



Voice of the Echidna

The newsletter of Aussiecon 4
Email: echidna@aussiecon4.org.au

Issue 11 Monday Afternoon
Twitter: @EchidnaVoice

Message From The Chairs

We'd like to thank everyone who came along and made Aussiecon 4 such a great event, particularly all of our volunteers and program participants: the con couldn't have happened without you, and we're grateful to you all for making it happen. Thank you all!

— Rose and Perry

Message About The Chairs

The MCEC chairs are made from recycled vehicle tires: part of the Centre's green credentials!

— Jane Tisell

[Newsletter team have been much impressed by the chairs in the MCEC— Ed]

Win Prizes!

We'd like to thank the following dealers for their kind donations to the Volunteer Raffle: Dymocks, Galaxy Bookshop, Chimera Publications, Animavericks, Border Books, Andromeda Spaceways. The following volunteers were winners in Sunday night's raffle and should stop by the volunteer desk to pick up their prizes:

#380, #373, #2070, #82, #923, #859, #451, #2696, #74, #4088, #1358, #653, #1982, #1462, #103, #1912, #1695, #1709, #2363, #113.

The final raffle will be this afternoon. Volunteers should check the volunteer board outside for their numbers.

Big Heart

Congratulations to Merryn Binns, winner of this year's Big Heart Award!

Tonight's Party

The Volunteers Party will be from 1800 on Monday in Room 210. During the party various surplus items, including mobile phones, stationary and other office-type items will be available for auction.

An Apology

During a panel discussion yesterday, in a fit of ignorance I used the A-word in reference in nature peoples. I unreservedly apologise to all for whom this was offensive.

— Stephen Litten, FFANZ



Not The Hugo Awards

The Parsec Awards, for excellence in Speculative Fiction Podcasting, were awarded at Dragon*con last night.

Best Speculative Fiction Story (Short Form):

"The Tank" by Scott Sigler

Best Speculative Fiction Story (Novella Form):

Personal Effects: Sword of Blood by J.C. Hutchins

Best Speculative Fiction Story (Long Form):

Captain's Share by Nathan Lowell

Other results can be found on their website.

Final Art News

The Art Show Director would like to thank her wonderful crew, participating artists, Aussiecon 4 members and the ever-so patient newsletter staff for making the Art Show a success. Thank you, thank

you, thank you! Art Show asks that winning bidders please pay and pick up your art before 1400. If you are not sure whether you have won, please come by Art Show to check. Any unclaimed pieces will return home with the artist.

— Jannie Shea

[Aw Shucks - Ed. We tried to get this out before two, we really did. If you have missed the deadline then try begging nicely]

Service Announcements

Man with purple hair; single, employed, secure and fundamentally good person, would benefit from the company of an intelligent, eloquent, friendly, interesting, caring, sensuous, sensible, attentive, *[the submission goes on for several more pages; we're only running this because Flick owes him one! — Ed]* flirty and stunningly gorgeous woman, or nearest realistic alternative. Girls, make the effort: he's worth it!

— Hetty (not the man with the purple hair, who seems quite embarrassed by the whole thing)

If you find yourself with excess Australia dollars, remember that you can use them to buy macarons for the newsletter team avoid having to change them back by using them to settle part of your hotel bill.

Chocoholics, take note: Australia has some of the world's best chocolate. Haigh's is in the block Arcade (Collins Street / Elizabeth Street), on Swanston Street and on Collins. Aside from all the usual flavours, exceptionally executed, there are several treats based on Australian flora. Highly recommended are the Lemon Myrtle Cream, the Wattle Crunch and the Macadamia Nougat.

Membership Stats

By the close of Sunday, the con had 1673 pre-registered members on site, and 64 walk-in full members. There were 74 Sunday day members. In total, there were 2034 warm bodies on site at various times during the con, not counting Monday walk-ins.

Lost And Found: Reminder

Come to Office 201 to collect your items by 1500 if possible. Lost and Found includes several pairs of spectacles, some medication and a nice camera!

Water

Cold water to refill your bottle can be obtained from the cold taps in the disabled toilets.

[And, presumably, all of the other toilets as well...? — Ed]

Cryptic Messages

Jeanne Marsh, who's staying in the Pensione and checking the Voodoo Board, would like to have magazine pages of ads for "Eureka" and "The Middle Man" returned to her. We have no idea what this means.

Do you have a photo of Sparrow as the Purple People Eater in the Masquerade? If anyone has any pre-small-child-outfit-destruction shots, email tiki@lostrealm.com!

Unattributed submission. "The answer is in room 203".

[Room 42, surely? — Ed]

Travel Planning

Florida couple wanting to see outside the CDB (Yarra, Mornington, Ocean Road) seek companions to share expenses: rktddesign@embargmail.com or message at the Hotel Enterprise for Keiths.

