





### Victory for Wombat Liberationists (from "The Age", July)

Regulations coming into effect today give wombats the status of protected wildlife. The Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands, Mr Mackenzie, said however that about 10 per cent of the State in northeastern Victoria wombats would be classed as unprotected wildlife to control damage which could be caused by large numbers of them.

Since 1906 wombats have been protected wildlife in western Victoria but have been vermin east of the Melbourne-to-Sydney railway line. Mr Mackenzie said he found it very difficult to justify any native animal being classified as vermin, no matter what problems the animal caused. "The status of countless wombats run down by trains over the years attempting to cross over the line has always been unclear", he said.

He said there was no doubt that the time had come to end discrimination against wombats.

▽ ▽ ▽

### ... Like a House on Fire

Fiona McClure and household in Kensington held a house-warming party earlier this month. The house was warmed so thoroughly that by about 3.00 am, it was found necessary to call the Fire Brigade in to put it out. It seems that the lovely fire in the upstairs lounge ("we don't usually have fires like this here") managed to seep through a faulty hearth and set the floorboards smouldering. It was the smoke lazily rising from the carpet after the fire was out made them suspicious...

Strangely enough, plans had already made for the household to break up within a couple of months. But that was no comfort for the Housing Commission, who'd taken ownership of the house just a day earlier. But then, some would say the hole around the upstairs fireplace where they ripped out all the floorboards adds character.

△ △ △

### Britain in '87 Hits Back

"Since Mike Glycer has raised the question of how it comes about that both 1986 and 1987 conventions are campaigning with reference to the '50th anniversary of the first ever convention', I shall now clarify the point. It was all Sam Moskowitz's fault. Unable, for apparently chauvinistic reasons, to accept that the first con was held in Britain in January 1937, he insists on the honours going to a 1936 event. This consisted of a social outing of New York (I think) fans who visited Philadelphia, gathered in the home of a local fan, and as an afterthought declared the gathering to be a convention. 'A bit of officiality that gave them the uncontested title of the first convention in fan history', babbles Moskowitz. Nonsense, say I. A convention implies pre-organisation and, I rather think, the use of public facilities. Out upon this heresy!"- Dave Langford.

### Justin Interview from Seacon - Christina Lake, 'The Snail's Countdown...'

"... so we're all sat round a table for an informal chat, with no chance of escape. Justin turns out to be a well-built, sandy haired guy with a lazy, laid back manner. He begins by drawing a rough map of Australia on the table cloth, scribbling in a few boundaries. 'That's the police state of Queensland!' he asserts. A bit of barbed wire is added for effect. 'Actually, the boundary should be there', says Judith ((Hanna)). I wonder if this will herald an international incident as even to us neutral observers, it is obvious that the differences between Melbourne-based Justin and Sydney-aligned Judith run deep, with insults like 'British Weather' and 'surfie' being bandied around freely. But eventually peace is restored when they discover a mutual interest in sheep. Australian fandom as seen by Justin Ackroyd is based on the possibly parochial view that everything happens in Melbourne, Sydney being quite marginal and Perth over the other side of the continent, and all of Adelaide fandom is being inexorably sucked across to Melbourne in a series of individual migrations. More might have been revealed had not Justin been called away to Fan Turn challenge... "

- from *The Snail's Countdown* and *The Rat's Revenge*.



Behind cover illustration by Steve Fox lurks ...

THYME 38 (Australia Post #VBN2625), the newszine so crammed with information that it can't really afford a cover; yet still it comes to you from the ~~quite comfortable~~ ~~THANK YOU~~ home of Roger Weddall who slaves away at 79 Bell St, Fitzroy 3065, AUSTRALIA (ph 417 1841) for your news, other interesting information, artwork and occasionally even MONEY (gratefully accepted at the following rates): AUSTRALIA: Eight (8) issues for five (5) Dollars; CANADA/USA/NEW ZEALAND: ten issues for ten dollars; EUROPE: ten issues for £5/DM20/a letter indicating interest.

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Don't forget, a big silver cross next to your name on the front probably means you won't be seeing any more of these for a while unless you ... DO SOMETHING!!!

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### Aussiecon Chairperson Resigns

(News Release 6 August 1984) We regret to announce that John Foyster, the Chairperson of Aussiecon II, has been forced to stand down from the committee because of family problems. John's work in initiating the Melbourne in '85 bid and leading it to a successful conclusion are greatly appreciated by the current committee, and indeed, by all Australian science fiction fans. All of us wish John the best at this difficult time for him.

The new Chairman of the convention is David Grigg, who was Deputy Chairman of the Melbourne in '85 bid. David, 33, is married and has a two-year old daughter. He was on the committee of Aussiecon I in 1975, and is a long-standing fanzine publisher. He has also had several science fiction stories published. He will retain overall responsibility for the convention publications.

Carey Handfield has been appointed as Deputy Chairman of the convention. Carey has long been associated with running conventions, both in Melbourne and in Sydney. He will be travelling to LACon later this month in order to promote Aussiecon Two.

Despite John Foyster's departure, the Aussiecon Committee is confident that plans for Aussiecon Two will not be unduly disrupted, and it is working towards preparing a successful and enjoyable convention for all.

((Meanwhile, problems real, perceived and imagined in the organisation of Aussiecon II continue to attract comment. Sometimes I wonder what the committee has done to deserve the wrath of people like Fabian Stretton, a Melbourne Role Playing Gamer who writes in part:))

... Particular examples of this elitism will be detailed below.

