

Thyme = 23

produced by Roger Weddall, of 79 Bell Street, Fitzroy 3065, AUSTRALIA, appears every four weeks, except when the editor is ill, in which case it comes out as soon as he's well again. While 'Thyme' may be obtained in exchange for news or information, or as an arranged trade for other zines, subscriptions are most highly prized; the rates are as follows: AUSTRALIA: 10 issues for \$4, the same as ever; NEW ZEALAND (AIRMAIL): NZ\$6 for 6 issues - yes, that's a drop in price; EUROPE (AIRMAIL): 9 issues for £5, DM20, 50SEK, 50FF or local equivalents; NORTH AMERICA (AIRMAIL): US\$1 per issue; THE REST OF THE WORLD: 9 issues for A\$10. European agent: Joseph Nicholas, 22 Denbigh Street, Pimlico, London, SW1V 2ER, UK. North American agents: Teresa and Patrick Nielsen Hayden 4337 15th Avenue NE, #411, Seattle, WA 98105, USA. An "X" next to your name means that this could be your last issue unless you DO SOMETHING. Registered by Australia Post publication #vvh2625
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1985 WORLDCON SELECTION DEADLINE PASSED: MELBOURNE THE ONLY CONTENDER

MELBOURNE IN 85 will be the only bid for the 1985 World SF Convention listed on the official ballot paper to be distributed when a vote is taken on the matter at CONSTELLATION, the next WorldCon. The deadline for inclusion on the ballot was the 1st of March. Any bids received after that date will be eligible as write-in candidates, but at this late stage, the appearance of another, serious bid would be, well, unlikely? And on the subject of CONSTELLATION, to be held early in September, in Baltimore, Maryland, their Progress Report #3 lists 3,589 people as members, 141 of these being Australians. If you would like to join (to vote, or maybe even to go), or have already joined but haven't heard anything from them yet and would like to know why, the person to contact is the Australian agent for the Con, Carey Handfield, Box 91, Carlton 3053, Australia, or Pascal Thomas, the French agent (if you live in Europe, of course), at 11bis rue Vasco de Gama, 75015 Paris, France. The current rate for a Supporting Membership, which enables you to vote for the Hugos, and in the Site Selection process, costs US\$15 until the 1st of July.

Speaking of the Hugos, the deadline for nominations for those awards has passed, the likely final five contenders for the Novel being *2010: Odyssey Two*, *The Sword of the Lictor*, *Battlefield Earth*, *Foundation's Edge* and *Friday*, but not necessarily in that order. The list of 'Preliminary Nebula Nominations' are out, and going by this list it would seem that *Helliconia Spring* by Brian Aldiss, and Michael Bishop's *No Enemy But Time* are also popular, but between the general fame of "the big three" (Clarke, Asimov, Heinlein) and the Scientologists' backing for the Hubbard novel, their chances for an award voted on by the public would not seem high.

Meanwhile, it is not certain that L. Ron Hubbard (founder of Scientology and well-known collector of ocean-going yachts) is even alive. He has been described as either dead or senile in a suit filed by his son, Ronald F. DeWolf, who wants the courts to take control of his father's financial empire. The petition claims that Hubbard has not been seen since March, 1980, that his father's mental health has been failing, and that a small band of Scientology church officials have been pilfering the church's assets, valued at somewhere between \$100 million and \$1,000 million. The action has not yet come to court, and people are arguing that the appearance of *Battlefield Earth* proves he's alive, while some say it's reasonable evidence he's not. Are we seeing the completion (from notes?) of a work written long ago? Pursuant to this, another novel has been announced, *Mission Earth*, 2.5 million words long, to be released in 12 parts, the first volume of which is scheduled to appear later in '83.

FAN FUNDS, FAN FUNDS EVERYWHERETAFF - the Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund

Avedon Carol, an East Coast American fan, easily won this year's race (figures below) and will attend Britain's Albacon 2 this Easter.

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Europe</u>	<u>North America</u>	<u>Total</u>
AVEDON CAROL	34	35	69
LARRY CARMODY	4	28	32
GRANT CAMFIELD	7	10	17
TARAL	2	12	14

SUFF - Scandinavia - UK Fan Fund

Ahrvid Engholm, active Swedish fan, is campaigning to start yet another fan fund, this one to initially bring across a well-known Brit fan to Swecon '83 (Stockholm 17-20 August), and hopefully to continue on as a yearly, reciprocal thing. Well, who knows... it is undoubtedly (yet another) worthwhile idea; and yet I can't help wondering how many "fan charities" such as this we'll eventually end up with. As it is, people are already making noises about whether the whole idea of such funds is not redundant. Look at the incredible business of GUFF. Nevertheless, for the moment one can only offer support for SUFF, it's aims are noble ones. If you would like to find out more about the idea, write to Ahrvid at Maskinistgatan 9 öb, S-11747, Stockholm.

