

CONFLUX

23-26 April 2004 Rydges Lakeside Canberra Australia

Progress Report #4

conflux (n) = a confluence

confluence (n) = a flowing together of two or more streams / the point of juncture of such streams / the combined stream formed by this juncture / a gathering, flowing, or meeting together at one juncture or point

Introduction

Just over two months to go and Conflux will be opening its doors. After receiving the disappointing news that Harry Turtledove was canceling his Pacific Tour, we had to get to work again on rejigging the program and altering our promotional material. However, we have such a fantastic line up of guests and panelists that the gap caused by Harry's absence won't be too noticeable. Greg Benford is putting together his traveling plans for a grand tour of Downunder and Middle Earth (NZ in the common tongue). Sean McMullen will also be attending Contour in NZ prior to attending Conflux according to my sources.

We've had more hands up from prestigious panelists during the time the draft program went up for comment. We have our fingers crossed about a few others and are sad to say that Tony Shillitoe has advised that he won't be attending Conflux after all. We have had a good response to the panelist listing on the webpage. Additions are made on a weekly basis, mainly due to late supply of biographical information or that last minute professional photo shot.

The Committee estimates that there will be about eighty panelists so space is limited. We cannot put everyone on lots of panels, even if they are the most exciting and witty speaker. Maxine will be casting her eye over the number of panels to try to ensure a fairish spread. However, we can't please everyone. Most of the angst will arise from deciding which panel to choose from. We've had some screams already from members torn between two or three choices. The Committee have things well under control to present you with an amazing con. We hope it will be the best ever.

Ditmars

Ditmars nominations closed on 13 February. Voting will remain open for 30 days. At this stage, we envisage that voting will commence by 1 March and cease by 31 March. Keep an eye out for voting forms on the Conflux website. Remember that you need to be a member – either full or supporting – to vote in the Ditmars.

Art Show

The art show rules and registration forms are up on the website. Get your expression of interest in early to reserve a place. Judges for the competition are Bob Eggleton, Nick Stathopoulos and Trudi Canavan. Prizes are still being complied from sponsors such as Dreamstone, and The Academy of Interactive Entertainment and Conflux. The artshow team is led by Les Petersen, with helpers Lily Chrywenstrom, Taamati Hanson-Pou, Ella McCay and Shane Parker. Look out for an update to the website soon regarding prizes.

The art show team will be running sessions in the artshow room. Sessions will be announced on the day. These will be talks about techniques for different types of artwork. Nick Stathopoulos will be displaying a selection of his artwork. The art show also hopes to have a 3D animation category. For queries contact artshow@conflux.org.au



Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror

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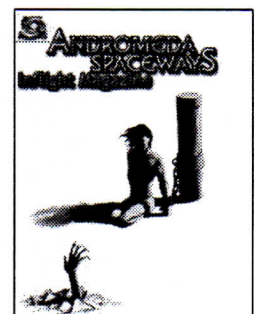
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Program

The draft program has been up on the website since November. The programming team are working on the final draft right now. There is limited space due to the amount of panelists. Please don't expect to be put on a panel on the day. If you want to be on a panel, you need to contact the programming team now. The redraft of the program should be on line late February. There aren't too many changes. We have added another line of panels in lieu of a book launch and changed a few little things around. The majority of the panels are unchanged at present. A few highlights are the opening cocktail party, just before the opening ceremony - a sort of mix and mingle before we start off formally. Also the Great Debate, which is going to be very interesting. Fantasy Kings and Fantasy Queens, two interesting panels from the writers of fantasy from the female and male perspectives. The Masquerade, the Harper Collins Booklaunch and the awards ceremony are front runners for tops in fun. Don't forget the room parties and the inviting of the Chair!

The Conflux Souvenir Booklet will contain further highlights. For queries or late applications for a panel contact program@conflux.org.au

Media Stream

Michael Kraaz has been busy putting together the media/video stream. The program update should include these panels. Take note, this is not the have-a-nap-while-Doctor-Who-plays room. Michael has put together some interesting panels discussing Dr Who, "What we do in movies", illustrating and radio plays. He is also showing some original films and playing original SF radio plays. Choosing which panel to go to is going to make you pull your hair out.

