

ConVergence: The Possibilities are Infinite

2002

**41st
Australian National
Science Fiction
Convention
7 to 10 June 2002**

Postal Address: ConVergence 2002, GPO Box 1212K, Melbourne Vic 3001

website: www.vicnet.net.au/~converge/

e-mail: contact-convergence@yahoogroups.com

Message from the Chair

So much space, so little to say. The ConVergence 2002 Committee's hard work and diligence is now coming into fruition and the convention is taking on real shape. This Progress Report is full of important and updated information you need to know about.

With only six months away, there is still a fair bit to do, even though a lot of planning and work has taken place already. The committee are not the least bit fazed by the workload ahead, in fact they're thriving on it – they're a well organised and experienced bunch of people who not only enjoy a challenge but find that working on a convention has a lot of rewards: meeting new and interesting people, doing things you would not normally do, learning new "stuff" while generally having some real fun. Sounds too good to be true? Then why not volunteer to work on our convention and find out the truth – yes, it's out there. Check out how to volunteer on Page 11.

Not only do we need people to do things at the convention, the following positions are available to anyone out there who considers that they can make a meaningful contribution: Art Show Co-Ordinator, Publicity Manager, Video Stream Co-Ordinator, Auction Assistant, Merchandising Co-Ordinator (you know, all those great things you get in Con-bags, freebies and the like), Gaming Stream Co-Ordinator, Fan Lounge Manager. Think you could run one of these functions? Then contact me at mitchell@vicnet.net.au or phone (03) 9388 9953 AH.

As you are all aware (unless you've been in stasis!), with the collapse of Ansett, we have lost our cheap airfares deal. However, we are hopeful that the new look Ansett will pick up its predecessor's convention and group travel business, which formed a significant part of the old Ansett. ConVergence 2002 will keep the members informed on developments in this area.

Rose Mitchell

Booked Your Hotel Yet?

The convention hotel, The Hotel Y, has won the 2001 Ansett Australia Victorian Tourism Award (Accommodation up to 3 AAAT star Rating). The Award was presented at a gala event at the Melbourne Convention Centre in July.

The Hotel Y offers a range of accommodation from budget rooms to family-style apartments. Friendly staff welcome guests 24 hours a day at the hotel's convenient location — next door to the Queen Victoria Market and also close to retail shops, the airport bus terminal and public transport. Make sure that you get to stay at the convention hotel where you will be close to all the action in an award winning hotel. Contact our Facilities Liaison person, Paula McGrath, on email: pauliree@froggy.com.au. Hurry though as rooms are going fast!

ConVergence 2002 Committee Members...

Chair: *Rose Mitchell* ❖ **Guests of Honour Liaison Officer/Publications:** *Danik Bancilhon* ❖ **Program Director:** *Sue Ann Barber* ❖ **Facilities Liaison:** *Paula McGrath* ❖ **Publicity:** *Rose Mitchell* ❖ **Treasurer:** *Sharon Nebel* ❖ **Membership:** *Frank Dersken* ❖ **Administration/Dealers/Volunteers:** *Emily McLeay* ❖ **Awards:** *Mark Ortlieb* ❖ **ASF&F Competition:** *Julian Warner* ❖ **Business Meeting:** *Jack Herman* ❖ **Webmaster:** *Paul Garvin* ❖ **Consultants:** *Darren Witt, David Arblaster & Bev Hope* ❖ **WA Agent:** *Shay Telfer*

Programming Preview

The program for ConVergence 2002 has already been under consideration for a number of months. Our aim is to provide a balanced line-up that caters for the wide variety of groups that come together to form fandom.

For those interested in the literary side of conventions, there will be panels and presentations along the lines of: SF Writers as Poets, Traditional Stories as the Basis for Modern Stories, Ultra Violence in SF, Arthurian Legends, Young Adult SF&F, The Latest in Australian SF&F, Female Fantasy Characters, The Death of Australian Horror, Humorous SF, Vampires, Tolkein and Tin Tin.

If you are interested in television and movies, you may enjoy the presentations on: CGI actors, Farscape, Buffy, Angel, Star Wars, Babylon 5, Dark Angel and various aspects of Anime.

If you would like to know more about the profession of writing then you could check out: How to Give a Good Reading, Reviewing Fiction, Editing, Publishing, Going from Fan to Pro and Developing Characters.

Other interesting topics include: Mad scientists, Life on a BIG Planet, What to do with a Time Machine? Gravity, The Problems of Flying Cars, Biotechnology, Urban Legends and Fannish Subcultures.

Also, in celebration of the 50th year of organised Australian fandom, a major feature of the program will be the Timebinders* review of fannish history in Australia. And, of course, there will be: GsOH speeches and readings, book launches, parties, more readings, Awards, parties, Masquerade, Art Show, parties, hucksters, gaming, filking, parties, even more readings, toilet therapy, videos, costuming workshops, model making demos, belly dancing and—parties.

