

# Cape Cod 2005 Post Event Survey

28 replies

## PRE-CONFERENCE

### 1) How easy did you find it to register for the event?

- a) Very easy x 16 responses
- b) Not very easy x 1 response
- c) Other (please specify)
  - Don't know how to cut and paste
  - Would have preferred to have a better designed form, was very confusing to complete and not very flexible.
  - Better to have an intelligent form on-line that captures your data and sends a copy to organiser
  - I didn't do the registration.
  - Very easy-Art's instructions were clear even as he made changes.
  - Fairly easy. There was confusion with the conference rates at the hotel - we called right after the initial notice came out and before folks in reservations at the hotel were aware of the conference rates.

### 2) Did you use the NSN Website to look up any other conference information prior to attending?

- a) Yes x 13 responses
- b) No x 7 responses
  - I believe I followed a link to the Cape Cod area

### 3) If yes to question 2, did you find what you were looking for?

- a) Yes x 11 response
- b) No x 3 response

### 4) If yes to question 2, what were you looking for?

- Dates x 2 responses
- Program/Schedule x 6 responses
- Costs x 3 responses
- Hotel information x 2 responses
- Travel details x 1 response
- To check on how the scheduling of the reading of Vinland the Good at the Gathering was mentioned in the Web site
- In recalling, it seems we used it several times to reconfirm some basic facts that we already knew from Art directly, but what we would have liked to find there (or anywhere) earlier was more detail about the scheduling of events and the costs to attend only individual events

### 5) Is there any other information it would have been useful to have on the NSN Website prior to the conference?

- Earlier information as to the program, especially for planning arrival and departure times.
- The program/pre-conference agenda was very late getting published and should have been on line sooner, I think. X 5 responses
- I think it would have been useful to have the line-up of speakers and topics.
- A periodic updated list of who planned to attend/how many people were registered x 2 responses
- Information on how Shute is relevant to Cape Cod, why was Cape Cod chosen for this conference?

## AT THE CONFERENCE

(Please score all questions out of 10, 10 being highest, 1 being lowest, please feel free to add additional narrative comments)

### 1) What was your overall assessment of the Cape Codder Hotel out of 10?

- 10/10 x 5 responses
- 9/10 x 4 responses
- 8/10 x 4 responses
- 7/10 x 4 responses
- 5/10 x 1 response
- 3/10 x 2 responses
- No real complaints. We were initially assigned to 2nd floor but they quickly accommodated our original request for a 1st floor room. Overall a good value for this area.
- The program was excellent! I appreciate the summaries of the talks.
- For suitability for the conference, 10
- Not a 5 star hotel, but very comfortable and nicely located.
- Staff were excellent when called upon for help.
- The business center was useful & it was good to have free internet access
- Room rate was appropriate x 2 responses
- And their food was excellent x 2 responses
- It's a very average hotel and I was surprised it was not on the water but it was clean and reasonably priced.
- Restaurant there was poor.
- The location was not convenient to the airport, but it is where it is.
- I would take off points because there were problems with reserving my room. (The website did not work, and the initial reservation had a mistake.)
- It was a beautiful Resort
- The room was very nice x 4 responses
- The staff left a lot to be desired, including the Manager. The issue that came up may have been something I will laugh about??? never should have come up in the first place, and was never settled to our satisfaction.
- At Check Out, had to spend a long time discussing the bill, to avoid being overcharged.
- The banquet staff was very good.
- Several of the waitstaff, in the restaurant, were rude and obnoxious. This didn't spoil the Conference, as I love Nevil Shute and all my friends.
- Apparently lots of folks, but not me, got upgraded.
- Their cancellation policy needs greater flexibility and is inconsistent.
- Hotel rooms were large and comfortable, but this was all let down by the rude and uninterested staff
- nice conference facilities, nice restaurant
- Very good generally. I was particularly impressed that staff were in the conference room before breakfast on the Wednesday morning to help me set up for my presentation. They really were most helpful.
- The rate seemed high, but it's quite likely that this was the best available rate in the area.
- An in-room tea/coffee pot would have been nice. For tea drinkers this won't be an issue in Australia because even the most humble of lodgings there comes with an electric jug to heat water for tea, and usually a fridge for the milk. Of course this doesn't take care of the coffee drinkers, but you can't please everyone.
- I found the staff to be exceptionally friendly, helpful, and quick to respond to problems. For example, when there were no knives for the jam with the scones, all I had to do was mention it to the first person I saw and he took care of it immediately.
- It probably is impossible to find a hotel that pleases everyone.
- I know that in Oz Dan went to great lengths to find the best available location, but of course there were problems and complaints, and there were those in the group who expected him to take care of every little thing that came up. This really detracted from his ability to fully enjoy and participate in the activities or to attend to other pressing requirements. Maybe it would help for there to be a designated hotel liaison person in Alice to take some of the burden of logistics and complaints off of the event manager.

**2) What was your overall assessment of the Registration Pack?**

- 10/10 x 12 responses
- 9/10 x 1 response
- 8/10 x 1 response
- 7/10 x 1 response
- Very good x 2 responses
- Everything was great, A delightful welcome
- The program was excellent! I appreciate the summaries of the talks
- The booklet of abstracts was a plus, Program was particularly well presented x 2 responses
- Fine
- I had an accident on my way to the Gathering. I missed much of the Gathering because I was in my room nursing my aches and pains or working on the program for the reading of Vinland the Good. I have now fully recovered.
- The Nevil Shute bag was very nice.