FFANZ - THE FAN FUND of AUSTRALIA - NEW ZEALAND

Here follows a list of candidates, their seconders & nominators, and each candidates 'platform' (a brief resume, not necessarily serious, explaining why they should win the contest).

MICHELLE MUYSEPT (Wellington) Nominated by Greg Mills, seconded by Alex Heatley and Marc Ortlieb.

'Incredible as it may seem, Michelle has been around in NZ fandom for only just over a year. From humble beginnings (a 3-hour video evening transformed into a 24-hour socialthon) she has... progressed... to bigger and better things, such as faangathers throwing her own parties, and 48-hour socialthons. Taking (or should that be making) over the Wellington party scene, she has gone on to probe the con-scene in the deep south*, and establish closer relations with Auckland fans. Now, older and wiser, she is casting her sight farther afield, to places like Australia and Eketahuna. What strange, new rituals can she learn? Can you teach an Australian the Timewarp? There's only one way to find out: Maysert for FFANZ!'

GRAHAM BERNER (Auckland) Nominated by Michelle Maysert, seconded by Jack R.Herman and Tom Cardy.

'Graham's lifestyle is of an entirely fannish nature; he lives in a slanshack with 3 other fan, feeds on a diet of Bheer, cookies and vegemite, spends his time indulging in fan publishing or attending fannish social events in order to catch up on the latest gossip about himself, he will draw illos for any fan who asks him, he never sleeps around† and he has a cat. Though young in years, Graham has been an active fan since before NZ's first convention 5 years ago, when he founded a small Auckland sf society and began his fan publishing career. He is one of those faneds who is fast getting a name for himself, other than the usual ones... even he himself speculated that "by 1989 (he) would be such a ~~VFM~~ DNF that the Aussies would have to pay a fortune to get (him) over to be Pro Goll at one of their cons". This would tend to suggest that if he was brought over to Australia for FFANZ in 1983 you Aussies wouldn't need to bother in 1989 and could thus save yourselves a mint, by getting in before the rush. Graham is quite definitely the most suited faan to win FFANZ as even the other candidates will be quick to agree; after all, it was them who nominated him.'

TOM CARDY (Dunedin) Nominated by Vera Lonergan, seconded by Rex Thompson and...

'I have been involved in NZ fandom for 4 years, and during this time the links I have forged in many aspects of fandom justify my travelling to Australia. These include: attending all four National Conventions; travelling extensively throughout NZ in 1979 to meet fan; editing two major fanzines, one-shots, and newsletters; as

* Hi, all you penguin lovers!

† Well, that's what he says.

...last chance... la **FFANZ** ast chance... last c

The Fan Fund of Australia and New Zealand

It's frightening, simply frightening. A little while ago we had just started, and now FFANZ is nearing it's climax. Originally, it was our intention to close off the votes by Easter, but that would deny us any votes that might be gathered at FUNCON, here in Melbourne over the Easter weekend. So now voting will close at midnight on Sunday, April the 3rd.

To recap a bit then, FFANZ, the Fan Fund of Australia and New Zealand, which intends to bring a New Zealand fan over to Australia for SYNCON 83, has four candidates, and the one chosen by the votes of fen in OZ and NZ will be announced during the closing ceremony of FUNCON on the 4th of April. If you are attending FUNCON you will be able to vote there, or just fill the form at the bottom of this page.

FFANZ fund raising has gone well. At SWANCON 8 the auction provided \$34, and the sale of "Friend Of FFANZ" badges brought in another \$30. Donations from Marc Ortlieb, Andrew Taubman and Peter Toluzzi (who had done some scrounging for us) added another \$35. Income from voting is approaching \$30, and Katrina Swansbra, who had been running her own 'New Zealand - Australia Fan Fund' for years contributed over \$50! Wonderful!

At the moment, then, the account in Melbourne stands at \$307.31 ! At last word, we had around NZ\$200, so our winner is definitely going to get over here. Now the next thing is to get them around this inconveniently large country. Let's face it, the fen in Perth, who have contributed so much one way or another, really want to be part of the tour!

So keep those cards and letters (with money attached) coming in. Also please keep sending votes, with at least \$2 attached, for your particular favorite, and remember that you may, but do not have to, vote for 1, 2, 3 or 4 of the candidates, in descending order. (#1 is top!!)

I'd like to make a special request for material to be auctioned at FUNCON for FFANZ. It's our last chance to raise money before the announcement of the winner (tho there's not any reason we can't do it after as well!).

In New Zealand, the official announcement of the winner will be made at the NASF 1983 Annual General Meeting on the 17th of April.

As this is the last flyer before the votes are counted and announcements made, I'd like to thank all the people and organizations that have helped make this fund the obvious success it is going to be!!!