- (a) Many members of ANSFA (The Australian National Science Fiction Association) ((sic)) hold opinions such as "if it's on TV or a movie at the cinema it's not REAL SF" (whatever real SF is supposed to be I don't know). Similarly, I've never heard of most of the Authors that they quote as being Real SF while denouncing such writers as Isaac Asimov, Harry Harrison, and Ray Bradbury as Pseudo-SF printed merely to keep the plebeians happy, and thus not fit for real SF fans. These, along with other immortal and ridiculous opinions are the epitome of what went wrong with Eurekacon and what (I hope) will not be done to Aussiecon II.

((To my knowledge, there is no such thing as ANSFA. I can only assume he is talking about the ASFS (Australian Science Fiction Society). It's a pity that these 'them' and 'us' attitudes develop. For the continued enlightenment of anyone interested, ASFS is the official body which runs National Conventions and awards Ditmars. It has no permanent membership. The committee is the committee of the current National Convention, the membership is the membership of that convention. So, the people who are members of ASFS at the moment are the people (anyone) who has paid to be a member of Adventon '85. But ASFS is not running Aussiecon II, the Australian Science Fiction Foundation Ltd (ASFF)



((I don't know where Fabian's ideas about 'real SF' came from, but people paid money to bring Harry Harrison (for instance) out to Swancon IX, people (I, myself) braved the Nullabor to hear him speak about his work; and I've got news for you: he doesn't consider the Stainless Steel Rat books to be particularly serious Science Fiction either. "Make Room, Make Room" on the other hand, is. I don't see that making distinctions like that with any author is a problem. Different people have different tastes at different times. Just at the moment, the Rat books can be got from any number of bookshops in Melbourne. "Make Room, Make Room" has not been on the shelves for several months. So you can see what sort of choice these people so quaintly called "plebeians" have... but I digress. Fabian continues:))



● FICTION IS STRANGER THAN TRUTH!  
INITIATES INTO the PYROTECHNIC CULT of  
EAST WUGGA-WUGGA MUST GO THROUGH A  
RITUAL of BRAIN FRYING AT the ALTAR of  
the TWIN DEMI-GODS SCINTILLA and BALEFIRE,  
BEFORE ADMITTANCE TO the INNER CIRCLE  
of the CULT.

(Membership of Aussiecon is open to any person who indulges in any sort of fantasy, as well as those who don't. The committee denies that there was a table set up by them at Phantasticon. It is possible that it was the table at Eurekacon where this happened. I quote from Tigger 3:

"Aussiecon Two does not discourage gamers. A couple of Melbourne fans are even planning some FRPG sessions to be held at the convention". I would dispute that a World Science



Fiction Convention has a responsibility to provide a full program for every sort of Wargamer and Media fan however. While I'll defend the right of Wargamers, Media fans, anyone to participate in SF Conventions, I think these people need to understand that what these things are primarily about is literature. Still, Aussiecon appears to be trying to provide something for everyone.))

- (d) ((I know, I skipped (c), which was about the concon refusing to allow/put on an SCA display. To quote Tigger 3 again: "... there has been discussion between members of the Melbourne SCA and the committee aimed at arranging an SCA demonstration in connection with Aussiecon II." I don't know who hasn't been talking to who there))
- (d) An Indonesian acquaintance of mine who asked a member of the concon for some flyers to send over to some friends of his in Indonesia was told (again I quote word for word)- "Oh, I don't think they'd be interested, YOU'RE not coming are you". Since when has a worldcon been limited to white caucasians? It's a Worldcon isn't it, not a white Australiacon. ((the concon would like to know who made this remark as they consider the kind of racism expressed therein to be inexcusable also))

Another problem is that I think that ANSFA and the Aussiecon II committee have lost touch with the reality of SF&F fandom in Australia. The average age of an ANSFA member is about 30, and it numbers (I think) less than 300 members. It is highly elitist and very narrow minded. You have to be good enough (translates to "just as narrow minded and in roughly the same way") to join. Now this is supposed to represent fandom worldwide, or even Australiawide (where the average age of SF&F interested people is 16-20, and numbering between 750,000 and 1,500,000 or more) I don't know, more importantly, neither do they and worse, they don't even realise that they have a shortcoming in this area. ((I would question the source of these figures. But yes, why don't University Science Fiction Associations run Conventions any more? To my knowledge, there is only really one University SF Club still a going concern in Australia (Melbourne Uni). I'd be interested to know of any others.))

((Then the following arrived from David Grigg, not exactly in reply:))

As the new Chairman of the 1985 Worldcon, I wonder whether I can seek your assistance in helping to scotch the absurd rumour that seems to be prevalent in some fannish circles to the effect that the Aussiecon committee are somehow trying to keep Australians away from the Worldcon? ((to which one Melbourne fan commented: "How can you do that, it's true, isn't it?" Sigh... I think you've got your work cut out for you))

It's enormously frustrating, when we are racking our brains to think of every possible way to publicise the Worldcon in Australia, and are looking gloomily at the figures which show how few Australians have yet joined up, to come across people who tell us it's all a plot on our behalf to have a Worldcon with only a handful of selected Australians there!

For the record, we have distributed almost 2000 Aussiecon flyers so far within Australia, through bookshops, libraries and fan groups, and are about to print another 1000. We have entered into negotiations with a major retail chain to distribute information about Aussiecon in their stores nationwide. We are about to begin advertising in various national magazines. Once IACon is over, and we have a better idea of which authors are planning to come, we will be preparing a poster which will be plastered up in every bookshop and university campus we can get into.

