



Voice of the Echidna

The newsletter of Aussiecon 4
Email: echidna@aussiecon4.org.au

Issue 1 Thursday Afternoon
Twitter: @EchidnaVoice

Welcome!

It's a Worldcon!

We'd like to welcome everyone to Aussiecon 4, the 68th World Science Fiction Convention!

— Perry and Rose

It's a newsletter!

And welcome too from *Voice of the Echidna*, the Aussiecon 4 newsletter.

We're hoping to produce two or three issues each day over the convention, but we need your help to do it! Please let us have your news, program item reviews and restaurant recommendations, as well as anything else that you think the members of the convention ought to know!

The newsletter will be available online (see the aussiecon4.org.au page) and on paper at the convention: you'll find racks with current and past issues by the information desk on the ground floor and just inside Room 201 on the second floor.

You can email us at echidna@aussiecon4.org.au, or you can send us a message on Twitter to @EchidnaVoice. You can also leave news (legibly written) in the submission boxes, which are by the distribution points. Newsletter deadlines are planned to be at 0900, 1400 and 1900, but please get things to us as early as possible.

Tags

Speaking of Twitter (and, indeed, Flickr), those who use it are hoping that people can limit themselves to using #Aus4, #Worldcon and #Hugos: please don't use #A4 or #Hugo, as they're far too popular already, and #Aussiecon4 is just too long!

Please think about making any photos you upload CC licensed, so that lovely people like the newsletter team can also use them!

Security

Please remember to wear your badges at all times!

Volunteers

Worldcons don't happen without lots of volunteers. If you're not already helping out, please go along to the volunteers desk in Room 201. Remember, there are exciting prizes and special gifts on offer if you work hard enough!

Limericks

In July and August, COSMOS magazine asked our readers to write a limerick about their favourite science fiction book, character or movie. We'll be running some of their favourites over the course of the weekend.

*Luke knew that he shouldn't have kissed her,
but found he just couldn't resist her.
said his Jedi insight
"something's not right",
but he didn't know she was his sister!*

Fan Funds!

Aussiecon 4 is pleased to welcome delegates from DUFF (John Hertz), GUFF (James Shields), NAFF (Gina Goddard) and FFANZ (Stephen Litton and Jan Butterworth).

Please make them welcome, and go along to the fan funds introduction panel on Friday at 1200 on Room 215. There's also an auction in aid of the fan funds on Friday at 1600 in Room 210: remember to take lots of money!

Educational Facts

Melbourne used to be called Batmania. This is because it was founded by Batman after he arrived on the *Enterprise*.

We did warn you that we'd have to make up facts about Melbourne if you didn't send us contributions....

WOOF

Contributions for Aussiecon4's WOOF fanzine should be taken to the Con Office, Office 201.

Hospitality Update

After a little last-minute negotiation, we can confirm that hospitality events will be going ahead in the Crowne Plaza. They will be in the Corporate Lounge, up the stairs from reception, and the Bridge Rooms, down the stairs from reception.

Tonight's hospitality events are:

- Montreal Thank You (Corporate Lounge, left)
- Continuum 7 (Corporate Lounge, right)

Weapons policy

Please see your Pocket Program Book for the full policy, but remember that:

We appreciate that many people would like to carry a display weapon as part of a hall costume. We also concede that most people are sensible and careful individuals. However, the risk of weapons causing accidents or distress to other convention members is too great. Apart from this general concern for the well being of our members, Australian laws now forbid the carrying of weapons of any type in almost all circumstances.

Internet access

There will be no free wireless internet at the con: you'll have to pay the MCEC for access.

Art!

Remember that, because of sales tax issues, the Aussiecon 4 Art Show will not handle art payments. Buyers will pay for artwork directly to the artist or their agent.

Please check your Pocket Program for more details, or go along to the Art Show in Room 202.

Among other fabulous works of art are Sue Mason's original Aussiecon 4 badge designs, with the proceeds to the convention.

Food!

Food courts

There are a couple of food courts near the con, which are a good bet for groups including the usual variety of fannish food and budget restrictions. How else can the rich, the poor, the vegetarian and the carnivore, all sit down to eat together? The one we re-tested today (it was good during Aussiecon 3 and is still good now) is in the Crown casino building. Go along the river (through the vasty outback of the convention and exhibition centre, where lost tribes of ~~Batmanians~~ Melburnians howl in the distance) and out the other end. Cross Spencer Street and keep along the river, going in through the entrance just before Calatrava. This is a gelateria with ice creams in all the colours of playdoh. We await a report on the latter from any fan who does not live in fear of artificial additives.

— Giulia De Cesare

Kouzina

Greek restaurant Kouzina (www.kouzina.com.au) on Southbank (from the MCEC, walk along the Yarra past the flaming columns (oooh!) past lots of restaurants, negotiate another pedestrian crossing and go past the Southgate food court entrance to ascend the green metal spiral staircase. It's well worth the effort: if you like your meat then the mixed grill for two should do you fine, and it combined nicely with a retsina too. The baklava was excellent according to my expert (nice and sweet, as opposed to the disappointing version he tried last week in Wellington).

— Jan van't Ent

Even Closer?

Even closer is the food court glimpsed but not yet tried out in the basement of the South Wharf shopping centre, round the back of the Hilton. Any volunteers care to report back?

Breakfasts

By now you might have realised that breakfast isn't necessarily included in your room rate, and also that Going Out For Breakfast is a great Melbourne activity. There are smart and stylish places, like the Little Press (the old bar) at the Press Club on Flinders Street, or Cumulus Inc on Flinders Lane. Cumulus features the 65/65 egg (poached for 65 minutes at 65 degrees), and fresh-baked madeleines stuffed with lemon curd. Little Press is the child of George Calombaris, who is the short tiggery judge from Masterchef Australia, and has a Greek influence. Even

the bog-standard Coffee Shop Round the Corner is likely to do a muffin/coffee deal, or you can visit the restaurant in a neighbouring hotel if you want to go exploring. Melbourne is the home of the Third Wave of coffee trends, so expect a good range of espresso-based coffee wherever you go. Chai Latte is the alternative, a milky sweet spiced tea. Unfamiliar breakfast dishes (for foreigners, anyway) include Bircher Muesli, which is like raw porridge and has been soaked overnight in milk, juice, or yoghurt. You can pay anything from \$5 for a snack to \$20 for a main cooked meal somewhere smart. Most places open from 0700-0730, why not go for a wander and explore?

— Fran Dowd

WSFS Newsletter

Mark Committee Meeting

The WSFS Mark Protection Committee, which manages the intellectual property of WSFS such as the service mark on "Hugo Award" and "Worldcon", will meet at Aussiecon 4 to finalise its report to the WSFS Business Meeting. This meeting is open to all Worldcon members: please meet outside the entrance to Room 202 at 1800 on Thursday to be taken to the secret location.

— Kent Bloom

WSFS Business Deadline

The deadline for submitting new business to this year's WSFS Business Meeting is 1700 on Thursday. To submit new business, bring 200 copies (including an original signed by at least two Worldcon members) to the Con Office (Office 201) and ask that they be set aside for Business Meeting.

— Kent Bloom

WSFS Business Preview

The Preliminary WSFS Business Meeting is at 1000 on Friday morning in 216. Friday's meeting deals with receiving reports from WSFS committees such as the Mark Protection Committee (MPC) and the Hugo Eligibility / Rest of the World (HEROW) committee, and sometimes taking action on those reports. For example, there will be a resolution from the HEROW committee to extend eligibility for non-US-published works for an additional year as has been common practice for the past few years, and there will also be a proposal to extend eligibility for a specific work based on limited distribution. The Preliminary meeting also sets the agenda and debate time limits for the discussion of amendments to the

WSFS Constitution, which will happen at Saturday's meeting.

New constitutional amendments will first come up at Friday's meeting, where they will be subject to technical scrutiny and may be dismissed without debate. The Friday meeting is also where members may make nominations for the WSFS Mark Protection Committee, the only permanent standing body of the World Science Fiction Society.

Elections for the Mark Protection Committee will be held at Saturday's meeting.

On Sunday, the Business Meeting will receive the official results of the 2012 Worldcon site selection and hear the first official statements from the newly-seated committee. In addition, representatives of the 2011 Worldcon will be present for Question Time, and bidders for future years may make presentations if time permits. Any business not otherwise handled at Saturday's meeting will be resolved on Sunday. Also, at approximately 11:00, the meeting will recess for the traditional Former Worldcon Chairs Photo Session.

Although a Monday Business Meeting appears on the schedule, it will only be held in the unlikely event of Sunday's meeting being unable to resolve all business by the end of the scheduled time. This hasn't happened since 1992.

Remember that the WSFS Business Meeting is open to all members of Worldcon. Every member may attend, debate business, and vote, as WSFS gathers for its annual "town meeting" to discuss its fundamental governing rules.

— Kent Bloom

WSFS Constitutional Changes

Four substantive changes to the WSFS Constitution have been proposed:

- Repeal the existing initial price cap on Worldcon memberships for people who vote in Site Selection.
- Explicitly authorize Worldcons to conduct Hugo Award and Site Selection elections electronically.
- Permit Worldcons to distribute their rules electronically.
- Allow members of the following Worldcon (as well as the current and previous one) to nominate for the current year's Hugo Awards.

There are also two technical amendments.

Only items that survive Friday's initial round of agenda-setting will be debated and voted upon at Saturday's meeting.

— Kevin Standlee

This issue was produced by Flick, with help from Jan van't Ent, Steve Davies, Fran Dowd, Ang Rosin and some other people. Masthead by Sue Mason. It's a good job that we have tame geeks, that's all that I can say. We're following #Aus4 and #worldcon on Twitter and Flickr.

Aussiecon 4 is supported by the Melbourne Convention and Visitors Bureau and the City of Melbourne.



Voice of the Echidna

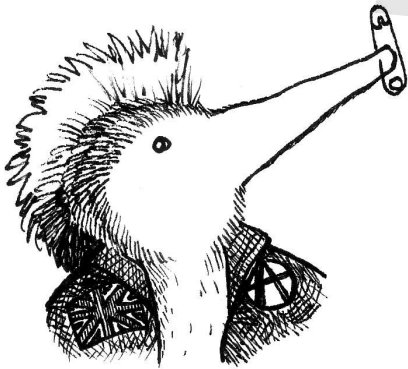
The newsletter of Aussiecon 4
Email: echidna@aussiecon4.org.au

Issue 2 Friday Morning
Twitter: @EchidnaVoice

Issue Two:

An Echidna in the UK

So there we were in Montreal, working on the Worldcon newsletter in a featureless underground cell. "We could be doing this in Walthamstow," we thought. So here I am, the Aussiecon night shift, toiling away on the far side of the planet while you all sleep party attend hospitality functions. It's like living in the future, truly it is.



An Echidna in the UK

— Alison Scott

Key Program Changes

Ellen Datlow will be leaving the con on Friday, due to a family emergency. Sean Williams is not able to attend the con; Lezli Robyn, who started her career as a collaborator with Mike Resnick, will replace him on the "Partners In Crime" panel.

New daily program pink sheets will be available from the Information Desk: please collect yours!

Cheap Pizza and Coffee

Bertha Brown at 562 Flinders Street is offering \$5 pizzas and \$2 coffee to badge wearing Aussiecon 4 members. Tania tells us that the Italiano and Giardino are both delicious. If someone could please send a Quattro Formaggi and a strong skinny cap to East London I could really do with one.

Say "G'Day"

A Linguist Writes

Part of the Australian stereotype is the infamous "G'day." It's something we can't deny. We do say "G'day." From the first words between two lovers in the morning, to a chance encounter on the street: "G'day." As much as I hate the Australian stereotype portrayed overseas, I cannot deny using this greeting. "So, how do you say it?" I hear you ask.

First of all, you must remember that it is a contraction of the more formal "good day." Where some cultures run words together, Australians apply that to whole sentences. Speak to an Australian on a Friday, and they may encourage you to, "Aveagoodweekend." So let's break "G'day." into its component parts.

G: Looking at how "G'day" is in its written form, people tend to pronounce it with a hard "gee" sound. Thinking of it as a contraction of good may have you believing that a softer "goo" is correct. Both are wrong. It is a guttural "grrr," produced in the back of the throat. A soft growl, with almost no hint at the original word "good."

Day: There are many local variations on the pronunciation of "day:" the under-educated city "diy;" the country "da-ay" drawl. The most natural results are with a short, soft "d," followed by a long, soft "a," and almost no "y," giving something like: daaay.

"Grrrdaaay." Finally the lip and jaw movement. Quite simply, there is none. The upper and lower jaw are parted just enough to separate the teeth, but not enough to be able to pass your tongue through. The lips only just part, and there is a slight curl while uttering the growl. The sound is produced nasally. It should be uttered quickly, as if it were only one syllable. Imagine a thousand and one house-flies trying to crawl into your mouth. Australians tend to speak with their mouths closed. Grrdaay. "G'day."

With practice, remembering what I've written above, you will be able to give an almost convincing Aussie "G'day."

— Michael Keogh

Masquerade Participants

Likely to Move Shock

Please note that the Worldcon Masquerade is a theatrical performance, not a costume party. If you wish to enter, you need a form from the Information Desk (please leave your completed form with the Information Desk before 1200 on Saturday). If you have any tech or musical requirements, please make sure that they are included on your form.

