, way back last year. Readers with impressively long memories may recall that I cast the gauntlet down to those who attended to prove that it was in worse taste than the Christmas Party held in Melbourne on the same day, at Justin & Torbjörn's place. Your intrepid reporter was unable to find anyone willing to commit themselves to paper on the subject, but if half of what I was told about was true, it was indeed in worse taste. It was apparently an amazingly gross affair, with Julian Warner's "get-up" perhaps the worst. The blood stain on the "white panties" worn over the head was the *coup de grace*. Time to change the subject - let's take a look at all the upcoming conventions....

[illegible]

LAST NOTICE - SWANCON '88

GOV: Damien Broderick

Rates: Supporting \$6, Attending \$12 or \$3 for students or anyone who can talk v. quickly.

Originally planned for the same weekend as Swancon 2, Smoffcon is no longer to be held at all. Derek explains: "Smoffcon was planned as a way of raising money, and there was no guarantee that it was going to do much more than cover costs. At the time we decided not to run it after all, we only had one member paid up, and knowing how much effort it was going to be to run it, and that as a fund-raiser it was probably going to be of extremely limited use..." All of which sounds like pretty good commonsense, although it's still a pity to have it cancelled.

On a much happier note, however, Derek and Christine report that Olympicon III, held early in December, raised approx. \$20 for the bid, and Olympicon IV, the do at the Foyster Bryce residence on the 2th of January, raised a grand sum of \$81.47 for the coffers of the bid, all very much needed and thankyou very much to those who attended. Christine added that most of the money raised was that spent on home-made brooches fashioned by Elizabeth Darling and Jillian Foyster - but more of the bid in a page or so.

Various rumours floating around about what was going to happen to Funcon with Terry Frost, previously the main organiser, now living in ~~242/2447/02/1002~~ Dubbo are all incorrect. See the flyer on the previous page for up-to-date info on the state of the con.

On at the same time exactly as Funcon, and being held not more than 5km away, in the same city, this Gaming/Comics/Role-playing Tournament Convention has come in for a little too much stick from fannish quarters, really. Peliabile information shows that

the dates for Phantastacon '83 were in fact decided long before those of Funcon, not that there is likely to be any real competition between the two conventions. Both will have a film programme of films, and that and the Masquerade are about the only points where they duplicate. Morris Sztajer, one of the chief organisers, confidently expects "between 1,000 and 1,500 attendees - closer to 1,500" at Phantastacon. (Just how many people is the '85 Worldcon budgeting for?)

Dates: 1st - 4th April

Venue: Melbourne Town House Hotel, Swanston Street, Melbourne, VIC.

Rates: till 31st of March: \$16, or \$12 for students/pensioners.

after 31st of March: \$20 up to and including at the door, or \$16 for students/pensioners.

Day rates, at the door: \$6, or \$5 for (you guessed it) students or pensioners.

Mail: Phantastacon '83, PO Box 45, Mitcham 3132, VIC.

Programme highlights include: a 'Fantasy Foot Rally' on Friday, a D&D tournament with close to \$1,500 worth of prizes. [8 players per team; prizes for a) the best four teams; b) members of the one best team then compete in a "solo" dungeon, competing for first place] Also, a "board games" tournament, with \$500 of prizes, in which it sounds as though you can bring along any game you're good at, and get money off the committee if you can convince others to play with you. No-one seems to have any real idea of how this is going to work until it actually happens - who knows, it could be fun to watch the ensuing confusion - or help create it? Other events: "Games workshops" - introductions to playing all sorts of a) miniatures b) role-playing c) other, board game games. Dealers/hucksters: comics, games. (What I want to know is: Fabian, will I see you there?) Seriously though, I can't see much audience conflict between the two conventions. Both sound as though they are going to do a good job of providing for their particular target audience: in the end who can say which one would be more fun to attend - depends on personal preferences.

SYNCON '83 - The 22nd National Australian Science Fiction Convention...

is proceeding nicely. Peter Toluzzi and Robin Johnson have resigned, both to head overseas for a while, or even permanently, and their Progress Report #4 is almost out.

