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Stuart Herring (2006-2008)

Original bid artwork Sue Mason

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Hugo Awards Administrator Vincent Docherty

Deputy Kate Kligman

Hugo Subcommittee Vincent Docherty, Paul Ewins,

Kate Kligman, Perry Middlemiss, Julian Warner

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Division Head Kent Bloom

Dealers Room Co-ordinator Steve Francis

Deputy Dealers Room Co-ordinator Paula McGrath

Art Show Director Jannie Shea

Art Show Supervisors Mark and Catelynn Richards

Art Show Curator (August 2009 – June 2010)

Emma Hawkes

Aussiecon History Project Helena and Merv Binns

Fan Tables Mary Morman

Worldcon Exhibits Mark Olson, Elayne Pelz

DUFF and Rotsler Exhibits John Hertz

Star Wars Exhibit 501st and Rebel Legion

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Hugo Awards Ceremony Kathryn Daugherty

Deputy James Stanley Daugherty

Master of Ceremonies Garth Nix

Masquerade Catherine Scholz

Book Launches Jane Routley

Party Liaison Julian Warner

Aussiecon 4 Progress Report #4

The program is being finalised. The Souvenir Book is off to the printer. Hugo voting is closed. In less than a month, Aussiecon 4 will open its doors, and five days of fannish fun will begin.

In this Progress Report, we've collected some last-minute news and helpful information. For even later-breaking news, check our website or our social networking communities on Facebook and LiveJournal.

See you soon in Melbourne!

Alan Stewart, Publications Division Head

Karen Babcock, Editor

Claire Wilson, Designer



Acknowledgements

Artwork: Sue Mason

Disclaimer: Aussiecon® 4 is convened under the auspices of the Victorian Science Fiction Conventions Inc <http://www.vsfic.org.au/> (ABN 90 257 542 181) and as such, is governed by its rules and regulations. Victorian Science Fiction Conventions Inc. is a not for profit association incorporated under the Victorian Associations Act, 1981. Aussiecon 4 is supported by the Melbourne Convention and Visitors Bureau <http://www.mcvb.com.au/> and the City of Melbourne <http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/>. "World Science Fiction Society", "WSFS", "World Science Fiction Convention", "Worldcon", "NASFiC", "Hugo Award", and the distinctive design of the Hugo Award Rocket are service marks of the World Science Fiction Society, an unincorporated literary society.

Childcare

Regrettably, Aussiecon 4 is not able to provide childcare services due to the numerous constraints of providing such a service in a temporary location. Parents and guardians are advised to make their own arrangements for childcare services. Out-of-town visitors should check with their hotels regarding childcare or babysitting services. The Information Desk in the Registration area at Aussiecon 4 will have information about services available in the local area.

Local Costco

Of note to party planners: there is now a Costco in Melbourne, not far by car from the convention. It is located at:

- 331-383 Footscray Rd, Docklands, Melbourne, Victoria 3008
- Warehouse hours are: M-F 10:00am - 8:30pm
Sat. 9:30am - 6:00pm
Sun. 10:00am - 5:00pm

It is a great place to get bulk items; however, membership is required. Annual memberships are A\$55 for businesses, A\$60 for individuals/families. See <http://costco.com.au/Common/Membership.shtml> for details. And membership is valid worldwide, so don't forget to pack your Costco card if you'll be shopping for party supplies!

Disability Services

We are working with the Melbourne Mobility Centre to arrange for scooter rentals. They have 7 folding wheelchairs, 4 rigid wheelchairs, 4 electric wheelchairs, and 11 scooters, all of which can accommodate a maximum of 110kg (242 lbs). They have one scooter that can accommodate 160kg (352 lbs). We are negotiating with the Centre about rates; at most, they should be A\$28/day.

If you will need to rent a scooter for use at Worldcon, you need to contact Disability Services at disabilityservices@aussiecon4.org.au by August 15.

Also, at this point, as we have had no requests from members with hearing impairments, there will be no interpreters at the convention. If you need sign language interpreters at Aussiecon 4, please let us know ASAP, and we will do our best to accommodate your needs.

Publications

Missed out on getting a progress report?
Need a spare copy of a progress report?
Have a friend who wants a copy?

Go here: <http://www.aussiecon4.org.au/index.php?page=29>

Newsletter 1 contains good information outside of the progress reports and is well-presented with professional style and polish. It also contains a short interview with Melbourne author Trudi Canavan. It's well worth the few minutes to quickly check it out.