FFANZ - Voting Form

<input type="checkbox"/>	Graham Ferner	"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: _____ Address: _____ Signed _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Michelle Muysert	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nigel Rowe	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tom Cardy	

If you don't think you're known to the administrator, please get someone who is to endorse the vote. Name: _____

Address: _____ Signed _____

To be counted, this must reach an administrator by April 3rd, with at least \$2 attached to it. The administrators are : John Newman, PO Box 4, Thornbury, Victoria 3071, AUSTRALIA & Frank Macskasy Jnr, POB 27274 Wellington New Zealand!

FFANZ Candidates Platforms

GRAHAM FERNER

Graham's lifestyle is of an entirely fannish nature, he lives in a slant shack with three other fen, feeds on a diet of Bheer, cookies and Vegemite, spends his time indulging in fan publishing or attending fannish social events in order to catch up on the latest gossip about himself, he will draw illo's for any fan who asks him, he never sleeps around and he has a cat. Though young in years, Graham has been an active fan since before New Zealand's first convention five years ago, when he founded a small Auckland SF society and began his fan publishing career. He is one of those faneds who is fast getting a name for himself, other than the usual ones ..even he once speculated that, "by 1989 he would be such a BNF that the Aussies would have to pay a fortune to get him over to Pro GOH one of their cons". This would tend to suggest that if he was brought over to Australia for FFANZ in 1983 you Aussies wouldn't need to bother in 1989 and could thus save yourselves quite a mint, by getting in before the rush.

Graham is quite definately by all accounts the most suited faan to win FFANZ as even the other candidates will be quick to agree, after all, is was them who nominated him.

MICHELLE MUYSERT

Incredible as it may sound, Michelle has been around NZ fandom for only just over a year. From humble beginnings (a 3-hour video evening transformed into a 24-hour socialthon) she has ... progressed ... to bigger and better things, such as Faangathers, throwing her own parties, and 48-hour socialthons. Taking---or should that be making---over the Wellington partyscene, she has gone on to probe the con-scene in the deep south, and establish closer relations with Auckland fen. Now, older and wiser, she is casting her sight farther afield, to places like Australia and Eketahuna. What strange new rituals can she learn? Can you teach an Australian the Timewarp? There's one way to find out: MUYSERT FOR FFANZ!

NICEL ROWE

"My next guest has often been described as the 'Collector' behind NZ science fiction fandom. Indeed his legendary quests for free accomodation and long lost zines have taken him the length and breadth of the country. Born in London, England but now living in Auckland, New Zealand, although he has no longer left England than Jan Howard Finder has left Australia. This determined and likeable 19 year old is fascinated by fandom's deepest secrets, traditions and histories and a frequent expounder of these sometimes long forgotten details. Ladies and Gentlemen, please welcome Nigel Rowe."

TOM CARDY

"I have been around in NZ fandom for four years, and during this time the links I have forged in many aspects of fandom justify my travelling to Australia. These include: attending all four national conventions; travelling extensively throughout NZ in 1979 to meet fen; editing 2 major fanzines, one-shots and newsletters; as Official Editor of AOTEARAPA for nearly three years; and regularly trade, corresponding and contribute to NZ fanzines. On a local level I have helped administer Dunedin NASF since 1978, and was an organiser of OCTACON in 1982. In Australia I am known primarily in APPLESAUCE since 1980, and in the odd trade or contribution to fanzines.

Finally there are two minor reasons: as a money hungry student I cannot afford to travel otherwise, and, secondly, at last I can socialise with Australian fen and consume large quantities of cheap Fosters Lager!

Official Editor of Aotearapa for nearly 3 years; and regularly trade, correspond with and contribute to NZ fanzines. On a local level I have helped administer Dunedin NASF since 1978, and was an organiser of OctaCon in 1982. In Australia I am known primarily in Applesauce since 1980, and in the odd trade or contribution to fanzines.'

NIGEL ROWE (Auckland) Nominated by Sue Dickie, seconded by George Floratos and Roger Weddall.

'My next guest has often been described as the "Collector" behind NZ science fiction fandom. Indeed his legendary quests for free accommodation and long lost zines have taken him the length and breadth of the country. Born in London, England, but now living in Auckland, New Zealand, although he has no more left England than Jan Howard Finder has left Australia. This determined and likeable 19 year old is fandom's deepest secrets*, traditions, and histories, and is a frequent expounder of these sometimes long-forgotten details†. Ladies and Gentlemen welcome please Nigel Rowe.'

*secrets? what secrets.

†oh....

.....
So. There you go, those are the four candidates, all you have to do now is to vote for one or more of them. To do this, send your vote (along with a minimum \$2 'donation') to one of the administrators. CLOSING DATE FOR VOTES: RECEIVED BY 31st March.

NEW ZEALAND: Frank Macskasy Jr., PO Box 27274, Wellington 1.

AUSTRALIA: John Newman, PO Box 4, Thornbury 3071, VIC.