Dates: 10th - 13th June,

Venue: the Shore Motel, Pacific Highway, Artarmon, Sydney, NSW

CoH: Harlan Ellison (Professional Author)

Van Ikin (Fan)

Theme: Science Fiction and Society

Rates: Attending \$25, Supporting \$10 (and these will not rise before the door)

Mail: Syncon '83, PO Box A491, Sydney South 2000, NSW

Accommodation: \$59 per room per night (single/double/triple). Room bookings should be made through the Con Committee, and before the 10th of May (no deposit is required).

The con is running an art competition, a Literary competition and a t-shirt design competition, and details of all these three things should be obtained by writing to the committee at their general address listed above.

Watch for the PR4, out soon now, with more details of programme events, etc.

As of 3/1/'83, the convention had 143 members.

ADVENTION 4

Dates: 23rd - 25th April

Venue: The Pier Hotel, Jetty Road, Glenelg, Adelaide, SA.

Rates: Attending \$15 until Swancon 2, then \$20 (including at the door)

One Day Rate: \$8.

Mail: Advention 4, PO Box 46, Marden, SA 5070.

Accommodation: With facilities: \$36/ double or share; \$28/single.

Without electric toenail cutters: \$28/double; \$18/single.

Adelaide cons are usually pretty enjoyable, and this venue is a proven nice location.

JEAN WEBER'S "LIFE BEGINS AT FORTY" PARTY

February 25-26-27, 1983

Venue: Pioneer Way Motel, 429 Great Western Highway, Faulconbridge

Membership: \$10 Attending

Accommodation (costs may rise before then):

\$25/Double; \$30/Twin; \$22 or \$26 (take your pick!)/Single; \$40/"family"
(double bed + 2 or 3 single beds - \$45 if 5 people in a room)

The difference in prices (Single; Double/Twin) depends whether you're in the new or old sections of the motel.

Both sections have colour tv, fridges, showers & toilets ((what - no automatic dishwashers?)); the downstairs (old) section is just a little more the worse for wear, that's all - but quite adequate.

Deposits: \$10 per person by 1st of February; first in, first served/first choice of rooms. Singles will be very limited.

Programme: In the spirit of Paulcons and Medventions of years past, there will be no programme, unless someone wants to organise something. The motel is a couple of blocks from the Olympic Swimming Pool, which might be a popular venue if it's still hot, as it probably will be. It is also 1 block from shops and a grog store.

I (says Jean) will be organizing some sort of (optional) dinner function for Saturday night, and we'll have use of the dining room as a party room after dinner (that's mostly where the membership fee will go; if I collect more than necessary to cover costs, I'll use it to subsidize drinks, or the food, or something.) Any profits (ha!) will go towards 'Melbourne in '85'.

If Ken Ozanne or Eric Lindsay or any of the other computer freaks can be persuaded to bring a game or two, we might have them - but mostly it'll be a relaxacon: bushwalking, swimming, frisbee-ing, sleeping, drinking during the day and partying at night.

Nothing will be organised for Friday night, but I expect some of the interstate people (like Marc Ortlieb) will arrive then, so there should be a nice gathering for anyone else who wants to come up Friday. Otherwise, Saturday noon till Sunday early afternoon.

★ ★ ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Well, if Faulcon 40 is even half as good as the other 'con' that Jean recently had a hand in organizing - Circulation II - then it should be very good indeed. Jean also mentions that she is not able to guarantee any single rooms, so if you do want to book one, it might be in order for you to nominate someone to share a room with, if you have to, as an alternative. There are 18 motel rooms, with beds for about 40 people, and that's it! Potentially a very smoffish con - well, it is more of a long party, than a convention.... Of course, there are camping grounds in the area, and some people might be able to arrange to crash in nearby friends' homes; the nearest alternative motel is in Penrith. (for non-Sydney reader, that's a looong way away.)

Možete li, molim vas, da me uputite u najbližu Worldcon u ovome gradu?