**3) Is there anything you would have added, or left out of the Registration Pack?**

- 9/10 x 1 response
- It had what I wanted in it.
- Left out my world of yesterdays
- Why was there no Emergency Chocolate?
- What was the large plastic bag for?
- Less small pads and a proper larger writing pad for note taking
- A better area map/overall map of Cape Cod might have been a nice addition with restaurant locations x 3 responses
- Good Assortment

**4) What was your overall assessment of the length of the conference? Was it too long, too short or just right?**

- 10/10 x 2 responses
- 9/10 x 1 response
- 8/10 x 2 responses
- Just right x 11 responses
- Possibly one day too long/too long x 3 responses
- Good Length
- I like the bus trip "break" in the middle with sessions before and after
- Enjoyed everything and felt the length was just right.
- While I found everything to be very enjoyable, I found myself feeling that the welcoming day plus 3 days would have been enough. I was under pressure with other commitments for most of October, so that surely was weighing on me. Don't ask me what I would have cut out, though!
- I regretted that personal exigencies led me to leave at about 1.30 pm on the last day.
- They're always too short, but, practically, it was just right.
- 3 days counting the opening day would be plenty. However, I enjoyed all the sessions I attended.
- It was fine. For me, it would have been better to begin on Friday or Saturday, and end earlier—so that I would not have had to miss as much class. Making the adjustment in my semester schedule was worth it, though.
- I wouldn't mind an extra day in Australia, although with a longer conference I would be happier if things were broken up a little more with activities interspersed with talks. I tend to get stir-crazy sitting indoors all day. In Oz I enjoyed the trip to Dandenong with the wonderful talk by Roy Jones (the professor from Perth) given in the picnic area in the bush.
- One more day of the conference would have been welcome to me x 2 responses

**5) What was your overall assessment of the Welcome Reception and Ice Breaker Game?**

- 10/10 x 2 responses
- 9/10/x 1 response
- 8/10 x 2 responses
- 7/10 x 1 response
- I enjoyed them both. The Ice Breaker game was excellent way to get to know new people.
- I don't do ice breaker games and the welcome reception did not work well because everyone just sat down. It should have been a standup cocktail party with finger foods eatable whilst standing, and there should have been a pay bar for those who wanted it. I felt the reception was a bit of a flop. I got there a bit late, everyone was at a table, and I met only those people.
- Fun
- Ice breaker game was too much work to prepare.
- Fine
- Very clever x 2 responses
- It was a little hard to remember all of the characters' names on the spot x 5 responses
- Reception was great, game was tough for me
- Very good ice breaker
- Nice event fun game. Fine food
- The reception was enjoyable, and the game was a good idea (even though my character was too obscure for clues).
- There was not enough variety of drinks at the open reception and it was impossible to tell the two types of drinks apart.
- Ice Breaker only worked if you knew all the characters from all the novels. For me it was frustrating and I found it difficult to participate.
- Hors d'oeuvres were not very good in contrast to the rest of the meals which were excellent! (The fruit and champagne punches were good.)
- The game took a little thought but seemed too difficult for many; written instructions might have helped (if you are one who reads instructions).
- Welcome reception very good - Not sure about the Ice Breaker Game - good idea but not sure how well it worked.
- There was no cheating of course was there - JEAN PAGET!
- OK, but I would have preferred wine to the Sangria and punch that was served.
- I don't generally care for icebreaker games and only half-heartedly participated in this one, but I appreciate the intent and energy that went into it. I felt somewhat grumpy and disconnected during the reception, I think partly because the room was cold and a bit stark. I get cold easily and don't care for air conditioning. I realize that some people have the opposite preference. After that first night I knew to carry a sweater, so the rest of the time was O.K.
- Well done. As intended, the Ice Breaker Game got everyone talking to one-another.
- Some thoughts about Welcome Receptions in general-- The one at the Centennial was magical. The energy was sky-high and people were reluctant for it to end. I'm not sure quite why-- all we had was a standard hotel ballroom with a bunch of tables and chairs and a few welcoming remarks. I think it mostly had to do with the newness--all these people were discovering for the first time that there were lots of others who shared their passion for Nevil Shute. At Oz, that newness was gone to an extent, but I think that having the "Friends of Nevil Shute" panel that first afternoon really got things started off in a strong way. The reason that time slot was originally chosen was that the rest of the week was full. But I think it worked well to start right off with something meaty.
- Too many people had not read all the books -group did not 'warm up' easily
- It was a shame to be thrown out of the room, just when things started to warm up and conversation started to flow.

**6) What was your overall assessment of content of the speaker presentations?**

- 10/10 x 2 responses
- 9/10 x 2 responses
- 8.5/10 x 1 response
- 8/10 x 1 response
- First Rate, Great, Excellent
- John Anderson's presentation was right up there with Richard Bach's and other notables.
- John Anderson's on the Toraplane was very interesting.
- Very Mixed, John Anderson was the best in terms of presentation, approach and content.
- Who would have thought that a talk about a Toraplane could be so engaging?
- John Anderson's presentation was exceptional. Imagine the hours and hours of research and preparation required to put together such a paper.
- I particularly was impressed by John Anderson's talk on the Toraplane, and Shoshana Knapp's views on Shute's narrators.
- I think my favorites were the talks by John Anderson & Shoshana Knapp, and Margo's "Favorite Passages" session.
- Very Good. Shoshana Knapp's was the best - of course she is a literature professor.
- I was very impressed with Shoshana's talk
- VERY GOOD especially Fred, Shoshana & Lillian
- I would compliment Lillian Ruiz on her presentation
- I could listen to Fred Erisman's voice till the sun sets and the gentle breeze laps the shoreline
- I especially enjoyed Fred Erisman and David Weir, but I do not mean to disparage the others.
- I had to leave early on Thursday, so regret having missed David Weir's talk. I have thoroughly enjoyed his past presentations.
- Lillian Ruiz's was imaginative and creative.
- On par with previous events.
- Excellent; all were very well done. We are so fortunate to have such talented folks interested in our favorite author.
- Very interesting mixture.
- I thought it had all been covered last time but this proved me wrong
- I am amazed at how folks continue to delve more deeply into the topics at hand!
- Very high, stimulating, informative, well researched
- I liked all the ones I attended.
- The topics were a good combination of different approaches—history, biography, film, literary analysis—but all had something to offer to admirers of Nevil Shute Norway.
- Uniformly good.
- I came rather expecting to be restless during some talks because I'm less of a Shute person than many, and because just sitting for that amount of time can get me stir-crazy. But to my surprise I found every talk to be interesting, and thought some were great.
- The Favorite Passages readings inspired a level of connection within the group that would have been a pleasure to have experienced earlier in the week.
- OK, I'll be honest. The published outlines were so good I felt free to miss most of the lectures and go do sightseeing and walks around Cape Cod. Had those abstracts not been in the program, I would have attended more presentations. The one or two I went to were quite interesting.
- I enjoyed all.