This list is just the start. There are a lot more items already under consideration and many more to come from those who are already members. If you would like to be part of the program by either organising an item or being part of an existing one or you can see an unrepresented area, then contact the Program Director, Sue Ann Barber, on email: activeim@hotmail.com

A Reminder About Our Lay-By System

Know someone who wants to attend ConVergence 2002 but is not cashed up enough to buy a membership right now? Tell them about our lay-by system. If they start up a Lay-by **now**, the price stays the same regardless of future price rises.

Contact the Membership Secretary, Frank Dersken on email: rom@preston.hotkey.net.au



TIMEBINDERS



**What is a Timebinder? Although not fully up and running yet, The Australian Science Fiction Foundation is supporting, and incorporating into its activities, the establishment of a fan history ("for fans of all ages from all places") archive on the Net. Oz Timebinders aim to ensure the preservation of Australian fannish history, to discuss those subjects which had special pertinence to matters in this country and to act as a sort of clearing house of relevant information from both the US Timebinders list and elsewhere. The hope is that the Foundation can soon have representatives in each state and territory co-ordinating suitable projects which preserve as much of our fannish history as is possible, and there - by making those fannish items accessible for all of us to enjoy again and again.*

Give or take a couple of months, ConVergence 2002 will be held fifty years after the Australia's first Science Fiction Convention, thus an important stream of the convention's program will be centred around celebrating this anniversary. The Australian National Science Fiction Convention (Natcon) Program Books always carry a list of the previous Natcons.

The aim of the ConVergence 2002 historical programming stream will be to give some life to that list of conventions, and to portray an outline of Australian fannish history from the first major science fiction convention in 1952 to the present day.

What was the fannish scene like in 1952? Why was there an eight years gap between the 1958 and 1966 conventions? What influence did the three Aussiecons have on Australia's science fiction scene? It is hoped that these questions (and more) will be answered at the ConVergence 2002 Timebinding programming stream.

FREE!

POSTER WITH EVERY NEW CONVERGENCE MEMBERSHIP

Every new Full membership to Convergence, bought between now and 31 December 2001 will receive a poster, at absolutely no extra charge, designed by renowned Australian fan artists, Cat Sparks (Ditmar Award winning Sydney artist), and Dick (Ditmar) Jansen who established the Australian Science Fiction Achievement Award which is named in his honour. The posters are previously unpublished work by these two artists and you won't get them anywhere else except at Convergence 2002. Get in quick before the price rises for Full membership and get a great bargain. Already a member of Convergence? Then you too can get one of these collector's items - sign up a friend before 31 December 2001 and receive one of these posters.

Membership application forms can be obtained from our website www.vicnet.net.au/~converge, your local state agent (check out our website to see who these people are), Known Space Books in Adelaide, Pulp Fiction in Brisbane, Galaxy Books in Sydney, Infinitas at Parramatta, and Slow Glass Books and Sybers in Melbourne. Contact the Membership Secretary, Frank Dersken on email: rom@preston.hotkey.net.au

Convergence 2002 Amateur Science Fiction & Fantasy Competition

Convergence 2002 is proud to present the Annual Amateur Science Fiction and Fantasy competition, which is sponsored by the Australian Science Fiction Foundation. This competition will accept submissions in three categories: 1) Written fiction. 2) Visual and/or sound media. 3) Junior achievement category (under 16).

Australian experts in speculative fiction will judge the competition, and the winners of each category will receive a \$100 cash prize. The closing date for submissions is 10 May 2002. Submissions must be sent by post to the Convergence 2002 address (see the front page of this report) and marked as "Amateur SF Competition". For further information, contact Julian Warner on email: julian@cannizaro.com.au

General Rules

- The Amateur SF&F Competition is open to the general public and is not limited to Convergence 2002 members only.
- The theme of the competition is "The Possibilities are Infinite: Celebrating the Past, Present and Future."
- Entries must be original, fictitious and cannot be based upon existing series, properties or characters.
- Entries must not have been previously published, nor have been the recipient of a prize.
- The judges' decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into.

Submission Rules

- Only one entry may be submitted per entrant.
- The name of the entrant must only appear on the cover page of the submission and nowhere else.
- Each written fiction entry should consist of a short story, maximum length of 5,000 words.
- The submission must be typed, in an easily readable form and preferably double spaced.
- Each visual media entry should consist of one short fictional film or animation, maximum length of 20 minutes.
- The submission must be on good quality VHS tape, and accompanied by a cover letter with the contributor's name and the title of the submission.
- Each sound media entry should consist of one short fictional radio-play, maximum length of 20 minutes.
- The submission must be on good quality audio tape cassette, and accompanied by a cover letter with the contributor's name and the title of the submission.
- Any written fiction, visual media or sound media which follow the above guidelines may be submitted to the Junior Achievement category by authors younger than 16 years of age.
- Submissions will only be posted back if a self addressed stamped envelope is included (with sufficient postage and large enough to contain your entry).
- Please do not submit your original, submit a copy.
- The judges reserve the right to deliver a verdict of No Award.

Planning a Costume for the Masquerade?



