

*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/](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~converge/)

email: [converge@vicnet.net.au](mailto:converge@vicnet.net.au)

## **Message from the Chair**

Being the 50th Anniversary of the Australian Natcon, a good deal of the program will focus on Australian science fiction fannish history. Many people active in Australian fandom nowadays have no idea of who or what went before them and, if they do, it is in very broad terms and vague details. The Committee of ConVergence 2002 considers that the primary purposes of the Natcon are to maintain and further these traditions and that the Natcon is essentially a fannish event. In recent years, the Natcon has been the most important event on the Australian SF&F calendar for both professionals and fans alike and, as such, has seen a divergence from its fannish roots. So, at ConVergence 2002, the old and the new will collide, hopefully without too much of a dust-up, resulting in old traditions being revived while, at the same time, new ones are taken up. Don't forget to vote for the Ditmar Awards (Australian Science Fiction Achievement Awards). It's your right and privilege, so take advantage of it.

*Rose Mitchell*

## **Qantas Bookings**

Members who intend to come to the convention from interstate and have yet to book their flights to Melbourne should note that Qantas has taken over the group bookings deal that we had with Ansett. The Company Profile number you need to quote when making your bookings is **2952730**. (The Qantas toll free contact phone number is 1800 684 880)

## **Hotel Y Almost Booked Out!**

Yes, folks, there are only triples left at the Hotel Y, the convention's hotel. Get some friends together now and book these rooms while they are still available. However, if you prefer, you can still book Twins, Queens and Apartments at the nearby Ibis Hotel. Check our website for all details (see the address above). — *Paula McGrath*.

## **Finalisation of all Lay-Bys**

All lay-by memberships must be finalised by **30 April 2002**. You may make lay-by payments by credit card or cheque, if mailing your payment, or by cash, if in person, to any committee member who is able to issue you with an official ConVergence 2002 receipt. Don't forget to include with your payment, your name, address and amount paid, along with your membership number. With each subsequent payment, you will receive a receipt and an advice letter informing you of how much you still have to pay before attaining Full Membership. Upon each payment, you will also be issued with a tax receipt. All lay-by payments should be finalised by **30 April 2002** or you will be liable to pay the Full Membership rate of \$220 or the Day Membership rate of \$65 at the door. Note that the initial \$25 is non-refundable. I look forward to the continued contact with you in regards to your membership. Please check that all contact details we have for you are correct. — *Beverly Hope*.

### **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: *Greg Clarke* ❖ Treasurer: *Sharon Nebel* ❖ Membership: *Beverly Hope* ❖ Administration/Dealers/Volunteers: *Emily McLeay* ❖ Awards: *Mark Ortlieb* ❖ ASF&F Competition: *Julian Warner* ❖ Business Meeting: *Jack Herman* ❖ Art Show Co-Ordinator: *Alison Barton* ❖ Video Program Co-Ordinator: *Danny Heap* ❖ WA Agent: *Shay Telfer*

## Maskobalo - A Masked Costume Ball



Convergence 2002 wishes to acknowledge the generous assistance from members of the Australian Costumers' Guild. Also, we have blatantly ripped off Swancon 2001 - we very much appreciate their idea. The following information is for people planning a costume for the Convergence 2002 Masquerade. We recommend that you read it carefully to avoid disappointments on the night.

The Masquerade is traditionally, in costuming circles, an opportunity to show off the costumer's creative side in not only constructing and wearing costume, but also in its presentation. While Melbourne has had a long and vital association with costume fandom, through both the Australian Costumers' Guild and the SCA - Society for Creative Anachronism, ConVergence 2002 felt that the Natcon's role in Costume was broader than that of the dedicated costuming organisations. So, with that in mind, ConVergence 2002 is planning something a little different for its Masquerade. Blatantly cashing in on the success of the 2001 Natcon held in Perth, this year's Natcon is planning a costumed party! However, bearing in mind Melbourne's remarkable costuming fan base, there will also be an opportunity for costumers to present their creations in a more traditional parade.