If any of your readers have any ideas on how we can better publicise the Worldcon, please tell them to write to us and give us their thoughts.

But all in all, word of mouth is probably the best means of distributing information. Anyone interested in the success of the Worldcon should be collaring their friends and relations and telling them about it. If you want some flyers to distribute to your local fan group, please write to us letting us know how many you want.

The bottom line is, WE WANT YOU AT THE WORLDCON NEXT YEAR!



## S.F.C. Reader Awards for 1983 Announced

**BEST NOVEL:** THE ANUBIS GATES by Tim Powers; 2. Citadel of the Autach, by Gene Wolfe  
3. Helliconia Summer, by Brian Aldiss; tied 3. Startide Rising, by David Brin.  
56 Titles Nominated.

**BEST NOVELLA:** HER HABILINE HUSBAND, by Michael Bishop; 2. Hardfought, by Greg Bear;  
3. Homefaring, by Robert Silverberg. 21 Titles Nominated.

**BEST NOVELETTE:** BLACK AIR, by Kim Stanley Robinson; 2. Blind Shemmy, by Black Dann;  
3. Blood Music, by Greg Bear. 45 Titles Nominated.

**BEST SHORT STORY:** THE PEACEMAKER, by Gardner Dozois; 2. Her Furry Face, by Leigh  
Kennedy; 3. Brothers, by Richard Cowper. 61 Titles Nominated.

**BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION:** RETURN OF THE JEDI; 2. Zelig; 3. Brainstorm. 32 Titles Nom.

**BEST PRO EDITOR-MAGAZINES:** EDWARD L. FERMAN (FESF); 2. Shawna McCarthy (IASFM);  
3. George Scithers (Amazing). 11 Nominated.

**BEST PRO EDITOR-BOOKS:** DAVID HARTWELL (Timescape Books); 2. Terry Carr (Universe/Bast  
SF of the Year); 3. James Patrick Baen (Tor Books). 21 Nominated.

**BEST PRO ARTIST:** MICHAEL WHELAN; 2. Barclay Shaw; 3. Don Maitz tied with Rowena Morrill  
48 Nominated.

**BEST SEMI-PROZINE:** SCIENCE FICTION CHRONICAL (ed by Andrew Porter); 2. Locus (ed by  
Charles Brown & Rachel Holmen); 3. Science Fiction Review (ed by Richard  
Geis). 21 Titles Nominated.

**BEST FANZINE:** FILE 770 (ed by Mike Glycer); 2. Izzard (ed by Patrick & Theresa Nielson-  
Hayden); 3. Boonfark (ed by Dan Steffan). 27 Titles Nominated.

**BEST FAN WRITER:** RICHARD GEIS; 2. Theresa Nielson-Hayden; 3. Andrew Porter. 30 Nominated.

**BEST FAN ARTIST:** ALEXIS GILLILAND; 2. Stu Shiffman; 3. William Rotsler. 28 Nominated.

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Space Age Books, 305-7 Swanston St, Melbourne 3000.

## British SF 'Awards' (results from SF Fortunes Game held at Mexico)

**BEST SF WRITER:** Wolfe & Aldiss (tie), Priest & Dick. **WORST:** Asimov & Heinlein & Brunner  
& Hubbard & Fanthorpe. **MOST PRETENTIOUS:** Brunner, Watson, Delany, Ellison & Donaldson.  
**MOST FITTED TO RULE THE WORLD:** Shaw, Le Guin, 'none of them'. **MOST SEXIST:** Heinlein,  
Norman, Cooper & Russ, Pournelle. **FUNNIEST:** Shaw & Harrison, Vance & Russell.  
**STRANGEST:** Lafferty, Dick, Hubbard & Brunner. **WHOSE CHARACTERS ARE MOST CARDBOARD?**  
Heinlein, Clarke, Asimov, Fanthorpe. **MOST BELIEVEABLE?** Priest, Aldiss & Le Guin,  
Dick & Shaw & Wolfe. **THE HIGH STANDARD OF WHICH SF WRITER HAS FALLEN LOWEST?** Zelazny,  
Heinlein, Silverberg, Asimov. **NAME A FAMOUS ROBOT IN SF:** Robbie, R. Daneel Olivaw,  
Roderick, R2D2 & Gort & Isaac Asimov. **IF ABANDONED ON A DESERT ISLAND WHICH SF NOVEL**  
**WOULD YOU TAKE?** Lord of the Rings & Battlefield ('for firewood') Earth, Book of the New  
Sun, The Left Hand of Darkness. **NAME A FAMOUS RACE OF ALIENS:** Martians, Kzinti, Daleks.  
**WHO WROTE THE FIRST SF NOVEL YOU READ?** Capt W.E. Johns, Isaac Asimov & H.G. Wells,  
Robert Heinlein. **BEST SF NOVEL OF THE '80s?** Book of the New Sun & The Affirmation,  
Timescape, Helliconia Spring. **NAME A FAMOUS SPACESHIP:** Enterprise, Discovery & Space  
Beagle, Heart of Gold & Anastasia. **BEST SF NOVEL BY A NON-SF WRITER?** 1984, The  
Alteration, Lanark. **YOU ARE A SPACE TRAVELLER SETTING FOOT ON A NEW PLANET; WHAT ONE**  
**THING WOULD YOU TAKE WITH YOU?** Oxygen mask/cylinders, A Spaceship, Boots, Spacesuit &  
Another Foot. **WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU MET AN ALIEN?** Run away, Say Hello, Offer him a  
drink (Minority Suggestion: Ask him if he plays dominoes). **BEST SF MOVIE?** 2001, Star  
Wars, Bladerunner, Dark Star & Forbidden Planet. **MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN AN SF NOVEL?**  
Writing & Plot, Characterisation, Readability & Sensawonder. (Minority: Hydrogen)

The above are all in descending order of score. Which brings us to the real

BSFA Awards: (presented at Seacon)



# aussiecon two

43rd world science fiction convention

22-26 august 1985

## GENERAL INFORMATION:

Aussiecon Two is the 43rd World Science Fiction Convention. It will be held between 22 August and 26 August 1985, in Melbourne, Australia.