**7) What was your overall assessment of quality of the speakers?**

- 10/10 x 4 responses
- 9/10 x 1 response
- 8.5/10 x 1 response
- 8/10 x 1 response
- Excellent x 3 responses
- Terrific People
- Good
- They were OK and obviously all very interested in NS and their topics.
- Each did a splendid job of communicating his/her enthusiasm for Shute and his work.
- Overall very good, Shashana's was excellent as was Lillian's.
- The panels were less valuable as they were largely a rehash of previous information.
- Although the readings were interesting, they were useful mostly for what they said about the readers who selected them.
- Andy's and John's were both very well researched new material and presented interestingly.
- While some were better than others, none were even approaching bad.
- Very high, stimulating, informative, well researched
- The speakers were uniformly dedicated to their subjects and considerate of their audiences.
- One was dull as hell but I don't recall his name or subject
- Very mixed, but mostly of a high quality.
- In one regard the quality of the speakers is almost intimidating. They are so good that others who might be interested in making a presentation may not do so because the speakers we have are so good.

**8) What was your overall assessment of format of speaker presentations?**

- 10/10 x 4 responses
- 9/10 x 1 response
- 8/10 x 1
- Excellent x 2 responses
- Good Format x 2 responses
- Format is fine x 2 responses
- I like the balance, Just the right format.
- Good mix of styles, but more audience participation would have been nice.
- The only problem I had was, being deaf (my wife says) I had trouble hearing some of the questions. Some of the speakers would repeat the questions, some didn't.
- The format seems to work well, with an audience that has questions to ask!
- There was ample variety in styles, techniques, and content, while the Q&A added immediacy and piqued interest
- Same as we have always done. No change recommended.
- This format seems to work well, although I think there should always be some latitude and flexibility if speakers prefer another approach.
- Q&A was the most interesting part as the Gathering went on the comments wandered from the topic at hand but speakers kept to the timetable.

9) **What was your overall assessment of the length of each session, were they too long, too short or just the right length?**

- 10/10 x 1 response
- 9/10 x 1 response
- 8/10 x 2 responses
- Just Right x 12 responses
- Pretty good, OK
- Too Long
- There were fine, although many finished early.
- You could adjust time by having more sessions and less standing around time.
- Give each speaker the option of 75 or 90 minutes.
- Tea breaks and refreshments were excellent.
- A session where Fred Erisman talks could never be too long
- It's funny--at OZ I sometimes felt that the talks were a bit too long, but in Cape Cod the time passed quickly and I was sometimes sorry to have the sessions end.
- I personally would prefer to have the time a bit less tightly scheduled so that there would be time to take a walk, etc. But then I realize that there are those who want to pack in as much as they can.
- Perhaps more flexibility might be accommodated for conference presentations. Rather than schedule all sessions to run the same length, perhaps the speakers should be sounded out regarding how much time they need to make their presentation, and sessions lengths might be adjusted accordingly. For example, I sensed that John Anderson could have used a bit more time for his presentation to include additional time for Q&A. Also, the reading session might have been extended a bit longer.

## 10) How comfortable were you during the conference?

- 10/10 x 2 responses
- 8/10 x 4 response
- 7/10 x 1 response
- Very good
- I do not recall any problems with comfort x 2 responses
- In the larger room we should have all had tables to rest against for writing as at UK2003 x 3 responses.
- Generally fine, esp. once we moved to the bigger room.
- Fine – acoustics were good, meeting rooms comfortable etc. Nothing that I saw fit to criticise.
- Indeed all aspects of comfort attracted my favourable comment.
- First morning too warm and then could not hear so well
- Seats in smaller room were HARD!
- Blooming uncomfortable. The small room was diabolical and inappropriate. Why did we have to move back into it?
- We weren't really too hot in the first room, but it was a blessing to be moved to the larger room where the seats were wider, more cushioned, and the elbow room more---the first room would have been difficult to sit in all day for the whole conference.
- The room for Monday and Wednesday was very good; Thursday's room was less comfortable.
- The meals were quite good
- Chairs and acoustics left a little to be desired
- There should have been a roving microphone for audience questions.
- The chairs in the small room were very uncomfortable and the room too crowded. The large room was quite nice and the chairs comfortable.
- The little room was uncomfortable, but the big room was excellent.
- The larger room used on Monday PM & Wednesday was much better seating in the smaller room was too hard.
- Seats were pretty hard , the first (small) room got pretty warm.
- Thank goodness we moved from the stuffy hot room to the larger room. That room and the chairs were much better.
- I was quite comfortable except for the cold temperatures during some sessions. I know that some people complained about sometimes being too hot, so again, you can't please everyone. I never had any trouble hearing, but I know that some people did. This is always a challenge. From past experience I suppose it would be a good idea to have a backup P.A. system available.
- Also, the chairs in the large conference room (where we were sent because of temperature problems) were more comfortable than the round chairs used in our assigned conference room.
- Very uncomfortable for much of the time
- Meeting room we used most was too small.
- Chairs were uncomfortable.
- Space and tables are essential for drinks, note taking, doodling etc.
- Air conditioning erratic.
- Mobile microphones are an absolute MUST requirement. They were either not requested or not available in the assigned room. When we moved to the larger room with sound facilities the mobile mics generally did not work. I missed most of the questions which makes the answers difficult to comprehend.