A long long time till dinner

David Levine tells us that you can find a crowdsourced Aussiecon 4 restaurant guide at community.livejournal.com/australia2010/60745.html.

Hospitality Report

The Montreal Thank You reception had good atmosphere, good mood, and good people. A variety of maple-based snacks were available together with an appropriate array of other finger-food, and a plentiful supply of all the standard soft drinks. Fans fond of seafood, dairy produce and nut traces would find it easy to find raw materials to taunt their less tolerant peers. Quality of conversation: high. Flags unfamiliar to correspondent: three.

Those in search of other receptions may repeat their searches again on Friday: issues beyond the comprehension of your very thoroughly received correspondents mean that the other receptions thought to be scheduled for Thursday evening are, in fact, available later in the convention.

— Douglas Spencer and Julia Daly,
hospitality correspondents

In Search of WiFi

For those of you desperately seeking free WiFi, there is free (but limited, 30 minutes/50MB) WiFi access at Southern Cross Station, just a few blocks up Spencer Street on the left. Very modern architecture, though seats are sparse – there are benches in front of and inside the passenger lounge, on the track level at the very south end of the station. A walk north will also take you across Flinders Street, on which the free ‘City Circle’ trams (#35) will take you on a nice roughly 1 hour loop around the city centre (including access to Chinatown and Federation Square) and the new Docklands development – note that it only runs until 1800, but is fairly frequent until then. A pretty fast trip (for which fare is required) may also be had on the #96 tram to St. Kilda Beach (end of the line), with an interesting array of shops and restaurants. The trams stop at both Batman Park (of course) directly in front of the Crowne Plaza, and on the south side of the river at the MCEC.

– Duncan Allen

For those not at Aussiecon

Well, that isn't any of you [*Hmph!* – Ed.]. But Twitter reckons that the next best thing is Cheryl Morgan's new webzine *Salon Futura*, launching this weekend with a slick website and lots of relevant SFnal non-fiction content. Personally I think the next best thing would be China Miéville lightly beaten and covered in [*that's quite enough of that* – Ed.]

Fun Echidna Facts #1

A young echidna is called a puggle and is smaller than a jellybean. Monotremes have no nipples so the puggle sucks on oozy patches of skin.

Stats for Stats' sake

Membership numbers: at close of reg on Thursday, there were 1334 pre-registered attending members on site. There were also 49 new attending members and 51 Thursday day memberships, for a total of 1,434 warm bodies on site.

Echidna Editors Cut Off From Continent!

Eventually we resorted to buying internet access on Flick's credit card. But it turns out that you can only buy a maximum of 8 hours access in any 48 hour period. No use for *Echidna* with our 24-hour news cycle! So now we've press-ganged the entire newsletter team into giving up their credit cards for the cause.

Cosmos Limerick #2

*Captain James Tiberius Kirk,
used to wear a black thong with red
needlework,
when he was cruising the bars,
down by the canals of Mars,
it was an unsavoury psychological quirk.*

Volunteer Team Needs YOU

Cons like Aussiecon can only happen because of the army of volunteers helping out on all aspects of the con. Volunteer in Room 201 after 1000 and you can win great prizes! Some have been donated by lovely dealers: Alto Books, Endangered Pictures, Ticonderoga Press, Pink K Designs, Coeur de Lion and Storm Publishing. Thanks to all.

Sirius Cybernetics Customer Information

Apparently the escalators all change speed when empty. Is it (a) to save energy and do their little bit for the planet, or (b) to generate Comedy Moments when unwary fans step on them?

– thanks to Doug Spencer

Half Nymph Half Biscuit

The story of Echidna is a sad story indeed. Born with the unusual genetic condition of being half woman and half serpent, she has been picked on all her life. Some people just ignore her and pretend that she doesn't exist. What's with that? After all, no-one would say that Poseidon doesn't exist.

Echidna has also been subject to racial discrimination. Unlike her siblings the Titans, who were gods, or the Cyclopes, blacksmiths to the Olympians, Echidna has never been accepted. She and her children have been attacked and sometimes killed because of how they look and their beliefs*.

Join the cult of Echidna today at www.echidna_was_misunderstood.com

* Belief 1: Humans are tasty

Belief 2: Humans are tasty

– Marianne Cain

Faneds Feast

Cheap Food: Priceless Conversation

People who like fanzines and people who like people who like fanzines, please meet at Registration Saturday at 1130.

– Murray Moore

Regency Dancing

It couldn't really be called a Science Fiction Convention without a Regency Dance, and sure enough, John Hertz writes: We'll have English Regency ballroom dancing on Friday night at 2100, Room 219. Come in costume or come as you are. If you don't know how, I'll teach you.

A Correction!

Melbourne used to be called Bearbrass.

Fan Funds Plug

This evening's fan fund auction will include a wide variety of rare and otherwise unobtainable things, including Weta Digital Crew Sweatshirts for *District 9* and *Avatar*, and a pair of dogtags that commemorated the *Avatar* crew reaching a petabyte of data. Come along and bid!

– Norman Cates

Buy Your Legacy Pin

Today is 'buy your legacy pin' day and soldiers will be selling pins all around the city today.

Vote Early Vote Often

You've got plenty of chance to show your support for upcoming Worldcon bids this weekend. Get along to the fan tables in room 201, or the parties hospitality events, and join in the fun.

Chicago in 2012 (vote!) www.chicagoin2012.org

Texas in 2013 bid event www.texasin2013.org

Zagreb in 2013

UK in 2014 bid event www.londonin2014.org

[*Rah! Rah! Go London* – Ed.]

Kansas City in 2016

Nippon in 2017 nippon2017.org

New York in 2017

New Zealand in 2020 www.nzcon2020.org

New Zealand in 2020 is very grateful to the Texas and London bids for allowing them to join in with their events this weekend.

– Jan van't Ent

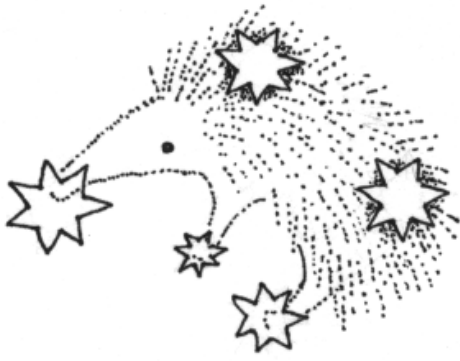
A Short Message for Anticipation Attendees

Bonjourhi! We're still waiting for our cupcakes....

You can deliver them to the newsletter office or to Walthamstow, London!

This issue was produced by an Antiantipodean late night candleburning Alison Scott, with help from bleary-eyed Flick and an army of worldwide contributors. And no help from iTunes 10, which verily doth suck mightily. Masthead and punk echidna by Sue Mason. We're following #Aus4 and #worldcon on Twitter and Flickr.

Aussiecon 4 is supported by the Melbourne Convention and Visitors Bureau and the City of Melbourne.



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Issue 3 Friday Afternoon
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And Not A Drop To Drink

Looking for water?

We were asked where water was available, and we assumed you meant to drink not to swim in. MCEC policy is not to have water fountains. Bottled water can be bought from vending machines in the Exhibition Centre, in the cafe under Stairs 3, or from the coffee point in Room 201.

Getting Into Plenary Rooms

We're informed that there's a secret code for the doors to the Plenary Rooms, on the ground floor opposite reception: P1 is doors 5 and 6, P2 is doors 7 and 8, P3 is doors 9 and 10.

Awards

The Australian Awards Ceremony in Room 204 at 1900 tonight includes

- Ditmar Awards (the Australian equivalent of the Hugos, given by members of the Australian National Science Fiction Convention for professional and fan works by Australians)
- Inaugural Norma K Hemming Award (excellence in the exploration of themes of race, gender, class and sexuality)
- Chandler Award (for Outstanding Achievement in Australian Science Fiction)
- Peter MacNamara Achievement Award (given to a professional in the Australian SF field in remembrance of the life and contribution of Peter Trevor MacNamara)

Be sure to go along and applaud!

While we're waiting for the ceremonies here to kick off, we have some recent awards from other events to announce:

Chesleys - awarded at NASFiC

- Best hardcover illustration: Matthew Stewart - *Valley of Shadows*
- Best paperback illustration: Scott Altmann - *The Mysterious Mr. Spines: Flight*

- Best magazine cover illustration: John Picacio - *Asimov's, September, 2009*
- Best interior illustration: Gary Lippincott - "Dr. Turtles, On Hares" from *Come to the Fairies Ball*
- Best gaming-related illustration: Lucas Graciano - "Silverwing"
- Best three-dimensional work: Vincent Villafranca - "The Switching Hour"
- Best unpublished color work: Raoul Vitale - "Unrequited"
- Best unpublished monochrome work: Justin Gerard - "Steampunk Wizard of Oz"
- Best product illustration: Matthew Stewart - "Battle Under the Mountain"
- Best art director: Irene Gallo, Tor Books
- Award for contribution to ASFA: Ingrid Nielson
- Lifetime artistic achievement award: Greg Hildebrandt

Kaffeeklatsches

Lists for kaffeeklatsches usually open half a day before the event: you can sign up for an afternoon event earlier that morning, but not before.

The convention apologises for scheduling errors with China Miéville's kaffeeklatsch, which took place at 1500 today, that resulted in some people being unable to attend.

Fan Fund Auction

If this copy of the newsletter is still warm while you're reading it, and you're looking for something to do before dinner, come to the Fan Fund Auction in Room 201 from 1600. Bring money.

Site Selection Amendment

Site Selection closes at 1800 on Saturday, not 1900 as listed in the Pocket Program!

Remember to vote before 1800 on Saturday.

Something Missing?

Lost and Found is located at the Information Desk: please take found items to them, and check with them if you've lost something.

Tonight's Hospitality Events

Events run from 2100 to 0100, in the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

- UK and Ireland & Continuum 7 (Corporate Left)
- Texas in 2013 & New Zealand in 2020 - the Kiwis are the designated Russians (Corporate Right)
- Chicago in 2012 (Bridge 1)
- CSFG (Bridge 2)

Food

Gurkha Express

We had an excellent meal at Gurkha's Nepalese restaurant, 500 Flinders Street (opposite the Aquarium). The dishes we ate were: Khasiko Masu (diced goat meat cooked in a traditional style, garnished with fresh coriander leaves), scallop curry, and Vegetable Chow (stir fried noodles with mixed veg, seasoned with soy sauce and touch of spices). One portion of rice, another of Gurkha Roti Baber, and a side dish of potatoes and chick peas fed four of us well (two of us chose the goat curry). The corkage for BYO wine seemed excessive, but the house red went well with the food. We will return - and I may just have to have the goat curry a second time.

— Andy Armstrong

[There is also a strong recommendation from the LiveJournal restaurant thread - Ed.]

Food Courts

South Wharf - Downstairs there's a Subway, Health Express, Genki Sushi, and Cafe Picollo. Upstairs there's a Vila and Hut with a nice variety of hot and cold items. They all open around 0800-0900 and close around 1700-1800. There's also a very small convenience store on the corner of the Hilton that's open until 2300.

— Leslie Turek

Casino update - the Japanese food is not brilliant, but the Burger Edge is fab. Especially if your Ozzie food ticklist included a burger with the traditional fixin's of bacon, beetroot, pineapple and fried egg. We didn't dare try the playdoh ice-cream (which looked much more like a Lush psychedelic bath bar), but I have a sugar hangover from the lemon meringue pie and black forest gateau. Service is fast, and there's a chocolate shop hidden in there too. Don't forget, Supa Crunch Fries are Thick and Full of Real Potato.

— Fran Dowd

Previously on...

Have you had adventures this past week? We'd like to know about them:

Treetops

Just south-west of Melbourne, a couple of hours drive along the Great Ocean Road, is a place called the Otway Fly. It's along a narrow, twisting road through the hills back into untouched Australian rainforest. There I had the opportunity to walk along a steel walkway that leads out from the hillside, far from the ground below, and that soars into the treetops. It's glorious. There's only one problem.

I'm afraid of heights.

I'm also stubborn: if the husband is going, I'm going. So I gird my loins and out I step. And here's where the science fiction, courtesy of Frank Herbert's *Dune*, comes in: it's adulterated but still effective.

Fear is the mind-killer. I will face my fear and let it pass through me, and when it is gone only I will remain.

I run the chant over and over as the steel creaks and sways underfoot. Thankfully, it's still winter, so hordes of children aren't bouncing along beside us.

By the time we've walked the entire circuit, I'm almost calm about my distance from the ground. I'm able to pause, admire the ferns growing from the branches and the sunlight on the moss. I'm even able to take some photos.

I'm still grateful to be able to take that last slow step onto solid ground, but the exhilaration of having faced one thing and conquered it lasts all the way back up the hill.

— Anne

After the Convention

The newsletter can publish requests for lifts, travel companions, shared costs etc. for stuff you might want to do next week.

(There's also the A4 travel community on Live Journal, and Twitter of course.) Like this one:

Car sharing?

We're leaving on Monday for Adelaide to catch the Wednesday noon Ghan train. We'd like to rent a car and travel via the Great Ocean Road, maybe stopping overnight en route, but we are leery of driving on the left. Is there someone who might accompany us and drive in exchange for an almost-free trip? We will pay for the car and petrol, but we must be at the station in time for the train!