The Maskobalo will be held on the Sunday night during the convention (9 June) and will feature guest DJs who, by the way, have strong connections with Australian SF although an eclectic taste in music. Maskobalo is open to all ConVergence 2002 attending members (Full, Day, Student and Child). Complimentary snacks will be provided and drinks will be at bar prices.

So come in costume or at the very least a mask. Prizes will be awarded for hall costumes - thus reviving another long-standing fannish tradition that has fallen by the wayside. For those who wish to participate in the formal parade, contact the Maskobalo Director requesting further really important information you need to know and a Registration Form. There is no fee for entering the formal parade, but all entrants must register beforehand and be members of Convergence 2002. Contact: Maskobalo Director, Convergence 2002 GPO Box 1212K, Melbourne VIC 3001. Email address: [converge@vicnet.net.au](mailto:converge@vicnet.net.au) Telephone: (03) 9388 9953 AH

### MASKOBALO 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 pm, Saturday, 8 June 2002. Send to: ConVergence 2002 Maskobalo, GPO Box 1212K, Melbourne, 3001. A copy of this form may be emailed to: [converge@vicnet.net.au](mailto:converge@vicnet.net.au)**

Name of Entrant/s:

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Address:

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Phone/Email/Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Costume Title:

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Designed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Made by: \_\_\_\_\_

Brief Description of your Costuming History:

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#### Liability Release:

**I/we have read and understood the rules of this masquerade and agree to abide by them. Further, I/we agree to permit photos and/or video-taping and agree to permit the use and/or dissemination of said photographs and/or video tapes. Further, I/we agree to hold ConVergence 2002, Victorian Science Fiction Conventions Inc, the Masquerade sub-committee and the Cato Convention Centre, both severally and individually, blameless for any accidents or injury suffered by me/us during the Maskobalo parade, or damage to items provided for competition, or loss/damage of personal effects, except in cases of gross negligence on the part of those stated above.**

**Signature/s: All entrants must sign. If a minor, parent or guardian must sign.**

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**CONGRATULATIONS!!CONGRATULATIONS!!CONGRATULATIONS!!  
CONGRATULATIONS!!CONGRATULATIONS!!CONGRATULATIONS!!**

## **2001 Aurealis Awards**

The works of three of our Guests of Honour, **Lucy Sussex**, **Jack Dann** and **Sean Williams**, were shortlisted for the 2001 Aurealis Award. The **Sean Williams** and **Shane Dix** novel, *The Dark Imbalance: Evergence 3*, won the Best Novel, Division A: Science Fiction, category. Well done Sean and Shane! The awards ceremony took place on 22 March 2002 in Carlton, Melbourne.

The details of the shortlist which relate to our three guests are as follows:

Division A: Science Fiction. Best Novel. *The Dark Imbalance* by **Sean Williams** and **Shane Dix** (HarperCollins Voyager).

Division A: Science Fiction. Best Short Story. *The Diamond Pit* by **Jack Dann** (The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction, June 2001, *Jubilee*/HarperCollins Voyager).

Division A: Science Fiction. Best Short Story. *Absolute Uncertainty* by **Lucy Sussex** (The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction, April 2001).

Division B: Fantasy. Best Novel. *The Stone Mage and the Sea* by **Sean Williams** (HarperCollins Voyager)

Division B: Fantasy. Best Short Story. *The Diamond Pit* by **Jack Dann** (*Jubilee* / HarperCollins Voyager)

Convenors' Award for Excellence. **Jack Dann** for *Jubilee* (HarperCollins)

Note that *The Diamond Pit* has also been shortlisted for the Nebula Award. Well done, Jack!

We congratulate our guests for this acknowledgement of their achievements. Check out the Aurealis website for full details of the awards at: [www.sf.org.au/aurealis](http://www.sf.org.au/aurealis)

## **2002 Australian Science Fiction Achievement Awards (Ditmars)**

We further congratulate **Lucy Sussex** and **Jack Dann** for the nomination of their works for the Ditmar awards. For the full details of the nominations please refer to Pages 4 & 6 of this Report.

## **Art Show Update**

The Art Show is shaping up well with a number of entries so far and I am very much looking forward to seeing some diverse and interesting art works. This is certainly the ideal opportunity for artists of varied fields to display their works, as the theme for the Art Show leaves the scope of possibilities wide open.