Or...

What you can do to help Worldcon Yugoslavia '88.

Australian agent for the bid is Roger Weddall, 79 Bell Street, Fitzroy 3065, and Roger will be glad to answer any and all enquiries you may have concerning this bid. Obviously, at the moment most Australians will be more concerned about the '65 Melbourne bid.

JOHN FOYSTER: THE MAN, THE MYTH, THE MONSTER: AN ALL-ROUND HUMAN BEING.

The bid to have the 1985 World SF Convention held in Melbourne is proceeding well at the moment, although much of the work being done by the committee right now will not be visible until the con itself is held (assuming we win); what then of the people doing this work? For those who live in Melbourne, it's possible to run into a concom member every so often - they're none of them actual recluses - but even the more widely travelled members of the committee remain unknown or at best only names on pieces of paper to a large number of the bid's supporters - especially those overseas.

It is in the interest of familiarizing fans in general with the committee members that *Thyme* has commissioned - or is that commandeered - an article by John Bangsund on the Chairman of the Melbourne in '85 bid - John Foyster. This excerpt from a previously printed article will hopefully be only the first of a series aimed at helping potential overseas guests - as well as Australian fans - get to know the personalities behind the bid.

John Bangsund writes...

'...Although it would be hard to find in Australia a man more dedicated to science fiction fandom (and impossible to find a man more knowledgeable about science fiction), John's fandom is the pure, old-time "just-a-goddamn-hobby" kind. Not the crass commercialism of those who charge money for their fanzines; nor for him the sad hang-up of those who have nothing else in life except fandom, and who try to hide their inability to cope with the-way-things-are by proclaiming fandom a Way Of Life. It's just lucky for us that John's way of life, in its enviable totality, includes a deep involvement with fandom. We are richer for it.

'There is a certain daunting aspect to John Foyster, in person and in print. He does not suffer fools gladly - not from any malice or lack of essential humanity, but simply from having more important things on hand. This shows itself in a certain abruptness of manner - perhaps aloofness would be a better word - which is easily misunderstood by lesser mortals (i.e. most of us). In his writings he expects you to make the necessary logical leaps from one thought or sentence to the next, and recognize the necessary implications and allusions and so on - and if you don't do this, that's tough cheese and you should be reading something else.

'When Lee Harding first introduced me to John about ten years ago he had come straight from church to The Basin, and was standing - suited, booted and clean-shaven - looking in a disgusted kind of way through Harding's book collection. From hearing him on tape and listening to Harding talk about him I had gained the impression of a rather formidable young man (which he was, and is). I knew he was interested in poetry, and at that time I had been reading George Crabbe, so when Harding left us alone I said to John 'Have you read much Crabbe?' He said 'No'. And he went on looking in a disgusted kind of way at Harding's books. That, in its entirety, was my first conversation with John Foyster.

'Later I got to know him better and wasn't invariably left standing stupid and speechless when he said crushing things like that. Also he has (I think, but I'm not entirely sure) mellowed a little. I remember one night waxing pseudo-philosophico-psychological about the fact that people of my age spent their early formative years during the war; when my father returned from New Guinea, for example, I was six or seven; and I happened to remark 'We are the generation that never knew its fathers.' John said 'I thought your kind never did anyway.' That's beautiful repartee. It also sounds somewhat brutal or callous, but in fact it wasn't: John knew I was raving on as usual, and getting a bit uptight in the process, and he brought me down to earth magnificently. I confess that I have no idea whether that was his conscious purpose. All I know is that I have heard John demolish me and countless other people with a few brilliant words, so often that it is an indelible part of my mental picture of him - and yet I have never heard him say anything of anyone, present or absent, that was truly unkind. Harsh, yes. Shattering, often. But unkind, never.

'John loves people individually and collectively, far too much to help them fool themselves.

'I often wondered - and I was not alone in this - why John professed so much admiration and respect for John W. Campbell and yet damned him mercilessly in print. After a decade I feel I understand.