The Masquerade is an opportunity to indulge your creative side in not only designing and making a costume but also in wearing it and/or in its presentation. What you do on stage is entirely up to you. Take inspiration from the works of our Guests of Honour or just do that costume or presentation you've been mulling over for ages and have never quite made. Reproductions of costumes from film, TV or a favourite book, especially with a science fiction, fantasy or horror (SF&F) theme and original designs of any kind—science fiction, fantasy, horror, folk or historical—are welcome. Inspiration may also be found in the convention theme, "*The Possibilities are Infinite: Celebrating the Past, Present and Future*". ConVergence 2002 will also be the 50th Anniversary of the Australian National Science Fiction Convention which is a significant milestone. The judging of the Masquerade will be divided into three categories—Novice, Journeyman and Master—and will be made by a panel of celebrity judges. The ConVergence 2002 Masquerade is open to all members (Full, Day, Student or Child) and will be held on the Sunday evening during the convention (9 June 2002) in the Main Function Hall. Entry is free. All members are encouraged to enter the Masquerade and to attend the convention in costume. Did you know that there is a long tradition of people attending SF&F conventions in costume? Fabulous original designs. Not those cheesy knock-offs from popular American TV franchises, sold over the counter from SF&F outlets.

Got a few hours to spare on the day and want to be part of the back stage crew? We need people to help set up lighting and sound equipment and assist backstage as Den Mothers and other gofers. This is a nifty way to get involved in the convention. Not only do you get the thrill of greasepaint and the bright lights of costume presentation, but as an added bonus, you might even pick up tips and cues from more experienced or professional costumers and stage hands. Contact Rose Mitchell to volunteer (see contact details below). She really, really wants to hear from you. Sew, get cracking on your costume. There is only six months to go! The Rules and Information for Participants and further details are available from the Convergence 2002 website or contact Rose to request that these be mailed to you.



ConVergence 2002 wishes to acknowledge the generous assistance from members of the Australian Costumers' Guild. The Rules and Information for Participants are based on "Costume Parade Rules and Entry Form, 1997" © Australian Costumer's Guild.

MASQUERADE REGISTRATION FORM

A copy of this form must be filled out for each act. The registration form must reach ConVergence 2002 by mail no later than 1 June 2002 or at the convention by no later than 2:00 pm Saturday 8 June 2002. Send to: ConVergence 2002 Masquerade, GPO Box 1212K, Melbourne, 3001. A copy of this form may be emailed to: mitchell@vicnet.net.au

Name of Entrant/s: _____

Address: _____

Phone/Email/Fax: _____

Costume Title: _____

Designed by: _____ Made by: _____

Brief Description of your Costuming History: _____

Guests of Honour Updates

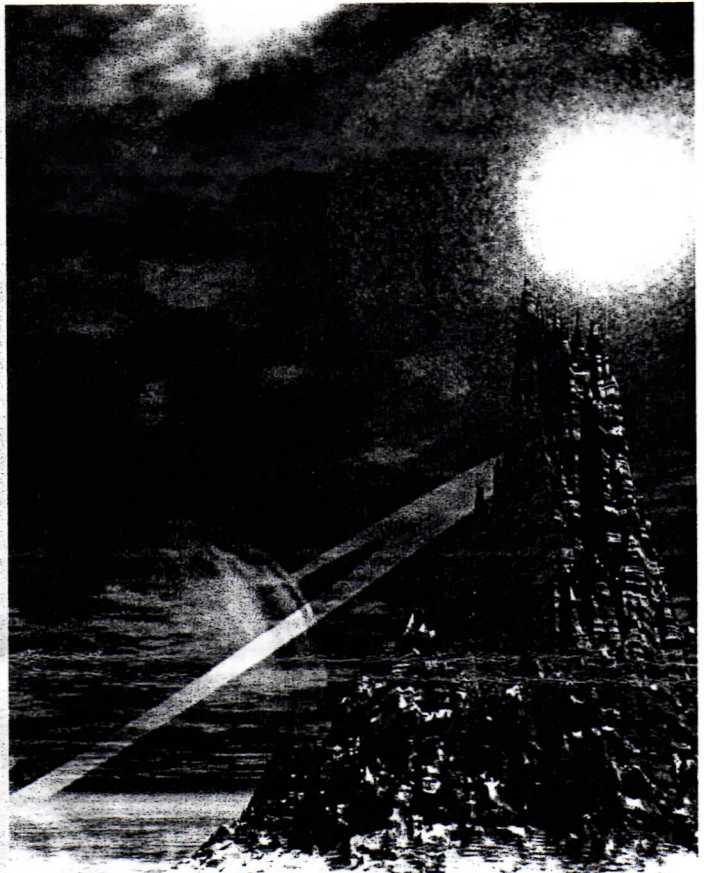
The following is a brief summary of some of our guests' most current (at the time of print) activities, projects etc. since the last report was issued in April 2001. Their individual websites should be checked for further details. (See under "Guests" on the ConVergence 2002 Website.)