Alternatively, is anyone driving back to Adelaide who could take two passengers and their luggage? We can skip the Great Ocean Road if need be, and again we'll pay for petrol.

We're in Room 832 of the Hilton if anyone can help!

— Guy and Rosy Lillian

Cosmos Limerick #3

*Chasing alien creatures in space
Ripley certainly keeps up the pace,
showing courage and flair
and a great deal of care -
you can tell that I think she's an ace!*

Just Like Home

We've had a note saying that even though photography is permitted in the MCEC during the day when people are around, attempting to take pictures of the empty architecture at night results in the descent of the security staff to forbid it. Most illogical!

WSFS Preliminary Report

The Preliminary WSFS Business Meeting on Friday morning sent the four proposed substantive WSFS Constitutional Amendments on to Saturday's Main Business Meeting; one of the four proposals was sent to a special committee that will prepare a revised version for consideration on Saturday. The meeting also received nominations for the WSFS Mark Protection Committee. For the first time in several years, there are more nominees than there are open seats on the MPC, and therefore there will be a contested election. Elections will take place at the beginning of the Main Meeting on Saturday.

The four substantive proposals coming up on Saturday are:

- Repeal the initial price cap on Worldcon memberships for site selection voters. This is potentially controversial, but did

not generate any discussion at the Preliminary Meeting.

- Explicitly authorize Worldcons to conduct Hugo Award and Site Selection elections electronically. This has some controversy attached to it, and there will probably be a proposal to exclude Site Selection voting from this proposal, thus requiring that Site Selection continue to be conducted exclusively on paper ballots.
- Permit Worldcons to distribute their rules electronically. This was sent to a special committee for refinement, and a revised version will be put before Saturday's meeting that clarifies whether e-publications are "opt-in" or "opt-out" and softening the requirements for publishing paper copies of the rules in advance of the convention.
- Allow members of the following (as well as the current and previous) Worldcons to nominate for the Hugo Awards. There was a chairman's ruling on this that clarified that even if you're a member of all three of these conventions, you only get one ballot.

There will also be two technical amendments clarifying some cross-references in the voting rules and adding the Hugo Award Logo and Trophy Rocket Design to the list of WSFS's service marks.

The Business Meeting voted unanimously to renew the resolution extending Hugo Award eligibility for works originally published outside the USA and first published in the USA this year.

The Committee on the Semiprozine Hugo submitted a report that has no proposals for changes to the Constitution this year; the committee was continued for another year.

Other WSFS committees reported as listed in the Agenda document available on the Aussiecon 4 web site in the WSFS section; all of these committees were continued for another year. If you want to serve on a WSFS committee, contact Kent Bloom, Chairman of the Business Meeting.

The meeting also received financial reports from past and seated Worldcons.

Saturday morning's Business Meeting will be at 1000 in Room 216. After the elections to the Mark Protection Committee, the meeting will take up first the technical and then the substantive constitutional amendments in the order they were proposed.

— Kevin Standlee

This issue was produced by Fran Dowd, with the assistance of Flick, Ang, Tim-Tams, Sue-Ann, Steve, Flat Whites, mrgazpacho, and the promise of Cheese Twisties...

Masthead by Sue Mason. We're following #Aus4 and #worldcon on Twitter and Flickr.

Aussiecon 4 is supported by the Melbourne Convention and Visitors Bureau and the City of Melbourne.



Voice of the Echidna

The newsletter of Aussiecon 4
Email: echidna@aussiecon4.org.au

Issue 4 Friday Night
Twitter: @EchidnaVoice

Awarded at Aussiecon 4

Prometheus Award 2010

Dani Kollin & Eytan Kollin, *The Unincorporated Man*

Slow News Day

Note on newsletter distribution: you may have noticed that the newsletters are coming out in small batches. This is because we have an incredibly slow device of reproduction. Please be patient, more copies will arrive! We've been asked for a second floor distribution point: there is one already in Room 201. It can't be outside, as it gets tidied away...

You can also point your electronic device of choice at the Aussiecon 4 website and read the PDF!

Even Slower News

In 1999 I arranged to have books shipped to A3. Unfortunately the shipper sent them by sea freight rather than the agreed on air freight. They arrived after A3 and have been in care of Justin Ackroyd/Slow Glass Books. Much has been sold, but the remaining inventory is now at Justin's table. It only took 11 years for the books to make it to an Aussie Worldcon.

—Michael Walsh, *Old Earth Books*

Tim Burton. The Exhibition

Wow! For a measly AU\$ 19 you can see deeper into the amazingly creative mind of artist and filmmaker Tim Burton. This exhibit, at the ACMI in Federation Square next to Flinders St. Station, was developed by the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) New York. It showcases the development of Burton's artistic talents and sense of humour and horror from his ten years in Burbank, California through today. The exhibit features sketches, drawings, paintings, sculpture, costume, maquettes and video clips, most never meant to be seen or parts of unrealised projects. Like his movies or not, get your fannish selves down there while you can.

—Rebecca Tinkham, *Kevin Hewell*

Great Balls of Fire!

Meteor Incorporated is an Australian fund set up to establish a location for the storage of and access to collections of books, magazines, fanzines and related memorabilia whose owners can no longer house them. Come to Room 215 at 1500 on Saturday to learn more!

Common Problem

"The main problem with e-books is getting the buggers signed." If anyone has a solution, please let us know.

Not A Lot of People Know...

The long-beaked echidnas have tiny spines on their tongues that help capture their prey.



Eat, Eat, Eat!

Disregarding sensible newsletter advice to look nearby (although the Seafarers Bridge does offer an alternative route and even a skyway across Flinders to reach hotels on Spencer) we wandered along Flinders this time looking for a likely place to eat, only finding something interesting in Degraeves Street opposite the station. Among many small to very small restaurants (with heated outside seating for the brave) we selected self-styled bar cafe bruschetteria Il Tempo, which has two large and six small tables (so no large parties) and a nice selection of wines. I liked the chicken breast (I know, not particularly Italian) and the lasagna

Tonight's Hospitality Events

Events run from 2100 to 0100, in the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

- UK and Ireland & Continuum 7 (Corporate Left)
- Texas in 2013 & New Zealand in 2020 - the Kiwis are the designated Russians (Corporate Right)
- Chicago in 2012 (Bridge 1)
- CSFG (Bridge 2)

wasn't bad either - it does get loud and somewhat cramped, but nice and active service.

—Jan van't Ent

Miscellaneous Program Change

Due to unforeseen circumstances, Dick Jensen is now unable to appear on the program.

Famous Author Moves World

For those who want copies of his papers from Friday's geoengineering talk, Gregory Benford's email address is gbenford@uci.edu

—Gregory Benford

Superfluous Technology

Just wanted to spruik local (West Australia) fan Brendan Ragan's program LiveCon, which has the Aussiecon 4 program available in useful form for iPhone, iPad, and on the web (www.livecon.net/info/showevent/13) and he is working on Android support (not sure of the status of that—if you are really keen, you could email him).

Besides the usefulness of this for Aussiecon attendees, Brendan is very keen to hear from anyone who would be interested in using the software for their conventions. It is still very new (I know he has been working hard to have new versions ready for Worldcon) and has some rough edges, but it looks really promising. It is commercial, and he would certainly like to make it a viable business,

but Brendan is a fan who will probably be open to very reasonable deals for fan run conventions.

—David Cake

Vogon Wanted #4

*There once was a cop named Klaatu
Who arrived here to much ballyhoo
His robot named Gort
Could destroy all it sought
But decided 'barada niktoo'*

More Awards

Seiun

Japanese Long Fiction: *The Guin Saga* (series) by Kaoru Kurimoto, Hayakawa Publishing

Japanese Short Fiction: *Interview with the Columns of Clouds* by Hiroataka Tobi, Kawade Shobo Shinsha

Translated Long Fiction: *The Last Colony* by John Scalzi, translated by Masayuki Uchida, Hayakawa Publishing

Translated Short Fiction: *Dark Integers* by Greg Egan, translated by Makoto Yamagishi, Hayakawa PublishingMedia: *Summer Wars*, directed by Mamoru Hosoda, Madhouse

Comic: *Pluto* by Naoki Urasawa & Osamu Tezuka, co-authored with Takashi Nagasaki, supervised by Macoto Tezka with the cooperation of Tezuka Productions, Shogakukan

Art: Naoyuki Kato

Nonfiction: *The Intellectual History of Japanese SF 1857-1975* by Yasuo Nagayama, published by Kawade Shobo Shinsha

Free Entry: Gundam 30th Anniversary Project Real G: The Statue of Gundam, produced by Sunrise, Nomura Co., Ltd.

Special Award: Takumi Shibano, translator, author, magazine editor, "science-fiction researcher" 1926-2010

Sidewise Award

Short Form: Alastair Reynolds, *The Fixation*, from *The Solaris Book of New Science Fiction, Volume 3*, George Mann (ed.) (Solaris)

Long Form: Robert Conroy, *1942* (Ballantine)

Wanted, Party Animal

The Newsletter would appreciate it if people would behave in a stupid and entertaining fashion, and then tell us about it. In fact, you can even just tell us

about it without actually doing anything embarrassing if you like...

Circulars Wanted

The free round-city tram service (number 35) runs until 2100 on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, so you have two more evenings when you can exploit it to go further afield for dinner.

Whether There Will Be Weather

Our contacts at the Weather Centre tell us that tomorrow's forecast is: Heavy Rain. Mostly Cloudy. Mild. A good day to stay inside the Convention Centre and go to the program.

Not Just For Christmas

A low-res video recording of today's Preliminary Business Meeting video is in the process of converting at www.vimeo.com/14661665—it will probably actually go online about 2100, but I don't have any control over how long Vimeo takes to actually make the video viewable.

—Kevin Standlee

"Leatherette seats
don't lend themselves
to writing in the nude."

Robert Silverberg, in conversation with
Kim Stanley Robinson (*Friday 1100*)

Press To Enter

Need a quiet spot for an interview? The Press Office is open 1000-1700 on the ground level of the convention centre. We're way past the cloak room on the right.

Beer!

Automatic—Monday nights ½-price tap beer and pizza from 1700 in the Casino food court.

Rotsler Award

A Rotsler Award exhibit has been mounted on a computer in the Exhibit Hall (Room 202), near the Fan Gallery. You can click on things to see drawings by each of the winners and Rotsler himself, and read about the Award. The display is a version of the Award website (www.scifiinc.org/rotsler) that works without web access. If it isn't up when you get there, double-click the Rotsler icon on the screen.

—John Hertz

Shaun Tan

As his GoH speech, Shaun Tan gave an illustrated presentation about himself as an artist, or rather about the person behind the artist.

It started with young Shaun's ability to draw, from a small child first holding a pencil and not realising how unusual it was that others could recognise what he was drawing. Living in Perth, he was influenced less by other artists than by TV and movies, as well as by his father's architectural work. He tried writing stories too, but his first publication was the artwork he sent with a story to *Aurealis*: not knowing anything about publishing, he'd simply folded the illustration into a standard envelope.

Tan's sense of art developed without any formal arts education. Still, he realised that SF has a strong illustrative tradition, and the process of summarising a story caught his imagination. In time, this developed into unconnected work: the image as its own story, and sometimes the reverse process of stories being written to match his illustrations.

His first professional sale as a student led to the realisation that he might be able to make a living as a full time artist. Shaun Tan's interest in illustrated stories got him involved in children's literature and educational publications, particularly attempts to attract reluctant readers.

Tan likes to keep a foot in many worlds, crossing over between comics, illustrations, fine arts, and everything in between. As he said, you have to learn how the real world works before you can draw a believable fantasy world. Finding himself with a Master of Arts degree, he started a range of different projects, of which *The Rabbits* by John Marsden was the first to take off. Tan didn't like the story much to begin with, but by distorting the illustrations to show not-quite rabbits in not-quite Australia, he turned it into an engagingly mysterious and confrontational tale.

Another happy tale was Tan's *The Lost Thing*, a rather autobiographical character collecting bottlecaps on the beach and running into a lost alien thing that combined elements of both a hermit crab and a stray animal, all somewhat deformed. While the story took about a year of work, the ensuing animated movie took five people over nine years to complete. Tan described it as a wonderful learning experience for an artist who likes interesting challenges.

—Jan van't Ent

This issue was produced by Steve Davies, with the assistance of Flick, Jan and the internet. Also large quantities of espresso. Thousands of filler items died to make up this issue. From now on, it's all fresh news or stuff we made up. Masthead by Sue Mason. We're following #Aus4 and #worldcon on Twitter and Flickr.

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Earthquake in New Zealand

There was a 7.0-magnitude earthquake on the South Island of New Zealand at 0435 NZ time this morning. The epicentre was near Christchurch, where a state of emergency has been declared. There are no reports of fatalities, but there have been some serious injuries. Christchurch airport is closed until at least noon on Saturday. If anyone at the convention is affected, let us know if there's anything we can do to help. Prayer rooms are available on the ground floor of the MCEC (opposite the Press Office) for anyone who needs some quiet space.

