

## Memories from WorldCon - Worldcon Memories A1, A2, A3 and the Australian Worldcon bids

I was fortunate enough to be able to travel to and attend the 1985 Worldcon with members of L5 Australia (a group set up to promote Australian participation in Space Activities) and in 1999 with a dozen or so Sydney Futurians. Coming from (book) SFconvention deficient Sydney, my Worldcon experience each time was like sipping the nectar of enlightenment from a fire hose, several days spent in the company of 1200 or so other SF fans.

In the lead-up to 2010 (currently being organised), to be able to travel with a group or to be sure that there will be some familiar faces when you get to Melbourne, is a great encouragement to actually pluck up the nerve and go to the Worldcon in Melbourne.

In 1985 my table at the Banquet seemed to become the epicentre of a spontaneous movement by Sydney fans that became the 'Sydney in 91' Worldcon bid. Which in some ways made it easier for Melbourne to claim the 1999 Worldcon. At that time there was even a rival Perth bid for 1994 and much Smoffing between room parties in order to gain advantage. Sadly, all the energy that went into the Sydney in 91 to 94 bids did not achieve anything lasting for Sydney SF fans. I can regret now that some of that energy was not channelled into running SF conventions or even a Sydney Natcon.

After the 1999 Worldcon I decided that 'something should be done' and so in 2000 I organised the first Sydney Freecon. I was not alone in having this feeling as I understand that Vanessa Jacobsen was similarly motivated to start the Canberra SF conventions which have lead to the Conflux series of Speculative Fiction events.

The most surprising thing about my Worldcon experiences occurred much later, I kept meeting people in Sydney who had also been at the Aussiecons, but they had at that time just been faces in the crowd.

What I would like to do is compile a list of like-minded Sydney (and environs) people who think they'd like to/or are thinking of attending 2010 Worldcon. The goal would be to provide a coordination point if desired to make our experience more enjoyable and create a more social environment

Secondly, for Sydney people who have attended A1, A2, A3 or took part in the various Sydney Worldcon Bid committees to record the names of people they met during this experience. The point of all this is 'historical'. Let's document this side of Sydney SF fandom before we all become gafiated amnesiacs and no one ever knows that it happened.

I attended A2 in 1985 with members of L5 Australia, Alan Grieve and David Woodward. At our table at the Banquet I recall that there was there was Sean McMullen, Sarah Murray-White, Karen Roe and several others who went on to be instrumental in forming the Sydney in 91 bid committee. I attended A3 in 1999 with the Sydney Futurians John August, David Bofinger, Ron Clarke, Brian Walls and Ian Woolf, after the biggest Sydney Futurian meeting in recent history! I also met Vanessa Jacobsen briefly.

Did you attend A1, A2, A3? Did you take part in any of the Australian Worldcon Bids? Who do you remember meeting?

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