Sean Williams: Sean has "polished off" the first draft of *Force Heretic: Remnant*, the opening book in his and Shane Dix's *Star Wars: New Jedi Order* trilogy. Sean reports that he has also been working on a third draft of *The Sky Warden & the Sun*, the sequel to the recently released *The Stone Mage and the Sea*. His next project is the second of the *Force Heretic* sequence, *Refugee*. Sean also appeared at the "Word of Mouth Fremantle Writers' Festival" in Western Australia (24 to 25 November).

Joe Haldeman: Joe attended the World Fantasy Convention in Montreal, Canada (1 to 5 November). He did a book signing at a bookshop called Toadstool Books in Milford, New Hampshire and on 7 December, he will speak at the Naval Operations' Strategic Studies Group. He has recently delivered the manuscript of *Listen to the Raven*, a hard-sf novel set in 1894, 1952, 2004, and points beyond. Currently, he is working on *Sea Change*, "a braided novel about a human and an alien in pursuit of various things". On the back burner are the novels *Reset* and *Out of Phase*. He also delivered a screenplay adaptation of *Mindbridge* to Blur Studios.

Lucy Sussex: Lucy was a guest at "SheKilda", the 10th Anniversary of Sisters in Crime Convention which took place in Melbourne on 26 to 28 October and featured a "criminal line-up" of Australian women crime writers. Sisters in Crime is Australia's fastest growing literary society. It was launched in September 1991 and was inspired by the American organisation of the same name, which was initiated by Sara Paretsky (creator of Chicago private investigator, VI Warshawski) and other women crime writers in 1986. Lucy will also be appearing at the Antipodean Utopias seminar in Hobart in December. She has had an article on the accused murderess, Constance Kent, published in *On Murder II*, a true crime anthology series edited by crime writer, Kerry Greenwood. (The release date of the series is yet to be announced)

Jack Dann: In a busy couple of months, Jack, our Toastmaster, has seen his book, *Bad Medicine*, republished in hardcover by TOR in the US as *Counting Coup*, he has delivered the *Magic Tales* anthology *Future Sports* (co-edited with Gardner Dozois) to Ace Books and closed the Australian portion of the international horror anthology *Bones* which he is co-editing with Ramsey Campbell and Dennis Etchison. He is also currently working on the next volume in the *Magic Tales* series, *Beyond Flesh*, as well as an invitation-only original anthology entitled *Kabbalah: The Magic of Solomon* with Edward Kramer, which will come packaged with a unique Tarot deck designed for the project. He was a Guest/Panel Chair at the Melbourne Writers' Festival on 1 September. The discussion was with Anthony Summers and Humphrey McQueen and titled "The Dark Side of American Politics". 9 November saw the launch of *The Magician's Guild* at Slow Glass Books in Melbourne.



Dick Janssen ©

Rules for the Australian Science Fiction ("Ditmar") Awards

1.0 Preamble

- 1.1 The Australian Science Fiction ("Ditmar") Awards recognise excellence in Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror by Australians.

2.0 Categories

- 2.1 Professional Categories: Best Novel; Best Novella or Novelette; Best Short Story; Best Collected Work; Best Artwork.
- 2.2 Fan Categories: Best Fan Writer; Best Fan Artist; Best Fan Production; Best Fanzine.
- 2.3 Special Award for works not eligible in existing categories: Best Professional Achievement, Best Fan Achievement, William Atheling Jr Award for Criticism or Review, Best New Talent.

3.0 Eligibility Criteria

- 3.1 Timeliness: Works are eligible if they were first published or released anywhere in the world in an edition dated in the calendar year immediately preceding the year the award is held.
- 3.2 Australianness: Nominees are eligible if they were Australian citizens or permanent residents in the year their nominated work was released.
- 3.3 Eligibility of committee members: Members of the current Convention Committee will be ineligible for any award, unless the committee appoints a wholly autonomous subcommittee to administer the awards, in which case only the subcommittee will be ineligible.
- 3.4 Novel: A Novel is any work of *sf/f/h* of more than 40,000 words.
- 3.5 Novella or Novelette: A Novella or Novelette is any work of *sf/f/h* of 7,500 to 40,000 words.
- 3.6 Short Story: A Short Story is any work of *sf/f/h* less than 7,500 words.
- 3.7 Collected Work: A collected work is a *sf/f/h* collection or anthology, magazine or journal, ezine or webzine which must pay contributors in other than contributor copies and incidentals, or is sponsored by an institution other than a fan club, or whose editors declare themselves to be professional. At least one edition of a collected work must have been issued in the eligible calendar year.
- 3.7 Best Artwork: An artwork is a single work or series of related works of art in any medium other than text.
- 3.8 Fan Writer and Fan Artist: These awards are made to writers or artists for a work or body of work first published, released, or made available for public viewing in the eligible calendar year. The writer or artist must have received no payment other than contributor copies and other incidentals (coffee mug, t-shirt, poster, etc.)
- 3.9 Fan Production: This award is for work in any medium first published, released, or made available for public viewing in the eligible calendar year. The author or artist must have received no payment.
- 3.10 Fanzine: This award is for work in any medium first published, released, or made available for public viewing in the eligible calendar year. The writer or artist must have received no payment. Eligible works include, but are not limited to: a periodical, journal, ezine, webzine.
- 3.11 Special Awards: Special awards recognise outstanding achievements in science fiction, fantasy, or horror not eligible in the existing categories.
- 3.12 The William Atheling Jr Award: The William Atheling Jr Award is for the writing or editing of criticism or review pertaining to the genres of science fiction, fantasy, and horror.
- 3.13 Best New Talent: The Best New Talent award recognises excellence of professional achievement in any field of the genre by an individual who has not been nominated for a professional award three or more years before the year the award is held. An individual is only eligible for two consecutive years.

