



Voice of the Echidna

The newsletter of Aussiecon 4
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Issue 8 Sunday Morning
Twitter: @EchidnaVoice

Masquerade Winners

Well, all Twitter was plunged into war by allegedly off-colour humour on the part of the MCs. But nobody will tell me what the comments were, so I don't know whether to be outraged at the MCs or the over-sensitive types on Twitter. Or, indeed, both.

Masters of Ceremonies: Danny Oz, Nick Stathopoulos

Judges: John Hertz, Lewis Morley, Marilyn Pride

Master Class:

Best in Class: "2010, the Year We Made Contact" (re-creation): Robert Jan

Best Macabre: #9, "Cthulhu" (original): Sarah O'Keefe (Gilligan)



Cthulhu and the MCs share a moment

Journeyman Class:

Eldest & Most Dangerous: "Countess de Magpyr" (original): Megan Dansie

Novice Class:

Best in Class: Oberon & Titania Hit the City" (original): Angela & Ian Coburn

Honourable Mention: "Dr Who" (re-creation): Michael Jordan

Junior Class:

Most Dramatic: "Giving Birth to Horror" (original): Freddie Begehole

Best Vigilante: "Rorschach" (re-creation): Miles Burnside Clapp

— thanks to Jan van't Ent and John Hertz



Chicon Wins; Guests Announced

The 2012 Worldcon will be **Chicon 7; 30 August-3 September 2012, Hyatt Regency, Chicago**. The website is www.chicon.org.

File 770 reports that 526 votes were cast in site selection, of which 447 were for Chicago, 20 expressed no preference, and 59 were assorted write-ins.

Guests of Honor:

Author Guest: **Mike Resnick**
Artist Guest: **Rowena Morrill**
Astronaut Guest: **Story Musgrave**
Fan Guest: **Peggy Rae Sapienza**
Agent Guest: **Jane Frank**
Toastmaster: **John Scalzi**

Attending membership is \$155 until December 31st, 2010. Chicon 7 expects to be taking memberships at the desk at the bottom of the escalators from 1300.

Sunday Crafts

There is a Sunday craft market on St Kilda Road between Hamer Hall and Arts Centre.

Extra Fan Funds Stuff

A box of fan fund auction items was discovered after the close of the auction. Those who wish to search through it for special finds can please talk to Trevor Clark or Sue Ann Barber.

— Crystal Huff

More Newsletters

Deadline for Sunday evening is 1700 — and there will only be one Monday issue with a deadline of 1200. You've been warned.

ASIM

Andromeda Spaceways Inflight Magazine subscribers: please go to the table in the Dealers Room to get the latest issues (46 and 47) to save on postage.

Today is Fathers' Day!

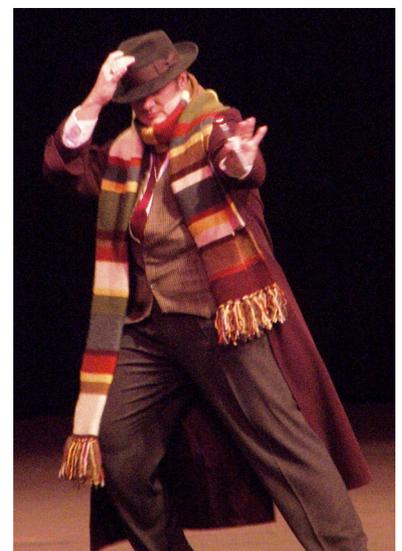
Australians with fathers, better not forget.

Foreigners who are fathers, play it for all it's worth!

GUFF Cat-Herding Workshop

There will be a brief gathering of GUFF people, today (Sunday) at 1600. Group photos will be taken and all that. Meet outside Rooms 201 and 202 at 1600 promptly. We're hoping to get together all 13 GUFF winners and 1 GUFF founder at the con.

— Irwin Hirsh



Wanna see my quick change act?

Let Them Experiment on You

June Madeley, a Real Scientist writes: Last year I conducted a survey of Anticipation attendees. I'm running an online survey of Aussiecon 4 attendees as well. It's part of a larger research project on SF fandom and Worldcon, and it can be found after the con at www.surveymonkey.com/s/aus4.

It should only take 10-15 minutes. And don't worry; those of you who filled it in last year will have opportunities to skip over some questions, but please do fill out one for this con too.

I'm a communications studies prof and a fan. For more information contact June Madeley, jmadeley@unbsj.ca or see my web page people.unb.ca/~jmadeley

More Art Show News

Art Show would like to remind everyone that the silent auction closes at 1800 today. Highest bidder at close of Art Show on Sunday wins the piece. Get your bidder registration number, bid high, bid often, bring your mates.