"ConVergence 2002: Celebrating the Past, Present and Future" is the Art Show theme. With ConVergence 2002 celebrating the 50th anniversary of Science Fiction Natcons in Australia, it is a most fitting theme, as it gives us an opportunity to reflect upon a vast history of science fiction and fantasy adventures (and misadventures) and also, in that grand science fiction tradition, an opportunity to speculate about what the next 50 years (or more) has in store. Pieces can draw upon upon existing art works, games, novels, movies or anything else imaginable, or art works can be 100% original. If your art work is a reproduction you must state the particulars of the original on your entry form. If merely drawing inspiration from a pre-existing work, giving particulars of this would also be useful.

Criteria for entry is that the art work must be of either science fiction, fantasy, horror or related genre and that the work must in some way encompass the Art Show theme. The theme is open to interpretation and it is not necessary to encompass details from past, present and the future as you may elect to focus on one aspect only. Full details of rules and regulations can be accessed through the website, or you may contact the Art Show Co-Ordinator for a copy to be mailed to you. (See the front page of this Progress Report for all our contact details). Any other related queries may also be directed this way. I look forward to seeing all of you and your art works at ConVergence 2002. — **Alison Barton**.

## Report on the 2002 Ditmar Awards Nominations

As a result of the nomination process, the final ballot for the 2002 Australian Science Fiction Achievement Awards (Ditmars) is enclosed with this Progress Report. As specified in the rules, the finalists appear in randomised order.

There was a minor glitch in the nomination process when the version of the nominating ballot sent out with Progress Report No. 3 went out without a Short Fiction category. That was followed by an individual posting of a corrected nominating ballot to all members of ConVergence 2002. These were posted in December 2001. Nominating ballots were also sent out with ANZAPA, *Thyme* and *Ethel the Aardvark*. Our thanks to **Alan Stewart** and to the MSFC (Melbourne Science Fiction Club) for their assistance. Multiple copies were sent to Ghengis Con and made available at the Nova Mob and at Slow Glass Books. Again, thanks to those organisations. Single copies were sent to some thirty clubs and bookshops with a covering letter giving express permission to copy them. I don't know how many were done.

Nomination forms were made available on the web and advertised on [aus.sf](http://aus.sf) and were sent electronically to any fan requesting them. From memory, I sent out about three in that way.

There was a misunderstanding over whether or not there should be an award for Novelette/Novella. It did not appear as a separate category on the nomination form but, had there been a large number of longer works nominated, the Short Fiction category could have been split. As it is, **Jack Dann's** *The Diamond Pit* is the only nomination which I know would definitely fit into that category. (And I only know that because it is on the Nebula short list in the Novella category.). Given that none of the nominators included word counts for the other nominations, I have no idea whether or not any of the other nominations would have fitted into the longer category.

One ballot with no identification, either on the ballot or on the envelope in which it was posted, was received and so was not counted. Four nomination forms were received after the nomination deadline, plus one addition to the nomination form. Since I had already emailed those people who were short-listed for the final ballot before those nominations were received, I did not count them. Attempts were made to contact all nominees to ensure that they were happy to be on the final ballot. Of those nominated, only four did not respond, three of whom had nominated the items that appeared on the ballot and so it was assumed that they had no problem with those items appearing. **Adrian Gaetano** received enough nominations to be on the final ballot in the Best Fan Writer category but declined.

There were 14 nominations in the Best Australian Artwork category but no nominee received the four nominations required to appear on the final ballot. There were nine individual nominations in the William Atheling Jr Award but none received the two nominations required to make it onto the ballot. Other details appear on the final ballot form. I intend to publish the full details of nominations following ConVergence 2002.