4.0 Nomination Process

- 4.1 Eligible nominators and voters: Nominations will be accepted only from natural persons active in fandom, or from full or supporting members of the national convention of the year of the award. Where a nominator may not be known to the Awards subcommittee, the nominator should provide the name of someone known to the subcommittee who can vouch for the nominator's eligibility. Votes will be accepted only from full members or supporting members of the convention.
- 4.2 Nominations: The nominator may nominate any number of works in any category. However, the nominator may nominate any given work only once in a category. All nominations must include the name of the nominator. Where a nominated mark does not meet the criteria for its nominated category, the committee may move the nomination to the appropriate category; or where a work does not meet any criteria, refuse the nomination.

**THE 2002 AUSTRALIAN
SCIENCE FICTION
ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS (DITMARS)
NOMINATION FORM**

The following is the nomination form for the 2002 Australian Science Fiction Awards. The awards will be presented at ConVergence 2002 the 41st Australian National Science Fiction Convention, to be held in Melbourne June 7 to 10 2002.

4.0 Nomination Process

4.1 Eligible nominators and voters: Nominations will be accepted only from natural persons active in fandom, or from full or supporting members of the national convention of the year of the award. Where a nominator may not be known to the Awards subcommittee, the nominator should provide the name of someone known to the subcommittee who can vouch for the nominator's eligibility. Votes will be accepted only from full members or supporting members of the convention.

4.2 Nominations: The nominator may nominate any number of works in any category. However, the nominator may nominate any given work only once in a category. All nominations must include the name of the nominator. Where a nominated work does not meet the criteria for its nominated category, the committee may move the nomination to the appropriate category; or where a work does not meet any criteria, refuse the nomination.

Only members of ConVergence 2002 are eligible to vote in the final ballot. Nominations must reach Marc Ortlieb P.O. Box 215 Forest Hill Vic 3131 Australia by 1 March 2002. Details on ConVergence 2002 are available from GPO Box 1212K Melbourne Vic 3001 or at their website: www.vicnet.net.au/~converge/

Please include the following details with your nomination form:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone/email: _____

PROFESSIONAL CATEGORIES

A) BEST AUSTRALIAN NOVEL

An Australian Novel is any work of sf/f/h of more than 40,000 words, by an Australian citizen or permanent resident of Australia which was published for the first time in the 2001 calendar year or was first generally available in Australia during that year. Please mention Title, Author and Publisher.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____

**B) BEST AUSTRALIAN COLLECTED
WORK**

An Australian Collected Work is a sf/f/h collection or anthology, magazine or journal, ezine or webzine which must pay contributors in other than contributor copies and incidentals, or is sponsored by an institution other than a fan club, or whose editors declare themselves to be professional. At least one edition of a collected work must have been issued in the eligible calendar year. It must be produced by an Australian citizen or permanent resident of Australia and must have been generally available in 2001. Please mention Title, Editor and Publisher.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____

C) BEST AUSTRALIAN ART WORK

Australian Artwork is a single work or series of related works of art in any medium other than text produced by an Australian citizen or permanent resident of Australia which was produced and generally available in 2001. Please provide as much information as possible about the piece/pieces e.g. place of publication.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____

FAN CATEGORIES

D) BEST AUSTRALIAN FAN WRITER

This award is made to writers for work first published in 2001. The writer must be an Australian citizen or permanent resident of Australia who wrote material which appeared in 2001 and who received no payment other than contributor copies and other incidentals. Please mention Name and one publication in which the person has had material published in 2001.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____

E) BEST AUSTRALIAN FAN ARTIST

This award is made to artists for work first published, released, or made available for public viewing in 2001. The artist must be an Australian

citizen or permanent resident of Australia whose material appeared in 2001 and who received no payment other than contributor copies and other incidentals. Please mention Name and one place where the artist's work has appeared.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____

F) BEST AUSTRALIAN FAN PRODUCTION – FANZINE

This award is for an amateur publication at least one issue of which has appeared in the 2001 calendar year. The editor/producer must be an Australian citizen or permanent resident of Australia and must not pay contributors, other than in copies of the publication. Eligible works include, but are not limited to a periodical, journal, ezine, webzine. Please mention name of fanzine and the editor/producer.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____