Ditmar Winners

Best Novel: *Slights*, Kaaron Warren
(Angry Robot Books)

Best Novella/Novellette: "Wives", Paul Haines

Best Short Story: "Seventeen", Cat Sparks

Best Collected Work: *Slice of Life*, Paul Haines, Geoffrey Maloney, ed.

Best Artwork: Lewis Morley, Cover, *Andromeda Spaceways Inflight Magazine* #42

Best Fan Writer: Robert Hood for *Undead Backbrain*

Best Fan Artist: Dick Jenssen

Best Fan Publication: *Steam Engine Time*, Bruce Gillespie and Janine Stinson

Best Achievement: Gillian Pollock *et al* for the Southern Gothic banquet at Conflux

Best New Talent: Peter M Ball

A. Bertram Chandler Award for Outstanding Achievement in Australian SF: Damien Broderick

Norma K Hemming Award: Maria Quinn, *The Thieves*. A new award celebrating excellence in exploring the themes of race, gender, class and sexuality in speculative fiction.

Short Story Competition: The brief was for new genre fiction that's imaginative, entertaining, and contains the words 'make ready' and an Australian landmark. The winner was "The Perforation" by Helen Stubbs. Runner up: "The Rise & Fall of a Fair Dinkum Superhero" by Aidan

Read This: Site Selection

Site Selection closes at 1800 on Saturday, not 1900 as listed in the Pocket Program! Remember to vote before 1800 on Saturday!

Doyle. Prizes generously provided by the Australian Science Fiction Association.

Peter McNamara Award: for contribution to the SF community. Dr Janine Webb.

Not-a-Ditmar Awards:

William Aethling Award for Criticism: *The Secret Feminist Cabal*, Helen Merrick

Best Fannish Cat: Peri Peri Canavan [*This award thing has clearly got out of hand* — Ed]

— with thanks to Cheryl Morgan, Kevin Standlee, and conreporter.com

Volunteer Update

Please report hours worked (up to 1600) to the Volunteer Desk by 1700 each day to enter tonight's fabulous volunteer raffle. One entry for every two hours worked. Winners will be announced in the newsletter when we get them and at the Volunteer Desk each morning.

Thanks again to the dealers for their generous donations

Where to Find Stuff

Lost and Found is now in the Con Office, on the second floor, rather than at the Information Desk. **Program Participant and Hugo packs** are available only in Program Ops, Room 205. Don't ask us, we only work here.

Prometheus Hall of Fame

The Hall of Fame award went to Poul Anderson's classic story, "No Truce with Kings", which had previously won a Hugo Award. A touching reminiscence about the writing of the story was contributed by Anderson's widow, Karen.

— Taras Wolansky

Art Show News

Remember that even though sales are being handled differently than usual, all potential art show buyers **must** have a bidder registration number (not your con badge number). Please come to the art show and register for yours today!

Art Show has fabulous works of art by Shaun Tan, Patrick Jones, Lewis Morley, Marilyn Pride, Nick Stathopoulos, the Mayfair Collective and many more.

Meet the Artist Saturday:

Lachlan Creagh 1000 – 1800

Bob Eggleton 1400-1600

Elise Matthesen 1000 – 1530

Marianne Plumridge 1400 – 1600

Spring Schoenhuth 1200 – 1330

Sebastian Rice will present a slideshow and talk about his extensive collection of sf/f art at 1400.

Check with the Art Show desk for unscheduled appearances.

Would the following members please drop by the Art Show and register for your bidder numbers? Without a bidder registration number, we cannot guarantee the validity of your bid.

A. Losin (1229), Lynette Maher (1388), M Pauletich (1347), KRin Pender-Gunn (1349), R Kirkpatrick (1392), Joan Mayall, Malcolm Leggett, Tracy Redden (1524), Karen Healey (1889), Tanya de Long-Curtain (2910), Ann Poore (1367), Mandy Herriot (467)

— Jannie Shea

Pink Sheet Erratum:

The play will be going ahead at 1800 in the Plenary, as originally scheduled.

Hospitality Reports

A grand total of four hospitality events this evening, some of which were shared between two organisations.

The only event not associated with a future Worldcon bid was hosted by the **Canberra SF Group**, a quiet gathering with soft drinks, flatbreads and dips.

Décor: minimalist. **Chocolate balls:** orange.

Across the hall the reception for the **Chicago in 2012 Worldcon bid** was a slightly livelier affair with posters from the city's history and references to such things as World Fairs and Presidential Inaugurations. Exotic foods such as Oreos and teacakes were in evidence, and conversation was occasionally silenced by the roar of a fruit-smoothie machine running under zero load. Odd not to see a registration table here.

Date of World's Fair: 1933. **Nature of mutant twiglets:** extra-large, marmite-free.

Proceeding upstairs, we found the first of two shared receptions on the right, hosted by **Texas in 2013** and **New Zealand in 2020**. Fans surviving on hotel breakfasts and bid hospitality alone were served well here: besides macarons, kiwi fruit, shortbread, nuts, Whittaker's Chocolate (for those with taste) and Hershey's Kisses (for others), the bids provided a table laden with ingredients for the assembly of steak sandwiches, ideal for those unaware of the benefits of cheese that has some bite. It was a little disconcerting to find that the drinks which the reception seemingly provided actually came by way of a paid bar, a shock sprung on visitors without notice, leading to stumbling embarrassment (Brits) or swift and drinkless exit (others). Both bids correctly provided an opportunity to pre-support.

Designs of inflatable seen: twofold. **Size of silver fern stickers:** multiple.

Finally, proceeding once more across the hall, your tireless correspondents attempted to penetrate the seething masses attending the **UK and Irish Fandom** and **Continuum 7** reception, marking the London in 2014 bid and the 2011 Melbourne annual convention respectively. Poster-sized book covers from British authors adorned walls to the left, and flags of northern European nations decorated windows to the right. There was shortbread, there was Battenberg cake, there was the sort of cheese that seizes the back of your throat and wrestles it to the ground. The culture of the UK's bonniest parts had been

distilled for the pleasure of the attendants, who were invited on a metaphorical tour of the regions of Scotland, as represented by its most famous export. And, while a jug clearly labelled for donations was available, no-one was charged for anything (except for becoming a pre-supporter or friend of the bid, of course).

Crowd density: high. **Malts sampled:** four.

Oh, one other thing. There were tentacles. We counted four of them, two large and two small, but there may have been more. It probably made some sort of sense at the time. To someone. We have to go and lie down now.

— Douglas Spencer and Julia Daly,
hospitality correspondents

Today on Twitter

#askacurator A few years ago I was lucky enough to see an echidna collected by Sir Joseph Banks on Cook's voyage. Where is it?

Australian Museum: @britishmuseum Do you have the echidna specimen referred to?

British Museum: The echidna specimen is far more likely to be in @NHM_London

The Natural History Museum: We have many amazing things in our collection, but there is no echidna collected by Captain Cook.

That'd be 72 Beats Then

Rather than have **Paul Cornell** sob for an hour about why the BBC didn't pick up his fantastic pilot *Pulse* as a series, you can instead see the classic radio game show *Just A Minute*. Participants are **Jennifer Fallon**, **Patrick Nielsen Hayden**, **China Miéville** and **John Scalzi**. Saturday 1600. So which con will now be the first to actually have a *Pulse* panel?

— Fran Dowd

Attn Former Worldcon Chairs

The traditional gathering for a photo opportunity will take place on Sunday at 1100 in Room 216, at the first break point when the Business Meeting can take a recess. Please be there for the photo shoot, and please pass the word to other former Chairs who may not have heard the word about the session.

— Kent Bloom

Blatant Plug

New Pratchett novel! A fabulous Discworld title filled with witches and magic, *I Shall Wear Midnight* is the fourth Discworld title starring Tiffany and her tiny, fightin', boozin' pictsie friends, the Nac Mac Feegle (aka The Wee Free Men).

Golden Duck Awards

For excellence in Children's SF Literature:

Picture Book Award: *Swamps of Sleethe* by Jack Prelutsky, illustrated by Jimmy Pickering (Knopf)

Eleanor Cameron Middle Grades Award: *ZRex* by Steve Cole (Penguin)

Hal Clement Young Adult Award: *Catching Fire* by Suzanne Collins (Scholastic)

Special Award: You Write It: Science Fiction by John Hamilton (Abdo)

An Echidna In the UK #2

Surely an echidna in the UK would be a hedgehog?

— Marianne Cain

On the Signing of eBooks

Bob Silverberg reports that somebody asked him to sign their Kindle. And Brett Mashado tweets "Kim Stanley Robinson signed my iPad wow!" Could get a little crowded after a while.

— with thanks to Chris Sloan

Strange Horizons

Online magazine *Strange Horizons* will be celebrating its tenth anniversary with a tea party, today from 1400 to 1600 in the Hilton's Ground Floor Sotano. Come along, eat cookies, drink tea and see the magazine!

Breakfast Recommendation

If you aren't into huge breakfasts but need a quick jolt of sugar and caffeine, we found the place for you! It's called Michel's and here's how you get there.

Leave this building and go to Spencer street then turn left and go over the hill (good for getting rid of those calories) to Flinders. Turn right and go about four doors down. There you can also get coffee and cake for \$4.75 and you have a choice of two cakes. Today's (Fri) choices were fresh strawberry gateau and chocolate something (sorry, couldn't understand the accent). My partner chose strawberry; I am a chocoholic. Both of us had skinny lattes. Good food, great price!

— Susan Spitzberg

Nightmare Ball

There was a nightmare ball last night: we have the photo to prove it, but not enough space to run it this issue. Anyone want to send us a write-up to go with it?

We would have gone ourselves, but no one invited us. Sniff.

This issue was produced by Alison Scott, still in a Walthamstow garrett, with help from Flick and Marianne Cain. Special interference from Jonathan Cain, schools go back Monday yay! Masthead by Sue Mason. We're following #Aus4 and #worldcon on Twitter and Flickr. Happy birthday, Dr Plokta!

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Issue 6 Saturday Afternoon
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Earthquake Latest

Christchurch Airport has now reopened. Call NZ 0800 737 000 if you need to re-book a flight.

Murray and Natalie MacLachlan want to thank all the people who have asked after their family. Parents, son and grandson are all well. The buildings damaged are all brick ones built before 1931 - building standards NZ were improved considerably after the 1931 Napier earthquake. Currently our son faces up to 5 days without water supply but has bottled water.

— Murray MacLachlan

Art! Art!! and More Art!!!

Bid on Aussiecon 4 original art!

Original artwork created for Aussiecon 4 badge and publications by Hugo-Award winner for Best Fan Artist Sue Mason is in the Art Show. It's for sale via only through the silent auction process so come often, bid high and bring your friends!

Meet multiple Hugo Award winning artist Bob Eggleton!

"I am a Hugo award-winning fantasy/SF artist who works on both publishing projects and film concept work (such as Jimmy Neutron and most recently, The Ant Bully) but I have a passion for landscape work, small paintings and exploring the properties of paint."

Bob is also a well-known fan of Godzilla and worked as a creative consultant in the American remake. Bob and his talented wife, artist Marianne Plumridge will be in the Art Show from 1400 - 1600 today. Come meet the 'Zilla man himself!

Watch art jewelry being created before your very eyes!

World-Fantasy Award nominee Elise Matthesen will demonstrate her skills and creativity in the Art Show from 1000-1500 today

— Jannie Shea

Read This: Site Selection

Site Selection closes at 1800 on Saturday, not 1900 as listed in the Pocket Program! Remember to vote before 1800 on Saturday!

Even More Art!!!!

Get acquainted with one of our exhibiting artists now!

Brandon Hendroff is a veteran Storyboard Artist and Conceptual Designer who has worked in Australia since 1985.

"These pictures for this Aussiecon 4 World Science Fiction Convention were painted for my own and your own pleasure, in oils, simply as an artist to celebrate Science Fiction themes. Some such as 'Valediction' have been with me for over 25 years..."

www.brandonart.net

— Jannie Shea

[I'll give the exclamation marks a rest now

— Ed]

Art for Food

Elise Matthesen will barter homemade jewelery for homemade meringue. Contact her on elise@lioness.net

George R R Martin Signing

GRRM will be signing at 1600 in the Fan Lounge, room 201.

Sonic Attack Concert

Sonic Attack is a Melbourne-based sci-fi rock band, celebrating their 5th anniversary of playing gigs around town with a special FREE performances for Aussiecon 4 members. It starts at 2100 on Saturday 4 September at the Brunswick Hotel, Sydney Road.

They play SciFi rock classics from bands like Hawkwind, Pink Floyd and Motörhead, plus their own rock tributes to Moorcock, Bradbury, Asimov and more!

Bring your Aussiecon 4 badge and enjoy the show!

Raffle Winners

The following volunteers were winners in Friday night's raffle drawing: #74, #1983, #665, #1799, #98, #380, #860, #663, #1113, #103, #653, #451, #1984, #1114, #2978, #1015 and #2339. Please go to the Volunteers Desk to collect your prize.

Volunteers would like to thank the following dealers for their generous contributions to the volunteer raffle: Alto Books, Endangered Pictures, Ticonderoga Press, Pink K Designs, Coeur de Lion, Storm Publishing, Penguin Books, Cre'atures, Twelfth Planet Press, Celtic Pantzer Tshirts, Celestial Cobbler, Andromeda Spaceways, Ford Street Publishing, Gollancz. With special thanks to the Canberra SF Guild.