Free to download to anyone who wants to read up on Aussiecon 4. And if you know someone who's undecided about attending, the progress reports and newsletter contain plenty of good material to convince someone to attend Aussiecon 4.

Newsletter

Voice of the Echidna, Aussiecon 4's at-con newsletter, should be available multiple times each day to keep you up to date on important information, convention facts and figures, restaurant recommendations, party times, scurrilous gossip, and reviews of program items that you didn't quite manage to get to.

The newsletter team needs everyone to help out by emailing news to echidna@aussiecon4.org.au or by leaving it, legibly written, in the newsletter drop-off boxes that will be located near the Exhibits hall (Room 202). The newsletter team also has a Twitter account, *EchidnaVoice*, where you might just spot the gossip that's too scurrilous to make it into print, as well as getting updates as issues become available.

The earlier you get news in, the easier you make the newsletter team's lives and the more likely it is to get into the newsletter: we're very happy to receive emails before the con.

If you live locally and have snippets of information about the area near the convention, such as nearby tourist attractions, pub suggestions, or local facts, please also send those through. We've never been to Melbourne before, and although we're good at making stuff up, it might be better if we had something accurate in there, too!

Volunteers

Many of you have already heard this spiel, but this is someone's first Worldcon, and for their benefit it needs repeating. The World Science Fiction Convention is 100 percent run by volunteers. From those who produce and distribute the newsletters and this Progress Report, to those who process your registration, the program participants, hospitality hosts, the con chairs... all the people that you interact with at this convention, and many that you don't, are volunteers. This convention would not be possible without their help, without your help. If you have already donated some of your precious time, we thank you. If you haven't already done so and would like to volunteer a few hours, your generosity will be greatly appreciated. Literally, this convention cannot be run without you.

There will be tables on Wednesday at the Hilton and in the Convention Centre Thursday through Monday if you would like to stop by and sign up. You will find that whatever time you are able to volunteer will not only be rewarding but will be a lot of fun, and you will return home at the convention's conclusion knowing that it was you who made it all possible.

Registration

Details on where and when Wednesday registration will be are still being finalised. Check the website for details as we get closer to the convention. Also, a reminder: please have photo ID with you when you register

If you need to transfer a membership, please provide the signed transfer form available on our web site at <http://www.aussiecon4.org/files/209.pdf>. Forms that we receive just prior to the convention might not be processed before the convention, so please bring a duplicate signed form with you.

Membership Rates

Aussiecon 4 rates from 16 August 2010:

Attending – Full Convention	A\$375
Attending – One Day	A\$95
Supporting	\$70
Child	A\$50
Supporting Upgrade to Full Attending	A\$305

What's Happening at the Convention?

Here is a general schedule of the main events at Aussiecon 4. Note that the times are tentative; the pocket program will show the final times.

Main Events

Thursday, 2 September

2 p.m. Opening ceremonies

Friday, 3 September

10 a.m. WSFS Business Meeting

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Kaffeeklatsches, sponsored by Borders Books (MCEC Room 201)

8 p.m. Art Show Reception

9 p.m. AHWA Nightmare Ball (reduced charge for A4 members)

Saturday, 4 September

9 a.m. SFWA Meeting

10 a.m. WSFS Business Meeting

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Kaffeeklatsches, sponsored by Borders Books (MCEC Room 201)

7 p.m. Site Selection deadline

8 p.m. Masquerade MCEC Main Plenary Hall

Sunday, 5 September

10 a.m. WSFS Business Meeting

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Kaffeeklatsches, sponsored by Borders Books MCEC Room 201

8 p.m. Hugo Awards Ceremony MCEC Main Plenary Hall

Monday, 6 September

4 p.m. Closing ceremonies

Planned Events Not Yet Scheduled

- Other Awards Ceremony (Ditmar Awards, Prometheus Awards, and so on)
- The Norma K Hemming Award launch, ceremony, and play
- Australian National SF Convention Business Meeting
- Book Launches
- Fan Fund Auction

Art Show Hours

Thursday, 2 September

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Artist check-in

2 p.m. Open to convention members

7 p.m. Art Show Reception

Friday, 3 September

10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Open to convention members

Saturday, 4 September

10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Open to convention members

Sunday, 5 September

10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Open to convention members

Monday, 6 September

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Buyer pickup and Artist check-out

4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Tear down of hangings

Dealers Room

Wednesday, 1 September

9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Dealer move in and setup

Thursday, 2 September

9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Dealer move in and setup

11 a.m. to 12 noon. Room inspection before opening

12 noon to 6 p.m. Room open for business

Friday, 3 September

10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Room open for business

Saturday, 4 September

10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Room open for business

Sunday, 5 September

10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Room open for business

Monday, 6 September

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Room open for business

2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Dealer packing and removal of merchandise from room