For all Australian science fiction readers and enthusiasts, the holding of the World Convention in Melbourne represents an rare opportunity to meet with scores of sf writers and fans who would otherwise never be likely to come to Australia. The 1985 Worldcon will be the biggest and most impressive celebration of science fiction ever held in this country. You should make sure that you are there.

The convention is being organised under the auspices of the Australian Science Fiction Foundation, a non-profit co-operative society. Aussiecon Two has also been recognised as an official event as part of the State of Victoria's 150th Anniversary Celebrations.

## GUESTS OF HONOUR:

Aussiecon Two is proud to have as its Guests of Honour two people who have achieved great renown in their fields of endeavour, and who we believe truly deserve to be honoured by the science fiction community.

Our professional Guest of Honour is Gene Wolfe, whose works of fiction have received much justified acclaim. Perhaps the best known of his works are the three-part novel *The Fifth Head of Cerebus*, the story "The Island of Doctor Death and Other Stories", and more recently, the tetralogy *The Book of the New Sun*, beginning with *The Shadow of the Torturer*. He has also written a highly regarded mainstream novel, *Peace*.

Our Fan Guest of Honour is Ted White, long prominent in the science fiction community as fan, writer and editor. He has worked as an editor on such professional magazines as *Fantasy and Science Fiction*, *Amazing Stories*, and *Fantastic*. His own fanzines have included *Stellar*, *Void*, *Minac*, and more recently, *Pong*, setting the highest editorial and publishing standards.

## THE AUSSIECON COMMITTEE

### Office-Holders:

Chairman: John Foyster  
Secretary: Peter Darling  
Treasurer: Christine Ashby

### Department Heads:

Administration: Peter Darling  
Operations: Carey Handfield  
Programming: John Foyster  
Publications: David Grigg

### Interstate Agents:

Sally Beasley (WA), Jack Herman (NSW).

## CORRESPONDING WITH AUSSIECON TWO:

All correspondence should be addressed to:

Aussiecon Two, GPO Box 2253U, Melbourne 3001, Victoria, AUSTRALIA.

If you are writing to us from overseas, please use AIRMAIL!

## HOTEL INFORMATION:

The main hotel, where all the major programming items will be conducted, is the Southern Cross, at the corner of Bourke and Exhibition Streets, Melbourne. At the hotel, which was the site for the 1975 Worldcon, all convention areas are on the same level.

The secondary hotel, where the Art Show and some smaller programme items will be held, is the Victoria, in Little Collins Street, only a block's walk away from the Southern Cross.

Accommodation space has been reserved at both hotels, but because 1985 is the 150th Anniversary of the founding of Melbourne, there will be many other activities in the city at the same time as the Worldcon. The demand for hotel rooms will thus be high.

For this reason, you should make firm plans as soon as possible if you want to stay at these hotels, so that we can make bookings on your behalf. If you decide to try to get a room at the last minute, you may well be disappointed.

We will have firm room rates available with Aussiecon Progress Report #2, due out in October, together with reservation forms, which will be returned to us. Please do not attempt to book rooms at the hotels directly.

## MEMBERSHIP RATES:

Up until 30 June 1984, joining Aussiecon Two will cost the following:

Attending: \$45.  
Supporting: \$28.

The following rates will come into effect as from 1 July 1984, and will hold at least until 31 December 1984:

Attending: \$50.  
Supporting: \$30.

Our intention is to hold the supporting rate fixed up to the date of the convention, if possible.

If you are already a supporting member, it will currently cost you \$17 to convert to an attending membership. After 1 July 1984, it will cost you \$20 to convert. The conversion rate for supporting members, regardless of when they bought their membership, will always be set at the current differential between attending and supporting memberships.

## ADVERTISING IN AUSSIECON PROGRESS REPORTS:

We hope to be able to stick firmly to the following schedule for future PRs:

	Copy Deadline	Mailing
PR#2	1 AUG 1984	1 OCT 1984
PR#3	1 JAN 1985	1 MAR 1985

The following page sizes and rates will apply to Progress Report #2:

SIZE	IMAGE AREA	FAN	PROF.
Full Page (A4)	180mm x 270mm	\$85	\$170
Half Page Vertical	85mm x 270mm	\$45	\$90
Half Page Horizontal	180mm x 130mm	\$45	\$90
Quarter Page	85mm x 130mm	\$28	\$56

A professional organisation is defined as one which pays a full-time salary to one or more people.



# A WORLD SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION? WHAT'S THAT? by Marc Ortlieb.

Simply put, the World Science Fiction Convention, familiarly known as the Worldcon, is an annual gathering of science fiction authors, artists, critics, publishers, editors, fans and readers from all around the world. Aussiecon Two will be the 43rd such gathering. Formally, it is the Annual General Meeting of the World Science Fiction Society - but it is by no means a stuffy business session. Basically, the Worldcon is a celebration of science fiction.