Short Story Competition

The short story competition closes on 28 February. So far the majority of submissions have been from non members. So get in now with that open themed, up to 3000 word story. Submissions must be in hard copy (3 copies of stories please). See website for address details.

We will be adding another cash prize of \$50.00, for a local writer to the already large list of prizes. Judges are Trudi Canavan, Claire McKenna and Lily Chrywenstrom. Robbie Matthews will be the moderating judge for first prize, which includes publication in Andromeda Spaceways Inflight Magazine as well as a cash prize.

Time is running out so get your story in quick!

Accommodation

While our membership take up is quite high, the reservation of rooms at Rydges is not. You do not have to pay for your room now but you do need to secure it with credit card details. The standard Conflux room is \$135.00 per night and includes two breakfasts. This is quite a nice hotel and it has an indoor pool. Also, the hotel is right next to Lake Burley Griffin, which in Autumn is surrounded by multi-coloured autumn-leafed trees. Commonwealth Park is just over the walking bridge where you can enjoy an early morning walk. A bike/walking path goes right around the lake. Also, you can hire bikes and paddle boats in your off time.

More importantly, though, if the rooms for Conflux are not booked up, the hotel will release them back to general bookings. As you know Conflux is on over the Anzac Day weekend, a busy time in Canberra, especially with all the military personnel coming down for the large Anzac Day ceremonies. Please don't leave it to the last minute as the Committee will not be able to do anything once the rooms have been booked elsewhere. Don't be left out in the cold, away from the convention and con parties!

Call 1800 026 169 and quote "Conflux, Science Fiction Convention".

If you need to contact other Conflux members to discuss things such as room sharing, room parties, alternative accommodation or just plain talk, sign up to the Natcon info group. Details below.

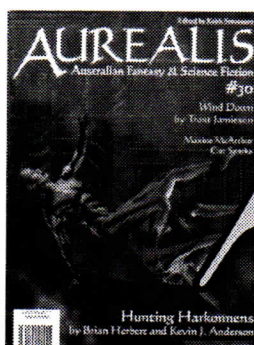
Natcon_Info Group

home page: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Natcon_Info

Post message: Natcon_Info@yahoo.com

Sub: Natcon_Info-subscribe@yahoo.com

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Issue #30 featuring Wind Down by Trent Jamieson and
Hunting Harkonnens by Brian Herbert and Kevin J. Anderson

AUREALIS

Australian Fantasy & Science Fiction

\$12.50 from Chimaera Publications, PO Box 2164, Mt Waverley, Vic 3149

Memberships

Memberships are coming along well. We have reached 170 members and counting. However, you need to get your memberships in before March 31. Why? Because we'll be charging at the door rates from 1 April; your name won't get into the Souvenir Booklet, and you won't get to vote in the Ditmars. So hurry up and don't miss out!

Day rates and concession/student rates are available see www.conflux.org.au for further details.

Panelists who haven't paid up yet need to contact Donna Hanson, at chair@conflux.org.au for further details.

Volunteers

This is going to be a big convention. Are you interested in helping out? Either setting up, pulling down, minding a room? Well we can use you! Either contact chair@conflux.org.au or send a volunteer form located on the site and fill in your details. Yes, your convention needs you.

Traders

The traders room is looking really interesting so far. We have Dymocks Belconnen (book sellers), Dreamstone (artwork, prints and great greeting cards), Flaming Gargoyle (dragon mugs and medieval pottery), Mirrordanse Books, Agog Press!, CSFG, Thylacon (the next Natcon), and Homosapien books, traders with collectibles and that out of print SF book you've been looking for forever. So bring your money with you - you'll be tempted by the Conflux traders' room. If you want to trade at Conflux you'll need to move quickly. Space is limited and filling up fast - we are more than half full. So don't be disappointed, a \$20.00 deposit secures your space!

