**Development of Australian SF and fantasy**

**19th century scientific romances**

* influenced by early explorations of Australia and disappearance of famous explores such as Ludwig Leichhardt in 1848; written by local residents who returned to England
* theme of lost civilization: “Oo-a-deen” (1847), anon;
* Carlton Dawe, *The Golden Lake* (1891)
* Fergus Hume, *The Mystery of a Handsom Cab* (1886): international bestseller
* G. Firth Scott, The Last Lemurian: A Westralian Romance (1898)
* Robert Potter, *The Germ Growers* (1892); the first story of alien invasion
* theme of utopia: Joseph Fraser, *Melbourne and Mars: My Mysterious Life on Two Planets* (1889)
* novels of racial invasion mostly triggered by White Australia Policy

**Between the wars**

* very few documented Aus. contribution between the 1920s and 30s; the 1940 import embargo; mainstream magazines such as the *Bulletin* and the *Australasian* publish SF works

**Post-war years**

* M Barnard Edlershaw (Marjorie Barnard and Flora Eldershaw) *Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow* (1947): 1st example of Commonwealth censorship (restored ed. in 1983)
* appearance of specialized SF (men’s) magazine
* A Bertram Chandler (the Golden Age of SF): 44 novels and over 200 short stories; the Rimworld series; Neville Shute, *On the Beach* (1957) =the peak of Australian SF in the 1950s
* 1960s; New Wave (modernism and SF); fandom and fanzines propel the genre; Ditmar Awards 1969;
* first Aus. SF anthologies: John Baxter*, Pacific Books of Australian Science Fiction,* 1968 and 1971

**Aussiecon 1 (33rd World SF Convention), 1975**

* outcomes: famous int. SF writers organized SF workshops all over Australia; appearance of SF uni clubs; SF magazines; establishment of The Science Fiction Foundation (1976); propelling careers of two important authors: George Turner (trilogy *Beloved Sun*, 1978; *Vaneglory*, 1981; *Yesterday’s Men*, 1983; and critically acclaimed *The Sea and Summer*, 1987) and Damien Broderick (*The Dreaming Dragons*, 1980; *The White Abacus*, 1997; theoretical works on postmodern SF), opening of SF and fantasy bookshops (Melbourne 1971, Sydney 1975)

**Aussiecon 2 (43rd World SF Convention), 1985**

* outcome: boom in Aus. commercial genre publishing in the 1990s, propelling the career of Greg Egan (*Quarantine,* 1992, Permutation city 1994) in the so called hard SF (quantum mechanics and posthuman condition)

**Recognition of the genre and international fame**

* Aurealis Awards, 1995
* Australian SF writers winning international awards such as the Nebula Award and the Hugo Awards
* continuous publication of SF anthologies: *The Year’s Best Australian Science Fiction and Fantasy*, and *Dreaming Down Under*
* first structured and comprehensive studies of Australian SF and fantasy history: *The MUP Encyclopaedia of Australian Science Fiction and Fantasy* (Paul Collins, ed., 1998), *Strange Constellations: A History of Australian Science Fiction* (Russel Blackford, Van Ikin and Sean McMullen, 1999) and *Notes on Australian Science Fiction* (Graham Stone, 2001)
* Aussiecon 3(Melbourne, 1999) and Aussiecon 4 (Melbourne, 2010)