Okay, none of that was too hard to digest, was it? What, then, is one to make of the following announcement by Greg Hills, in the most recent issue of his NZ fanzine, *Tanjet* 13:

A RECANTATION! RE: MUYSERT FOR FFANZ

(Earlier) Michelle had not announced her decision to go to Australia for Syncon... and not return. At the time I nominated her for FFANZ, she had not even decided to go, so both sides had acted in good faith.

Now, however, Michelle has decided to leave NZ for good after she attends Windycon '83. She'll be travelling on from Syncon to Melbourne and, like me, will be temporarily staying with the Fousters until she/we find a new house/flat/apartment of her/our own.

The "her/our" bit is there simply to cover all possibilities; we do NOT currently plan shacking together, and our decisions to go were made independently, anyway.

Anyway, in light of this it would be best, we have agreed, if we did not push the FFANZ bit. Tom Cardy or Graham Ferner or Nigel Rowe: take your choice!

Greg Hills

What makes this 'announcement' more interesting is that none of it is true. Well, this is what the NZ FFANZ administrator, Frank Macskasy Jr, says, and he should know what's going on better than anyone else - except Michelle, of course, who herself has issued no statement to verify the Greg Hills announcement on her behalf, as one would expect her to do so, if it were true. It would probably not be out of place to mention here that there is currently a fair bit of the substance with the mud-like qualities being flung around in NZ fandom at the moment, especially in NASF circles. There is talk of the rifling of personal papers, lawsuits and 'plots': you get the idea. Paranoia paradise. Disregard the above-printed 'recantation'. MUYSERT IS A CANDIDATE FOR FFANZ.

And FFANZ itself is doing quite well. In NZ the NASF branches have given money, held auctions for the fund, and then there are the donations from individuals. Close to NZ\$200. And in Australia, things are looking just as good. We have ourselves a winner here, folks. Remember: voting closes midnight, 31st of March.

DUFF - DOWN-UNDER FAN FUND (USA-AUSTRALIA-USA-AUSTRALIA-...)

Bit of a lack of information at the moment, what with the transferral of duties of Aussie administrator & all that. Presumably lots of money pouring in, etc. Not to say that more donations wouldn't help - it costs a lot to send someone overseas, you know! As for FFANZ, voting deadline is the 31st of March.

GUFF (UK-AUS)

Following the publication last issue of the idea espoused by John Foyster, that of a bulk-mailing service to take the place of an Aus candidate for this year's trip, I've received some response. Jean Weber sums up the gist of most opinions (including, co-incidentally, mine):

'Just because no-one's available to stand in a given year does not seem to me to be a cause for alarm. It's unfortunate that some of the people most attractive to fans at the other end of the journey, may just not be able to take the time, or raise the extra money needed, and sending 'just anyone' to use up the money seems a bit silly. I say we keep talking it up, maybe raise a bit of money now and then, put what we've got into a high-interest account, and see who surfaces in a year or two. ((Jean points out that, of course, what with the WorldCon here in Melbourne in '85 -- well, almost certainly -- there should be no lack of willing candidates from Britain ready to come over for the Con))

'Although I like the idea of bulk-mailing fanzines to and from Great Britain' (assuming that someone could be found at both ends to efficiently forward the zines, which does not mean passing them out personally at the next con in six months' time), I am not in favour of using GUFF money to subsidise such mailings. At least not when the money was raised from people who assumed their funds were going to one purpose. When they discover it's going to another, they might be a bit annoyed. I think I would be, regardless of the merit of the proposal...'

Another point mentioned by some is that to do a worthwhile job of bulk-mailing, a lot more money would be required at either end than just, say \$100. Thyme is supposed to be a newszine, but in this case the editor might just take a punt and suggest that while the idea is essentially a worthy one, it will remain just that: an idea.

CONVENTION UPDATE

FUNCON

Dates: 1st-4th April (Easter)

Venue: what the heck, just look at the next two pages: that's what flyers are for. Just don't forget to be there: it promises (or is that *threatens*) to be lotsa fun.

PHANTASTACON '83

Same dates, same city as Funcon. Exact venue, Town House Hotel, Swanston Street, Carlton, Melbourne.

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

after (at the con): \$20, or \$16 for pensioners, students.

Day rates: \$6, or \$5 for penguins, salamanders.

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

Last year this convention had approx. 300 members. Attractions will be \$\$\$\$\$money prizes in a D&D tournament and other competitions. As I said in the last issue, and it would still appear to hold good, 'no-one (talking about the organisers, now) seems to have any real idea of how (the competitions) are going to work, until they actually happen - who knows, it could be fun to watch the ensuing confusion - or help create it?' That aside, it could well be worthwhile. I mean, they've been doing it for three years, now.

ADVENTION 4

Dates: 23rd-25th April.

