

# Australia in 1999 Worldcon Bid.

## How much are pre-supporting memberships?

The Advertising Committee is not accepting pre-supporting memberships.

We do not believe it is appropriate to accept 'membership' money at such an early stage in any bid.

In addition, pre-supporting contributors may plausibly see their support as entitling them to a discount on membership. It is possible that this may be excluded by Worldcon rule changes sometime in the future, so we would not wish to encourage such expectations.

If you would like to support us, we would prefer you do so by helping distribute our flyers at conventions, by running or contributing to convention parties in support of Australia in 1999, by mentioning in your contacts with other fans that you would like to visit Australia in 1999, and by planning such a visit.

When an Australian site is decided upon, the actual Bidding Committee for that city may then be forced to raise money by pre-supporting memberships, however we don't presently expect to select a site until 1995 or 1996.

## Where will the convention be held?

In Australia, at the best possible site available.

We know this answer won't satisfy convention SMOFs, however it is the only reasonable answer, given that the convention isn't on for seven years.

Australia is in the middle of a recession that affects different cities to a different extent. Several building projects could affect the distribution, quality and costs of hotels. A major international event (such as the Olympics or America Cup) would change the relative desirability of cities.

Unlike the USA, we would not really have to book the hotels until about two years prior to the convention. Naturally, due to Worldcon rules, the actual hotel decision must be made and publicised by mid 1996 (in practice, it would have to be well before then).

The Advertising Committee refuses to make predictions as to which Australian city will offer the best venue by 1996. However, to encourage speculation, we will mention that at present (1992), Melbourne has the most active club (but the state is disadvantaged by economic problems), Perth has the best conventions (but is a smaller city, and very distant from other Australian fans), Adelaide has the most serious fans (but may not be interested in running the convention), Canberra has an enthusiastic club (but may not have the facilities or resources), and Sydney is a little light on active fans (but may have the best facilities, especially if it wins the Olympic bid for 2000).

## Who is on the Bidding Committee?

The precise composition of the Bidding Committee will be decided and announced around the time the bidding city is decided.

Fans on the Bidding Committee would be mostly from the bidding city, with some positions (those not dependent upon local knowledge or contact) held by active supporters in other cities.

We are not encouraging discussion of the possible qualifications of committee members at this time, as any suggested list would be bound to change dramatically over a period of seven years. Historically, the committee members (including the chair) of Worldcons have altered within the life of the bid. This is often seen as a destabilising factor, however we recognise it is inevitable, as interests change and as other commitments alter. We should remember that the average stay in fandom is probably only relatively few years, and that older fans may not have the energy to take on an active position through all the many years of activity required.

We would hope to have a large proportion of younger, newly active fans in key positions, with a core of long term fans to provide continuity and advice based on prior experience. We would anticipate that the long term fans would each have a decade or two of convention running experience.

## Who are the Advertising Committee, and why are they in Faulconbridge?

Fans from Faulconbridge and area, and associates of Faulconbridge fans, can become members of the Advertising Committee.

This strange restriction is designed partly to ensure that the Advertising Committee does not unduly favour any particular Australian bidding city or bidding group.

More importantly, Faulconbridge is too small (1500 people) and lacks the facilities (one small motel, one convention hall) to be considered in any way a threat to ANY full scale Australian bid.

We hope by this means to avoid losing support for advertising from Australian fans in general, regardless of whether they themselves favour (or more likely, dislike) some particular city for the bid. We also feel that this restriction will help keep us closely focused on advertising and publicity, and not get diverted into con planning and fan politics.

The Advertising Committee for the 1999 Worldcon Bid goes from strength to strength, having gathered every fan in Faulconbridge into its clutches ... sorry, that should read ... committee. The most recent member is Michael McGuiness, who was the major contact person for Sydney fandom in the 1950s and early 1960s (although I suppose Graham Stone and Kevin Dillon are the only people in Australian fandom old enough to recognise Michael).

Ron Clarke has published 80 issues of *The Mentor*, and participated in many conventions since he was at high school in the mid 1960's. He is probably the only Australian fan to have driven to London in a double decker bus, and is certainly the only Australian fan to be a GoH at a Russian SF convention. Ron is an active member of several local science fiction discussion groups.

Sue Clarke was originally known in fandom as Sue Smith. Although she may not have been in fandom quite as long as Ron, she is probably even more active as both a convention organiser, and publisher of many *Star Trek* and other media fanzines. The Clarke house seems perpetually a party, full of visiting fans.

Eric Lindsay attended his first Worldcon in 1972, to help promote the first Aussiecon. He has attempted to dodge committee membership ever since, but has not always managed this. He organised various well received Medventions, but tried to escape his fannish obligations in Australia by taking numerous long trips to US conventions (1972, 1976, 1978, 1982, 1992). His fanzine *Gegenschein* has been published (possibly declining in both size and quality) since 1971, and is now up to issue 67. He is exceedingly annoyed that Ron Clarke has published more issues for longer. His apa memberships have now declined to a mere two, FAPA and FLAP.

Lewis Morley and Marilyn Pride are two thirds of the three finest serious artists in Australian fandom, and bring a very welcome artistic talent to the area. Their business is making movie monsters and special effects. They are past DUFF winners, and have the most interesting wall ornaments I have ever seen.

Ken and Marea Ozanne are no longer active fanzine fans, however they do seem to manage a pilgrimage to the USA every three or four years and see lots of fans there. Ken has helped with many conventions.

Jean Weber attended the first Aussiecon to see some visiting US friends, met John Bangsund, and did her first fanzine shortly after. *WeberWoman's Wrevenge* is still going strong. She co-chaired several Circulations in Canberra with Sandra Hyde, as well as working on other SF and professional conventions over the past twenty years.

## Who is distributing these flyers?

I'd like to thank those who have offered to help or who are already helping distribute our flyers. Andy Andruschak, Jan Howard Finder, Mike Glicksohn, Gay Haldeman, Janice Murray, Bruce Schneier, R Lorraine Tutihasi, Leah Zeldes and Dick Smith. And by the time this reaches you, probably many more (and I may have missed a few).

**Australia in**  
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