Foyster the merciless is well-known in fandom - perhaps more so overseas than here, if you can imagine that. I enjoy watching him in action: I make no apology for that (even though I feel sorry at times for his victims). But these days I tend to think more of John as one of the best friends I have ever had, one of the greatest human beings I have ever met.

' Late in 1968 Diane, Leigh Edmonds' and I moved from Elsternwick (where we had slanshacked, together with Paul Stevens) to the house in Ferntree Gully which Diane and I were paying off, and which had been let for some months to a rather undesirable tenant. When I went to look at the place the grass in the backyard was about four feet high. I mentioned this to John. He immediately offered to come over with his motor-mower (I didn't possess such a thing). I was then - and still am - overweight, unfit, easily daunted by hard work and plain goddamn lazy. John is none of these, although I know he isn't the healthiest bloke you ever met, either. For two days he hacked relentlessly into those colossal weeds while I raked, sweated and felt guilty. This was not the only time he put other things aside - things which I would consider vastly more important - to help me out. The point is that on those occasions, in his view, helping me out was the most important matter to hand. I am sure he has done the same for many others. This is the John Foyster I love, the John Foyster you don't catch many glimpses of in the fanzines and often don't appreciate in person.

'John's social conscience and political attitudes are difficult to comprehend - as difficult as anything else about him, and as well worth thinking about. I have got into trouble too often in the past trying to explain Foyster to others (sheer lunacy, believe me) to feel inclined to attempt it again, here, and I will not. But I do want to say something about John that illustrates a little, or explains a little. We were driving back to South Yarra from Bundalohn Court one night, and John was telling me, with joy and delight, about young Jillian Miranda's Sports Day at school. There was love, and pride, and a whole lot of things I can't label in his face as he told me about the children running races and stopping to help their friends up when they fell over and laughing and enjoying themselves hugely. 'It was fantastic to watch,' he said - or something like that - 'At that age they have no spirit of competition at all.' I said 'That's not really preparing them for the hard world they will grow up in, is it.' John said 'That's true. But maybe we should be changing that world for them.'

John Bangsund, *Advention 2 programme booklet*, 1973.

Thanks, John. Of course it must be pointed out that this article was written over/almost ten years ago - and yet it remains, to my knowledge, the best appraisal of John Foyster, genuine all-round human being. Also, in ten years a lot of things change: John (Bangsund) was absolutely correct to call those who charge money for their fanzines 'crassly commercial', but of course that same label would not be applied to people who edit news-zines, and charge to cover their basic costs.

THE LENGTH TO WHICH SOME PEOPLE WILL GO TO GIVE OTHER PEOPLE HUGOS

In *Uncle Dick's Little Thing* #6 - produced irregularly by Richard Smith, Illinois, USA, - there is an article by Richard S. Russell, originally printed in *Semiprozine Apa*, the purpose of which is to show that the new proposed division of the old Hugo Fanzine category into two new categories (see *Thyme* 20) was discussed in a democratic fashion, at the recent World SF Con, before being ratified. Russell, the author of the *agrs* upon amendment, gives an account of the proceedings, and does a good job of showing the reader what a reasonable person Russell is, while failing to mention either of the two sensible motions - suggesting that the Fanzine category be completely abolished - except in passing. While it would seem that the Semi-Prozine Category is bound to become another permanent Hugo (well, the same people who voted on this amendment will be there to ratify it, at the next WorldCon, won't they?), there is just a chance to change things for the better. Come 1985 the WorldCon will hopefully be held outside America, and that

Yes it's time again to vote for your favourite book, film and so on in the THYME POLL AWARDS. Listed below are short descriptions of the various categories to be voted on, as well as any rules (if they exist) concerning eligibility for those categories.