**11) What was your overall assessment of the content of the Exhibition Hall?**

- 10/10 x 2 responses
- 9/10 x 2 responses
- 8/10 x 2 response
- Excellent x 2 responses
- Very interesting x 2 responses
- Very Good, Pretty Good, Fine
- The content was great x 2 responses
- Too much to comprehend
- The room itself could have been a bit larger.
- Well-organized and the Colorado Challenge was a wonderful centerpiece!
- My favourite part-I would like to have seen more exhibits.
- While much of it was interesting, there really wasn't time to study it in detail. Exhibits should be more summary in nature.
- I particularly liked the quiz game and the sales stall.
- I like the pictures of book covers, and I was grateful to all who brought treasures and information for us to see.
- The quiz was fun.
- Mildly interesting, the competition was good though.
- There was more material than I had time to look at in detail.
- I really appreciate all the contributors for bringing their materials.
- The content was fine as far as it went. The game was very well done.
- Not quite up to Centennial standards, but about on par with OZ2001 and UK2003.
- I spent little time browsing the exhibits this time. I think I had my fill at previous conferences.

**12) Is there anything else you would like to have seen in the Exhibition Hall? If yes, what?**

- We sorely missed Richard's Shute Historical Timeline panels that were present in the UK (new photos have come to light since then). x 5 responses.
- Photographs of places where Shute lived
- More information about Shute and photographs of him and the airplanes
- More Shute historical items.
- Reprints of some of the material (if legal)
- It was fun to have some items to purchase and I am sure there must be many more NS artefacts-posters- advertising items-different book covers etc
- I regret I was unable to produce the flight simulator as I had hoped to do
- My impression from listening to tapes of the centennial is that they had a lot more; of course that was a bigger meeting (in attendance) and planned as a once-in-a-lifetime event.
- Can't think of anything in particular I missed. X 3 responses
- I didn't look

### 13) What was your overall assessment of the Film Festival?

- 10/10 x 2 response
- 8/10 x 2
- First rate, Terrific, Enjoyed
- Fine x 2 responses
- I didn't attend any of the films; I've seen them all at one time or another x 4 responses
- I didn't get to see any of them x 2 responses
- I saw a couple of movies I had always wanted to see.
- I had not seen most of these so it was new and interesting.
- I found the quality of films quite good.
- I always enjoy seeing these films.
- Landfall sound was very low but Joan saved the day by putting the speaker mike near the output and amplifying the sound.
- Very well managed and flexible too. Some of us arrived late for the showing of the R 100 film, so it was repeated for us, very nice.
- The big screen was a good idea
- I kept forgetting they were there. It could have been better advertised, for instance, at the end of each day announcing which films were being shown that evening as a reminder.
- Good but only watched a couple of films.
- The rare items are always a treat.
- I liked seeing the plane and the recent production of Requiem for a Wren.
- Very interesting from a historical perspective. The only films I had seen prior to this were VHS tapes of No Highway (in the Sky) and the Town Like Alice miniseries (which I have purchased).

### 14) Is there anything you would have changed about the Film Festival? If yes, what?

- No x 5 responses
- It was very well done
- Added a couple of missing movies.
- Added popcorn
- Perhaps a discussion forum.
- Just to allow some time for dinner before commencing with the films.
- Obviously, more films would add variety, but we have to deal with availability.
- I don't see why anyone had to apologise for the print quality of Pied Piper -- it looked good to me.
- It might have been good to have, in the conference book, the credits for the movies.
- More films? More choices regarding when films are screened and re-screened. Given the number of films that are available and the number of people with diverse viewing interests, perhaps we need to ability to screen more than one film at a time.
- It was much improved once one of the attendees got it set up to run on the big screen.

**15) What was your overall assessment of the Cape Codder Shore Dinner?**

- 10 /10 x 5 responses
- 9/10 x 1 response
- 7/10 x 1 response
- 6/10 x1 response
- 4/10 x 1response
- Excellent x 2 responses
- Very Good x 4 responses
- Great Meal x 2 responses
- Really nice, I enjoyed it. Poor x 2 responses
- 
- One of the highlights of the gathering.
- Who could complain about those lobsters???!!!
- Overall the Cape Codder did a nice job on food.
- Thoroughly enjoyed it. I am not a lobster fan and was happy to find an alternative when I lost the battle with my personal lobster.
- The setting was pleasant, and the food delicious. I liked the music, too.

**16) Is there anything you would have changed about the Cape Codder Shore Dinner? If yes, what?**

- No x 6 responses
- Had a pay bar for those who would have preferred beer with the dinner
- Better availability of wine and soft drinks. I only got one glass of wine and was then told there was none left
- More variety of food for those not into lobster
- Having lobster when we were all dressed in our finery for the Banquet was not a good idea
- No, it was very nice.
- Everything was fine except the right hand microphone failing during the reading of the play.
- Nothing, really, though it would have been fun out-of-doors x 2 responses
- This is pretty subjective. I can't think of anything specific

**17) What was your overall assessment of the partial reading of Vinland The Good?**

- 10/10 x 2 response
- 9/10 x 1 response
- 5/10 x 1 response
- Excellent, Good, great fun, Clever
- Moderately enjoyable x 2 responses
- Fair, somewhat contrived, Mediocre, It was kind of hokey, but O.K.
- That was great fun - at least as a participant.
- Was very good but could not hear the left speakers because the mike did not work. X 3 responses
- Very entertaining, though we were disappointed that Beall didn't wear his shorts!
- Fred was good to listen to and Philip Nixon offered some much needed comical light relief.
- As a participant, it was great fun. I hope the audience enjoyed it as much as I did.>
- Loved it, Philip Nixon was outstanding
- As an understudy, I thought the whole project was fun, and I hope the audience enjoyed it as much as we did.
- Great fun for all concerned
- Very good, but I am biased!
- It seemed to be well done. I had not found the time to read the filmscript/ book etc of Vinland, and am not familiar with it, as distinct from Captivity.
- Quite lively. It just made you wish you could do the whole thing as a production.
- Not my favorite part of the convention. I would have preferred a good speaker, if one could have been found.

