



New sletter

Issue 1, October 2002

Editor: [Brian Draper](#)

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[1. Welcome](#)

Welcome to the first issue of the YESFANZ newsletter. Each month we will bring you news of the activities of YESFANZ and YES related matters. Of course, our primary mission is to ensure that YES tour 'downunder' in February/March 2003 as indicated on [YESWORLD](#) and that we have a YESFANZ party before the shows. For this to succeed we need the involvement and support from YES fans in Australia, New Zealand and anywhere else you happen to be when you read this.

[2. History of YESFANZ](#)

YESFANZ stands for YES Festival for Australia and New Zealand. After travelling to North America for the YESSYMPHONIC tour 2001, our intrepid leader [Bob Forbes](#) initiated the idea of having a meeting of Yes fans down under before a YES show. [Stephen Black](#), our webmaster has brilliantly developed the [YESFANZ](#) website through which most of you have made your connection with us. Since November 2001 we have grown from our initial three to around 140 and growing fast as word of mouth gets around. We have been meeting regularly for over a year now, initially to put together a brochure to give to YES and their management to invite them to tour Australia and New Zealand for the first time since 1973. Bob Forbes presented the brochure to the YES management Left Bank Organization and Chris Squire in Los Angeles on August 23, 2002 as can be seen by the pictures on the YESFANZ web site. Two days later the Australian tour was announced on YESWORLD.

Now that the tour has been announced, we are planning the special party, a "Yes Festival for Australia and New Zealand", to be held before each of the concerts in Melbourne (Vodafone Arena, 28th February, 2003) and Sydney (Sydney Entertainment Centre, 1st March, 2003). The promoter, Michael Chugg, has been very supportive of our plans and it is intended to hold the parties at the two concert venues before the concerts.

[3. YESFANZ party plans](#)

At our regular meetings in Glebe, Sydney at Bob's office, we have been putting together our ideas for the party. Our most recent meeting was held on September 24, 2002 with eleven of us present and our Victorian representative Mark Hawes on speaker phone from Melbourne.

At this meeting we confirmed our intention to hold parties before each of the YES concerts. Michael Chugg is assisting us with securing private functions rooms at the concert venues, probably the Jack Neary Room at the Sydney Entertainment Centre and a room to be decided at the Vodafone Arena. We are uncertain about the size of these rooms so Roger Clark and Bob Forbes will be checking out the Jack Neary Room and Mark Hawes will look at Vodafone Arena's rooms. This is essential so that we can plan on the number of people who can attend each party.

We need to check what catering arrangements are available for the functions rooms and the cost. We presume that we will have to use the caterers from the two venues but that is understandable and needs to be confirmed. Currently we are planning to hold the parties from 3-6 pm but this is not finalised and we could look towards starting earlier and/or finishing closer to the start of the concert.

Once we know the size of the rooms, costs of catering, and other possible costs such as advertising, printing, T-shirts, insurance etc, we will be in a position to set up a budget and determine the price of tickets. We also need to have an estimate of upfront costs that could be covered by early ticket purchase by YESFANZ members. Michael Chugg has suggested that we could have a system whereby purchasers of YESFANZ tickets would obtain a wristband from the ticket office at the venue when picking up their concert tickets and this would allow entry to the YESFANZ party.

John Magee is our honorary treasurer and has had a lot of experience in this field. He has pointed out that we will probably need to set-up a bank account soon and that we will face GST responsibilities and need to obtain an ABN. We are not precisely sure of the most appropriate way we should do this from the taxation perspective so John has agreed to contact the ATO for advice. We are keen to have the least complicated structure possible.

There has been much discussion about what will occur at the parties. We are hopeful that YES will attend the Sydney party, and possibly the Melbourne party, at around 5pm but this is obviously something that cannot be confirmed at this stage. This will be the highlight of the party and if it occurs there should be an opportunity for a Q&A, photos and autographs. We have previously considered that questions for the Q&A could be submitted at the time of ticket purchase and we would compile the questions and arrange for a MC to put them to YES. We believe that an indigenous people's welcome to YES would be appropriate and in this regard Bob Forbes has some contacts in the indigenous communities and will see if the traditional landowners are willing to do this.