G) BEST AUSTRALIAN FAN PRODUCTION – OTHER

This award is for work in any medium other than the production of a fanzine, released, or made available for public viewing in 2001. The writer or artist must be an Australian citizen or permanent resident of Australia and must have received no

payment. Eligible works include but are not limited to art, video, film, computer application, or website. Please mention Name of Work, Producers and where the work was presented.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____

H) BEST AUSTRALIAN PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

This special award recognises outstanding achievements in professional science fiction, fantasy, or horror not eligible in the existing categories. Please mention Name and the area of achievement.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____

I. BEST AUSTRALIAN FAN ACHIEVEMENT

This special award recognises outstanding achievements in amateur science fiction, fantasy, or horror not eligible in the existing categories. Please mention Name and the area of achievement.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____

- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____

J. BEST NEW TALENT

The Best New Talent award recognises excellence of professional achievement in any field of the genre by an individual who has not been nominated for a professional award three or more years before the year the award is held. An individual is only eligible for two consecutive years. Please mention Name and the area of achievement.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____

THE WILLIAM ATHELING JR. AWARD FOR CRITICISM OR REVIEW

The William Atheling Jr Award is for the writing or editing of criticism or review pertaining to the genres of science fiction, fantasy, and horror, where the work or works first appeared in Australia in 2001. Please mention Name and one example of the work for which you have nominated this person.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____

5.0 Final Ballot

- 5.1 Number of finalists: The five nominees with the most nominations shall appear on the final ballot. In the event of a tie for fifth place, up to seven finalists may appear on the final ballot. In the event of a four-way tie (or more) for fifth place, only the top four finalists shall appear on the ballot.
- 5.2 Minimum nominations for finalists: To appear on the ballot a finalist must attract a minimum of four nominations in the Professional and Best New Talent categories, or two in the Fan and Special Awards categories (including Professional Special Award and William Athling Jr Award).
- 5.3 Minimum finalists for categories: If any category has two or fewer eligible finalists, the category shall not appear on the final ballot excepting the Fan Awards, the Special Awards and the Best New Talent Award. At the committee's discretion, eligible finalists in the Novella or Novelette and Short Story categories may be merged into a single category called Short Fiction. At the committee's discretion, eligible finalists in the Fanzine and Fan Production categories may be merged into a single category called Fan Production.
- 5.4 Order of finalists: Finalists shall appear in randomised order.
- 5.5 No Award: No Award shall appear last on the ballot for all categories.

6.0 Voting

- 6.1 Preferential Voting: Voting in each category shall take place according to a preferential system.
- 6.2 Tied Winners: In the event of a tie for winner in any category, all tied works will be deemed to have won the award.
- 6.3 Anonymous Voting: Unlike the nominations, final votes shall be anonymous. However, all ballots shall be coded and sent to each eligible member. The committee member responsible for coding the ballots shall not be involved in counting the votes.

7.0 The Physical Nature of the Trophy

- 7.1 Finalist Certificates: All finalists shall receive an A4 certificate honouring their achievement.
- 7.2 The Trophy: Ditmar winners shall receive a standard trophy.

8.0 Appendix: Possible Future Changes

Future amendments to this document were foreshadowed at the Natcon Business Meeting of 26 April 2000.

- 8.1 Formalisation of Nomination and Voting Periods: It was foreshadowed that formal rules should be laid down directing the Ditmar committee to issue nomination forms and final ballots in a timely fashion.
- 8.2 Withdrawal from Consideration: It was foreshadowed that formal rules should be put in place to direct the Ditmar committee in its response to requests by authors, artists, editors, or publishers, that a work be withdrawn from consideration.
- 8.3 List of Eligible Works: It was foreshadowed that the nomination forms may be accompanied by a list of eligible works and that the list may be published on the Web prior to the close of nominations.
- 8.4 Contraction of Short Fiction Categories: It is foreshadowed that the current rules that allow committee discretion in contracting the professional short fiction categories be amended to provide firm criteria for the merging (eg. if fewer than two works are eligible for the final ballot in either the Short Story or Novella/ Novelette categories).
- 8.5 The Physical Nature of the Trophy: It is foreshadowed that in future Ditmar awards, the trophies shall be of a physical form that is constant from year to year. The design shall be in the proportions of 1:4:9 (the proportions of the monolith in 2001) and shall include a motif of the Southern Cross. One possibility is to use the popular Lewis Morley design.

Note: By resolution of the 2001 Business Meeting, the category for Novella was removed and the Fan Production was split into two: Fan Production Fanzine and Fan Production Other.

Gaif Adams ©



Art Show - Rules and Information for Artists

The ConVergence 2002 Art Show is open to both fannish and professional artists to showcase their work. We welcome all sorts of two dimensional (2-D) and three dimensional (3-D) fantasy, science fiction and horror artwork and, ideally, they should address the convention's theme: "The Possibilities are Infinite: Celebrating the Past, Present and Future". All submitted pieces must be the artist's original work and both professional and fannish artists are invited to participate.

There will be celebrity judges and a prize for each category, ie. 2-D, black and white, 2-D colour, and 3-D. The exhibition will also feature some of the 2002 Ditmar Awards nominations in the art categories of Best Professional Artist and Best Fan Artist.