The convention has just issued a flyer with broad programme details. CoHs: Mary Shelley & Wynne Whiteford. Write the committee for a copy of the flyer; it sounds like a pleasant little affair, and might be worth turning up to just to see what Marc Ortlieb gets to do (or is that *whom* Marc Ortlieb gets to do) as Crummet Master. Mails: Adventon 4, PO Box 46, Narden 5070, SA.

N.B. Hotel bookings must be confirmed soon by all who have made them.

SYNCON '83 - The 22nd National Australian SF Convention

Dates: 10th-13th June

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

The main reason for mentioning Syncon this time is because of the Ditmar Awards. The

FUNCON

FUNCON is a SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION

WHEN: EASTER 1983, April 1 to April 4

WHERE: QUEENSLIDGE MOTOR INN, 81 Queens Rd. Melbourne

HOW MUCH: \$15 full attending membership (\$17 sober): \$20 after 27 February
\$5 supporting membership (non attending)

WHAT: FUNCON will have the usually wide range of activities to be found at any great Melbourne convention including:

- a MYSTERY Guest of Honour
- discussion on topics such as; "Real Men In SF", Hangover Cures, "Villains In SF", and "Breaking The Drought".
- Masquerade - Theme "An Interstellar Circus"
- Auction: of serious and silly items
- Trivia Quiz
- Life Be In It Games
- Films; including "Life Of Brian".
- Audio Visuals
- Videos
- Parties
- Books and Magazines Sold

WHY: EASTER is the traditional time for a science fiction convention in Melbourne.

This year Easter begins on April 1st, April Fools Day.

What better excuse for having a convention that is just plain fun - FUNCON.

WHERE DO I STAY: The Hotel has plenty of rooms. They are all triples and cost \$ 45 per night. If you want a room please send us a \$20 deposit as soon as possible (ASAP) and certainly by mid March.

WHO: The FUNCON address is PO Box 4, Thornbury, Vic., 3071.
All Cheques should be written to Funcon.

An all purpose membership and room booking form will be found over the page.

SEE YOU AT FUNCON

REMEMBER FUNCON MEMBERSHIP GOES UP TO \$20-00 AFTER 27/2/83

NAME

ADDRESS

THE ALL SEEING, ALL KNOWING, GENERAL PURPOSE, FUNCON MEMBERSHIP FORM

I'm silly enough to give you five dollars (\$5-00) of my hard earned money, even though I won't be coming to your convention. So please sign me up as a supporting member. (I agree to pay extra if I then decide to come to your crazy convention).



It's before 27/2/83 so take this fifteen dollars (\$15) and give me a full attending membership of your stupid convention. I promise to have a good time, not take things seriously and generally be the lunatic that people say I am.



Now it's after 27/2/83 I guess I'll have to give you this \$20 so I can come to your amazing con. Please take it in the spirit intended (a good nine year old malt whisky will do) and let my people come.



The Queenslodge Motor Inn sounds like a really groovy place to hang out. I'm sending this here \$20-00 to book me a room for the following nights: Thursday/Friday/Saturday/Sunday/
Monday

The rooms are so big that I'll be sharing mine with

((There really is too little time for us to organise sharing arrangements. We leave that to those of you who want a room. We may be able to help with accommodation for those who are really strapped at the convention but we make no promises.))

I really am a masochist and would like to offer my services to help the Committee at FUNCON. Just tell me what to do.



WARNING

MEMBERSHIP OF FUNCON GOES UP TO \$20-00 FROM 27/2/83

MELBOURNE
IN
85

follows:

- Best International Science Fiction or Fantasy
- Best Australian Science Fiction or Fantasy
- Best Australian Fanzine
- Best Australian Fan Writer
- Best Australian Science Fiction or Fantasy Artist
- Best Australian Science Fiction or Fantasy Cartoonist
- Best Australian Science Fiction or Fantasy Editor
- William Atheling Award for Criticism
- Contribution to Australian Fandom

CONQUEST '83 - The first National Media SF Convention

ROOM Rates: \$52/night

Contact: Cathy Kerrigan, 17/140 Riversdale Rd, Hawthorn 3122, VIC. for further information, or attend Funcon in Melbourne over Easter, where Glynnis Chalmers & Katina Barry (2 of the organisers) will be. They'll be happy to answer all enquiries.

SYDNEY: First of all let's start with a correction: Joy Window & Gordon Lingard have moved to Andrew Tabman's old place, which is in fact 44 O'Connell Street, Newtown 2042. The address of the DUFF administrator in Australia has changed, and all correspondence, incl. votes should go to Box 272 Wentworth Building, University of Sydney, NSW 2006. Meanwhile, Kim Huett has moved, to 3/28 Gordon St, Rozelle 2039, although his postal address remains as GPO Box 429 Sydney 2001.

REALLY MELBOURNE: Charles Taylor, recently of Zimbabwe (teaching contract), came back a couple of months ago (New Year period) with Nic, who he met over there and who is now his wife, and her two kids. They were staying at Charles' mum's place, which is where they were wed, but now they have moved, to 74 Marianne Way, Mt Waverley 3149.