Representatives of Roger Dean have indicated that they are interested in bringing some of his artwork to Australia to be displayed at the party and possibly a local gallery. Some pieces

may be for sale. There is also a chance that Roger Dean may come to Australia as well but this is not confirmed. If he were to come, we decided that we would invite him to the party.

We have previously discussed whether we should put on any entertainment during the party. The general consensus is that it should be an occasion for fans to meet and greet each other without too much distraction. The price of the ticket will include food and soft drinks but alcohol will have to be purchased separately. The ticket will also be included in a raffle with a prize donated by YES management likely and also the last remaining copy of the YESFANZ brochure. Family tickets will be available.

We feel it would be a good idea to have a large video screen that we could use to play YESSYMPHONIC in the background. Apart from that, there will be merchandising from the YES tour and possibly Warner Brothers. Several YESFANZ members have designs for T-Shirts and these could also be on sale. It has also been suggested that fans may wish to bring YES memorabilia for display or trade.

[4. Travel](#)

As there are likely to be many YESFANZ members attending both parties, we will make enquiries about the price of airfares and possibly bus fares between Sydney and Melbourne.

There has been some interest from North American fans to come to the concerts. Rather than specifically assist in individual travel plans, we will direct overseas and interstate enquiries to the travel agent recommended by Michael Chugg. We are currently negotiating with them.

[5. Advertising](#)

We discussed advertising for the YESFANZ party and based on our database it would seem that if everybody who has indicated an intention to attend comes and brings the number of people to the party that they have indicated, we already have over 400 people likely to attend. However it was pointed out that this is unlikely to be accurate and that we now need to get more accurate data. We have decided to ask our member database manager, John McInerney, to contact all YESFANZ members to give a realistic

indication of how many are likely to attend Sydney and/or Melbourne parties.

Because our advertising so far has been almost solely Internet based, we discussed various strategies to broaden our impact. Possibilities included posters in local music stores, adverts in newspapers, media interviews, YESFANZ T-shirts (designed by Steve Leighton that state that "YES are coming in 2003"), and community action as suggested by Bryan Cokeley.

Michael Chugg and LBO would like YESFANZ to assist in the promotion of the tour. At present, we feel limited by the lack of an announcement in the local press about the tour. We will invite Michael Chugg to our next meeting. We have some local media representatives who may be able to assist in writing news items. Once announced, talkback radio, TV music video shows, community TV may all be possible outlets. There is a possibility that members of YES might do a promotional visit but that is unconfirmed. Warner Brothers will be releasing the 'In the Word, Yes' boxed set soon with a sticker announcing the tour.

Any other ideas from YESFANZ membership are welcomed. One idea from the membership that was discussed was the possibility of Optus involvement, but as YES will be playing at Vodafone Arena that might not be possible.

[6. YESFANZ office bearers](#)

Chair:	Bob Forbes forbes@robert-forbes.com
Webmaster	Steve Black cbassoc@froggy.com.au
Newsletter editor	Brian Draper b.d.draper@bigpond.com
Member database	John McInerney jmcinerney327@hotmail.com
Treasurer	John Magee

[7. State, Territory and New Zealand representatives](#)

The following YESFANZ members represent each of the States and Territories of Australia. The New Zealand representative is to be confirmed. It is intended that this list will be eventually published on YES Services web site.

Victoria: Mark Hawes molymajordidge@bigpond.com

- Any interested Victorian YESFANZ please contact Mark as he will certainly need some local help in putting together the Melbourne party.

Queensland: Douglas Hills dhills@uq.net.au

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New Zealand: (to be confirmed)

New South Wales: Robert Forbes forbes@robert-forbes.com

8. Future Newsletters

I intend that this will be a monthly newsletter that will be distributed by email and posted on the YESFANZ website. To assist in its production I would like your contributions. Just send them to Brian Draper at b.d.draper@bigpond.com

Any Yes related items, particularly with an Australian or New Zealand angle, will be used so long as it doesn't breach copyright or is potentially libellous.