

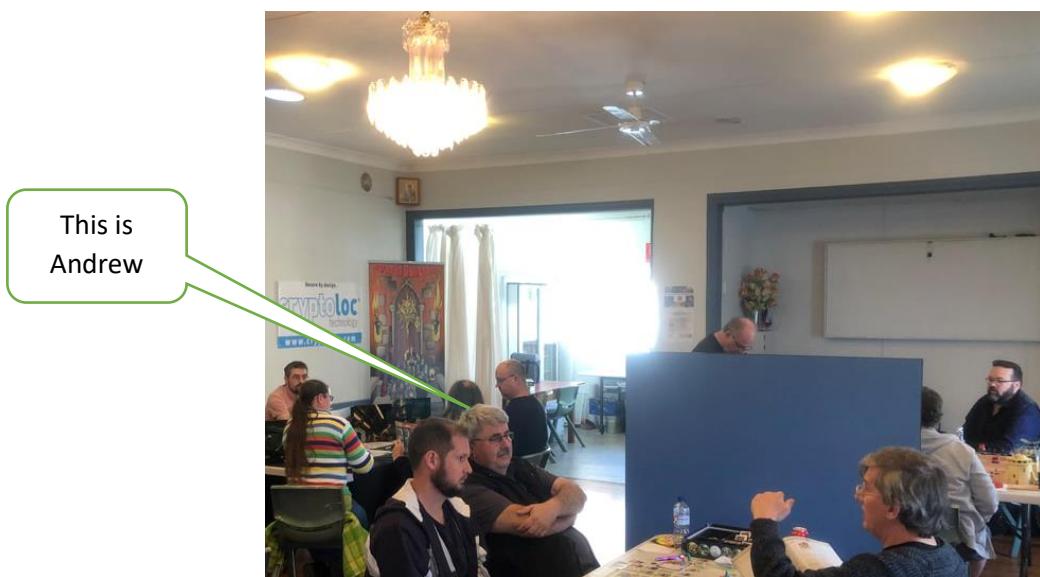
Ten+ Years of



In July 2010, my friends John, Mike & I discussed hosting a local gaming get together in lieu of the cancelled GenConOz (Brisbane). Several event names were suggested, but we landed on ‘GameFest’ as it was likely to be held in October, and as “OktoberFest” was a celebratory kind of thing, hence we thought the name fitting.

We talked about different venue options until good friend of ours Andrew Noskof (RIP) suggested we hire the Russian Community Hall in Woollongabba. As this was close to mid-city and therefore considered convenient for everyone, and as Andrew was involved with the club he arranged a *mates-rates* booking and, amidst the charming trappings of ye olde-worlde mother Russia we hosted our first GameFest.

It was a roaring success, and as the years went on, it became not only a fun-filled immersion in the hobby we all adore, but a reunion of old friends who otherwise may not have made time to catch-up.



This is
Andrew

Andrew and I coordinated GameFest together for the next 10 years with lots of help from our wonderful friends who flocked to our banner to host some super-good games, and help with setting-up, cleaning-up and logistics.

Over the years we have spent time *having dogfights between X-Wings and Tie-Fighters, storming the castles of Middle-Earth, defending from (invading the Earth with) Martians, investigating Lovecraftian horrors, crawling through Dragon-infested dungeons, racing supercars and Formula-1, ruling the island realm of Catan, chatting with Tauntauns, reaching the Crown of Command, misplacing the fuel can, winning WWII, exploring strange new worlds, hunting submarines, hauling cargo over vast oceans, hunting treasure in treacherous pirate-filled waters, blasting aliens, hooting war-cries with Orks, casting spells, making potions, taking tea with weird gods, driving AT-ATs on Hoth, attacking the Deathstar, piloting giant robots and boldly going where no one has gone before...* to name but a few adventures.



Since its humble beginnings, we have tried different formats, different game types, different dinner options, consumed metric tons of junk-food and welcomed several new friends into the GameFest family and continue to do so.

In 2020, COVID-19 made it very difficult to convince people to gather together in large numbers, so GameFest took a break, and a few smaller events including *Wargames and Wine* (Thanks Troy 😊) ran instead to satiate our gaming-hunger.

In 2021 our beloved friend Andrew Noskof passed away... but in his honour, we soldiered-on and ran the event.. this time at a new venue in Mount Ommaney... where we are this year.

For me, so many good times and memories are wrapped-up in GameFest which has been running for more than 10 years now, that I kinda lose

track of when they all happened.. as my memory blurs into one continuous stream of 'gaming-Nirvana'.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge Thankyou to all the folks who have helped make GameFest a fantastic experience for us all over the past decade, including our wonderful sponsors over the years:

Florinia Gaming, Planet Pickle, 2d6 Games, The Last Stand, EmpressBatsEmporium & Cryptoloc.

I trust you all enjoy this year's event. I'm fairly sure it will be another fantastic one for my *memory banks* of gaming lore.

Enjoy the following random photos from past GameFests.

Yours in Gaming,

Mark McPherson