On the subject of marriage and kids, Asus & Karen seem to have reserved a permanent mention for themselves in every issue of Thyme. This time it is to announce the fact that Karen has lost a lot of weight. Yes, baby makes three. Adric Maxwell Desmond Small (ANDS) was born at St. George's Hospital on the 16th of February, and is doing just fine. Shane Pickup is back from overseas, and it looks as though he will be moving into 79 Bell Street Fitzroy 3065 while Alan Samagalski is overseas (China), pretending to be a travel writer, for 4-5 months.

NOT EVEN VAGUELY MELBOURNE: Speaking of babies, it should be noted that Malcolm Edwards and Chris Atkinson are expecting a child. On a slightly less-eventful note, Roelof Coudriaan has a new postal address: Postbus 1129, 7200 BD, Lelystad, The Netherlands. Roelof is editor of the European newszine Gards of Babel, more of which later.

ADELAIDE: John Packer is now at 9/3 Eversley Avenue, Enfield 5085, 'phone (03)269 6664.

PERTH: Don Griffiths is at Flat 1, 97 Ley St, Manning 6152. Colleen Dye & Adam Jen-
kins have moved to 26 Sydney Street, North Perth 6006. Like them, the place
that Jo Masters and Steve Gunnell were in was sold, and they've had to move to 5/68

Dernier Salon Avant L'Autoroute (aka DSEA) est produit by Pascal Thomas, 11bis rue Vasco de Gama, 75015 Paris, France. Available for all sorts of reasons, including the more usual ones, the obvious major drawback of DSEA, from a non-French point of view, is that it is entirely in French. Generally shorter than Ansible or SOB, the profusion of unknown names and events may at first confuse but surely this is the case with any zine put out by someone you don't personally know. After a short while, the whole of it begins to make sense. It is a window on French fandom, and that in itself is enough to make it recommended reading. Pascal has a pleasant style (I'm told by a translator), and the articles are good reading. The recent piece on the film E.T. was particularly amusing. If you yourself know no French, then find a friend who does. P.S. Pascal himself reads and writes English very well, so you'll have no worries communicating with him. Appears regularly, last issue #9.

What is this thing called 'thyme'? As a part of my expansionist drive to win the "semi-pro-zine" Hugo in 1985, I have been sending 'thyme' unsolicited to people who I think might have an interest in it. Sometimes I get the feeling that I haven't exactly hit the mark. J. Eland, Norstrilia Press author, responded to Bruce Gillespie, NP editor, in a private letter: 'Since the publication of Pugh (my novel) some eccentric has started sending me bits of coloured paper all stapled together, dealing with such oddities as GURPs and DUFFs and contributors giving long and involved explanations as to why they should not be dropped out of a plane in Mid-Atlantic. These, together with innumerable changes of address and barbecue venues, have led me to conclude that they are some form of chain letter. I have, accordingly, handed them on.' Sorry, Jay. Anyone else out there feeling similarly confused?

SWANCON 8 - AT LAST THE TRUTH CAN BE TOLD

It wasn't hard to tell just who had been over to Perth for Swancon 8. They were the ones who were permanently stuck in a grin from ear to ear. But why? Nup, all they did was grin. One of them said: "It was great," but that was all.

Well, at last (some of) the truth can be told. I have in my possession smuggled copies of two con reports, and although I have a feeling that those fixed, ecstatic grins have yet to be explained, these two reports go some of the way to explaining why they hold these Swancons.

Sally Beasley gets first chop:

'Swancon 8 was held at the Westos Motor Inn on the Australia Day long weekend. GoHs were Damien Broderick, author, and Bob Ogden, fan. This is the second year we've been at the Westos, and they're really a good hotel - friendly, they block-booked us on one floor, and they are able to cope with noisy parties. Perhaps because they had a couple of basketball teams there on the same weekend! The manager was very friendly and asked us if we'd had a good time when we checked out, as well as wanting to stay at the filksinging party to learn the words (he couldn't, since he had the rest of the hotel to check.)

'I'm not the best person to write a report, since I usually don't go to many programme items (this year was no exception) and I didn't go to many parties this year. Still, the highlights for me, were Peter's audiovisual trip report on the first night, following Bob Ogden's slide introduction to WA fans and fandom. The debate, also on Friday, was a disaster - supposedly a serious debate, which only one person on it had had a chance to prepare for. Next year it will be organised better - overall, programming was the weak point this year. The organiser needs to be someone of considerable force of personality, and that wasn't the case this year but hopefully should be the next.