Mo' Money

The pocket program suggests looking for banks on Collins or Williams St. If all you need is an ATM, ANZ Bank has one in the underside wall of the Southern Cross Station escalator (just inside the NW corner of Spencer and Collins). Has anyone found a machine closer to the MCEC? Note: out-of-country travelers should not accept the machine's offer of a fixed exchange rate; for USD it was ~3% higher than your home bank should charge.

— Chip Hitchcock

[There is an ATM by the MCEC information desk, in the corridor right outside the newsletter office — Ed]

Tonight's Hospitality Events

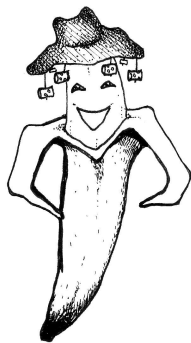
Events run from from 2100 to 0100 in the Crowne Plaza hotel:

- Reno in 2011 (Corporate Left).
- Texas in 2013 and New Zealand in 2020 (Corporate Right).
- London in 2014 (Bridge)

Also, Brotherhood Without Banners (George R R Martin) will be holding and event at 2130 in the CO Nightclub, 2nd floor of the Crown Casino: Free entry and open bar!

Banana 3.0

We hear that Australia has a vast range of bananas available, rather than just boring old Cavendish like most places have. Well, ok, not exactly vast: Banana 1.0, the Gros Michel, is just as extinct here. Still, would anyone like to bring the Newsletter team a sample of the most likely contender for Banana 3.0, the Goldfinger? Apparently, it has a slightly tart, apple-like flavour...



WSFS Business Meeting

All six proposed constitutional amendments on the agenda received first passage (some in amended form) and will be forwarded to next year's Worldcon, Renovation, for ratification.

The proposal to decouple the site selection voting fee from the initial attending membership price was replaced with a proposal to increase the amount that newly-seated Worldcons can charge to convert voting memberships to attending membership from the existing two-times the voting fee to four-times the voting fee.

The proposal to clarify the status of electronic voting on the Hugo Award and Site Selection was modified to permit e-voting on Site Selection only if the administering Worldcon and all bids on the ballot agree on the procedure.

The proposal to permit electronic distribution of rules was modified to require paper distribution at the convention, to require that any electronic distribution of publications be "opt-in" (members must positively agree to receive publications electronically), and that such distribution must be "push" (the Worldcon must contact its members, not simply post PRs on its web site without informing the members that they have done so).

The proposal to extend Hugo Award nominating eligibility to the members of the subsequent (as well as current and past) Worldcon passed without any changes.

The technical amendments to clarify certain cross-references regarding run-off

voting and to include the Hugo Award logo and rocket designs in the list of service marks passed without any changes.

Kevin Standlee, Ben Yalow, and Tim Illingworth were elected to three-year terms on the WSFS Mark Protection Committee.

Sunday's Business Meeting (1000 Room 216) will start with the announcement of the 2012 Worldcon Site Selection, followed by Question Time for Renovation and for bids for subsequent years. There will also be a report from the Worldcon Web Site Working Group. No substantive debate is expected at Sunday's meeting.

— Kevin Standlee

Mark Protection Committee

The WSFS Mark Protection Committee, which manages the service marks and other intellectual property of WSFS, will meet on Sunday in Room 216 following the Business Meeting and the Worldcon Chairs Photo Session, but no earlier than 1115. This meeting is open to all WSFS members. The committee will elect officers for the coming year and will consider proposals submitted to it by the Hugo Awards Marketing Committee.

— Kevin Standlee,

Online Writing Workshop...

...is having a dinner for past and present members: meet at the Information Desk at 1830 on Saturday.

Life's Little Problems

All Perth fans should see Ana Hepworth to be assigned their unique "Perth number" and then we are all gathering at the bottom of the escalators by the registration desk at 1800 Sunday for a gigantic photo!

— Chris Coman

We've received a note from a worried lady who's lost a recording pen and black notebook: just a reminder that any found items should be taken to the Con office on the Second Floor. Hope she finds it!

"Can you please explain what WOOF is?" It's an APA put together at Worldcons!

The WiFi access point in Room 201 is getting overloaded, so if you're having trouble connecting in that area please spread out to other parts of the con and try again!

The MCEC Cloakroom will take jackets and bags to save you from having to carry them around. They're on the Ground Floor, and are open until 2300.

Need to burn your photos and valuable data on DVD-R? Let me help you out!

I bought too many blank DVD-Rs and would like to sell my surplus (approximately 10) at AU\$1 each. Come find me in the Art Show and we can make a deal.

— Jannie Shea

Penguin Parade (part 1)

We looked at the torrential downpour with various levels of dismay. "This," I said to Doug, "is why people who aren't us wait until the day of the trip before they book it." We struggled into walking boots and waterproofs and arrived at the coach pickup in plenty of time. The driver was jolly and held out some hope that the weather would be better when we got to Phillip Island. We stared dubiously at the rain lashing the windows and the thick grey clouds. However, by the time we reached our first stop the rain was mostly over.

First stop was a Devonshire cream tea at the Warrook Cattle Farm. As Doug's Mum lives in Devon, and I have suffered some bizarre attempts at cream teas in the past (most notably in the Malaysian Highlands where they don't actually have any cream), we were interested to see what was on offer. The scones were perfect and still warm from the oven, the cream was fresh and whipped, the strawberry jam tasty and the coffee perfectly acceptable - yeah, I know, but I don't like tea. After our cream tea (and with a minor piece of in-house entertainment involving a small child locked in the toilets) we went out to look at the animals. This is a proper cattle farm, but near the restaurant were two paddocks, one containing emus pecking at what we took to be the bones of the last unwary tourist that got too close, and the other containing a large pond, ducks and geese, and a number of kangaroos. You could buy some food and use it to tempt the kangaroos to pose for photos and allow themselves to be stroked or, if you're like us, you could get your photos whilst someone else paid the money and did the work. There were also two wombats in pens, tempted by the owner to come up close and personal with a selection of carrots. They were much bigger than most people expect and we like them a lot.

— Julia Daly

Friday Membership Stats!

At the close of Friday, we had 1582 pre-registered members on site, as well as 52 walk-in full members. On Friday, there were 67 Friday day members.

This issue was produced by Ang Rosin, with help from Flick, Jan, Doug, Steve and the Pensione Hotel "2 Eggs How You Like Them" Breakfast Special. Masthead and fillo by Sue Mason. Excessive use of exclamation marks is the sign of a jet-lagged mind. We're following #Aus4 and #worldcon on Twitter and Flickr.

Aussiecon 4 is supported by the Melbourne Convention and Visitors Bureau and the City of Melbourne.



Voice of the Echidna

The newsletter of Aussiecon 4
Email: echidna@aussiecon4.org.au

Issue 7 Saturday Evening
Twitter: @EchidnaVoice

Further News From New Zealand

While New Zealand is recovering from the earthquake, there is now news that a skydiving light aircraft has crashed taking off from the Fox Glacier. Four international tourists, four local people and the pilot have all been killed. We know that a lot of fans here went to this area recently, and may have flown to the Glacier. The NZ2020 team appreciate the kind thoughts of everyone who has dropped by the desk today to express sympathies.

Dates For Your Diary

Additional Kaffeeklatsch

Susan Xu, Sunday 1400-1450. Sign up at the Information Desk from Sunday 1000.

Les Tricoteuses

Knitters, spinners and other needlecraft folks are invited to get together at 1400 on Sunday in the Fan Lounge (Room 201).

Rare Opportunity

A signed copy of *Odyssey*, the Authorised Biography of Arthur C Clarke, is being sold by silent auction in aid of the New Zealand in 2020 Worldcon bid: please go to the bid table in Room 201 before Monday to place your bids!

Sydney Fans

Fans from Sydney meet at 1800 on Sunday outside Room 202 for dinner.

Strange Horizons

Correction: we incorrectly said that the *Strange Horizons* tea party was on Saturday afternoon. It's actually on **Sunday** from 1400 to 1600 in the Hilton's Ground Floor Sotano.

Apologies From John Hertz

John Hertz apologises for missing his Classics of SF talk: it wasn't on the Pink Sheets, and Program Ops couldn't find it, so he assumed it was cancelled, unlike all the people who went to see it!

Sydney Futurian Meeting

There will be a Sydney Futurian-style discussion at 1600 on Sunday in Room 216.

All interested are invited to contribute the conversation about "Conflict between cities in SF", based on their SF reading and viewing experiences.

From Program Ops

There **will** be an updated Sunday Pink Sheet, available at the Information Desk from 0900.

Please note that "child in tow" means that you must remain with the child. This still applies for child programming: it is not a babysitting service!

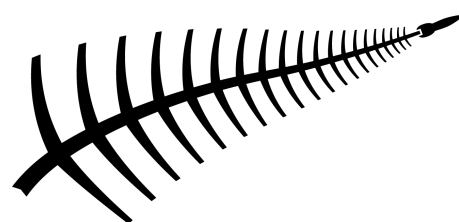
New Zealand 2020

Five days ago, I was expecting to have a nice quiet Aussiecon 4.

Then Sean Williams and BASFA happened, and I found myself standing in a convention room in New Zealand with my mouth open and money being thrown at me. Apparently, I was now the chairman of the bid for a Worldcon in New Zealand in 2020. And then fandom happened.

Fans from all over the world gathered around and had ideas and designs, and within two hours a website. I am in awe of the generosity of time and energy that the fans have poured into this. A word I've been using quite a lot is "awesome".

So I and everyone involved with this bid want to say thank you to the core group who have pulled this together in such a short time, and also to all of you who have



NZIN2020.ORG

Tonight's Hospitality Events

Events run from from 2100 to 0100 in the Crowne Plaza hotel:

- Reno in 2011 (Corporate Left).
- Texas in 2013 and New Zealand in 2020 (Corporate Right).
- London in 2014 (Bridge)

Also, Brotherhood Without Banners (George R R Martin) will be holding an event from 2130 in the CO Nightclub, 2nd floor of the Crown Casino: free entry and open bar!

popped by the table in room 201 to say "Hi", or to sign up as a pre-supporter.

Thank you especially to the Texas in 2013 and London in 2014 bids, who have taken us under their wings and invited us to share their party areas on Friday night.

The designated Russians thank you!

— Norman Cates

Dealer news

The impressive quantity of old S&SF magazines on sale at the Rotary table represents a surprise appearance of (late) Sydney fan Kevin Dillon.

Apparently, one garage of Kevin's books has escaped the public Trustee and is now on sale, with proceeds to charity, to fans who might appreciate them.

— Garry Dalrymple

Tonight's Weather

Predictions for tonight seem to think it will be a bit showery and cloudy, cool at around 14. That's somewhere in the 50s in Real.

When The Going Gets Tough

The Tough Go Shopping

It's a bit late for restaurant reviews for this evening, so we thought we'd tell you about shopping opportunities for the next couple of days. Lots of shops in Melbourne are open on Sundays, but please check by phone or internet before you make a special trip.

Sizing

Any women going clothes shopping should note that the mainstream stores go up to an Aus size 14 (the internet says that's a UK12/US10, but I thought it was more like a UK16/US14). No short fittings were found by your 4'11" correspondent.

There was a thread on shopping for larger sizes on the Australia2010 LiveJournal community, and there's also a fatshionista_oz community you could check out. For lingerie, try Victoria's Affair at the top of the Vic market, which has corsets and bustieres up to size 32.

It's worth shopping around: Australia really is a nation of shopkeepers. Melbourne is full of small independent shops full of unusual things, rather than the mega-chains that have a stranglehold in the UK, although they are also present along with lots of others that you've never heard of.

Minotaur Comics is Melbourne's largest comic shop. It's located downstairs at 121 Elizabeth Street, tel. 03 9670 5414.

Also, if you're doing trendy foodie shopping, don't forget that cupcakes are so last year, you should be looking for macarons, and no, we don't mean macaroons. [*Hint, hint.*]

— *Giulia De Cesare and others*

Exterminate!

Saturday's Build a LEGO Dalek (for kids) was a big success with about twenty-five children cramming around the table loaded with parts to build their evil Dalek. Some needed a little assistance, but most just had to be shown the parts and they knew exactly what to do. The biggest challenge was making sure there would be enough parts left for the adult session.

The Sunday Build a LEGO Dalek (for adults) takes place in room 216 at 1700, and looks like it will be very popular. We only have parts for 50 of them, so make sure you get there early to avoid disappointment.

To cover the cost of Dalek parts, there will be a small charge of AU\$3 if you want to keep your Dalek.

— *James Shields*

On The Subject Of LEGO

If anyone has found extra pieces for the LEGO Pirate pack, could you please let either Keith or Jacqui Smith know, or leave a message at the Kids' Room (209).

What Are We Sitting On?

Friday morning, and I'm at an academic panel: along the lines of "Anarchy in the Cosmos"; that the history of SF has always been punk", but all I can think about is the seating. The chairs here in the convention centre are *amazingly* comfortable.

Seriously. They appear to be made entirely of that stuff they use underneath playground swings to absorb some of the bounce, and as I sit here typing, my butt is gently bouncing on the seat in a very comfortable, if slightly disturbing, fashion. Hopefully nobody notices my quiet smile ...