Meet the Artist Sunday

Lachlan Creagh 1000-1800

Bob Eggleton 1400-1600

Brandon Hendroff 1000-1800

Lisa Konrad 1500-1600

Marianne Plumridge 1400-1600

Spring Schoenhuth 1300-1400

Elise Matthesen - time to be announced

The Chesley Awards for 2009 slideshow is available for viewing upon request.

Check with the Art Show desk for unannounced artist appearances.

Marsupials of Unusual Size

OK. So how do wombats compare in size to capybaras? Enquiring minds want to know.

An Echidna Twitter in the UK

@despotlitz tweets even more fascinating echidna facts:

1. Although their eyelids do not move during sleep, echidna can dream.
2. Did you know that echidna can be trained to sense electrical fields?
3. And did you know that echidna do have testicles, but they are undescended and sit somewhere near the kidneys?
4. No scrotum is the ancestral state, it evolves later in mammals. Keeps sperm cool, bigger so more sperm, protects sperm while galloping [though obviously not from Narwhals - Ed.]
5. Echidna has a heel spur but no poison glands.

Calling 1980s Time Travellers

The RMIT Rubik's Cube Club is proud to present the first ever two-day action-packed Rubik's Cube Tournament in Australia. Extreme speed-cubing continues today from 900-1800 at Melbourne Central. Registration for competitors is now closed but spectators get in free. www.speedcubing.co.au

Laundry

Laundry Spa at 201 Park Street, South Melbourne. Washers are \$5 per load, washing powder is \$1, and drying is \$3-\$4. The place was very clean and the attendant gave me change for the machines.

— Mary Morman

There's a small laundromat next to the 7-11 on Flinders Street just north of the Crown Plaza. Four washers (\$4/load) and four dryers (\$1/10 min). Open 0900-2100 daily. There's a nice-looking espresso bar next door as well.

— Brad Ackerman

Most Retweeted Aussiecon Quote

Economics is the astrology of our time — Kim Stanley Robinson

Saturday Night Events

Two events tonight: **Reno** (next year's Worldcon) and a second go-round for the bid for **Texas in 2013**.

Texas decor featured inflatable cacti and plastic longhorn skulls. There was a clear quarantine area between the guests and the (still)pay bar, probably from people avoiding the embarrassment of yesterday.

Food - the plastic cheese from last night re-appeared, along with DIY sandwiches, healthy veg and a reasonable selection of cold meats.

Reno was less decorative, and the snacks were more sugar-based, with lots of candy and chocolate. Our correspondents made a note that seems to read pecan-bonded, but is probably peace-bonded, and we can't remember what that was about. Something to do with the way the food was displayed.

Drinks - fruit juices and soft drinks, quite a buzz around that table

This level of the hotel was very quiet - when OC were there, about 10 - 20 people. You could hear yourself speak at both of them.

In strict contrast was the **Revel at the Red Keep**, the Brotherhood Without Banners (George R R Martin fanclub) bash over the road at the Casino. Confused by the bright lights and speedy escalators, OC (now Crew rather than Correspondents) nevertheless managed to jump several queues (into the Casino, into the Nightclub, into the Event). There were velvet ropes and bouncers and stuff and Neil Gaiman wasn't even signing ... ID was required for entry, but a credit card and a flash photo for the bouncers seemed acceptable. We'd had too much whisky at the London party, and we're old and just wanted to stick our heads round the door and go home. But they still wanted to take our coats, stamp our hands, and surround us with the Smell of Young People. It was LOUD, there were lights, and the bar was glowing green. We saw a person we knew, and a model of a silver chair all covered in foil, and ran away.

We'd known earlier in the evening that we were in trouble, as we headed towards the Crowne Plaza hotel from the newsletter office and saw Hordes of Fans oozing out of the **London party** onto the riverfront. That was heaving, loads of free booze, Smiths Crisps, more good cheese. **Decor** - posters featuring quotes from 1984. The donation jar looked very healthy, even better than last night. The con desk is looking at nearly 200 pre-supports.

And across the corridor, a roomful of **young Australian sporty men** having a meeting, or something. We couldn't even get in by bribing them with Issue 7 of the *Voice of the Echidna*.

The cool event of the evening was the happening in the crowded Crowne Plaza bar on the floor between the parties. Where there appeared to be some sort of sporting event on TV, meaning the bar was crowded, combining fans from both disciplines together with the AMAZINGLY decorated uniforms of an oriental airline. The SF fans are attracted by the quality wine list (we go for the Dog Ridge "The Pup" Shiraz, which our friendly bartender already knows we describe as "You know, woof, the red one"), the sports fans by rather muscly young men in sleeveless shirts and short shorts. Although we are told, in a sad tone, that they are not as short as once they were.

— correspondents were Julia Daly and Ang Rosin, with help from Guilia De Cesare; all dictated to Fran in a quiet bar with a lot of wine

Stop Press!

Seattle have announced that they are investigating a Worldcon bid for 2015.