'Saturday featured a very bad play - The Last Voyage of the Starship Enterprise - whose title gives away the plot rather. Also a couple of panels, which I didn't attend, and a play entitled Epilogue, written by Dave Lockett and featuring Dave, Ian Nicholls and myself. People were very complimentary, & I think it went well, but I can hardly give a dispassionate account. Dinner was with lots of fans at a Mongolian Ba-becue restaurant ((More barbecue notices, whoops)), and there was a Masquerade and the 'Goon Show'. Some excellent costumes - most remarkable were Carey Handfield & Barbara & Geoff de la Hunty/Jagoe as an alien ambassador & entourage; Gina Goddard as the Wicked Witch of the West; Stephen Dedman as Frankenfurter (really!); and Mark Hennessy who had shaved his head bald and painted himself gold for the occasion (he looked very odd without eyebrows for the rest of the con...). I had not expected much of the 'Time and a Half' Goon Show, by Craig Hilton, because the script was poor and there were casting problems, but it was surprisingly good on the night. Unfortunately I fell asleep after that & so missed the massage party, the sleaze party, & the travelling Cackleberry Hall party.

'Sunday was distinguished by most people (except me) being hung over. There were a GoH speech and interview by Damien, (he talked abstruse population statistics & parapsychology at the first).

'At the auction I successfully outbid Kim Huett for 'The Compleat Werewolf', and a Craig Milto painting, and outbid Warwick Thomas for a signed first edition of a Bloch novel. Peter Toluzzi's jellybeans were fetching extravagant prices, & DUFF was doing well. So was A in '85; it almost got to the point where the Well-Dressed Fan was wearing a Melbourne tram badge. Sunday was also the final of the Rail Baron tournament, with tempers getting edgy.

'The filksinging workshop generated 3 Swancon filks - one each from Dave, Ian and Craig Hilton. There was a filksinging and piña colada party that night, featuring overproof rum and coconut milk

made by soaking dessicated coconut in hot water and straining it through Ian Nicholls' jocks. There was also a party attempting to set a world record for the number of women massaging one man - I think we reached 9, and Damien and Mike Schaper seemed to enjoy it...

'Monday was even more hungover for most, and I'm sure had some programming.... yes, there was the 'My Word' panel, ripped off from Tschaicon & suffering from inadequate preparation; and there was the Melbourne in '85 pitch, and the con filksongs to finish it off. Then a dead dog party at Roy & Julia's, with more filksinging & games of "Dirty Words" & "Pin the Baby Oil on the Dead Dog" and a farewell to Peter. Swancon 9 should be fun.'

Next, an all-leather Goon Show rendition of "The Swancon 8 Report"; Julia Ferguson do your worst! ((Aaagh...))

'With the early arrival of Damien Broderick and Kim Huett from the East, Roy and I were ready by Day 1 for chaos & confusion and the clutter of well-known fannish bodies that were decorating the bar. Blood racing at the thought of the festivities to come ((aha...?)), I was brought suddenly down to earth by the demand of a Polish man wanting to know when the serious business of talking about sf was to begin (I wondered how to let him down gently) ((aha...?)) and by being introduced to numerous starry-eyed neo-fen, suffering from ((censored)) ((aha!...))

'The opening ceremony was only 2 minutes late - a good sign - and the mysterious mystery GoH revealed (we all knew it was Bob Ogden!) with a bag over his head. D.B. gave us an impression of the 'Joe Haldeman Grunt of Honour' (first seen at Unicon 6).

'The evening's entertainment started with an announcement: "All those with the vague suspicion that they are in the Great Debate see me." (Steven Dedman) Many fen ran and hid, others pointed fingers at one another and from that chaos a pair of teams were formed - this set a precedent for panellists for the rest of the con.

'Peter Toluzzi produced a beautiful if occasionally ((censored)) AudioVisual of his American trip as DUFF rep: for most of us who knew Peter it the first taste of the goodbyes later in the week.

'The Great Debate was a disaster saved only by the aplomb of Chair Dave Lockett and a crazy speech about the preferential properties of yoghurt above cheese by D.B. (the actual subject was whether the popularity of films such as Star Wars and E.T. were contributing to a lessening of literary standards in sf). ((Didn't Sally say this was meant to be a serious topic?))

'Highlights of the second day included Damien Broderick's pyrotechnical obfuscations that were fascinating if sometimes difficult to follow if you weren't a maths student. Later in the day Dave Lockett, Sally Beasley and Ian Nicholls stunned the assemblage with their one act play, Epilogue. I've seen and been in many amateur plays and this one was superb. I don't know if this performance will make it to the eastern state cons this year; if it does, don't miss it.

'((censored)) sex, leather and whips and rats, not necessarily in that order. The masquerade was followed by the Tin Duck Awards:

Best Fanwriter. Seth Lockwood
Best Fanzine. The WASTAN editor, Seth Lockwood
Best Fan Artist Peter Saxon
Best Fan Cartoonist . . Craig Hilton

A Chairman's special award was also given, to Warren Hughes (Programming) for all the help Warren has given in the past to many conventions.