— *Zara Baxter*

Quote of the Day

From the Fringe panel (1300 Saturday)

Seanan McGuire: "You'd be familiar with the Dr Who episode Father's Day?"

Paul Cornell (author of same): "..."

Signing eBooks

Adrian Emery suggests that you get the author to sign a book plate then scan it in: lots of eBook management software will let you add the image file to the eBook file, as long as it's DRM free!

Kathryn Sullivan, on the other hand, suggests asking the author to sign using the "notes" function of your eBook reader, or to sign a CD containing the file.

[*I'm sorry I started this now -Ed*]

Editor's Question

Enough of the eBooks already, what exactly *is* the difference between a flat white and a latte?

Long Memories

Does anyone remember throwing a drunk Queenslander out of Aussiecon 2? Because he's now a salt-water-croc wrangler on the Daintree and said to tell you he hasn't forgotten ...

Echidnas Not In The UK

A hedgehog doesn't eat ants! We could do with an echidna right now, in the UK, where it's cold and damp and not at all like Melbourne.

— *Helen Armstrong*

Badger Penguin Parade (cont.)

Then it was back on the bus to visit the Koala sanctuary. We followed a boardwalk around their favourite trees, carefully obeying the signs that said you mustn't shake the branches to try to get them to move. We saw three, and one of them moved, so we are prepared to believe that they were neither animatronic nor stuffed.

On to the penguins, the true reason for the trip. We made our way through the distracting visitor centre full of sweetie shops, fast-food counters, souvenir stuffed penguins and other Australasian tat, passed the blue-screen photo opportunity and out onto the board walk. After a day of rain the steps and bench seat-tops were very very wet, and we used one of our waterproof coats to protect our bottoms from that otherwise inevitable seeping damp. We got good seats and the area slowly filled with noisy, snack-munching tourists and school-children. As the light faded a ranger settled the silver bullets firmly on his hips and delivered a serious talk about penguins coming in-shore in groups known as "rafts", their shy nature and the need for us to be as quiet as possible. It got darker. We stared at the ocean. It got darker. We gazed through the twilight at penguin-sized rocks in the surf. Nothing. It got darker.

Suddenly there was a rustle of interest. And there they were. Our first set of penguins, a group of about eight, were swimming together parallel to the shore trying to decide where to land. They fell out of the surf, bobbing up and down from standing to tummies to standing, and then they were off, no hesitation, waddling purposefully across the beach, leaving no penguin behind, and then ... gone. After that whole series of penguins followed. Some made it first go, others shimmied forward and back in and out of the water, like reverse reluctant swimmers fearing the cold of the new environment.

Like the penguins, we headed inland along the boardwalk, watching penguins making their way along penguin super-highways, or stopping and gazing around like Alzheimer sufferers knowing they'd left their burrow round here somewhere... And the noise was incredible.

The night landings were to avoid predators who hunt by sight, but anything that hunts by sound would be too stuffed with penguin to ever move again. It was like being surrounded by 12 "black and white Chewbaccas and Mogwais.

An astounding experience and one we would recommend to anyone.

— *Julia Daly*

This issue was produced by Fran Dowd, with help from Flick, Jan, Doug, Steve, Ang, mrgazpacho. Also Fran's glasses, which she left here last night. So if she's been ignoring you, there was a reason ...

Masthead by Sue Mason. We're following #Aus4 and #worldcon on Twitter and Flickr.

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Voice of the Echidna

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Masquerade Winners

Well, all Twitter was plunged into war by allegedly off-colour humour on the part of the MCs. But nobody will tell me what the comments were, so I don't know whether to be outraged at the MCs or the over-sensitive types on Twitter. Or, indeed, both.

Masters of Ceremonies: Danny Oz, Nick Stathopoulos

Judges: John Hertz, Lewis Morley, Marilyn Pride

Master Class:

Best in Class: "2010, the Year We Made Contact" (re-creation): Robert Jan

Best Macabre: #9, "Cthulhu" (original): Sarah O'Keefe (Gilligan)



Cthulhu and the MCs share a moment

Journeyman Class:

Eldest & Most Dangerous: "Countess de Magpyr" (original): Megan Dansie

Novice Class:

Best in Class: Oberon & Titania Hit the City" (original): Angela & Ian Coburn

Honourable Mention: "Dr Who" (re-creation): Michael Jordan

Junior Class:

Most Dramatic: "Giving Birth to Horror" (original): Freddie Begehole

Best Vigilante: "Rorschach" (re-creation): Miles Burnside Clapp

— thanks to Jan van't Ent and John Hertz



Chicon Wins; Guests Announced

The 2012 Worldcon will be **Chicon 7; 30 August-3 September 2012, Hyatt Regency, Chicago**. The website is www.chicon.org.

File 770 reports that 526 votes were cast in site selection, of which 447 were for Chicago, 20 expressed no preference, and 59 were assorted write-ins.

Guests of Honor:

Author Guest: **Mike Resnick**
Artist Guest: **Rowena Morrill**
Astronaut Guest: **Story Musgrave**
Fan Guest: **Peggy Rae Sapienza**
Agent Guest: **Jane Frank**
Toastmaster: **John Scalzi**

Attending membership is \$155 until December 31st, 2010. Chicon 7 expects to be taking memberships at the desk at the bottom of the escalators from 1300.

Sunday Crafts

There is a Sunday craft market on St Kilda Road between Hamer Hall and Arts Centre.

Extra Fan Funds Stuff

A box of fan fund auction items was discovered after the close of the auction. Those who wish to search through it for special finds can please talk to Trevor Clark or Sue Ann Barber.

— Crystal Huff

More Newsletters

Deadline for Sunday evening is 1700 — and there will only be one Monday issue with a deadline of 1200. You've been warned.

ASIM

Andromeda Spaceways Inflight Magazine subscribers: please go to the table in the Dealers Room to get the latest issues (46 and 47) to save on postage.

Today is Fathers' Day!

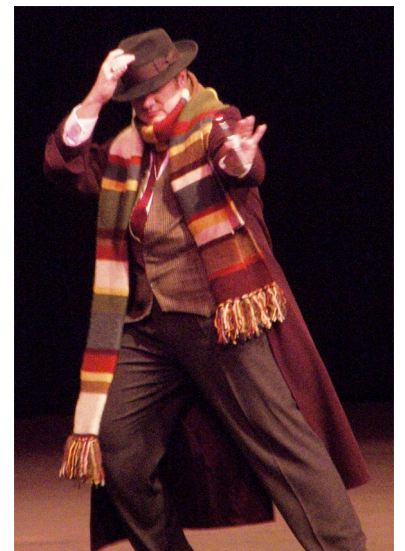
Australians with fathers, better not forget.

Foreigners who are fathers, play it for all it's worth!

GUFF Cat-Herding Workshop

There will be a brief gathering of GUFF people, today (Sunday) at 1600. Group photos will be taken and all that. Meet outside Rooms 201 and 202 at 1600 promptly. We're hoping to get together all 13 GUFF winners and 1 GUFF founder at the con.

— Irwin Hirsh



Wanna see my quick change act?

Let Them Experiment on You

June Madeley, a Real Scientist writes: Last year I conducted a survey of Anticipation attendees. I'm running an online survey of Aussiecon 4 attendees as well. It's part of a larger research project on SF fandom and Worldcon, and it can be found after the con at www.surveymonkey.com/s/australia4.

It should only take 10-15 minutes. And don't worry; those of you who filled it in last year will have opportunities to skip over some questions, but please do fill out one for this con too.

I'm a communications studies prof and a fan. For more information contact June Madeley, jmadeley@unbsj.ca or see my web page people.unb.ca/~jmadeley

More Art Show News

Art Show would like to remind everyone that the silent auction closes at 1800 today. Highest bidder at close of Art Show on Sunday wins the piece. Get your bidder registration number, bid high, bid often, bring your mates.

Meet the Artist Sunday

Lachlan Creagh 1000-1800

Bob Eggleton 1400-1600

Brandon Hendroff 1000-1800

Lisa Konrad 1500-1600

Marianne Plumridge 1400-1600

Spring Schoenhuth 1300-1400

Elise Matthesen - time to be announced

The Chesley Awards for 2009 slideshow is available for viewing upon request.

Check with the Art Show desk for unannounced artist appearances.

Marsupials of Unusual Size

OK. So how do wombats compare in size to capybaras? Enquiring minds want to know.

An Echidna Twitter in the UK

@despotlitz tweets even more fascinating echidna facts:

1. Although their eyelids do not move during sleep, echidna can dream.
2. Did you know that echidna can be trained to sense electrical fields?
3. And did you know that echidna do have testicles, but they are undescended and sit somewhere near the kidneys?
4. No scrotum is the ancestral state, it evolves later in mammals. Keeps sperm cool, bigger so more sperm, protects sperm while galloping [though obviously not from Narwhals - Ed.]
5. Echidna has a heel spur but no poison glands.

Calling 1980s Time Travellers

The RMIT Rubik's Cube Club is proud to present the first ever two-day action-packed Rubik's Cube Tournament in Australia. Extreme speed-cubing continues today from 900-1800 at Melbourne Central. Registration for competitors is now closed but spectators get in free. www.speedcubing.co.au

Laundry

Laundry Spa at 201 Park Street, South Melbourne. Washers are \$5 per load, washing powder is \$1, and drying is \$3-\$4. The place was very clean and the attendant gave me change for the machines.

— Mary Morman

There's a small laundromat next to the 7-11 on Flinders Street just north of the Crown Plaza. Four washers (\$4/load) and four dryers (\$1/10 min). Open 0900-2100 daily. There's a nice-looking espresso bar next door as well.

— Brad Ackerman

Most Retweeted Aussiecon Quote

Economics is the astrology of our time — Kim Stanley Robinson

Saturday Night Events

Two events tonight: **Reno** (next year's Worldcon) and a second go-round for the bid for **Texas in 2013**.

Texas decor featured inflatable cacti and plastic longhorn skulls. There was a clear quarantine area between the guests and the (still)pay bar, probably from people avoiding the embarrassment of yesterday.

Food - the plastic cheese from last night re-appeared, along with DIY sandwiches, healthy veg and a reasonable selection of cold meats.

Reno was less decorative, and the snacks were more sugar-based, with lots of candy and chocolate. Our correspondents made a note that seems to read pecan-bonded, but is probably peace-bonded, and we can't remember what that was about. Something to do with the way the food was displayed.

Drinks - fruit juices and soft drinks, quite a buzz around that table

This level of the hotel was very quiet - when OC were there, about 10 - 20 people. You could hear yourself speak at both of them.

In strict contrast was the **Revel at the Red Keep**, the Brotherhood Without Banners (George R R Martin fanclub) bash over the road at the Casino. Confused by the bright lights and speedy escalators, OC (now Crew rather than Correspondents) nevertheless managed to jump several queues (into the Casino, into the Nightclub, into the Event). There were velvet ropes and bouncers and stuff and Neil Gaiman wasn't even signing ... ID was required for entry, but a credit card and a flash photo for the bouncers seemed acceptable. We'd had too much whisky at the London party, and we're old and just wanted to stick our heads round the door and go home. But they still wanted to take our coats, stamp our hands, and surround us with the Smell of Young People. It was LOUD, there were lights, and the bar was glowing green. We saw a person we knew, and a model of a silver chair all covered in foil, and ran away.

We'd known earlier in the evening that we were in trouble, as we headed towards the Crowne Plaza hotel from the newsletter office and saw Hordes of Fans oozing out of the **London party** onto the riverfront. That was heaving, loads of free booze, Smiths Crisps, more good cheese. **Decor** - posters featuring quotes from 1984. The donation jar looked very healthy, even better than last night. The con desk is looking at nearly 200 pre-supports.

And across the corridor, a roomful of **young Australian sporty men** having a meeting, or something. We couldn't even get in by bribing them with Issue 7 of the *Voice of the Echidna*.

The cool event of the evening was the happening in the crowded Crowne Plaza bar on the floor between the parties. Where there appeared to be some sort of sporting event on TV, meaning the bar was crowded, combining fans from both disciplines together with the AMAZINGLY decorated uniforms of an oriental airline. The SF fans are attracted by the quality wine list (we go for the Dog Ridge "The Pup" Shiraz, which our friendly bartender already knows we describe as "You know, woof, the red one"), the sports fans by rather muscly young men in sleeveless shirts and short shorts. Although we are told, in a sad tone, that they are not as short as once they were.

— correspondents were Julia Daly and Ang Rosin, with help from Guilia De Cesare; all dictated to Fran in a quiet bar with a lot of wine

Stop Press!

Seattle have announced that they are investigating a Worldcon bid for 2015.



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Habemus Natcon!

Puffs of white smoke from Room 216 signalled that the next Australian Natcon will be Continuum 8 in Central Melbourne (no dates or venue as yet).

Girls Gone Wild?

'It is my f***king feminist cabal!' Come and meet Perth's fabulous gynaecon collective and find out how to run your own feminist guerilla con-within-a-con or just come and have a chat. Men welcome. Fan lounge, Monday, 1200.

Win Prizes!

Volunteers would like to thank those dealers who generously donated raffle prizes for the volunteer raffle: A.M. Schneider at Irrepressible Books, Mirrordanse, Rotarcap, Dark Nouveau, Doc Rat, Slowglass Books, Schlock Mercenary, Fo' Paws and Fred Ramsey.