**18) What was your overall assessment of the Bus Excursion tour of Cape Cod?**

- 10/10 x 4 responses
- 9/10 x 1 response
- 8/10 x 2 response
- 7/10 x 1 response
- 4/10 x 1 response
- Excellent, Enjoyed, Terrific, Wonderful day
- Very enjoyable x 5 responses
- Driver was very personable / the bus driver in the first bus was great and should keep his day job x 4 responses
- There was no air conditioning on our bus which made it extremely uncomfortable
- I skipped it to do an independent tour of Cape Cod. I am not a bus tour person.
- Very interesting, incorporating Cape Cod, Vinland, and a delightful tea at the Cornell's.
- Good selection of stops
- It was a good day
- No real reason to have spent as long on the bus as we did-visiting WonderStrands-sandy spit etc and evening at the Cornells were great.
- An interesting day, with a mixture of things to see and do. I liked the Shute references, the lunch venue, the visit to the Cornell home.
- We've been to P-town and the eastern shore before; but the "wedding tree" and the final two stops related to the Viking landing and seaplane landing were very interesting to see. We really appreciate the Cornell family and friends putting on the tea for us. Is the recipe for cherry cake available?
- Obviously, Shute sites were limited in that area. We knew that would be the case when Cape Cod was selected.
- I had looked forward to seeing something of Cape Cod since I had never been to this part of the country. But after I had seen a few Cape Codder houses and a lot of trees that was probably enough. A much shorter excursion would have suited me fine. I liked the tea and cherry cake

**19) Is there anything you would have changed about the Bus Excursion tour of Cape Cod If yes, what?**

- No x 3 responses
- 8/10 x 1 response
- Yes, aircon would have been welcome on our bus. X 2 responses
- Shorten it
- Less stops with more time to explore each place. Too much on and off the bus x 2 responses.
- I could have used a bit longer in Provincetown x 2 responses
- If it had been possible to have time in Provincetown to see the museum-type things, that would have been even better.
- The food at the lunch stop was debatable!
- A bit more time at the beach would have been nice.
- If there were a desire to shorten the conference, the excursion could have been shortened, leaving out the trip to Provincetown and concentrating on Shute-related items.
- Given that area, I can't think of anything.
- Have the seaplane actually land in Cotuit bay instead of just flypast

**20) What was your overall assessment of the organisation of the conference?**

- 10/10 x 6 response
- 5/10 x 1 response
- Really First Rate
- More than I expected.
- Seemed pretty good to me
- Well Organised
- Very well done! Thanks so much to the organizers.
- Excellent. Well done! Don't envy the organisers the difficult task, but they came through with flying colours.
- The organization was fine
- Very, very well done. X 2 responses
- Very good. On par with the first three.
- Cornell's did a great job x 2 responses
- Congrats to all involved!
- All of the problems with the comfort of the meeting room (lack of working microphones, uncomfortable seating, lack of tables in the conference, etc) should have all been sorted out in advance, or as a minimum sorted during the conference. However, despite problems, there was no indication that anyone was trying to sort them.
- Would have been nicer if the organisers sent out more ongoing information in the build-up to the conference.
- From a participant's point of view, it was flawless. Kudos to Art and his band of stalwarts.
- Organisation generally excellent from Foundation standpoint. Cape Codder let us down occasionally with items mentioned above.
- I really appreciate all of the effort and care that went into this. It isn't easy, especially for someone who doesn't have a lot of experience with conference organization. There were some things that worked better than others, but that is always the case. I have no complaints, and am very grateful to Art and Joan for having taken this on.

**21) Is there anything you would have changed about the organisation of the conference? If yes, what?**

- No x 5 responses
- Yes. Additional of tables in the conference room and use of more comfortable chairs
- More pre-conference information
- Organisers to be based at the hotel and offer support in sorting out problems with the hotel
- Would have been nicer to have a more inclusive hotel package which included breakfasts
- Just to schedule a little time for dinner and unwinding between the day's and evening's activities.
- Not about organisation, maybe just implementation as noted.

**22) Do you feel that overall the conference was good value for money?**

- 10/10 x 3 responses
- Yes x 16 responses
- Absolutely x 2 responses
- Very much so, especially if one participated in everything.
- I thought that the value—meals, excursion, stones, etc.—was fine.
- \$50 too much.
- When I registered, I thought it was a little expensive, but I did not know it was going to include the lunches. With the meals it was a very good value.
- Do we have an accounting of how the funds were allocated? This would be most useful for the planning of future conferences. How much went to direct conference expenses at the hotel (conference facilities, banquet, lunches, etc.)? How much went to conference materials (conference book, conference bag)? Where were the remaining funds allocated? If this is "our" society, this information should be available.

**23) Would you have preferred a cheaper conference using a more basic hotel and without extra bits, such as gifts, scones & cakes?**

- No x 14 responses
- Absolutely not
- Yes
- No, given the excellence of the meals provided.
- Cheaper would only cheapen the whole experience. I really enjoy the venues that have been chosen for our conferences. They are memorable and not just *Super 8* Motels. I think we have had good value for our money at each of the conferences I have been to.
- Fine with me. I don't do scones or cakes. Don't need gifts. I think the CapeCodder was a bit overpriced. A Holiday Inn would have been fine. I think the Cape Codder did a good job though.
- Not unless the basic hotel had "character" and charm.
- One problem is that I wore all those scones and cakes for 2 months afterward, so sure, if you could trim the cost down with a few less scones, my waistline will appreciate it!
- I don't know how much difference \$ made in who could attend.
- It may have brought more people. Were there many who did not come due to cost?
- The "little things" help to give each meeting its distinctiveness.
- The major expense of a conference is usually travel. I think it would be a mistake to try to scrimp on hotel, food, etc., to shave a few dollars off the price.
- Would have been nice to have real scones and clotted cream as is the tradition at Shute gatherings.
- Having less in the way of gifts and amenities would have been fine with me. The trade-off is that in order to get the comfortable conference room, the attentive staff, the good sound system and climate control, etc., it's usually necessary to go to a "conference" hotel which automatically becomes less basic. Shopping for a location is always a challenge and there will always be trade-offs. You just do the best you can and then accept that people will always have some complaints.