'The ((censored)) started ((censored)) with slow, ((censored)) funny, if not terribly ((censored)).

'After the close the usual Dead Dog party at ur home, where we had a chance to say goodbye to Peter Toluzzi. Whatever the state of the people by the end of the party, there was general agreement that a good time had been had by all, and roll on Swancon 9.'

Here is clearly the place (thanks, Julia and Sally) to announce that Harry Harrison is to be the next Guest of Honour at a Swancon. Apparently a group of Adelaide fans were planning to ask Harry over for a Ratcon - complete with John Packer (who keeps pet rats, which are the reason he had to move house). Harry Harrison is, of course, author of that infamous romp, *The Stainless Steel Rat*, with its many sequels. The decision to ask Harry to be Swancon 9 GoH was made in good faith, in ignorance of the Adelaide group's plans.

and DRINKING Group) at the Manor House Hotel, cnr Swanston & Lonsdale Strts, at 9:15 of an evening on Fridays. Aims of the Ratconteurs are: drinking, and Dancing with Girls ("thanks, Ford Prefect!"). All welcome. Now, could it be simple coincidence that the Melbourne SF Club, which meets upstairs at 5-acre Age Books, also meets on Fridays, but from 7:00 till 9:15? Meanwhile, ever since Museo Bistro, just up from Space Age, closed, the Friday night dinners have been thrown partially into disarray. People now meet from six on at the Canadian Steak House, just down (and across) the road a little bit, but the CSH is, to be kind, not particularly suited to any sort of conviviality. Ideas are in the works for an alternative arrangement, *Thyme will keep you informed!*

In Sydney, Nick Stathopoulos is... well, let Nick tell it in his own words...

...I've been totally absorbed in a series of pre-production paintings for a major Australian sf film, *ALIEN HUNTER*... I'm not supposed to be giving too much away about the film. What I can say is that it looks like being the first major, big-budget sf film made in this country (if you don't include *MAD MAX II*). The producer is Richard Bradley, the director is Michael Robertson (*BEST OF FRIENDS*) and at this stage the project is still quite embryonic.

'For the past three months I've been playing Ralph Macquarrie, completeing eleven major paintings, and hundreds of sketches which served as the basis for the final paintings.'

Okay, everybody, that's all there is to know. More film projects have folded halfway through than you have brain cells to think with, so just sit tight, and wait to hear the good news that the film is showing at your local cinema, and Nick's name is in the credits. Talking of film and so on, notice that the ABC (Victoria, at least) is already showing *Nitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* on the tv again. And speaking of Douglas Adams, the transcript of the Douglas Adams talk he gave, plus interview he gave to me, is now available from MUSEFA, the Melbourne University Science Fiction Association, in *Yggdrasil*, the club magazine. Er, now that I check I see it's only the first half of the talk, with the other half next issue. Write to MUSEFA, Box 106, Melbourne University. Membership of MUSEFA is \$3; for that you get all the *Yggdrasils* (4) for the year. Non-Australasians wanting transcript, can also write *Thume*, if wished.

Still on the subject of film, Locus notes that Brian Aldiss has sold the rights to a story, *Supertoys Last All Summer Long* (1969) to Stanley Kubrick. He's working on it with Kubrick, writing an extended version. "No film contract has been signed. We're working on it."

In an unconnected incident, author Bob (Wilson) Tucker, possibly practising for Melbourne in '85, slipped while getting out of a jacuzzi at Chattacon in America and chipped a bone in his foot. Unfortunately, someone had stolen his clothes plus those of the four nude ladies with him, who had to carry Tucker through the hotel to the convention suite. Photographers were not to hand. Some people have all the luck.

THYME POLL RESULTS Just over thirty replies were received, not a bad response. However - and I perhaps should have foreseen this - the range of response to some questions was so broad as to ~~make a mockery of the idea of any popular award~~ make the results not very meaningful. But since these awards are so unimportant, that could hardly matter much. Anyway, here we go.

1) BEST FILM SEEN IN 1982.

Lots of people saw lots of different films, but a clear winner was Bladerunner, with 16 points. Second was Tron, with 11 points, and equal third with 10 points were The Wall and Raiders of the Lost Ark. The only other films to receive more than 3 points (a first-place vote) were Deerhunter with 5 pts and Gregory's Girl with 4. E.T. received one second place and one third place.

2) BEST NOVEL READ IN 1982.

Was a tie for first, on 8 points. Roderick by John Sladek, and Sword of the Lictor, by Gene Wolfe. Third came Riddley Walker, on 7 points, with Life, the Universe & Everything by Adams, The Left Hand of Darkness by Ursula Le Guin, and If On A Winter's Night A Traveller, by Italo Calvino. The field in this category was so spread out, as with the previous one, that the winners were almost irrelevant. In both categories, neither sf nor fantasy nor the two combined formed a majority of the con-enders.