The following volunteers were winners in Saturday night's raffle and should stop by the desk to pick up prizes: #663, #1799, #2339, #82, #1245, #1015, #103, #665, #1087, #923, #653, #2172, #1983, #816, #4088, #1912, #1279, #355.

Notices

The Queen, My Lord, Is Much, Much Better

A 15-minute movie imagining disruptions by bit-part actors in Shakespeare plays will premiere at 1400 Monday in Room 220.

Thanks To...

Artist Lachlan Creagh for donating artwork as prizes for the Masquerade and to the Fan Funds.

Free Ribbon!

If you have attended all four Aussiecons, please visit the Con Office (Office 201) to ask for a special badge ribbon.

Little Known eFact

The echidna is actually the offspring of a long-forgotten (and often denied)

weekend liaison between an African ant-eater and a North American porcupine.

An Invisible Editor Writes

Following frequent questions, *VotE* would like to clarify the status of our fourth editor, Alison Scott. Yes, Alison is editing the early morning issue. No, she isn't here in Melbourne, she's in London. That's London, England where the timezones are a bit more suited to her lifestyle. We'd like to point out that we, unlike everybody else, are going to claim back our extortionate internet costs from the convention as an unavoidable expense. Now do you see why we do it?



An Apology

We would like to apologise to our members for the offensive and distressing material included in the Masquerade commentary last night. In common with most of fandom, we pride ourselves on having inclusive and non-judgmental mindsets and do not believe that the sentiments expressed are appropriate in any situation, much less a public function of the convention.

—Rose and Perry

Tonight's Hospitality

Events

Events run from 2100 to 0100, in the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

- Chicago in 2012 (Corporate Left)
- Brotherhood Without Banners (Corporate Right)

Beyond The Food Court Horizon

Just past the Crown Casino complex (over Queensbridge St) is a small food court at Freshwater Place. There's a MacDonalds and two decent restaurants, Meat & Wine (steak house) and Yar (Korean/Japanese). We've been trying to get into Meat & Wine for a couple of days without success so we ate in Yar. They have an interesting mixture of dishes and do an 'all-you-can-eat' deal for AU\$35. This isn't a buffet, you tell the waitress what you want to eat from the menu and they bring it. If you're still hungry, you ask for more dishes. And more. We ate 11 different dishes including prawn tempura straight from the fryer, dumplings, spring rolls, noodles, raw salmon salad, Korean spicy pork, chicken teryaki, deep fried tofu and Dolsot Bib Bim Bap (beef and rice with raw egg in a hot stone dish). We drank Kirin beer and Kizakura Nigori (milky) unfiltered sake. Open 7 days a week until late, and it has lots of room. We're now planning on going back for the AU\$50 version, which lets you add 5 premium dishes (including smoked eel and raw beef) that aren't on the AU\$35 menu.

—Steve Davies

Beer, Beer and More Beer

The Belgian Beer Cafe is in Southbank at the foot of the Eureka tower. The terrace and bar were jammed with after-work drinkers, but we had no trouble getting a table for 8. All of the food we had was good. (The frites were very good but not up to the very high standards of Belgium.) five assorted beers on draft, available in two sizes singly and in a sampler set; a

huge list of bottled beers (and some wines by the glass -- the one non-beer drinker said his glass selection was fine, but Belgians are *serious* about beer). Drinks, appetisers, and main courses all around came to ~AU\$280 (before tip) for six people; desserts looked interesting but nobody thought they were necessary given the sizes of appetisers and mains. Recommended: carbonade, rabbit linguini (on the Seasonal Specials menu), brussels sprouts (under "for the table"), aged-gouda-with-mustard appetiser. (I don't eat whole molluscs, but saw that the person who ordered a bucket of mussels finished them.)

—Chip Hitchcock

Mad Science

While not cheap, The Croft Institute in Croft Lane is a small awesome science-themed bar in Chinatown (off Little Bourke St). The dunnies are labelled "Dept of Hygiene" and the cold storage room is "Dept of Alcoholology".

—Michael "Früchhlè" Fineberg

Il Primo Posto

A nice Italian/Fusion restaurant along Southbank on Riverside Quay. We had calamari to start, tossed with chilli and lemon on a bed of rocket and tomato, followed by lamb shanks cooked in a (very mild) curry sauce and osso buco. Too stuffed for dessert but they looked quite nice. They're open 7 days a week.

—Echidna Staff Writer

Where Claymore Meets Merlot

For a pleasant lunch or evening snack, check out the lobby bar at the Crowne Plaza. The menu offers nice salads and sandwiches, and the bar atmosphere is quite cozy. After repeated testing -- in fact we drank all the Dog Ridge Shiraz (aka "The Pup") in their cupboard -- we can confirm that the bar has a small but very nice list, offering wines from several Australian and New Zealand appellations. If you're a red drinker, the Claymore Shiraz Viognier, a classic blend from the Clare Valley, is recommended. The Henley Hill Sauvignon Blanc from nearby Yarra Valley is a nice complement to the excellent caesar salad offered on the bar menu. This establishment is a tasty venue for resting your feet and wetting your whistle. And if you're interested in McLaren Vale wine, ask Angelo to check his cellar for another bottle of The Pup.

—Spike

For those who like their sushi traditional, the Edoya restaurant at 138 Russell Street

is a lovely stop. It's the favourite stop for a friend who lived in Japan for many years. They have excellent food; we've tried the chef's special platter twice, and reports on all the other dishes have been positive.

For those willing to flex their dedication to tradition a bit, there's a stop closer to the convention centre. The Tokyo Maki restaurant is just around the corner, 547 Flinders St. They have Japanese/Korean fusion food, with a nice warm atmosphere and quite reasonable prices.

—Anne Trotter

Gentle Hint

As I crossed the bridge to the Convention Centre this morning, I spotted a bevy of scantily-dressed young ladies handing out free samples of deodorant. Time to take a shower, maybe?

—Ang Rosin

And One For Your Partner?

Extra Souvenir Books are available for sale at Registration for \$25 per copy.

—Alan Stewart, Publications

Internet Rules!

www.thehappiesthour.com is the best site for finding all the cheapest places to booze it up with the locals (some food listed too) —this site has saved my wallet while punishing my liver this con.

Mark Protection Committee

The WSFS Mark Protection Committee will meet on Monday at 1000 in Room 216. This committee manages the intellectual property (service marks and web sites) of the World Science Fiction Society. This meeting is open to all Aussiecon 4 members.

—Kevin Standlee

See Live Dead Kangaroos!

David Levine & I went on a one-day tour with an outfit called "Echidna Walkabouts". Our small group saw multiple mobs of kangaroos—or as Seanan McGuire preferred to call them, Respectable Business Marsupials. In You Yangs National Park, a spotter led us to three koalas. One even moved! No, really! The day included corvids, raptors, black swans, and a partially skeletonized kangaroo corpse. The guide helped us stalk emus for a closer look—all these critters are in the wild. We climbed windswept Big Rock and learned about

billabongs. Alas, no echidnas. Highly recommended if you have a free day.

—Kate Yule

Get One Free!

Howard Tayler (artist of the amazing *Schlock Mercenary* webcomic) is doing free drawings at his table in the Dealers Room!

An Echidna Writes...

Are there more Perth, WA attendees than from any other state? We think so.

—Michael "Früchhlè" Fineberg

Sunday Business Meeting

Sunday's Business Meeting received the results of the Site Selection voting. The newly-elected Chicon 7 committee, led by Dave McCarty, gave its initial presentation announcing its guests, and answered questions. After that, Patty Wells, chair of next year's Worldcon, gave a short presentation and answered questions about Renovation. Bids for future years also made short statements: San Antonio in 2013, London in 2014, a newly-announced "exploratory committee" for Seattle in 2015, Kansas City, Missouri in 2016, Japan in 2017 (although the organisers are not firmly committing to a particular year yet), and finally the newly-announced New Zealand in 2020.

No additional substantive business happened at the meeting. The meeting received a report from the Worldcon Website Working Group (referred to the Mark Protection Committee), and the Business Meeting Chairman appointed members to various WSFS committees to serve for this following year. The meeting adjourned sine die (that is, for the final time at this Worldcon) just before 1100.

There will be no WSFS Business Meeting on Monday. The WSFS Mark Protection Committee will meet in the room and time scheduled for the Monday Business Meeting. (216, 1000)

Medium-resolution video recordings of the Business Meetings will be available at www.vimeo.com/user1839925/ videos whenever Vimeo finishes processing them. (The preliminary and main meeting recordings are currently showing as available as of this morning.) UStream video recordings (of variable quality) of all three meetings are online at www.ustream.tv/channel/worldcon. Anyone wanting copies of the full-quality original recordings (approximately 4 GB) should contact Kevin Standlee here at the convention.

—Kevin Standlee

This issue was produced by Steve Davies, with the assistance of Flick, Jan and the internet. Available for free deodorant, an invitation to the Hugo-losers' party or a grovelling apology.

Masthead by Sue Mason. We're following #Aus4 and #worldcon on Twitter and Flickr. Our Chicago editor says HM: LU - EVO.

Aussiecon 4 is supported by the Melbourne Convention and Visitors Bureau and the City of Melbourne.



Voice of the Echidna

The newsletter of Aussiecon 4
Email: echidna@aussiecon4.org.au

Issue 10 Sunday Evening
Twitter: @EchidnaVoice

Best Novel

[Tie for first place]

The City & The City by China Miéville (Del Rey; Macmillan UK)

The Windup Girl by Paolo Bacigalupi (Night Shade)

Best Novella

"Palimpsest" by Charles Stross (*Wireless*; Ace; Orbit)

Best Novellette

"The Island" by Peter Watts (*The New Space Opera 2*; Eos)

Best Short Story

"Bridesicle" by Will McIntosh (*Asimov's* 1/09)

Best Related Work

This is Me, Jack Vance! (Or, More Properly, This is "I") by Jack Vance (Subterranean)

Best Graphic Story

Girl Genius, Volume 9: Agatha Heterodyne and the Heirs of the Storm Written by Kaja and Phil Foglio; Art by Phil Foglio; Colours by Cheyenne Wright (Airship Entertainment)

Best Dramatic Presentation - Long Form

Moon Screenplay by Nathan Parker; Story by Duncan Jones; Directed by Duncan Jones (Liberty Films)

Best Dramatic Presentation - Short Form

Doctor Who: "The Waters of Mars" Written by Russell T Davies & Phil Ford; Directed by Graeme Harper (BBC Wales)

Best Editor, Long Form

Patrick Nielsen Hayden

Best Editor, Short Form

Ellen Datlow

Best Professional Artist

Shaun Tan

Best Semiprozine

Clarkesworld edited by Neil Clarke, Sean Wallace, & Cheryl Morgan

Best Fan Writer

Frederik Pohl

Best Fanzine

StarShipSofa edited by Tony C. Smith

Best Fan Artist

Brad W. Foster

The John W Campbell Award for Best New Writer

Seanan McGuire



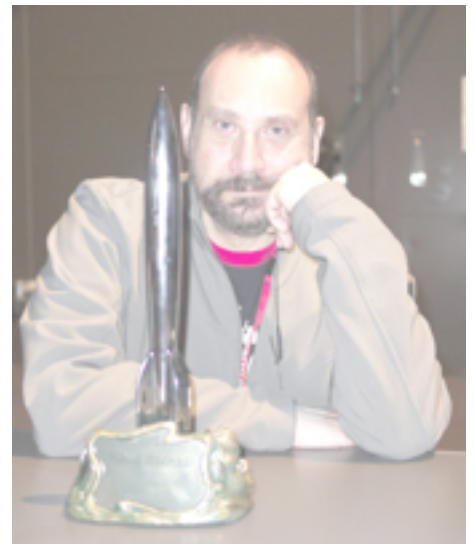
HUGO AWARD™

Hugo Base Design

This year's Hugo Award base was designed and sculpted by

Nick Stathopoulos

and was designed as a fusing of Art Nouveau with Aboriginal creation stories.



Hugo Stats

After the record number of Hugo Nominations, we had high hopes about the voting numbers and we are pleased to announce that there were 1094 valid Hugo Voting Ballots.

This total is the highest since the 2000 Worldcon, and second highest since 1988.

It also means that over 40% of Aussiecon 4's Attending and Supporting members participated in the vote, which is itself a record since the 1970's: in recent years 20% has been more typical.

— Vincent Docherty

First Fandom

The First Fandom awards are voted by members of First Fandom for lifetimes of service to SF fandom. This year, three fans were added to the Hall of Fame:

- First Fandom Hall of Fame - Terry Jeeves and Joe Martino (tied)
- Posthumous Hall of Fame - Ray Cummings

Beer!

Young & Jackson's pub, at the corner of Swanson and Flinders Streets across the road from the station, has a good range of beers on the ground floor. Upstairs, they are featuring Bridge Road Brewery's beers, and upstairs again is a cider bar.

Diagonally across the road and 200 yards further up Flinders Street is Beer De Luxe, with many more good ales.

— ½r

Gambling!

James Styles has a Crown Casino Mahogany Room guest pass: if you'd like to see how the high-rollers get treated, track him down!