The nominations are as follows:

*Note: To vote for the Ditmar Awards you must be a member of ConVergence 2002. Information on how to join the convention can be obtained from the website [www.vicnet.net.au/~converge](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~converge). The Awards will be presented at the Awards Ceremony at ConVergence 2002.*

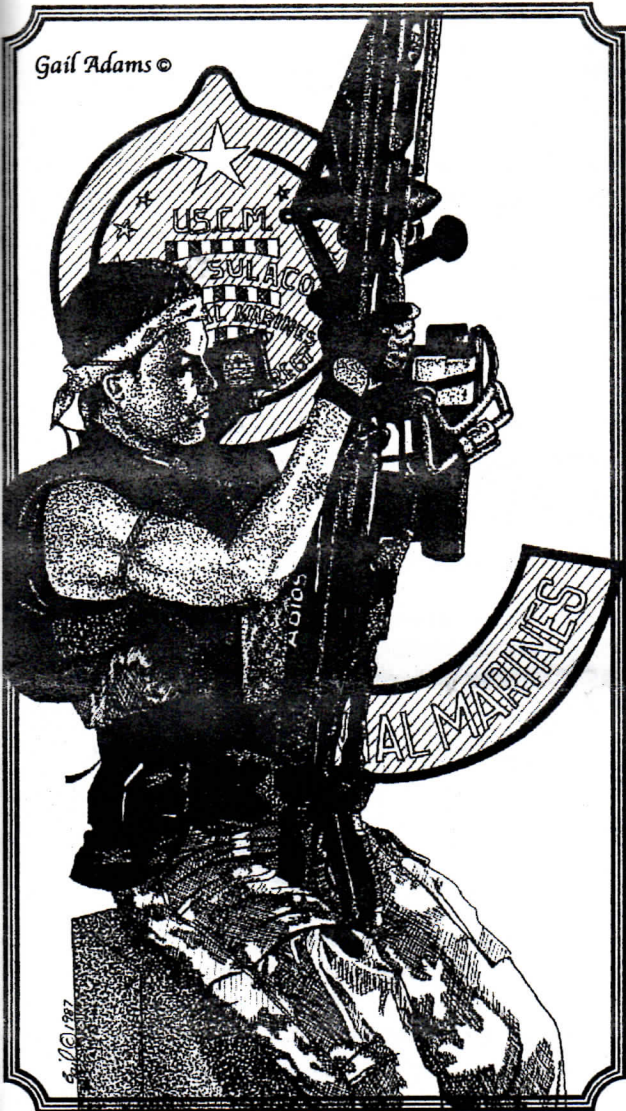
**BEST AUSTRALIAN NOVEL** (25 nominees 50 nominations): *Lirael* **Garth Nix** (Allen & Unwin); *Eyes of the Calculator* **Sean McMullen** (Tor); *The Year of the Intelligent Tigers* **Kate Orman** (BBC).

**BEST AUSTRALIAN SHORT FICTION** (20 nominees 54 nominations): *Whispers* **Rick Kennett** and **Paul Collins** *Stalking Midnight* (Cosmos Books); *The Boneyard* **Kyla Ward** Gothic.Net September 2001; *Absolute Uncertainty* **Lucy Sussex** F&SF April 2001; *Rotten Times* **Robert Hood** *Aurealis* 27/28; *The Diamond Pit* **Jack Dann** *Jubilee* (Harper Collins); *Tower of Wings* **Sean McMullen** *Analog* December 2001.

**BEST AUSTRALIAN COLLECTED WORK** (9 nominees 30 nominations): *Stalking Midnight* **Paul Collins** (Cosmos Books); *Jubilee* **Jack Dann** (Harper Collins); *Orb #2* **Sarah Endacott**; *Earth is But a Star* **Damien Broderick** (UWA Press).

**BEST FAN WRITER** (15 nominees 23 nominations): **Geoff Allshorn**; **Deb Biancotti**; **Bill Wright**; **Bruce Gillespie**.

...Continued on Page 6



## The Video Stream

One of the nice things about working on ConVergence 2002 is the chance to offer the members a nice little free treat in the form of a Video Program. Rather than just throw together a bunch of random vids, I'm attempting to try and compliment the main program where possible. So, for example, after a panel on *Doctor Who* and another on **Douglas Adams**, the video program will be showing a *Doctor Who* story penned by **Douglas Adams** while he was the show's script editor. I love introducing people to shows or films that otherwise they may never have discovered and so I've done some real digging for this program. In fact, the biggest problem has been in deciding what to show, as I've ended up with so much good and occasionally rare stuff that deciding not to show some items in favour of others has been downright painful. Below is a short list of just a handful of things you'll be seeing at ConVergence 2002.