If you can't attend the convention, you may mail-in your entry. Supporting Members are encouraged to enter the Art Show. Contact: Art Show Co-Ordinator either by mail or by post. (All contact details are on the front page of this report)



The Art Show is proudly sponsored by Dreamstone Inc and ConVergence 2002 extends its appreciation of the support Dreamstone Inc has provided to Australian genre artists.

General Information

- All artists must reserve a space in the Art Show by submitting a registration form and paying a registration fee. Entries to the Art Show closes on 14 May 2002. Space is limited so we will accept entries on a first-come-first-served basis. A wait list will be maintained and any artists not able to be provided with exhibition space in the first instance will be notified as soon as any spaces become available.
- Artists may enter more than one piece of artwork, however, an entry fee is required to be paid for each piece.
- If you cannot attend the convention, you may mail-in your entry and Supporting Members are encouraged to enter the Art Show. Display space must still be reserved and a registration form lodged with the convention.
- You must state on the entry form if your piece of artwork is an original or a reproduction. Reproductions or prints from digitally created works are allowed, although only one of any particular piece may be hung. All work must be the original work of the artist. All reproduction rights remain the property of the artist. However, as part of its sponsorship of the Art Show, Dreamstone Inc has agreed to publish the winner in each category's winning piece. It is the responsibility of the artist to negotiate any issues in regards to this directly with Dreamstone Inc.
- Works judged by the Art Show staff to be offensive or in breach of the Law shall not be permitted to enter the Art Show. If you are in doubt as to whether your work is acceptable, please contact the Art Show staff in advance. ConVergence 2002 reserves the right to refuse any artwork for any reason it sees fit.
- The exhibition is free to be viewed by all convention Members (Full, Child, Student and Day members).
- The Art Show is not open to the general public, ie. people who are not members of the convention, either to view the Art Show or to enter artwork. Do not send your artwork with your registration form.
- All registration forms must reach ConVergence 2002 by no later than 14 May 2002.

Hanging Regulations

- Artwork will be hung on panels (approximately 2.4 metres wide x 1.2 metres high) for flat work or tables of dimensions 2,100 mm x 750 mm for 3-D work. Artists may hang their own work if they do not want the convention Art Show staff to do this. Artists may also bring their own display materials, however, they will be required to set up the display themselves. Several 3-D pieces not necessarily by the same artist may be displayed on the same table and all care will be taken to ensure the works are displayed to the advantage of each piece.

- Ideally, the work will be brought to the Art Show, ready to display or mounted or framed. It must be finished and dry. No finishing touches will be allowed during the course of the Art Show.
- 2-D works must be able to be hung on panels.
- 3-D works - particularly small items such as jewellery - will ideally come with a display case. If you cannot arrange a display case, please inform the Art Show staff well in advance.
- All artwork must be clearly labelled. Wherever possible, artwork must be clearly labelled with the artist's name, address and contact phone number.
- All artwork must be able to withstand reasonable, careful handling, as it may be necessary to move your artwork during the course of the exhibition to correct problems, present it to the buyers, or to show it at the auction.
- Once entered into the show, the conditions of sale may not be changed. Once on display, no artwork may be withdrawn before the end of the show.
- There will be no photography or video recording in the Art Show unless cleared by the Art Show staff in advance and with the permission of all the artists entered into the Art Show.
- Artists are responsible for their own insurance.

Financial Matters

- The cost to enter work into the Art Show is \$10 (mailed-in artwork entry fee is \$20). This entry fee covers the costs of the room, panels, display tables and cases, hanging materials, postage, printing, etc.
- A commission fee of 10% will be collected on all sales to also help offset these costs.
- ConVergence 2002 will collect all payments from sales and the auction. Payment may be made by cash, cheque or credit card. Payments (less 10% commission of the sale price) to artists who have sold work will be made within four weeks from the end of the convention.
- If you mail your artwork in and it is not sold at the show, you must provide payment to cover the costs of return postage and ensure packaging is reusable.



ART SHOW REGISTRATION FORM

A copy of this form must be filled out for each individual item to be submitted. Once completed, the form must reach ConVergence 2002 by no later than 14 May 2002 in order to reserve space in the Art Show.

Artist's Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone No: _____ **Work Phone No:** _____

FAX No: _____ **Mobile Phone No:** _____

ConVergence 2002 Membership Number: _____

Title of Piece: _____

Description (including size and notes for display):

Original or Reproduction: _____

Is this item for Sale? _____ **Minimum Bid:** _____

ASFC Business Meetings for 2002

The Business Meeting of the 2002 Australian Science Fiction Convention will be held on Sunday 9 June 2002, from 9 am to 11 am. Check the Program Guide at the convention for the location of this meetings.

The Business Meeting will be followed immediately by the Site Selection Meeting, when the site selection for the 2004 ASFC will be made.