**24) What was your highlight of the conference?**

- Shore dinner, at which I scored two lobsters and lots of clams.
- The part between the opening session and the closing one.
- Meeting so many other Shutists x 2 responses
- The informal presentation by Barbara Niven on the Thursday which gave a glimpse of life in the Norway household in the 1950's. x 3 responses
- Contest!
- The exhibit area
- Vinland the Good
- Boy, that's hard.
- I would be less than honest if I didn't say giving my presentation
- There were many! If I had to pick one, I guess I'd choose the session in which people read their favorite passages and explained why.
- Meeting, in person, my fellow aviation enthusiasts.
- Meeting the non-aviation enthusiasts (ha, ha) who also enjoy Shute!
- Meeting up with Art and Joan and other CC chapter members again was very nice as well.
- The bus tour after dinner.
- Lillian
- Making my own presentation, coping, despite the fact that I was, as I had appreciated before I arrived at the conference, speaking to a group of distinguished Shutists, some of whom knew far more about NS than I did; feeling fairly comfortable with my own performance, including answering questions.
- Art's emotional reading from 'Chequer Board' and cherry cake in his garden.
- It's hard to say. Maybe the session in which individuals read favorite passages. I'll never forget it.
- The Readings (Arts could break hearts)
- Art's infectious enthusiasm and his obvious delight at having us all there!
- John Anderson's talk. Spending time with fellow Shutists.
- John Anderson's presentation; Art's reading from Shute; partial reading of Vinland The Good; Floatplane encounter
- No one thing jumps to mind. It was a real treat to attend a conference without having any responsibilities for organizing or running it. So I guess my highlight was simply being able to relax and enjoy everyone's company and to get new perspectives on Shute and Shutists.

**25) With the exception of Nevil Shute Norway, Heather Mayfield and Shirley Norway, is there anything that you feel was missing from the conference?**

- Richard Michalak x 7 responses
- Meeting Richard Michalak was so wonderful at the last conference that I especially missed him this time
- Richard Michalak with his wit, knowledge, enthusiasm and photo skills.
- Apart from a MAD AUSSIE with the initials RM, nothing
- No x 3 responses
- Can't think of anything. There were certainly enough stones with hieroglyphics. (Although I felt obliged to give mine to my Bostonian host following the conference) I had to think of the weight of my baggage on my various train and bus post conference journeys, and the numerous legs of my 'plane journeys home to Australia.
- Nevil Shute's desk.
- If possible, it would have been nice to have a phone conversation with Heather Mayfield.
- A free afternoon to do whatever, maybe in about the middle.
- More attendees; we really need to spread the word about Shute, his work, and the get-togethers.

**26) Are there any other comments you would like to make about the conference?**

- A privilege to have attended
- Not at the moment – I'm quite busy catching up with my affairs at home at the moment.
- Perhaps there was a reason that there was no pay bar at the events, but it would have been nice. Or even, perhaps, an open keg of beer.
- We really enjoyed this very much and have in the past couple of months reflected on it all quite a bit--October was the busiest month we have ever had as by coincidence just about every exciting thing we did all year occurred then. We were exhausted, but would not have left out one thing, especially this!
- The innovative contest produced by the Colorado Chapter really added to the whole meeting.
- The Booklet (with schedule, abstracts, etc.) was very impressive. I have never seen anything this nice after attending a number of professional society meetings over the years.
- The bag with the list of Shute's books was also a very nice thought.
- It was a memorable experience to participate in the Gathering with so many interesting people and to work with Art and Joan Cornell.
- Joan and Art did a marvellous job of organizing the conference and it was great to meet old friends.
- While interesting, I found the session of reading passages less useful than the others.
- The conference was absolutely excellent! Each of the 4 has had its own special feature or "feel," and I am glad that the format has not become routine. In this case, along with the excellent program and speakers, what stood out included the VInland theme (with the play reading), the ice-breaker and the artifact contest, the panel discussion, the individual readings, and the session on bringing Shute to young people. Keep thinking of new twists!
- Overall, all the features of the meeting showed a lot of thought by Art, Joan, and all the others who made the preparations - and this is what made it such an outstanding meeting.
- The tea in Art's backyard was a very nice touch, as were Art's personal connection to some of the places we visited on the excursion, e.g., the "marriage tree". The conference exceeded expectations for many of us, I am sure. Art, Joan, and all others who were involved in the event deserve our sincere thanks for a job well done!
- The selection of Cape Cod as the venue by the Foundation was an excellent decision. The dedication of Art and Joan, their family and their helpers brought 'An Old Captivity' truly to life. Very important that the biannual international conferences are continued.
- I thought the idea of reading favorite passages was an excellent innovation.
- To me, the gathering was almost like a family reunion.
- We all had Shute's work in common, and most people seem to have read all 19 of his books; many people had read them three or four or more times. The "ice-breaker" on the first evening was a great chance to go up to a stranger and start a conversation.
- The speakers were so good that each hour or so went by so quickly, and the four days were over far too soon. The comment made to Shoshana Knapp: "I envy your students", seemed especially apropos.
- I'm so glad I chose to attend Cape Cod 2005, and although I'd not feel up to going to anything held outside the United States, I'd certainly like to do it again.
- I've been to three of the four so far (missed only Oz), and each has been a thorough-going delight -- good content, pleasant goings-on, and interesting people.
- The Gathering was better than I had imagined, and I want to thank Art and Joan and all involved. It was an unforgettable experience.