Chicago Correction

You can convert or join in Office 201 (the Con Office), not at the bottom of the escalator as previously announced.

Tomorrow's Weather Today

Monday is forecast to be showery, again. Highs of around 15°C, chilly first thing but a warm evening. Moist.

Overheard in the corridor

"Getting the Grand Master made up for all the Hugo losses."

— R Silverberg

Hospitality Events

Events run from 2100 to 0100, in the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

- Chicago in 2012 (Corporate Left)
- Brotherhood Without Banners (Corporate Right)
- Hugo Reception (Bridge)

Art News

Michele Ellington has an early afternoon flight out tomorrow: please come to the Art Show before noon on Monday to secure purchases.

Shaun Tan's art can be paid for and picked up at 1400 on Monday. If you need to pay and pick up before this time, please make arrangements with the Art Show Director.

The Art Show Awards are as follows:

- Best SF: *Sky Burial #1* by Wayne Haag
- Most Humorous: *Sales Pitch* by Kathleen Jennings
- Most Stylish: *SF Adventure* by Naoyuki Katoh
- Best 3D: *Mask of Odin* by Annette Schneider
- Best Miniature: *T is for Trilobite* by Marilyn Pride
- Special Award For Overall Excellence in a Body of Work: Shaun Tan

— Jannie Shea

Fame At Last!

Fuzzy Logic Science Show looking for interesting people to interview for a science radio podcast available at FuzzyLogicOn2xx.Podbean.com.

Call Rod Taylor on 0419 217 293 to volunteer.

Old Photos

Stephen Royland photos from the 1983 Worldcon are available to view online at www.youtube.com/watch?v=KLCjtOHmq4s

Haven't You Had Enough To Eat, Yet?

Spit!

A \$10 taxi ride from the Hilton took us to Spitiki at 270 Park Street, South Melbourne. There was live music on Friday night (and likely on Saturday). It's closed on Sunday, but Monday and Tuesday should be quieter. The food was excellent. We had kolokithakia and tzatziki for starters, and tender lemony lamb souvlaki and falling-off-the-bone roast lamb for mains. Our bill for two, including drinks, was \$80 (but we could have selected something cheaper).

— Mary Morman

Swallow!

I wandered over to the Docklands area and had dinner at the Central Pier there, targeting Va Bene (in Shed 9, halfway down the pier, past all the boats): vabenepizzeria.com. Nice place for larger parties with tables and benches, and it also seemed to be more friendly to quiet conversation than the last few restaurants I visited, despite being geared towards younger clientele. Anyhow, enjoyed a nice-sized pizza Zucca. It's probable easier to get there by tram (Circle tram passes there, probably Stadium Precinct stop), as the walking route wasn't very obvious in the dark and wet!

— Jan van't Ent

Echidna's Got Talent

When a female echidna is nearly ready to mate, she begins emitting pheromones that are irresistible to the males. She does so for over a month, while a train of wanton suitors develops behind her. She wanders around, followed by them, until the day when she finally chooses one, at which point she's probably very confused by the fact that her mate of choice has a four-headed penis.

A Limerick

(That's what the submission said!)

*They seek him here
They seek him there
Those Trekkies seek him everywhere
Is he in heaven?
Is he in hell?
That demmed elusive Harlan El!*

Membership Stats

At the close of Saturday, there were 1649 pre-registered members on site, as well as 63 walk-ins so far. 142 Saturday Day Memberships were sold.

Masquerade Thanks

We'd like to thank the following people, who stepped in at the last minute to make the Masquerade possible:

- Masquerade Director: Sandra Battye
- Den Moms/Green Room/Repairs: Rebecca Tinkham and Jane Tisell
- Stage Managers: Lori Meltzer and Morris Keenan
- Stage Ninjas/Catchers/Helpers: Juan Sanmiguel, Wodja and others
- Gopher to the Director and the Judges: Linda van der Pal
- Order of Presentation/Judges' Clerk: Suford Lewis

Plus others I am sure: we were too busy to take names!

— Suford Lewis

This issue was produced by Flick, locked in the traditional basement with Jan van't Ent. Masthead by Sue Mason.

Gosh, that was a dramatic Best Novel result!

We're following #whatever and #thingie on Twitter and Flickr.

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Issue 11 Monday Afternoon
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Message From The Chairs

We'd like to thank everyone who came along and made Aussiecon 4 such a great event, particularly all of our volunteers and program participants: the con couldn't have happened without you, and we're grateful to you all for making it happen. Thank you all!

— Rose and Perry

Message About The Chairs

The MCEC chairs are made from recycled vehicle tires: part of the Centre's green credentials!

— Jane Tisell

[Newsletter team have been much impressed by the chairs in the MCEC— Ed]

Win Prizes!

We'd like to thank the following dealers for their kind donations to the Volunteer Raffle: Dymocks, Galaxy Bookshop, Chimera Publications, Animavericks, Border Books, Andromeda Spaceways. The following volunteers were winners in Sunday night's raffle and should stop by the volunteer desk to pick up their prizes:

#380, #373, #2070, #82, #923, #859, #451, #2696, #74, #4088, #1358, #653, #1982, #1462, #103, #1912, #1695, #1709, #2363, #113.

The final raffle will be this afternoon. Volunteers should check the volunteer board outside for their numbers.

Big Heart

Congratulations to Merryn Binns, winner of this year's Big Heart Award!

Tonight's Party

The Volunteers Party will be from 1800 on Monday in Room 210. During the party various surplus items, including mobile phones, stationary and other office-type items will be available for auction.

An Apology

During a panel discussion yesterday, in a fit of ignorance I used the A-word in reference in nature peoples. I unreservedly apologise to all for whom this was offensive.

— Stephen Litten, FFANZ



Not The Hugo Awards

The Parsec Awards, for excellence in Speculative Fiction Podcasting, were awarded at Dragon*con last night.

Best Speculative Fiction Story (Short Form):

"The Tank" by Scott Sigler

Best Speculative Fiction Story (Novella Form):

Personal Effects: Sword of Blood by J.C. Hutchins

Best Speculative Fiction Story (Long Form):

Captain's Share by Nathan Lowell

Other results can be found on their website.

Final Art News

The Art Show Director would like to thank her wonderful crew, participating artists, Aussiecon 4 members and the ever-so patient newsletter staff for making the Art Show a success. Thank you, thank

you, thank you! Art Show asks that winning bidders please pay and pick up your art before 1400. If you are not sure whether you have won, please come by Art Show to check. Any unclaimed pieces will return home with the artist.

— Jannie Shea

[Aw Shucks - Ed. We tried to get this out before two, we really did. If you have missed the deadline then try begging nicely]

Service Announcements

Man with purple hair; single, employed, secure and fundamentally good person, would benefit from the company of an intelligent, eloquent, friendly, interesting, caring, sensuous, sensible, attentive, *[the submission goes on for several more pages; we're only running this because Flick owes him one! — Ed]* flirty and stunningly gorgeous woman, or nearest realistic alternative. Girls, make the effort: he's worth it!

— Hetty (not the man with the purple hair, who seems quite embarrassed by the whole thing)

If you find yourself with excess Australia dollars, remember that you can use them to buy macarons for the newsletter team avoid having to change them back by using them to settle part of your hotel bill.

Chocoholics, take note: Australia has some of the world's best chocolate. Haigh's is in the block Arcade (Collins Street / Elizabeth Street), on Swanston Street and on Collins. Aside from all the usual flavours, exceptionally executed, there are several treats based on Australian flora. Highly recommended are the Lemon Myrtle Cream, the Wattle Crunch and the Macadamia Nougat.

Membership Stats

By the close of Sunday, the con had 1673 pre-registered members on site, and 64 walk-in full members. There were 74 Sunday day members. In total, there were 2034 warm bodies on site at various times during the con, not counting Monday walk-ins.

Lost And Found: Reminder

Come to Office 201 to collect your items by 1500 if possible. Lost and Found includes several pairs of spectacles, some medication and a nice camera!

Water

Cold water to refill your bottle can be obtained from the cold taps in the disabled toilets.

[And, presumably, all of the other toilets as well...? — Ed]

Cryptic Messages

Jeanne Marsh, who's staying in the Pensione and checking the Voodoo Board, would like to have magazine pages of ads for "Eureka" and "The Middle Man" returned to her. We have no idea what this means.

Do you have a photo of Sparrow as the Purple People Eater in the Masquerade? If anyone has any pre-small-child-outfit-destruction shots, email tiki@lostrealm.com!

Unattributed submission. "The answer is in room 203".

[Room 42, surely? — Ed]

Travel Planning

Florida couple wanting to see outside the CDB (Yarra, Mornington, Ocean Road) seek companions to share expenses: rktddesign@embargmail.com or message at the Hotel Enterprise for Keiths.

Eureka 88

Near the convention centre is a very tall blue glass buikding with a gold-plated top. It takes about five minutes to walk there from the con. This building has the "Eureka 88 Skydeck" with very good views over the city. At the top are floor to ceiling glass walls all around, a (mesh-enclosed) open-air balcony, and "The Edge", a glass-walled and glass-bottomed cube that extends out from the building. The view from the top is extremely good, as you are significantly higher than anything else in sight. The top has a snack bar, tube sights pointed at interesting things, the inevitable souvenir shop, and quite a lot of comfortable seating to enjoy the view from. Daytimes can be busy with tour groups but not overcrowded, evenings are quieter and lend themselves to quiet reflection. Seek out the corner where the glass forms an acute angle and stand or sit close to the corner, you will have the view of the Captain of the invading spaceship fleet.

— Nicolai

Antifan Films And Aussiecon Videos

Copies of the Antifan films (*The Aussie Fan* and *The Antifan Strikes Back*) are available at the con from Mark Loney (0419 288 172) in DVD (AU\$20) and VHS PAL (AU\$5) formats.

Copies of the 1975 *Aussiecon Videos*, including the GoH speech by Ursula K Le Guin, can also be ordered for delivery by mail: antifan@vsfc.org.au.

Last Night's Parties

I managed to inveigle myself into the Hugo events last night, so while Flick was embargoed in the basement with Jan (and his ruthless dedication to the cause) I was forced to don a posh frock and ridiculous shoes before enjoying champagne, delicious canapés and the company of the Hugo nominees.

I was much impressed by the ceremony and particularly the dramatic conclusion: I, like many in the audience, gasped when the tie for best novel was announced. As the winners were invited on stage for the photo call I sprinted (well, waddled inelegantly) out to distribute the hot-off-the-press results before kicking off the stupid heels to try and catch up with my dates for the Hugo Loser's Nominees' Party. They'd kindly waited at the top of the escalator and ushered me in, with my killer heels back in place. There, bizarrely, I found the rest of the newsletter team who had managed to arrive before me.

This was again a rich source of finger food. We were particularly impressed by the chocolate spring roll thingies but the room was buzzing, my feet were throbbing, my bed was calling so I didn't go to the other parties, sorry. Sources tell me that, understandably for this point in the con, they were busy but somewhat subdued.

— Ang Rosin

The reason that the Hugo voting turnout was so huge is that the Australians thought it was compulsory!

— Ann Dapora

Our Precious

The Voice staff have been keeping their toilet a secret all weekend, but we're now prepared to tell you about it. There's a Wardrobe Door on the Ground Floor opposite our office. After you've pushed through the coats and the snow, you find yourself in a lounge, with comfy chairs, a work surface, a kitchen area with microwave and sink. Further on and

higher up, there's a private lounge for baby-feeding, an adult accessible toilet bigger on the inside than the outside, and a child accessible toilet complete with mini-shower. Plus your general hand basins, driers etc. All in all a sybaritic experience. Please can we put the Wardrobe in the Worldcon storage container, so we can get through again next year? (We plan to spend the afternoon looking for Mr Tumnus and some tea.)

— Fran Dowd

Food

Being gluten-free and wanting something a bit different from curry or sushi last night, I decided to try the risotto at Il Pomodoro in the Crown food court.

Having been assured that the risotto was, indeed, gluten-free (some places put orzo pasta in theirs), I ordered. After a couple of minutes the chef came out and told me he'd looked on the rice bag and it said that the rice had been processed with rice flour, and was that still okay?

So for good risotto at a reasonable price, excellent service and a product that was double-checked for its gluten-free status, I thoroughly recommend Il Pomodoro. I know it's late in the day, but please consider them as a lunch or dinner option if you can.

— Michelle Campbell

There's also a small foodcourt on the North Wharf called WTC Wharf, about 100-200m west of the Crowne Plaza. Basic, but another option for the sore of foot and budget-conscious.

I had takeaway from the Asian/sushi place in South Wharf today and wasn't impressed - the meat was rather tough.

— Chris Sloan

Water Water...

Please note that the water that is available in the convention centre does not have to be drunk all at once. You can close the bottle and save some for later. However, it is the policy of the convention centre that you may not share the bottle.

Also, note that it is only permitted to refill the bottle once in each 48 hour period.

And Goodbye!

Thank you to everyone who sent us news over the course of the con, and thank you for all the people who helped with the newsletter!

— Flick

This issue was produced by Ang Rosin, with the assistance of Flick, Jan and his ruthless dedication to the cause. No watermarks were harmed during the pubbing of this ish.

Masthead by Sue Mason. We followed #Aus4 and #worldcon on Twitter and Flickr, but we're going to stop now.

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