Eureka 88

Near the convention centre is a very tall blue glass buikding with a gold-plated top. It takes about five minutes to walk there from the con. This building has the "Eureka 88 Skydeck" with very good views over the city. At the top are floor to ceiling glass walls all around, a (mesh-enclosed) open-air balcony, and "The Edge", a glass-walled and glass-bottomed cube that extends out from the building. The view from the top is extremely good, as you are significantly higher than anything else in sight. The top has a snack bar, tube sights pointed at interesting things, the inevitable souvenir shop, and quite a lot of comfortable seating to enjoy the view from. Daytimes can be busy with tour groups but not overcrowded, evenings are quieter and lend themselves to quiet reflection. Seek out the corner where the glass forms an acute angle and stand or sit close to the corner, you will have the view of the Captain of the invading spaceship fleet.

— Nicolai

Antifan Films And Aussiecon Videos

Copies of the Antifan films (*The Aussie Fan* and *The Antifan Strikes Back*) are available at the con from Mark Loney (0419 288 172) in DVD (AU\$20) and VHS PAL (AU\$5) formats.

Copies of the 1975 *Aussiecon Videos*, including the GoH speech by Ursula K Le Guin, can also be ordered for delivery by mail: antifan@vsfc.org.au.

Last Night's Parties

I managed to inveigle myself into the Hugo events last night, so while Flick was embargoed in the basement with Jan (and his ruthless dedication to the cause) I was forced to don a posh frock and ridiculous shoes before enjoying champagne, delicious canapés and the company of the Hugo nominees.

I was much impressed by the ceremony and particularly the dramatic conclusion: I, like many in the audience, gasped when the tie for best novel was announced. As the winners were invited on stage for the photo call I sprinted (well, waddled inelegantly) out to distribute the hot-off-the-press results before kicking off the stupid heels to try and catch up with my dates for the Hugo Loser's Nominees' Party. They'd kindly waited at the top of the escalator and ushered me in, with my killer heels back in place. There, bizarrely, I found the rest of the newsletter team who had managed to arrive before me.

This was again a rich source of finger food. We were particularly impressed by the chocolate spring roll thingies but the room was buzzing, my feet were throbbing, my bed was calling so I didn't go to the other parties, sorry. Sources tell me that, understandably for this point in the con, they were busy but somewhat subdued.

— Ang Rosin

The reason that the Hugo voting turnout was so huge is that the Australians thought it was compulsory!

— Ann Dapora

Our Precious

The Voice staff have been keeping their toilet a secret all weekend, but we're now prepared to tell you about it. There's a Wardrobe Door on the Ground Floor opposite our office. After you've pushed through the coats and the snow, you find yourself in a lounge, with comfy chairs, a work surface, a kitchen area with microwave and sink. Further on and

higher up, there's a private lounge for baby-feeding, an adult accessible toilet bigger on the inside than the outside, and a child accessible toilet complete with mini-shower. Plus your general hand basins, driers etc. All in all a sybaritic experience. Please can we put the Wardrobe in the Worldcon storage container, so we can get through again next year? (We plan to spend the afternoon looking for Mr Tumnus and some tea.)

— Fran Dowd

Food

Being gluten-free and wanting something a bit different from curry or sushi last night, I decided to try the risotto at Il Pomodoro in the Crown food court.

Having been assured that the risotto was, indeed, gluten-free (some places put orzo pasta in theirs), I ordered. After a couple of minutes the chef came out and told me he'd looked on the rice bag and it said that the rice had been processed with rice flour, and was that still okay?

So for good risotto at a reasonable price, excellent service and a product that was double-checked for its gluten-free status, I thoroughly recommend Il Pomodoro. I know it's late in the day, but please consider them as a lunch or dinner option if you can.

— Michelle Campbell

There's also a small foodcourt on the North Wharf called WTC Wharf, about 100-200m west of the Crowne Plaza. Basic, but another option for the sore of foot and budget-conscious.

I had takeaway from the Asian/sushi place in South Wharf today and wasn't impressed - the meat was rather tough.

— Chris Sloan

Water Water...

Please note that the water that is available in the convention centre does not have to be drunk all at once. You can close the bottle and save some for later. However, it is the policy of the convention centre that you may not share the bottle.

Also, note that it is only permitted to refill the bottle once in each 48 hour period.

And Goodbye!

Thank you to everyone who sent us news over the course of the con, and thank you for all the people who helped with the newsletter!

— Flick

This issue was produced by Ang Rosin, with the assistance of Flick, Jan and his ruthless dedication to the cause. No watermarks were harmed during the pubbing of this ish.

Masthead by Sue Mason. We followed #Aus4 and #worldcon on Twitter and Flickr, but we're going to stop now.

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