



DUFF 2K: THE NEWSLETTER



Written and Edited by Terry Frost and Janice Gelb for the Down Under Fan Fund

Terry's Editorial

First off, I'd like to thank Janice for being the whip that keeps me meeting my obligations to DUFF. Every now and then I get an email asking me, very nicely, if it isn't time to get this or that happening? My co-administrator is a gracious, friendly, fun, intelligent, patient and perceptive human being who also looks great in black slacks. [JG: I didn't pay him to say that, honest!]

This year's race is one of which I'm particularly proud. Guys have won the Australian end of DUFF for ages. It's great to finally get an entirely female race. When I became administrator one of the things I most wanted to do was redress the gender balance. Both candidates this time—Susan Batho and Cathy Cupitt—are worthy folk and please, even if you don't know much about them, give one of them a go or, if you don't, at least send DUFF a donation.

Ballots are available at the DUFF web site (<http://home.pacbell.net/jgelb/ballot.pdf>). The deadline for submitting ballots is **Sunday, April 30, 2000**.

Terry Gushes About New York City

America is this enormous, bewildering, information dense movie set that the rest of the World visits every now and then. But it's the Big Apple that impressed me most. The place where that other rugged Australian, Rod Taylor, picked up a young and clipsome Jane Fonda in "Sunday In New York". Noo Yawk has an energy unlike any place I've ever been. Remember when Bruce Willis' taxi pulls out of the garage the first time in "The Fifth Element" and suddenly there's that three dimensional kinetic maze of skyscrapers and layered flying car traffic? New York really is like that, only shorter. All the time I walked the streets of Manhattan - 120 blocks on one singularly hot and humid day - Curtis Mayfield's "Pusher Man" was running as my intracranial soundtrack. I saw the park benches in Central Park where George Peppard and Buddy Ebsen met in "Breakfast at Tiffany's", the Navy Fountain where Campbell Scott got stung in "The Spanish Prisoner", Times Square, Riverside Park, Sardi's, Broadway... I was on the island where they invented the concept of the restaurant! I even went to the top of the Empire State Building where Cary Grant waited for Deborah Kerr in "An Affair To Remember" and the Eighth Wonder of the World took Fay Wray sightseeing. From there I could see the Chrysler Building where "Q, The Winged Serpent" built its nest. Doesn't get any better than that.

Terry's Favourite American Foods: Soft shelled crabs at Inner Harbour, Baltimore, All You Can Eat Clam Night at Clifford's in Seattle (with a supernacular Alaskan summer ale) and dried beef sticks with hot sauce from a corner grocery around the corner from Terry Garey and Denny Lien's place in Minneapolis.

Terry's Most Surprising Cultural Differences: The fact that American women, and one or two guys, found my accent sexy; Australian theme restaurants with nothing Australian about them and the Anoka County Wave Pool in Anoka County Minnesota.

Terry's Strangest New Word: "twentyfourseven"

Janice Gushes About Melbourne

How do I love Melbourne? Let me count the ways: Efficient and cheap trams that take you everywhere. Charming Federal houses with colour schemes featuring intricate wrought-iron balconies. Luscious pastries at St. Kilda Beach. Slow Glass Bookstore. Prows of old ships looking out over the Yarra River at Southbank. The platypus at the zoo. The Nova Mob. The everything-you-ever-wanted-to-drink-or-eat-including-flavoured-tinned-tuna 24-hour Coles Supermarket in Prahran. Watching an Aussie Rules game at the Melbourne Cricket Ground and continually asking Stephen Boucher "They're allowed to do that???" The kosher burger joint in St. Kilda. The luxurious suite at the All Seasons Grand that was bigger than some apartments I've rented. And finally, the wonderful treatment I had by fans and mundanes during my stay. [You can see the photos from my trip at <http://home.pacbell.net/jgelb/>]

Janice's Favo(u)rite Australian Foods: ANZAC biscuits, meat pies. (Least favourite: pizzerias whose plain pizzas included *surprise* ham!)

Janice's Most Surprising Cultural Differences: Practically honor payments on the trams, the overwhelming acceptance of non-married couples ("partners") with children, half-flush/full-flush buttons on toilets, on/off switches on power outlets.

Janice's Strangest New Word: "larrikin"

The Financial Side of Things

DUFF North America

Received from the previous administrator	\$ 10,000
Fanzine sale from rich brown	135
Rivercon auction (Pat and Roger Sims)	239
SCIFI donation (Elayne Pelz)	21
NASFIC auction (Milt Stevens)	36
Loscon auction	66.50
Sale of item from Aileen Forman	100
Sale of fanzines at SMOFcon	60
Interest through Jan 31, 2000	<u>161.45</u>
TOTAL	\$ 10,818.95
Airfare to Australia	<u>1,300.00</u>
	\$ 9,518.95
Cost of transportation in Australia	<u>240.00</u>
Current balance	\$ 9,278.95

DUFF Australasia

Received from the previous administrator	\$ 2400
Auction at Swancon 1999	150
MSFC Coffee God Fund Raising	200
Misc. Fund Raising at Aussiecon 3	1850
Nomination fees, voting payments, and misc.	335
	=====
TOTAL	\$ 4935
Travel expenses in Australia for '99 DUFF	400
	=====
Current balance	\$ 4535

Figures have been rounded up in DUFF Australia's case by personal donations by the administrator and other small amounts given to him by others.

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We'd like to thank the fans on both sides of the Pacific who have given generously of their time, worldly goods, money, and hospitality to the Down Under Fan Fund.