What, then, is a World SF Convention? Let's look at the word "World". Initially, this was mere hyperbole by the Americans. In the same way that they call their baseball competition "The World Series", so they came to refer to their annual sf convention as "The World Science Fiction Convention". However, since the word "World" was in there, the Worldcon has been able to escape occasionally from the United States. It has escaped twice to Canada, three times to Britain, once to Germany. And in 1975, the Worldcon escaped the northern hemisphere entirely, and was held in Melbourne, Australia. That was Aussiecon One. In 1985, the Worldcon will again be held in Melbourne, hence the name Aussiecon Two - despite the temptation to call it The Return of the Son of the Monster That Ate Melbourne.

The term SF Convention is more difficult to define. It's rather like the story about the blind men who tried to describe an elephant from the bits each could feel. An SF Convention varies depending on which end of it you approach, and it's quite easy to come away from it covered in manure if you approach it from the wrong angle.

The most obvious part of the convention - the trunk, if you like - is the part that resembles an academic conference on science fiction and fantasy literature. At Aussiecon Two there will be talks by authors and critics, and you will no doubt get the opportunity to ask one or more of the authors there some questions about their work, and about how they got involved in writing science fiction. You will also meet other people who are interested in discussing sf and fantasy and you may well find yourself discussing your favourite authors over a glass of dry sherry, or your tipples of preference. There will be a special portion of the programme devoted to Science Fiction and Academia.

To continue our metaphor of the elephant, the "ears" of the convention are the items devoted to film, television, radio and the other electronic media. In this respect, an sf convention resembles a film festival. Indeed, I'm sure that it would be possible to attend Aussiecon Two and do nothing but attend the film and video showings that are planned. The film programme will concentrate on Australian fantasy and sf films, and there will be a regular video programme as well. Aussiecon Two will attract people interested in this aspect of science fiction, and as with the literature side of the convention, you will have the chance to meet people who share your interest in media sf, and to listen to people talk about their involvements in such fields. (Ted White, our Fan Guest of Honour, was at one time editor of the comics magazine Heavy Metal).

There's nothing better than the leg of the elephant to represent the jumble sale part of the sf convention. At Aussiecon Two you will find hucksters willing to sell you anything from new and used books to autographed Vulcan sex aids. On past experience, you can expect to find tables selling books, new and used; magazines, professional and amateur; artwork; jewellery, both mediaeval and futuristic; costumes; T-shirts; photographs... indeed anything that the daring entrepreneurs think they might be able to make a profit from. There will also be an Art Show, allowing artists to present their work to the sf community and, no doubt, to increase their sales. Last but not least, there will be auctions of rare and valuable material. Science fiction conventions, I warn you, can be expensive places.

Perhaps the nether region of the elephant - the part that's likely to put off the newcomer - is the party atmosphere of the convention. There's nothing quite as disorienting as finding yourself at a party without quite realising what's going on. A Worldcon is, most of all, a party. It is our chance to celebrate our appreciation of science fiction, but particularly to express our appreciation that there are others around who actually like science fiction to a greater or lesser extent.

Now, there are people around who have been attending sf conventions since they first began, and over the years, a community has grown up around science fiction, with its own customs and traditions, its own jargon, and - say it quietly - its own cliques. This aspect of a convention can be very confusing to someone who has not previously encountered it. Broadly stated, this community refers to itself as Fandom, though no two fans are likely to agree on what that means. You will note that there will be a fan room at Aussiecon Two. This is where a lot of the true fans will gather to discuss esoteric topics like the blackball clause in FAPA and whether or not Yngvi is a louse. Don't be put off by the fannish matter: it doesn't hurt, and there aren't any impenetrable barriers to you if you do grow interested. In time you too might find yourself at the handle of an enchanted duplicator, with LoCs from SMOFs and BNFs.

Fans are basically human, all evidence to the contrary aside, and some will go out of their way to make friends with you. Others, to be sure, will ignore you because they've come all the way from Minneapolis to drink red wine with John Bangsund and are interested in little else. But that's okay: just ignore them back. You will be sure to find people to talk to, and people who you'll be willing to travel to another convention to meet.

So it's a gathering. You pay your money and you take your chances. But let me emphasise one thing: Aussiecon Two will be the largest Australian sf convention ever held, and the largest in the foreseeable future. This is both good and bad. Good in that there will be plenty of people there who you are unlikely ever to see or meet otherwise, including many of your favourite authors. And good also in that there are likely to be a lot of people there who, perhaps like you, are attending their first convention. You will not be alone. On the negative side, it may be crowded and noisy, and it could be all too easy to get lost in the crowd. It will be up to you to enjoy Aussiecon Two. All the opportunities will be there, but you will have to push yourself into them. If you do so, though, I think you are likely to find Aussiecon Two will be a highpoint in your life. It will be well worth getting to, if only to be able to say "I was there."

## HOW TO JOIN:

Simplicity itself: merely fill in the following form (in block letters, please), and enclose the appropriate membership fee, as indicated above. Then send it to:

The Membership Secretary, Aussiecon Two, GPO Box 2253U, Melbourne 3001.