*The Day of the Triffids*: The 1980's BBC adaption of the book by **John Wyndham**.

*Buffy*, the unscreened pilot: Pretty rough but with interesting changes nevertheless.

The Overnight *Anime* stream: Starting with *Grave of Fire Flies*, this overnight stream is about showing just how clever, classy and thought provoking Anime can be. No multi-tentacled monsters chasing schoolgirls here.

*Chuck Jones*: A variety of the late great **Chuck Jones'** cartoons will be spread throughout the entire program.

*Dracula*: The 1931 Spanish version. The direction on this film is vastly superior to the **Bela Lugosi** version. It was shot at night using the same sets and script.

*The Five Dog Night*: Five films picked simply because they are obscenely awful but madly entertaining. Come along and heckle the dumbness of both the hero and villain. Marvel at the inept direction and the crappy monsters. Special bonus features a film so bad, the company never wanted it released!

1984: The British adaption of George Orwell's novel by **Nigel Kneale**. Made in 1954, it stars **Peter Cushing**.

*Invasion Earth*: The six parts BBC series about alien invasion. Dark, gritty, nasty with excellent characterisation and a story that keeps you hooked.

I'm also hoping to locate a handful of films and TV shows that have ties to our guests. Either things that they believe are important to the genre or that have a personal significance for them. And, naturally, there will be episodes of both popular and rare TV series. Two of the *Lexx* telemovies, *Alien Nation*, *Space Patrol*, *Batman Animated*, *Sapphire and Steel*, *Reboot*, *Prey*, *Out of the Unknown*, *The Survivors* and *Catweazle* to name but a few. Plus at least one TV series never before screened in Australia. So, whatever your tastes, I'm sure you will be able to find something on the program to spark your interest. — **Danny Heap**.

## Price Rise in April 2002

Members are encouraged to remind all those friends and family members who intend to join ConVergence 2002 but have yet to pay their membership that the Full Membership rate is due to increase after 14 April 2002. The current price of Full Membership is \$130 but from 15 April 2002 this will rise to \$165. Anyone who joins now will save themselves a substantial amount of money so pass on this message to all those people whom you think will benefit from it. They can also take advantage of our lay-by system although payments must be finalised at the end of April 2002 (see Page 1 for details on lay-bys). Note that Full Membership to ConVergence 2002 will cost \$220 if purchased at the convention.

**BEST FAN ARTIST (10 nominees 30 nominations):** Dick Jenssen; Cat Sparks; Miriam English.

**BEST AUSTRALIAN FAN PRODUCTION - Fanzine:** (21 nominees 42 nominations): *Fables and Reflections* Lily Chrywenstrom; *Interstellar Ram Jet Scoop* Bill Wright; *Diverse Universe* Geoff and Miriam; *Solar Spectrum* Geoff and Miriam; *SF Commentary* Bruce Gillespie.

**BEST AUSTRALIAN FAN PRODUCTION - Other:** (10 nominees 30 nominations): Spaced Out Website ([www.vicnet.net.au/~spaceout/](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~spaceout/)) Geoff and Miriam; Tabula-Rasa ([www.tabula-rasa.info](http://www.tabula-rasa.info)) David Carroll and Kyla Ward; Consensual Stephen Dedman, Cathy Cupitt and Elaine Kemp; JB Resurrection Garth Thomas; Mitch? 2 Tarts of the New Millennium Anthony Mitchell.

**BEST AUSTRALIAN PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT** (8 nominees 19 nominations): Robert Hood for the Young Adult Series Shades Hodder Headline; Meredith Costain and Paul Collins for editing; Dirk Strasser and Stephen Higgins for editing and production of Aurealis over so many years.

**BEST NEW TALENT** ( 2 nominees 10 nominations): Cat Sparks.

Please note that neither the Best Australian Artwork nor the William Atheling Jr Award for Criticism or Review received enough nominations to appear on the final ballot. Best Fan Achievement had one nomination which received the required amount of nominations to be listed, however, the nominee elected to be included in another category. — *Marc Ortlieb*.