## FUTURE CONFERENCES

### 1) What types of things can be done to make the next conference better?

- All of the presentations were great.
- The only problems I had was hard seating, stairs and hearing. A lot of the people there are not on the young side and some have difficulty with stairs, so a single level may be more pleasant.
- I have difficulty in separating voices against background noise, and hearing low voices. A better amplifying system would help. One of my customers rented wireless mikes for a seminar that were available to had people for questions, so everyone could hear both sides, it worked very well. I don't think I was alone with the hearing difficulties.
- If one were to aim high, some sort of interactive presentation such as some I have recently seen in the new Abe Lincoln museum at Springfield Illinois would be wonderful. (One could weave around the man NSN using a full length photograph of Norway.)
- Get the word out sooner as to what the program will be. I know this is easier said than done, but the specific proposed program is one of the principal factors in determining whether someone will want to attend.
- Well, we will answer this as to what would make it easier/more likely for us to attend the next one, but as for "better", Art and Joan did a totally fantastic job and so "better" is not really a question we could contemplate.
- In thinking ahead, as below, yes, we would like to attend the one in AU if we can. We attended CC because we felt it might well be our only chance to attend an international Shute gathering because of time, money and proximity. However, both of us as well as one or two other friends/family (who are familiar with but not immersed in Shute) have wished to visit Australia. So, if we can swing it time-wise, financially, and within health and family obligations, we would like very much to do so. One of the destinations in our plan, of course, would be Alice Springs, however, this would be our one and probably only trip so we would want to be able to plan to see a bit of Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, and New Zealand, so the conference would be only part of the reason for the journey. It would be nice to find others who might want to make similar plans. Having preliminary information as soon as possible would be a great help. We anticipate seeing Laura in February at our Montclair meeting and would possibly be willing to help with the planning.
- There are many unpublished works (Flight Log, Reports on the build up to DDay, etc.) which have not been discussed; I would suggest some of these being interesting.
- New, different types of presentations
- Just more comfortable seating!
- A couple of suggestions: Early in the conference have a short session in which each exhibitor stands up and in 5 minutes or less describes his or her contribution to the exhibit hall. I think this would make the exhibits more useful.
- I think it would be good to have the conference end at mid-day. This would seem to give more flexibility in terms of transportation. Depending on location and circumstances, there could be an optional excursion or mini-excursion after the conference officially ended for those who wanted to stay a little longer.
- You might consider overlapping the weekend, say Friday through Monday. This might make it easier for people with jobs to attend.
- As for length, I think the present format is just right.
- Cutting back on the excursion could make it a bit cheaper, but that's the only place I'd look at for savings. The balance of presentations between more and less technical is just right.
- It will be interesting to hear from folks who did not attend as to why.
- Personally, I enjoy conferences where one afternoon and one evening are free. Everything was fine from my perspective.
- Ask people in advance what they want when planning the conference
- The Vinland the Good reading was a nice change of pace; I can think of other passages in the canon (NOT just Green Island) that would lend themselves to comparable readings. I also liked the "favorite passages" session; the panel discussion was stimulating and substantial, but would have been even better had comments and discussion focused upon a single theme, issue, or title that we knew about in advance. On the one hand, the new ideas (readings of passages, the play, Lillian's talk) were fun, so more new ideas might also be good. On the other hand, what we had this time worked very well.
- If anyone has good ideas, creativity should be encouraged.
- Follow-ups on previous presentations might be good.

- The only thing I would suggest is a more appropriate location. However, in the case of Cape Cod 2005, that wasn't an option. We tried for the west coast where we would have been able to tour the forests, lumber camps, Boeing, etc., and would have been closer to Heather Mayfield and Richard Bach, increasing the chances that they could attend. No one would come forward to manage an event there. In the final analysis, if Art and Joan hadn't agreed to manage the convention, and we hadn't agreed to have it in Cape Cod, there would not have been a 2005 event.
- Movies: Schedule simultaneous movie sessions with provisions to screen as many of the Shute movies as possible. Poll attendees (at the event?) to determine which movies to screen and re-screen and when.
- Excursions: Continue to visit places mentioned in Shute books; also continue to visit places associated with Shute's life. For example, a visit to a sheep ranch might be appropriate to an Alice Springs conference.
- Show and Tell: Bring more people to conferences who knew Shute (comments by Barbara Niven at the Cape Cod Conference were most interesting). Perhaps Australia would offer the best opportunity since this is where he lived out his final years? More Shute artifacts in the Exhibition Hall would also be great.
- Presentations: Include sessions featuring readings and panel discussions in future conferences; these went over very well with everyone! Encourage more of the great presentations and speakers we've had at the last two conferences (the only ones we've attended).
- Preserve Conference Proceedings: Try to capture presentations for posterity, either on audio (as was done in Albuquerque) with copies of presentation materials, or on video. Many of these presentations are one off opportunities for insights into Shute's life and mind; it would be great if they could be saved.
- Conference Theme: Having a major theme for a conference seems to work well, e.g., An Old Captivity for Cape Cod - use of the large hand-drawn map in Art's introduction, focus of several presentations, focus of bus excursion. "A Town Like Alice" would provide a similar focus for an Alice Springs conference.
- Not very many of us have been fortunate enough to have attended all the Shute Conferences. Future conferences should not hesitate to return to places visited during prior conferences, or to redo presentations made during early conferences (e.g., Albuquerque, Melbourne).
- Perhaps a day longer would be better, many people have usually travelled a long way.
- For those people not wanting to dash away immediately after the Conference perhaps some local communal trips could be made available for those who wish to continue enjoying each other's company and see more of the area.
- Discover and invite some of NSN's old surviving friends from Langwirran area who knew him personally (I thought Barbara Niven's talks were incredible). The Foundation might offer to subsidise their costs if necessary and ask for a talk from them. (Assuming it is in Australia)
- I would like to see more details and promotion of the Foundation Scholarships and information presented in the display room about past recipients etc.
- I like the idea of the discussion panel, however I would prefer it if questions could be submitted to the panel BY ATTENDEES by email in advance of the Conference. I believe those should then be the major questions addressed by the panel. If there are insufficient questions forthcoming then "arranged" questions should then be used as per CC 2005.
- I applaud the idea of 'follow ups' of previous presentations and believe they are well received. This has happened with John Anderson's DMWD work related to NSN at 3 conferences (including York) and they were still being acclaimed at CC 2005.
- The Discussion Panel, Personal Readings and Play were all innovations at CC 2005. I thought they brought a freshness to the format. I do not have any brilliant new ideas yet for the next International Conference, but I'll work on it! Oxford will be different again.
- I would have reservations about an excursion out of Alice Springs to Ayers Rock, etc. I've been to Alice Springs twice already without going to Ayers Rock, and can live quite well without that experience. Besides, there is no relation to Nevil Shute that I know of. The reason we didn't go there during our flyabout was that there was a huge airport landing fee. Also hotel reservations had to be made way in advance and couldn't be cancelled on short notice, so that gave us no flexibility for weather or other considerations. Lodging was also very expensive. I'm sure it's possible to do a day trip there by bus, returning to Alice the same day, but that doesn't appeal to me at all. I would be more interested in short outings to the NSN library, the swimming pool, etc. Maybe not all in one day, so that we could alternate between conference room presentations and outings.