There are two kinds of membership: attending or supporting. Both kinds of members will be sent regular Progress Reports and will receive the souvenir Programme Book. Both kinds of members are able to nominate and vote for the Hugo Awards (science fiction's version of the Oscars), and also to vote on the site of the 1987 Worldcon. The difference is that only attending members have the fun of actually attending the convention itself. But if you're not sure if you can get to Aussiecon Two, you may buy a supporting membership and convert later to an attending membership, at the cost of the current difference between these two membership types. To encourage you to join early, the rates increase over time.

I wish to become an Attending / Supporting member  
of AUSSIECON TWO.

I enclose a cheque / money order for \$ .

NAME;

ADDRESS:

POSTCODE



B.S.F.A. Awards: (presented at Seacon)

Best Novel: Tik Tok, by John Sladek  
 Best Short Story: After Images, by Malcolm Edwards  
 Best Media Presentation: Android  
 Best Artist: Bruce Pennington

Eurocon Awards:

((Dave Langford comments in Ansible)) ...oh dear. The normal seeking for Political Balance by making each presentation in Eastern and Western European categories was taken further by adding a UK category which was neither East nor West. The basis on which the awards were selected remains obscure since - as John Brunner bitterly complained while accepting his - various ballot forms for use at the convention failed, along with Jean-Paul 'Unreliable' Cronimus, to turn up ((and you thought we had problems with our Awards)). So, in the order UK-West-East in each category:

Special AWARD: The Science in SF (Nicholis, Langford, Stableford), International Centre for Documentation about Literature of the strange(B), J. Parnov (SU). NOVELIST: John Brunner, Z Guddas (I), J. Zajdel (PL). SHORT STORY WRITER: J.G. Ballard, A. de Ceglie (I), R Wojtynski (PL). BEST PUBLISHER: Gollancz, Fleuve Noir (F), Izdatielstvo "Mir" (SU). PROZINE: Foundation (I), Fiction (F), Syrius (YU). FANZINE: Epsilon, Andromeda Nachrichten (D), Helion (R). SCREENWRITER: no award, R. Erler (D), C. Ajmatov (SU). FILM DIRECTOR: no award, no award, P. Szulkin (PL) & M. Jankovits (H). SPECIAL SPECIAL AWARD: Seacon 84 Committee.

KAREL AWARDS FOR TRANSLATION: Marcial Souto (Uruguay), George Belanos (Greece), Vasili Zakharchenko (USSR) and Maxim Jaubowski (France).

Ansible is a British Newszine produced by Dave Langford, 94 London Rd, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 5AU, England.

DITMARS Revisited being a comment from Yvonne Rousseau

Members of the 1984 Ditmar Awards Sub-Committee are (it is very likely) amiable, honest, good looking and intensely charming people, possessing outstanding intellect, sensitivity and conscientiousness; but the rumours I hear about them suggest that a horrid melding and metamorphosis came upon them whenever they gathered together, and out of the murk and slime leapt a single ravaging Awards Sub-committee Beast, better entitled the 'Awdsuuct Beast'.

In Thyme #35, this Awdsuuct Beast observes - carelessly - that it has no idea how some nomination forms failed to reach it (p2) and admits - casually - that stacking the nominations was a genuine temptation to it (p1). Little does the Beast realise, perhaps, the image of itself it has created; the rumours that abound of its blundering progress, shedding nomination forms as it moved about Melbourne - nomination forms blowing away down misty railway tunnels at night, falling from northbound aeroplanes, getting muddled into cartons of advertising circulars that fell into the backs of garbage trucks.

Some rumours suggest that vestiges of humanity lingered within this Awdsuuct Beast at first; that it was maddened by confused self-reproach for incompetence, betrayal of trust, disorder beyond all salvaging; that this goaded it at last to expunge these painful remnants of human honour and responsibility - to wallow instead in contempt for the nominators and voters, those choices would have been so irritatingly foolish that it was only kind to credit them instead with the choices of the Awdsuuct Beast...

Such rumours express a widespread distrust - a doubt of the Awdsuuct Beast's good faith. Two countermeasures might be taken by the beast:

- (1) to reveal which members of the Nova Mob had their nominations recorded - and thus to end current dark conjectures about the kind of errors that occurred here;
- (2) to publish (as Damien Broderick suggests in Thyme #36) a breakdown of votes. Thus,





SHAW FUND: (from Tigger 2 ) "Bob has announced his intention to produce a stained glass window panel for sale to support the fund. Bob explained in a letter that he would have



✓00000

PARANOIA CON:

Paranoiacon is planned to be a cozy (yet open and friendly) relaxacon where friends and fellow paranoids can gather in an area deemed relatively free from nuclear attack ((I kid you not)). It is organised by an ~~anonymous~~ autonomous collective; live-ins are strongly encouraged. People who want to turn up just for a day should consider staying for all three. Features Transfinite with a completely new, never-before-seen AV specially developed for the Con. Masquerade themes: Your favourite race in Outer Space; Most appropriately dressed paranoid.

Dates: 24 & 25 November 1984  
Venues: Carrington Hotel, Katoomba NSW (1930 - 2400hrs, 24th); St Mary's Memorial Hall, Mamre Rd, St Mary's NSW (25th)  
GoH: Robert Jewell (Dalek Operator), Gary Armstrong and his K9.  
Rates: Various  
Mail: WHO-DO c/- Tingalen Ave, South Penrith, NSW 2750  
The first National Dr Who convention. Seems to have started as the *Timelord's Ball* just to celebrate the Dr's 21st Birthday, and now it's grown.