Dealers

The following organisations will have tables in the Dealers Room:

- Andromeda Spaceways Inflight Mag
- Animavericks
- Borders Australia
- Broken Art Press
- Canberra Speculative Fiction Guild
- Celestial Cobbler
- Chimera
- Coeur de Lion Publishing
- Creatures
- Dark Nouveau Pty Ltd
- Dr. Grordbort's Ray Guns
- Dymocks Booksellers
- Fo'Paws
- Ford Street Publishing
- Galaxy Bookshop
- Gifts for the Geek
- Gollancz
- irrePRESSible Press
- Lach Land Creative Studios
- Mirrordanse
- Orbit
- Pink k Designs/Pink Iguana Group
- RotarCap
- Simulated Reality
- Slow Glass Books Pty Ltd
- Storm Publishing
- Tachyon Publications
- Tayler Corporation
- Ticonderoga Publications
- Twelfth Planet Press

Tips for Foreign Visitors

By Janice Gelb

We thought we'd share some tips for international visitors to Melbourne.

- If you're renting a car, be aware that the speed limit on Australian roads is strictly enforced, with no tolerance margin.
- On public transportation, while it is possible on trams and some suburban train stations to board without a valid ticket, inspectors randomly travel on trams and trains and ask to see passenger tickets. If you don't have a valid ticket, you can receive a notice of infringement with a fine of A\$176. Note that although you can buy tickets on trams, the machines accept only coins. You can buy two-hour, daily, or weekly transport tickets valid on trams, trains, and buses in the major train stations and at some milk bars and stores like 7-11.
- In restaurants, for Americans especially, note that if a waitperson asks "Would you like anything else?", answering "No, thanks" does not, as it would in the US, also mean "So bring me the bill". It just means "Not right now, thanks". If you want the bill, you need to specifically ask for it. Also, you often do not even have to wait for a bill to be delivered in order to pay, but can simply go to the cash register and enumerate what you ate and the table number if you know it.

- Electricity: Australia uses 230-volt power. Most consumer electronics like laptops are dual-voltage (check the label on your machine), but you will need a plug adapter for them.
- Tipping: Because Australians receive a liveable minimum wage, tipping is not as universal as it is in the US. However, a standard practice is to round up taxi fares and to tip about 10 percent in upscale restaurants.
- Coffee is a big part of Melbourne culture. Although you can order a latte, the standard coffee drink with milk is a "flat white": a shot of espresso with a double shot of steamed milk but no foam. Other coffee drinks you will see on a price list are a "short black" or a "long black": a single or double shot of espresso added to hot water.

How to Get Here

From the Airport

By car: The City Link automated tollway connects the MCEC to the airport in just 20 minutes. Take Tullamarine Freeway and follow City Link (Toll Way). Take the Docklands/Lorimer street exit onto West Gate Freeway. Turn right at Lorimer street. Continue along Convention Centre. Toll charges are from A\$12. (For parking information, see <http://www.mcec.com.au/Attend/Visitor-Info/Parking.html>)

By taxi: A typical taxi fare between the airport and the MCEC costs about A\$50 depending on traffic. Wheelchair-accessible taxis can be requested at the taxi rank.

By shuttle: The Skybus Shuttle is the official transit link between Melbourne Airport and the central business district. It departs from Terminals 1 and 3 at the airport. From the city, it departs from Southern Cross station, a five-minute walk from the Convention Centre. The fare is A\$16 one way/A\$26 round trip. The Skybus connects with hotel shuttles and with public transportation, and it is wheelchair accessible. For ticket purchase and timetable information, see <http://www.skybus.com.au>.

By Train or Tram

Take the train to Southern Cross Station. Tram numbers 96, 109 and 112 travel past Southern Cross Station down Spencer/Clarendon Streets and stop opposite the Melbourne Exhibition and Convention Centre.

For more information, see the Travel and Tourism page on our website at <http://www.aussiecon4.org.au/index.php?page=35> and the Getting to Melbourne and Getting around Melbourne sections of the Disability Services information on <http://www.aussiecon4.org.au/index.php?page=59>.

LoC

The latest PR is great: useful information and a wonderful fannish feel to it. That Tan illustration on the cover! Thanks to whoever thought of running the photos of Australian fandom including shots from The Movie.

This PR was great fun to read.

Spike

P.S. I don't think I've ever lotted a PR before. Your PR 3 was just so fannish and wonderful.