HOW VOTING WORKS

1. Anyone can vote. You don't have to be a subscriber to *Thyme*. You don't even have to use this form - a list or lists of what you want to vote for is sufficient.
2. It's a 'Brownlow' system of voting, which means that a book or whatever you give 'first place' vote to receives three points, while your 'second place' vote is worth two points, and a 'third place' vote one point. You do not have to vote for three entries in any category; that's up to you. In the end, all the votes will be put together and all the points for each entry added up and the category winner thus decided.
3. Send your ballot or facsimile thereof along to 79 Bell Street, Fitzroy 3065, AUSTRALIA, by Saturday the 26th of February, 1983.
4. The winners of categories 5, 6 and 7 will each receive a nice little trophy to commemorate their win - really!
5. As an added incentive for you to vote, one lucky, random voter will receive three free issues of *Thyme* (gosh, wow) for their trouble.
6. Roger Weddall, being the person running this vote, is ineligible for any of the categories of award. (Not that I give a stuff, but I was told by a couple of people that I should put that bit in.)

Go to it: remember - votes in by the 26th of February.

1. BEST FILM SEEN IN '82

This doesn't have to be a science fiction or fantasy film, and it doesn't have to be one that was first released in 1982. This is for the best film(s) you saw - not even necessarily for the first time - in 1982.

2. BEST NOVEL READ IN '82

As in category 1., your choices are not limited to sf or fantasy or new books; just a book or books that you read some time in 1982.

3. BEST SF or FANTASY FILM EVER

Self-explanatory. Is it sf? Is it Fantasy? You decide.

4. BEST SF or FANTASY NOVEL EVER

As for 3.. Self-explanatory.

5. BEST FAN WRITER, 1982

This vote is to determine the best non-professional=unpaid writer who had some work that was first published in 1982. Any sort of writing makes someone eligible for the award, be it an article in a fanzine, letters of comment, editorial ramblings or even a piece of amateur fiction. The person can be Australian, English, Manx or Mongolian - nationality or where published doesn't matter.

6. BEST FAN ARTIST, 1982

This vote is to determine the best non-professional=unpaid artist who had some work first published/printed/exhibited/otherwise appear in 1982. Any sort of artwork will do, and I am saying that for the purposes of this vote I am considering editors of fanzines who do their own layout & presentation work as eligible (as long as they don't make a profit from their magazines). So 'artist' is used very widely, here.

For both categories 5. and 6., when I say first published, I mean originally published.

7. Person to have done most to further the 'Melbourne in '85' cause

A committee of people have banded together to try to have the World SF Convention (a yearly event) held in Melbourne in 1985. Organising and promoting a WorldCon takes a lot of time, energy and general work, and I thought it would be a nice idea to give some measure of recognition to all the people (and there are a lot of them) who have in many different ways helped the bid last year. If you can think of anyone - and it doesn't have to be an Australian - who did something worthwhile towards the bid last year, give them a vote.

1. BEST FILM SEEN IN 1982

- 1.....
- 2.....
- 3.....

3. BEST SF or FANTASY FILM EVER

- 1.....
- 2.....
- 3.....

5. BEST FAN WRITER, 1982

- 1.....
- 2.....
- 3.....

7. PERSON FURTHERING '85 CAUSE

- 1.....
- 2.....
- 3.....

2. BEST NOVEL READ IN 1982

- 1.....
- 2.....
- 3.....

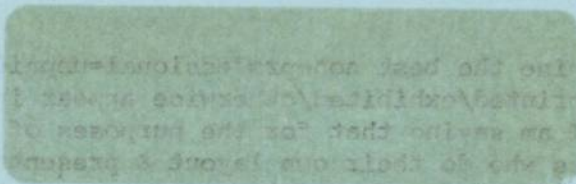
4. BEST SF or FANTASY NOVEL EVER

- 1.....
- 2.....
- 3.....

6. BEST FAN ARTIST, 1982

- 1.....
- 2.....
- 3.....

Hokai. Typed about two weeks later than it should have been. Thanks to John, Jean, Bruce, Peter, Frank, Jack, John, Dick, Joe, David, Justin and - you guessed - Victor. On a personal note, thanks to all those people who came to see me while I was in hospital - that was really great of you and it made me feel really good. Ez az 'lusta magyar' kiadás. seeyuz,



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