What will you be doing for your Christmas Holidays? Will you set at home and eat stale Christmas Pudding, or will you join other fen in our fair Capital for two weeks of fun, frivolity and organised merriment? Yis, et's another Faangather! For two weeks in January 1985, fen will converge from all over New Zealand (hopefully) to enjoy their summer holidays with a large group of like-minded lunatics. The Faangather will be held from 12th to 27th January inclusive (or thereabouts). There will be parties, movie visits, filksinging, bookshop crawls, parties, .... Thier will be a Vagon Poetry contest (do your worst...), barbeques at the beach, maybe even vesits to the Planetarium, and the Observatory. No accommodation? No problem! We may be able to come up with a spare piece of floor for you to sleep on (maybe a bed if you're lucky!) For those new to Wellington, we can organise sightseeing tours if required. Who knows, we may even turn on an earthquake or two.... Interested? Then contact Vince and Sue Martin-Smith at PO Box 1401, Wellington, NEW ZEALAND, or ring us on Wn 758-479."

ORCON:

No dates are given, but I'm going to guess it's the Queen's Birthday Weekend, which for New Zealand is probably 1 - 3 June, 1985.



## A. Bertram Chandler Dies

Jack (or Bert as he was known to many of his friends in Australia) Chandler died June 6th after suffering a massive stroke sometime during the previous weekend. His wife, Susan, who'd been away, found him unconscious in their flat outside Sydney on Monday June 4th. Taken to hospital, he never regained consciousness. In accordance with his wishes, a small private cremation service was held on June 8th.

A. Bertram Chandler was probably Australia's most widely internationally known SF authors. His 'Hornblower of the Spaceways' style John Grimes stories are read by fans worldwide. Most recently, Penguin published *Kelly Country*, an alternate history of Australia. More recently, this has been sold to DAW for publication in the United States.

Born March 28, 1912 in a Military hospital, Aldershot, England, Jack Chandler never knew his father (killed in action WWI). At 16 years old, he left to go to sea, apprenticed to the *Sun Shipping Co of London* as an officer candidate, chipping and scraping rust, polishing brass, splicing rope and wire, and studying navigation and signalling.

He bought his first typewriter while operating out of Calcutta a few years later and succeeded in selling short articles and light verse to newspapers and *British Nautical Magazine*.

During WWII, while serving with the *Shaw Savill Line* on the Atlantic run, he met John W. Campbell while on layover in New York. Over two weeks, Chandler painstakingly typed out *This Means War*, a 2000 word short story, and brought it in to Campbell. He arrived back in England to find a letter and cheque from Campbell's *Astounding* waiting.

After this, he became a regular contributor to *Astounding* and became an occasional attendee of the weekly gatherings of fans in the White House, in Feters Lane (immortalised by Arthur C. Clarke in his *Tales from the White Hart* - these were later transferred to another pub, the *Leather Bottle*). He also made the acquaintance of writers such as George O. Smith, Murray Leinster (Will J. Jenkins), Theodore Sturgeon, Lester Del Rey and many others.

He found himself frequently stooping over in Australia around the end of the War and started attending fan gatherings in Melbourne and Sydney. After the War, he began toying with the idea of writing novels - *Glory Planet*, published by *Avalon*, was his first.

He met Susan, his second wife, while she was travelling out to Sydney on a passenger liner he was captaining in 1955. The next year, he left *Shaw Savill*, emigrated, and joined the *Union Steam Co of New Zealand*. Here, as captain of freighters sailing the Tasman and the waters around the coast of Australia, he started writing the novels of the *Rimworlds* series.

He retired from the sea early in 1975, settling down outside Sydney to write and become a regular Con-Goer. In 1982, he was guest of Honour at the World Science Fiction Convention, *Chicon IV*.

In a Memoir for *SFC*, Donald A. Wollheim writes: "A few days before I heard the sad news of Jack's last voyage outward bound, I had just bought and read what will now turn out to be the last novel he was to write - a John Grimes adventure called *The Wild Ones*. There is an unexpectedly nostalgic piece in that final book for in it John Grimes returns to his parental home in Australia and pays a visit to his mother and father. His father, George Whitley Grimes, turns out to be a professional writer - an old gentleman who smokes a pipe and has a wicked sense of humour and an eye for the girls even at his age. And for the last time I was reminded that Grimes in whatever form has always been A. Bertram Chandler.

"Chandler will be alive and well as long as his works are in print - and they are going to stay in print for decades to come. But in my mind's eye, I see Jack now knocking on the pearly gates and having old St Pete look out and say 'Welcome, traveller. This is Liberty Hall. You can spit on the mat and call the cat a bastard.' 'Cor, stiffen the bleeding crows', says Jack."