Conflux T-shirts

We now have stock of the blue Conflux, T-shirts in smaller sizes. Get your orders in – just \$22.00 plus \$3.50 postage and handling. Order forms are available on the website www.conflux.org.au BUT we are also seeking expressions of interest in a special limited edition T-shirt. This will be a high quality black T-shirt, with the Conflux Battle Elf and logo on the front. The artwork is by Les Petersen – this is a collector's item. At this stage we are seeking expressions of interest, pricing will be between \$50-60. Email chair@conflux.org.au with quantity and sizes. Do it soon, as we will need to make a decision to proceed well before the convention. I know I want one! Love that Elf!

Filking

Filking is a strange and erotic art practiced only by a secretive tribe in the Andes. All participants must bring their own goats...

Well, actually, that's a lie. Filk is songs by and of the SF community. Come and join in!

Gaming

The program currently states that some rooms are open for gaming at the convention. While we've had some nibbles for organizing these sessions we've had no firm commitments. We will be providing some board games but if you have a better suggestion let us know. Contact program@conflux.org.au

We can also put another panel in that space!

ANZAC Dawn Service

Every year Canberra hosts an Anzac Dawn Service. Members wanting to go along should email the chair at chair@conflux.org.au so a bus can be organized if there are sufficient numbers. The march is in walking distance though, if you are keen. Individual visits to the War Memorial are free but organised tours attract a fee. Conflux has not organised tours but encourages you to take a peek at the War Memorial, along with the National Museum, Art Gallery, Questacon, High Court, National Library...and so on.

Masquerade

It's time to plan your costume. Don't just think about it, make it, buy it or wrap it around you! It's time to dazzle us sheltered Canberrans. We've nothing but politicians here. Come one, come all to the masquerade. The masquerade disco will be held in Bobby Magees nightclub at Rydges. DJ's Chuck McKenzie and Sean Williams will be in retro mode, so come on down for great lighting and sound! See website www.conflux.org.au/masq.htm for more details.

National Convention Business Meeting

At each National Convention, a business meeting is held. Do you have an item that needs to be put on the agenda? This is the time to organize amendments to constitution or Ditmar rules. Julian Warner is chairing this meeting but queries can be sent to chair@conflux.org.au for forwarding to Julian.

Conflux Membership Form
43rd Australian National SF Convention
23-26 April 2004

Rydges Lakeside, Canberra

<http://www.conflux.org.au>

Conflux will accept payment by credit card, cheque or money order.

Please make cheques/money orders payable to 'Conflux - 43rd Natcon'.

Memberships

Conflux

PO Box 903

Belconnen ACT 2616

Credit card payments may be faxed to Conflux on: 02 6241 3211.

Full Name _____

Address _____

Suburb _____

Postcode _____

Phone _____ (day) _____ (evening)

Email _____

Type of Card Visa Mastercard Bankcard

Name on Card _____

Credit Card Number _____

Expiry Date _____

Memberships charged to credit cards will appear on your statement as 'Victorian SF Conventions'.

Name on Badge _____

I would like to receive my convention publications by: email post

I expect to stay at the Rydges Lakeside (the convention hotel): yes no

Do **NOT** include my name in any public membership lists

(Only your name will be including on the list, and it will not be used for any other purpose)

I certify that the information I've provided is correct:

_____ (signature)

Membership	To Mar 31 2004	After Apr 1
Full Membership (Attendance, Voting Rights, Publications)	\$187	\$253
Student / Concession (Attendance, Voting Rights, Publications)	\$121	\$165
Secondary School Student (Attendance, Publications)	\$99	\$121
Supporting (Voting Rights, Publications)	\$44	\$44

Accompanied children under 12 free

Conflux members are eligible for substantial discounts on the regular room rates at the Rydges Lakeside Canberra during the convention. Call toll-free on 1800 026 169, and remember to quote "Conflux" to receive your discounted convention rate.

Dealer Rates:

	Single Space (approx. 1.8 metre frontage)	Double Space (approx. 3.6 metres frontage) (max. space permitted for each trader)
Professional	\$220	\$330
Fan	\$165	n/a

Dealer rates include a full Membership.