



# Voice of the Echidna

The newsletter of Aussiecon 4  
Email: [echidna@aussiecon4.org.au](mailto:echidna@aussiecon4.org.au)

Issue 3 Friday Afternoon  
Twitter: @EchidnaVoice

## 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- Best unpublished color work: Raoul Vitale - "Unrequited"
- Best unpublished monochrome work: Justin Gerard - "Steampunk Wizard of Oz"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.