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VICTORIA: Karen, Adric and ASMS have moved to 16 Murray St, Coburg 3058 (in June). Sue Tonkin now lives at 100 Fenwick St, Carlton North 3054; Alf Katz has re-appeared at 8 Frawley St, Frankston 3199; Fabian Strettin has taken up residence in PO Box 445, Glenferrie 3122 (he doesn't eat much); Robin Johnson & Alicia Plowman were married on July 12th, in Hobart. The Best Man was Mike O'Brien. Melbourne fans Paul & Kit Stevens & Peter & Elizabeth Darling were in attendance. ■■■SYDNEY: Diane Fox writes "John & I have moved to Bullaburra (6 Anderson Ave) in the Blue Mountains. As the nearest post office is at Lawson, and it would take us about half a day's flex-time leave to collect any parcels from there, we now have a post box in North Sydney near where John works" Address: PO Box 1194, North Sydney 2060. Terry Frost's address is 314A King St, Newtown 2042, Ph. 517 2051; Peter Coomber has sold his body to science (?), moved down from Queensland and can be reached via School of Biotechnology, University of NSW, PO Box 1, Kensington 2033; Paul Kennedy, 13 William St, Cambridge Park, NSW 2750, is trying to start up a kind of fannish billet service for Cons. If you'd like to put up ~~with~~ a fan during a Convention (sounds pretty open ended) send him information like: how many, sex restrictions (male/female), whether beds or floor provided, any payment wanted, maximum period of stay, other restrictions; humm, nice idea but sounds a bit risky. A correction: Who Do'z address should be 5 Tingalen Ave (thanks, Marc); Marilyn Pride & Lewis Morley have moved to 54 Junior St, Leichhardt 2040, Ph 560 5648; Mike McGann is still at the old address in Petersham; Linda Small and David Ramshotom have become engaged, congratulations. Charles Morgan, former Melbourne fan, is in the midst of a flying visit to Australia from Japan; he's here for about a month trying to arrange visas/work permits to return to Japan for another couple of years; address somewhere Melb-Sydney. ■■■CANBERRA: Jean Weber writes: "Circulation 3 Committee would very much like to get a copy of the following recording for use at the convention: Spike Jones Murders Carmen. If anyone has a record or tape of this, we'll be happy to pay for a copy and postage." Eric Lindsay's new address for fannish purposes is PO Box 42, Lyncham, ACT 2602; he writes "letters to the old address are still fine, however I notice that I do most of my fanac on one or other of Jean's typers, and changing address saves me carting fanzines all over the state." Of leaving the Bank he says this won't happen till late September, and fulltime writing: "I've no doubt that, officially, I'll be looking for a job (do you



know how much a beginning writer is likely to earn?) However, I wouldn't be at all surprised if I didn't turn out a dozen or so computer articles and two computer books in the first six months of job-hunting."; Unable to extend his tour of duty in Australia, Ron Wovinson returned to the U.S.A. in July to retire from the Navy. New address is: 1000 Prospect Manor, Mt Prospect, IL 60056, U.S.A. ~~More~~ N.S.W.: Chris Vaun has moved back out of 314 King St house, having decided he doesn't want to live there; Stewart McGowan has become engaged to a Newcastle girl by the name of Robyn Greenwell, our (says Kim) newest Applesauce member; it is rumoured they intend to make little apazines together... ~~South~~ SOUTH AUSTRALIA: Bob Ellis has moved to PO Box 489, Salisbury 5108 from Sydney, sparking speculation that the true pattern of fannish migration is Melbourne-Sydney-Adelaide-Melbourne, rather than simply out of Adelaide; according to Stephen Scholz there is a new Trekkie Club in Adelaide called 'Quasar'; a convention ... "to boldly go..." will be held October 20-21, The Parks Community Centre, Cowan St, Angle Park, SA; costs \$10 adults, \$8 child, & \$28 family (no address given for correspondence). ~~Brisbane~~ BRISBANE: Does anybody know where Patricia McKinlay lives? If so, please pass on the following message: "I HAVE GOT YOUR THYME PLEASE SEND ..." the last two issues have been returned to sender. Natalie Prior, 728 Musgrave Rd, Robertson 4109 writes: "Would anybody be interested in corresponding with me? I am a 20 year old university student (English Hons) with a specific interest in fantasy and children's books. At present I am collating a thesis on Alan Garner and would love to correspond with anyone who likes his work, with regard to an exchange of opinions but I'd enjoy hearing from anyone who likes people like Tolkien, Lewis, Ursula LeGuin, Joy Chant..." ~~Tasmania~~ TASMANIA: Torbjorn & Robyn Von Strokirch have moved out of their sub-tropical riverside apartment in Brisbane to the more Scandinavian climate in the foothills of Mt Wellington (well, Hobart anyway). No address yet (last heard, Robyn was nursing the car across Bass Strait while Torbjorn was flying to Hobart...). ~~New Zealand~~ NEW ZEALAND: Nigel Rowe has been busy recently setting up Hugo's Books, Auckland's only specialist SF/Fantasy bookshop. This was opened on 16th July. ~~Mary~~ Mary Harrist, of Phoenix Fans United, Route 1, Box 444F, Rockport TX 78382, U.S.A. writes: "I help run a fan club for Justin Scott, who starred in The Phoenix, Star Trek II &I, and has guested on many TV series. In June 1985, Justin will be a guest at Con/More in Brisbane." She goes on to express interest in contacting Justin Scott fans in Australia. ~~Damier~~ (Damier Broderick, 10 Marks St, Brunswick 3056 is looking for submissions for a new all-Australian original-fiction sf/fantasy anthology he's doing. The book will possibly be called Strange Attractors and will resemble his last anthology (The Zeitgeist Machine) in its breadth of contents, though the emphasis is strongly on original rather than reprint fiction. Rates of payment will be about equal to the standard American Magazines. The deadline is around October-November. The book is to be out in time for Aussiecon II. "What I'm looking for is good sf of the old school written with the panache and verve of the new... My eyes are pretty thoroughly jaded; but I loved Clarke's "The City and the Stars", Bester's "The Stars My Destination", Blish's "Cities in flight". No explicit Australian Characteristics looked for. ~~Thanks~~ Thanks for this issue to David, Fabian, Brad, Andrew, Dave, Yvonne, Marc, Kim, VICTOR!! 2155, 23-8-84

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