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Aussiecon 4
68th World Science Fiction Convention
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AUSTRALIA
www.aussiecon4.org.au

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

18 July 2010

AUSSIECON 4 ANNOUNCES THE WINNERS OF THE "MAKE READY" SHORT STORY COMPETITION

To celebrate the return of the World Science Fiction Convention to Australia, the Australian Science Fiction Foundation, through the auspices of Aussiecon 4, sponsored a speculative fiction short story contest around the theme of "Make Ready."

The winners and runners-up of the contest are:

Winner: "The Perforation" by Helen Stubbs, The Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia.

"This is my first competition win, so I'm delighted," Helen said. "It's fun to superimpose a speculative reality onto our homeland. Playing with local places in an imaginative way enriches our culture and expands and develops our identities as creative individuals." Helen has recently been awarded a Regional Arts Development grant to write a novel. The winning story will be published in Aussiecon 4 Souvenir Book.

1st Runner Up: "The Rise & Fall of a Fair Dinkum Superhero" by Aidan Doyle, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

"It's always nice to know that other people enjoy my writing," Aidan said. "I wanted to write a superhero story set in Australia. With great power comes great responsibility. Fortunately for most concerned, Australia has had little power on the global scale." Aidan attended the Clarion Writers Workshop and had about a dozen stories published since 1993.

Highly Commended: "The Promotion" by Brooke Maggs, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

"I wondered what a device called a 'Make Ready' would do and in what type of world people would benefit from it," Brooke said. "I'm both grateful and thrilled to be highly commended in this competition." In 2006, Brooke was shortlisted for the Allen & Unwin Young Writers' Award for "Wrong End of the Gun" for writers under 21.

Highly Commended: "The Bicycle Rebellion" by Laura E Goodin, Wollongong, New South Wales, Australia.

"The fact that each story must feature an Australian landmark or town points out (perhaps somewhat paradoxically) the fact that Aussiecon is a truly international event, with Australian speculative fiction on centre stage," Laura said. "The amount of per-capita spec-fic talent here is astounding, and it's great

that so many people who love speculative fiction will be able to discover it during Aussiecon." Laura has published a number of stories and plays, including "Hold," which was broadcast on ABC Radio in 2009.

This contest was sponsored by the Australian Science Fiction Foundation, established in 1976 partially to carry on the work of Aussiecon, the first Australian Worldcon. Organization secretary, Cath Ortlieb explained, "Its main purpose is to sponsor and encourage the creation and appreciation of science fiction in Australia. One of the ways the Foundation does this is through providing prize money for amateur science fiction competitions, and was pleased to do so for the Short Story Competition at Aussiecon 4."

The Australian Science Fiction Foundation (<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~asff/>) provided cash prizes for this contest for the winning and runner-up stories.

For additional short story contest information, contact June Young at shortstory@aussiecon4.org.au.

For additional information on Aussiecon 4, contact Laurie Mann at atconpress@aussiecon4.org.au. If you plan to cover Aussiecon 4, check the Press Information page at <http://www.aussiecon4.org.au/index.php?page=32>

Aussiecon 4 (<http://www.aussiecon4.org.au/>) is the 2010 World Science Fiction Convention ("Worldcon"). The first Worldcon occurred in 1939, in New York City, and Worldcons have been held annually since then except during World War II. Aussiecon 4 is the 68th Worldcon and the fourth located in Australia. The convention will be held 2-6 September 2010 at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. Guests of Honour for Aussiecon 4 are award-winning author Kim Stanley Robinson, award-winning Melbourne artist Shaun Tan, and dedicated fan Robin Johnson.

Aussiecon® 4 is convened under the auspices of the Victorian Science Fiction Conventions Inc (ABN 90 257 542 182) a not for profit association incorporated under the Victorian Associations Act, 1981. Aussiecon 4 is supported by the Melbourne Convention and Visitors Bureau and the City of Melbourne [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.

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