

23-26 April 2004 Rydges Lakeside Canberra Australia

Progress Report #5

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

Announcement from the Chair of Conflux

A few last minute items for the interest of members. Just in case you hadn't noticed we have less than a month to go. Not that we're excited or anything.

Organisation of the convention is travelling smoothly. Equipment, guests, panellists are all shaping up nicely. We are working on providing a reasonable 'green room' but that will depend on the budget. A book signing schedule is being drawn up as we speak and we may change the venue for readings to make it cosier and less noisy than the restaurant. The new reading space will be smallish and we are considering having a booking sheet for readings so that it doesn't get too crowded. Keep an eye out for that on the registration desk. With the new venue we may be able to run a second reading for popular authors (if they agree that is).

Another thing we should mention is that there will be additional security at Conflux. A security guard will be patrolling from 8.00pm to morning every night as well as our own volunteer security. This is to protect items at the convention from theft or damage and to ensure that convention rule breakers are dealt with before they impinge on other members' enjoyment of the convention.

The weather in Canberra at the moment is still warm but should cool off before the end of April. Evening can be quite chilly so bring a jacket for that stroll in the park. The leaves will be turning nicely and Canberra should be at its prettiest. Hot air balloons are seen over Parliament House and the city at this time of year. There are also lunch cruises on Lake Burley Griffin, which take in the sights. See the Canberra Tourism link for pricing and schedules.

See you at the con!

Memberships

Know someone who wants to come to Conflux and hasn't paid their membership yet? Prices go up officially on 1 April but Conflux will have a grace period until April 4 provided membership forms and payment are received by that date.

Hotel Carparking

For those staying at Rydges there is a basement carpark and parking spaces at the rear of the hotel. Behind Rydges there is meter parking and pay parking that will be free of charge over the long weekend, i.e. Monday to Friday is pay parking but it is free on the weekend and the Monday public holiday. It pays, however, to double check the signs on Saturday mornings in some parking areas in case charges do apply until 12.30 pm. If these two parking areas are full there is a large car park across the road within a five minute walk.



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Airport Shuttle Service

Deane's Buslines runs a shuttle service to and from the airport Monday to Friday. One way costs \$5.00 and the service will deliver passengers to Rydges Lakeside. Unfortunately the service will not operate on the Anzac Day Monday.

Departures for Friday are AM 6.15, 6.50, 7.45, 8.45, 9.00, 9.45, 10.45, 11.45. PM times are 12.45, 2.45, 3.45, 4.45, 5.30 and 6.25.

www.deanesbuslines.com.au has further details. Deane's are also available for group bookings phone (02) 6299 3722.

Registration

Registration will be opening from 2.30pm, Friday 23 April, 2004. EFTPOS and credit card facilities will be available.

Volunteers

We still need willing helpers. Please fill in the form on the website or email me at chair@conflux.org.au and tell me what you'd like to do. We are still looking for room monitors who will look after a room either morning, afternoon or evening. If there's a room with group of sessions you want to see then being a room monitor will not impede your enjoyment. Duties would be making sure panellists are seated, ensuring the session winds up, and rounding up the next lot of panellists, etc. Room monitors can sit and enjoy the panel sessions.

ANZAC Day Services

The ANZAC Day service commences at 5.30 am on Sunday, 25 April in the parade ground of the Australian War Memorial. We may run a shuttle service if there is enough interest. Please let me know beforehand if you intend going and want the shuttle service. At the moment we have enough interest to fill a taxi. Action Buses will be running services to Anzac Parade all day. The march commences at 10.30 am along Anzac Parade.

Awards

Votes are coming in at a steady pace. The Ditmar committee are waiting for the close off on April 16 so that they can finalise the award.

The Peter McNamara Achievement award, sponsored by The Franklin Mint, will also be presented during the awards ceremony. The shortlist for this award is:

Bill Congreve
Jack Dann
Van Ikin
Lucy Sussex

This year's judge is Richard Harland.

Program Changes

The final program has been up on the website for a while. There have been some minor additions and alterations and, of course, just to confuse you, the rooms will change. Major change is Sunday, with Writing in Created Universes which is now scheduled to commence at 9.00am and finish at 10.00am.

Recording of Panel Sessions

Art Sound FM have requested to tape some sessions for later airing on Ozwrite, a national program for writers, which is transmitted to 240 community radio stations around Australia. We will be seeking permission from panel members in the selected sessions. If that applies to you a release form may need to be signed. As far as I know ArtSound Fm have selected 'Writing in Created Universes', 'Fantasy Kings' and 'Fantasy Queens', although Lilitu Babalon, the show's host, may select others. I haven't received the final list yet.

Mario's Kiosk

Rydges will be operating a kiosk on the first floor. They will be vending espresso coffee (\$3.20), pies, sandwiches, noodle packs and other snacks during the convention. This will provide a dining option other than Bobby McGees Restaurant and the posher restaurant upstairs. Of course, Bobby McGees restaurant will be open all day for coffee and cakes etc. However, lunch and dinner breaks are long enough for energetic con goers to walk or run to other dining sites in Civic, Canberra's business district.

Cahoots Bar

Rydges has a bar, and no you all can't fit in at the same time! It opens from 4.00pm and closes when it is empty. This means if you are drinking in there at 3.00 am it remains open. Let me suggest this to you as a room party venue!

Happy Hours

Rydges have offered us a couple of Happy Hour spots where beer, wine etc (not cocktails!) will be half price.

Table Tennis

A strange thing happened at Clarion South, the writers learned to play ping pong. For any members wishing to challenge these skilful and zealous players, a table tennis table will be set up in the pool area at the rear of the hotel. I hereby nominate Cat Sparks as Conflux Table Tennis co-ordinator and holder of the dingbats!