**2) Do you think you will attend the next conference if it is in Australia?**

- Yes x 9 responses
- We hope to. I have been wanting to go to Australia since seeing a Eastman Kodak multimedia presentation on Australia in 1970.
- My wife and I hope so x 2 responses
- Definitely, God Willing
- Probably - God willing and the creek don't rise. It would be difficult for me to be away from my job for a long enough period of time to justify going to Australia but I will consider it.
- It would be hard to stay away.
- If time and money permit, we'll be there.
- Not sure yet
- I have concerns that the cost of transportation may limit attendance.
- It is improbable, although I might be persuaded to combine it with some other things I would like to do in Australia on my third trip there.
- Most unlikely
- Regretably, I'm 83 and my wife is 80, so I doubt it.
- Not likely, I have a reunion I am committed to. I wish I could.

**Thank you for taking part in this survey  
your feedback is very welcome and valuable.**

# Cape Cod 2005 Post Event Survey

15 replies, some people chose more than one option

## 1. What was your MAIN reason for not attending Cape Cod 2005

- a) The conference was too expensive x 8 responses
- b) I was unable to attend due to health/business x 0 responses
- c) The location was not easy/practical for me to get to x 7 responses
- d) The conference was at the wrong time of the year for me x 3 responses
- e) I did not want to travel to the USA due to problems in the Middle East, or any other political reason x 1 response
- f) Other & Comments
  - Money: I would probably not have been able to attend, even if it was in the UK! I am self employed and it has been a difficult year.
  - In the end I guess it all boils down to this. Combination travel/conference cost, that is.
  - My wife works full-time, I do not. Our daughters are 10 and 12 with demanding after-school schedules and I am the primary chauffeur. Combined with my own schedule (which included a board meeting that week and a couple of evening rehearsals) it made travel to Cape Cod impractical and would have caused me to feel guilty about enjoying myself at the conference. I might have made a different decision if the Foundation's website and newsletter were not so complete and informative (not to mention the lists of yesteryear). Paradoxically, the prevalence of e-mail and the internet, which made it much easier to organize the conference, makes it relatively less rewarding to actually attend, since I'm confident that anything of significance presented at the conference will appear on the internet in due time. Nevertheless I should like it made known that even if I never attend a Shute conference, I appreciate highly that they are being held. Thus, I am grateful to you personally. One of these days (years) I do hope to attend a Shute gathering. Obviously it would be a good way to meet like-minded people and to answer the question, are these people really like me in significant ways other than that they, like me, think Shute a good writer? Thank you
  - For us it's timing - we travel overseas now and then but a Shute gathering would have to coincide with another trip, so it's luck of the draw.
  - Main reason for not going to Cape Cod was the cost/distance involved.
  - Although my wife and I have been married for 37 years and have many things in common, a love and appreciation for Nevil Shute is not one of them. Although I would have liked to attend the conference, I would neither do it on my own nor drag my wife to something she had no interest in. Australia is a horse of a different colour however and I know that my wife would love to travel there, even if it meant putting up with my literary proclivities for a few days.
  - I would have liked to join you at Cape Cod but since I am 81 years old I no longer travel alone. I might have made it to Boston but I would not rent a car and try to drive the remaining distance. I was with you in spirit, however. I have been reading Neil Shut since the early fifties and I now have a complete collection of his books, including "Slide Rule". I read the whole works about every five years and I always see something new. He has always been my favorite author and every time I read one of his books this impression is reinforced. I particularly enjoyed "Why I prefer to live in Australia" by Nevil Shute, in this months newsletter. Perhaps people who have similar material would share it with the rest of us? Thank you for the time and effort you put into the newsletter. It is really appreciated and I look forward to each months addition.
  - I would loved to have attended the Cape Cod convention, however I live in Victoria Australia (not far from where "On the Beach" concludes) with a young family and was reluctant to be so far from them.
  - I need to say that distance is the biggest hurdle, followed closely by time and cost! If there is a meeting in Oxford next year, however, I'm all there.
  - Too expensive. It was, indeed, in my corner of the world, and the closest get-together I will likely see, but I'm afraid it was way out of my league financially.
  - Not attend the Cape Cod function because the timing, vis-s-vis our business and personal life was not right.

## 2. Do you think you will attend the next conference if it is in Australia?

- Yes x 5 responses
- Alice Springs sounds good depending on the time of the year. Southern hemisphere late autumn or winter is best – April to September.
- Australia is just across the ditch so would probably attend all things allowing.
- I have already penciled in Alice Springs 2007 in my diary!
- Love to, but won't, due the financial burden
- I would really like to go to one in Australia, but my husband will not fly, and Australia being such a huge country, distance is a problem for us. We are retired, and do not feel capable of driving to Alice Springs or Mt Isa. Brisbane, which would be easy for us, has no relevance to Shute, and that is the whole point of these wonderful meetings. The programmes so far have been so interesting, I have felt quite peevish that I have not been able to get to them but that's life.
- I'm not sure if I would go to Australia for the next conference. I've been to Alice Springs before (I went there because of ATLA). If I had not been there before I'd really be interested. I live in the US -- east coast between NYC and Washington DC near Philadelphia PA.
- It is very nice idea. I have been hoping to visit Oz for many, many years and am saving my Frequent Flyer Miles to that end. So, it might happen but, as I say, I am self employed and so can only plan a few months ahead. Hopefully this will change!!
- The present plans for the next event in Australia sound great to us. We'll be living in the general area by then (Philippines) and we were already planning an Australian trip as our first major leisure travel. Count us in for two attendees.