

The Wright Stuff

The Convergence 2002 Newsletter



The who, what, when and where of Convergence 2002
(a no-frills newsletter to keep you up-to-date on what's going on at the con)
Issue No. 1 published at 8.00 AM on Saturday, 8 June 2002



Editorial

Welcome to ConVergence 2002. The committee has devised an interesting agenda on the basis of **multi-programming**. It means that some events coincide with others and you have to make a choice. The only time the pre-printed program is correct is at the start of the convention. From then on, attendees seem to make their own convention. When changes occur they will be posted on the notice board near the registration desk. But you will also want to carry around your own record of changes. That is what this newsletter is for. Look out for it at the registration desk at 8 o'clock in the morning. A special issue may be published during the day, if needed. **Bill Wright, Ed.**

Program additions and corrections

Please make these corrections to your pocket program

Grant Watson is listed twice on the program. His reading is at 2pm on Monday (not 4.30 pm Saturday). Ian Irvine reads at 4.30 pm Saturday.

Garth Nix can't do his reading at 11am on Sunday. at 11am on Sunday – possibly changed to 1pm on Saturday.

David Grigg's ANZAPA collating session is on Sunday 2pm in Hotel Y Lounge.

Belly dancing at 9am on Sunday is cancelled.

Kate Forsyth is no longer on the 'Romance and Chivalry' panel - Saturday 1pm.

Bill Wright is on the Timebinders panel 'Oz fandom without any cons (1958-66)' chaired by Bruce Gillespie – Saturday 4pm.

'Feng Shui' panel is cancelled - Saturday 8pm.

'Collectables' panel is cancelled – Monday 2pm.

'Flash Gordon : dead or alive' panel is cancelled – Sunday 8pm.

There are three 'Timebinders' panels scheduled for Sunday, all in Function Room 2.. The 9am panel is unaltered, but the 11.am panel and the 3pm panel are switched, ie.

'Who should be a NatCon Fan GoH?' is on at 3pm (was 11am); and 'World Fandom 1952' will be presented at 11am (was 3pm).

Reports on past events

Keep this sheet as your record of Award winners, etc.

Race Mathews' fan GoH speech set the tone and the cocktail party got us all going.

In the 'Babylon 5 enigma' session, Danny Heap and Jane Killick conducted an interesting discussion with lots of juicy gossip of events behind the scenes.

The first *Timebinders* session on 'The 1952 convention and Oz fandom of the early 50s' was moderated by Dick Jensen with Race Mathews and Mervyn Binns reminiscing about post WWII fandom.

Mervyn has documented his recollections in a fanzine that he is happy to sell to anyone for \$2 a copy.

Race observed that a big influence on development of the Melbourne group was the scarcity of American SF due to the fact that the Sterling area had pooled all its dollars and prioritised dollar purchases.. SF was at the bottom of the buying list. The club library became a literary lifeline for desperate fans.

Dick Jensen opined that the Atom Bomb and Sputnik conferred legitimacy on SF in the public mind. Race recalled that his group was aware of an older fandom arising out of Hugo Gernsback's magazines in the 1930s.

Continued on back

The second *Timebinders* session on 'New wave fandom – the ratbag years 1985-99' was chaired by Danny Heap and starred the larger than life and exuberant James Allen. Sydney fan, Susan Batho, was a moderating influence. She reports as follows.

"Everyone who contributed had a different view of fandom in Australia. The gentlemen on the panel were verbose and, despite my helpful interventions, a lot of areas were not covered in the time allotted. Bruce Gillespie, the polite heckler in the front row, was persistent in feeding in pertinent questions about Melbourne fannish history.

"Danny tried vainly to keep discussion to the point, but .. so many years .. so many tales to tell .. we were asked to write down the missing bits, preparatory to trying this out again next convention."

Joe Haldeman, Stephen Dedman, Kerry Greenwood and Geoff Allshorn explored sexuality in SF. Joe remarked that 'The Forever War' was about control, not sexuality; and that, with his introduction of a homosexual character,

suddenly that's what the story was all about in the public mind. The point was made that we are all queer according to somebody else's definitions.

The term 'transgressive fiction' was introduced to define writing that goes beyond the pale. A fascinating line of argument concluded that hermaphrodites have no less than sixteen different ways of being turned on by other people.

WA fandom, in the persons of Stephen Dedman, Grant Watson and Simon Oxwell, continue the late night variety show with a fannish perspective they pioneered at Swancons. If you missed '*Raw Cordial*' on Friday, don't miss it on Saturday and Sunday nights at 11pm.

The Art Show in Room 5 is a wonderfully eclectic set of pieces, including photoshop work, acrylics and sculpture. Some of it is for sale.

Sydney futurian, Garry Dalrymple, is conducting an unofficial survey of people attending conventions. He may ask you to complete a three page questionnaire.

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Editorial

By now you will have grown into ConVergence 2002 like an ingrown toenail. You will have ransacked the dealer's room, attended book launches, listened to readings, made and renewed acquaintances, watched films and attended panels that interested you. You would also have had two full nights to attend room parties. There is one more night to go. Make the most of it.

This is the final issue of the ConVergence 2002 newsletter. There is no Monday edition.

Bill Wright, Ed.

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After 11.30 on Saturday, the fan lounge in the registration area was given over to filk singing with guitar accompaniment. Room parties on the 5th and 6th floors extended into the wee hours.

Awards ceremonies administered by Marc Ortlieb

Art show awards:

Best two dimensional art: Conny Valentina for *Athena*.
Best 2D digital art: Les Petersen for *The Hurricane Maker*.
Best 3Dart: Elaine Kemp for *Evening Shawl: the Battersea Shield*.

Awards by the Australian SF Foundation (ASFF):

Amateur SF Competition: Refer to administrator for details.

A Bertram Chandler Award: John Foyster.

The inaugural Peter McNamara award, sponsored by Harper Collins & Macmillan, for contribution to SF won by Paul Collins.

Australian Science Fiction Achievement (Ditmar) Awards:

Best Australian Novel *Lirael* by Garth Nix (Allen & Unwin)
Best Australian Short Fiction Joint winners: *Absolute Uncertainty* by Lucy Sussex in F&SF April 2001 and *The Diamond Pit* by Jack Dann in Jubilee (Harper Collins)

Best Australian Collected Work: *Earth is but a Star* edited by Damian Broderick (UWA Press)

Best Fan Writer: Bruce Gillespie

Best Fan Artist: Dick Jossen

Best Australian Fan Production - Fanzine: Bruce Gillespie's *SF Commentary*

Best Australian Fan Production – Other

Joint winners:
Spaced Out Website by Geoff & Miriam (www.vicnet.au/~spaceout/); and
Mitch? 2 Tarts of the New Millennium by Anthony Mitchell

Best Australian Professional Achievement:

Dirk Strasser and Stephen Higgins
For editing and production of
Aurealis over many years.

Best New talent: Cat Sparks

Quote of the day (from Saturday's panels):

"Asking a writer about reviewers is like asking a fire hydrant about dogs" GoH, Joe Haldeman.