All members of ConVergence 2002 are entitled to participate in, and vote at, the Business Meetings. All proposed changes to the Constitution of the Australian Science Fiction Convention (see below) must be submitted to the Chair of the Business Meeting, Jack Herman (pressco@fl.net.au), before 1 May 2002, in order to appear in the Program Book for the convention. The rules governing the Business Meeting are:

Rules for the ConVergence 2002 Business Meeting

- 1** The meeting will be conducted under the procedures laid down in Joske's Law and Procedures at Meetings in Australia, 8th edition, except as noted herein.
- 2** Amendments to the substantive motion (changes which do not alter the effect of the motion) must be in writing and can be moved at any time during the discussion of the substantive motion. Foreshadowed motions to the substantive motion (alternatives to the motion which have the effect of altering its effect) must be in writing and may be moved at any time during the discussion of the substantive motion. At the conclusion of the debate, motions will be put in this order: amendments, the substantive motion (as amended), foreshadowed motions. If the substantive motion carries, all foreshadowed motions shall lapse.
- 3** Unless otherwise determined by the Meeting, the time for debate on each main motion shall be limited to 15 minutes. Speeches to any motion during the Business Meetings shall be of the following maximum length: Mover of the substantive motion - 3 minutes; all other speakers in the debate - 3 minutes. Right of reply to the mover of a substantive motion - 2 minutes.
- 4** Procedural motions will take precedence at all times, except that the Chair may reject the motion "that the motion be now put" if he considers that there has been insufficient debate.
- 5** On the receipt of the motion "that the Chair's ruling be dissented from", the Chair will vacate the Chair and appoint an acting Chair. The mover of the motion will then speak to his/her dissent for no more than 2 minutes and the Chair being dissented from will speak for up to 2 minutes. The question will then be put in the form "that the Chair's ruling be upheld".
- 6** Except for the question in Rule 5, all other procedural motions shall be put without debate.

Australian Science Fiction Convention Site Selection for 2004

Bids for the 2004 Australian Science Fiction Convention must be in the hands of the Business Meeting Chair by 5 pm on Saturday, 8 June 2002. The Bid must contain the name of the City in which the Convention will be held, the dates for the proposed Convention; and the names of the responsible Committee.

Site Selection will be by open ballot of the members of ConVergence 2002 at a meeting to be held immediately after the Business Meeting on Sunday 9 June 2002. All bidding Committees will be entitled to make a ten minute presentation. After all presentations, there will be a general question time before the vote is taken.

After the Site Selection process is completed, representatives of future conventions and bids for future world or national conventions may make any

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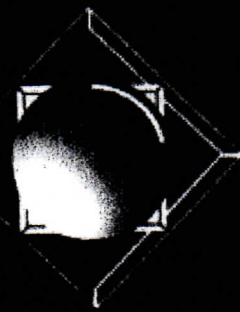
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presentation they desire. The Meeting will then be open to a general discussion of the future of Conventions as well as future conventions.

Constitution of the Australian Science Fiction Convention

- 1** There will be an annual Australian Science Fiction Convention, organised by a convention committee selected from amongst bids submitted to the business meeting at the Australian National Science Fiction Convention, two calendar years before the convention to be selected.
- 2** The convention committee for each Australian SF Convention will award Australian SF (Ditmar) Awards, and certain other awards as detailed in rules made under this constitution. These rules will be amendable by resolution of a business meeting and changes will take effect at the next convention.
- 3** The convention committee will ensure that any surplus accrued by an Australian SF Convention will be applied to the benefit of Australian fandom generally, and shall not be used to reward individuals or groups connected with the convention committee.
- 4** The Business Meeting of each Australian SF Convention will appoint a standing committee to assist the convention committee in the administration of certain aspects of the convention which are other than year-to-year, as detailed in rules made under this constitution. These rules will be amendable by resolution of a business meeting, and changes will take effect at the next convention.
- 5** This constitution may be changed by this method only: notice of intention to amend, including the exact text, must be submitted to the convention committee in sufficient time to be published in the convention handbook (where this constitution and proposed amendment must be published) and then the amendment must be approved by a majority at the business meeting.

Note: The rules made pursuant to Article 2 are available from the Business Meeting Chair on request (pressco@fl.net.au).

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CONVERGENCE 2002

is searching the planet for
VOLUNTEERS

Right NOW, we need an Art Show Co-Ordinator, an At-Con Admin person and a PR Assistant. Could this be you? Well then contact the Chair, Rose Mitchell, at mitchell@vicnet.net.au or PH: (03) 9388 9953 AH.

At the convention we'll need people to help out with the "set up" and "tear down" fun, with the Registration Desk, we'll also need day managers, room monitors/minders, Den Mums for the Masquerade, technical crew, goffers, Con-bag stuffers, and lots more.

Interested? Then, fill in your details on the right and send it to the ConVergence 2002 postal address or contact the Volunteers Co-Ordinator via email: celura@start.com.au

VOLUNTEERS FORM

YES, sign me up right now!

Name: _____

Address: _____

You can contact me by Phone/Email as follows:

Jobs I'd prefer to do:

ConVergence 2002
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2002

41st Australian
National Science Fiction Convention

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