Auction

Chuck McKenzie is the man to see about your auction items at Conflux. When Chuck is unavailable you can leave auction items at the registration desk. The Conflux Website has been updated with an auction summary sheet. Collection of auction items will cease around lunchtime on Saturday so that the auction can be set up at 3.00pm to commence at 3.15pm. Justin Ackroyd and Danny (Oz) Heap will be your auctioneers. You will be able to auction books, t-shirts, fan items and other paraphernalia for your own benefit (less 10% commission levied by Conflux or donate proceeds to a not-for-profit fund or organisation of your choice. Conflux is also a not-for-profit entity and proceeds can be donated to the convention as well. Contact Chuck at auction@conflux.org.au if you need further information.

Traders Room

The room is now booked up. There may be one table left at the time of writing. Operating hours to be advised. The Artshow will be sharing this venue. A traders room/artshow ticket will be available for non-members for \$15.00 for a day.

Notice for traders.

If you need power, please let us know at traders@conflux.org.au. This can be arranged with the hotel and is complimentary. Phone lines suitable for EFTPOS are available at a cost of \$150.00. You will need to contact us to arrange a phone line at least 10 days prior to the con. Set up will commence around lunch time on the Friday. We will advise traders separately when we have a firm time and a final operating hours decided, which should be similar to those stated in the guidelines.

Conflux Artshow

The artshow is shaping up nicely with works being displayed by some great names in Australian illustrating. Remember if you want to exhibit work please contact Les Petersen at your earliest convenience. Space is limited and you don't want to miss your spot. Contact artshow@conflux.org.au

Attention animators. We need your entries!!!

Update on prizes. We have the 3D animators award, Conflux prize money, Dreamstone vouchers, Angus and Robertson vouchers and the ASIM publication prize.

Bookselling Events

Outside the traders room where there will be an extensive range of booksellers, new, used and rare, Dymocks Belconnen will be selling *Nylon Angel*, by Marianne De Pierres at the 'Parish Party' on Sunday and the Harper Collins book range on the Saturday Harper Collins' event. EFTPOS will be available. Harper Collins has brought the release of a number of titles forward specifically for Conflux. *Giants of the Frost* by Kim Wilkins; *Killswitch* by Joel Shepherd; *Rebel* by Jack Dann and *Gilfeather* by Glenda Larke, available in advance exclusively at Conflux.

Jack Dann will be launching *Agog!* in the main foyer on Saturday lunchtime and Cory Daniells will be launching *Kered's Cry*, by Kaaren Sutcliffe, a local Canberra author, on Sunday evening at 6.00pm in the main foyer.

Andromeda Spaceways Inflight Magazine will be launching their 12th issue in 2 years. A great achievement.

Short Story Competition

Entries are now closed. Sixty nine entries were received, fourteen of these were from Conflux members. The judges have all the stories and are now in the middle of judging. Good luck to those who entered. Another prize was added to the list. There is now a Canberra region prize. Prizes will be announced during the Awards ceremony on Sunday.

Supporting Memberships

It would help registrations if supporting members intending to upgrade to full membership let us know beforehand. That way memberships can have your membership card ready and have the balance owing worked out. Please contact Trevor Stafford at members@conflux.org.au.

Special Edition T-shirts

We are still seeking interest in the special edition t-shirts as the more pre-orders we have the cheaper the t-shirt will be. Let me know as soon as you can if this graphic on a good quality, black t-shirt appeals to you. Price estimate is between \$50.00 - \$60.00. Sample graphic-low resolution only.

Contact chair@conflux.org.au

Masquerade

The masquerade will definitely be held in the BobbyMcGees disco with DJs Chuck McKenzie and Sean Williams. Costumes what ever you fancy. Music theme retro 80's. There will be some free drinks and nibblies for an hour before the masquerade begins and a cash bar will operate through out. There will be at least 3 separate prizes of modest size.



Tickets

We will be selling Masquerade tickets at the door to non-members for \$25.00. If you have family and friends who'd like to come to this event please pass this information on.

Changing facilities

For those members not staying at the convention venue there are adequate toilet areas for both men and women that are suitable for changing into costumes. These are located on the ground floor just past the main reception desk on the left. In addition there are large toilet areas on the first floor and I believe in the Bobby McGees Nightclub as well.

Hotel Rooms

There are some rooms still available. If you are thinking of staying at the con venue then book your room as soon as you can. Conflux package is a double room, with two breakfasts for \$135.00. Call toll free on 1800 026 169 and quote Conflux Science Fiction Convention when booking. No need to pay now your credit card will secure your booking.

Souvenir Booklet

The Conflux Souvenir Booklet is heading off to the printer. I've seen the proof and it looks absolutely spiffing! I won't tell you more because it will spoil the surprise.

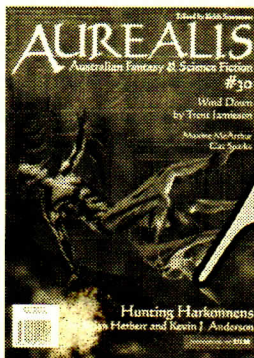
Con Bag Inserts

If you have booked Con Bag inserts they needed to be delivered to me at least a week before the con. The address for con bag inserts is 119 McIntosh Cir, Murrumbateman, NSW. 2582. Price for fan/small press is \$25.00 per insert and \$50.00 for the professional publishers/organisations.

Looking forward to seeing you at Conflux.

Regards

Donna Hanson,
Chair, Conflux
29 March 2004



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

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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

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

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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.