



Voice of the Echidna

The newsletter of Aussiecon 4
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Issue 4 Friday Night
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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.

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