



Voice of the Echidna

The newsletter of Aussiecon 4
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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

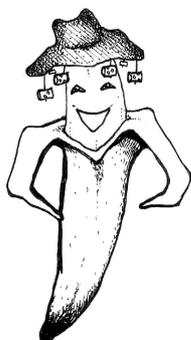
Events run from from 2100 to 0100 in the Crowne Plaza hotel:

- 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.