## *The Convergence 2002 Program Highlights*

The program for ConVergence 2002 has been gradually developing over the last few months and is near to a final draft. By the time you read this, the program, as it currently stands, will be available from the convention website. There are still a few alterations to be made and a small number of panels that require speakers. Comments and suggestions are welcome – we want to produce a really great program!

Highlights of the program include: a multitude of book launches (seven so far!); academic presentations by some of the leading Australian SF professionals covering topics as varied as biotechnology, romance and chivalry, vampires, Arthur C. Clarke and artificial intelligence; author and story readings; writer workshops with published authors; discussions on many of your favourite TV programs and movies including *Buffy*, *Doctor Who*, *Babylon 5*, *Star Trek*, *Star Wars* and *Anime*. Other topics for discussion include *Tin Tin* (the comic book guy), urban legends, mad scientists, life on a big planet, young adult literature, the role of gay, lesbian and bisexual characters in SF and humourous SF.

As this year is the 50th anniversary of organised fandom in Australia, there is a strong Timebinders stream within the program. World fandom in 1952, early Australian fandom and fandom in the mid-1980s all feature as topics for discussions. In addition, there are tellings of famous fannish tales, a screening of classic fan films of the past and a debate on the future of Australian SF natcons.

For those who are after a bit of late night entertainment, we are pleased to bring you the hit of Swancon 26 – Raw Cordial. Grant Watson and Simon Oxwell will once again bring you a late-night session of interviews, audience participation and lots fun and laughter. Danny Heap has also promised one of his infamously evil (but fun) quizzes so watch out for a man carrying clothes pegs and marshmallows.

For those with an interest in the art of writing there are great insights into the world of the writer in segments on reviewing fiction, getting published, living with a writer and writing for a TV/movie franchise. In addition, we have secured access to a room dedicated to author readings from fiction and non-fiction to poetry. And, of course, don't forget the regular GsOH speeches, the awards ceremony, the auction, the room parties, filking and the Maskobalo! — *Sue Ann Barber*.

## *Amateur Science Fiction & Fantasy Competition*

Don't forget the annual Amateur Science Fiction and Fantasy competition which was announced in Progress Report No. 3. The competition is sponsored by the Australian Science Fiction Foundation. 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, you can also contact Julian Warner on email: [julian@cannizaro.com.au](mailto:julian@cannizaro.com.au)

## Membership Tally

As at 11 March 2002, the ConVergence 2002 membership tally is as follows:

<u>Membership Type</u>	<u>Tally</u>
Full Membership	149
Child (5 to 12 years at time of purchase)	8
Student (13 to 18 years at time of purchase)	3
Supporting	3
Lay-By	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>178</b>

## 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 meeting.

The Business Meeting will be followed immediately by the Site Selection Meeting, when the site selection for the 2004 Australian Science Fiction Convention (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 ASFC must be submitted to the Chair of the Business Meeting, Jack Herman ([pressco@fl.net.au](mailto: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 were included in Progress Report No. 3)

### Australian Science Fiction Convention Site Selection for 2004

Bids for the 2004 ASFC 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 minutes 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 presentation they desire. The meeting will then be open to a general discussion of the future of Conventions as well as future conventions.

## The Chandler Award

Nominations are now open for the Australian Science Fiction Foundation's A Bertram Chandler Award for contributions to Australian Science Fiction. For more information, contact ASFF vice-president **Julian Warner** on email: [julian@cannizaro.com.au](mailto:julian@cannizaro.com.au) (ASFF mailing address is PO Box 215, Forest Hill, VIC, 3131)

## Calling all Volunteers!

A reminder that ConVergence 2002 is still on the lookout for volunteers.

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

Interested?

Then contact the Volunteers Co-Ordinator via email: [celura@start.com.au](mailto:celura@start.com.au) Otherwise, refer to the front page of this Progress Report for all other contact details.



Gail Adams ©

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**2002**

**41st Australian  
National Science Fiction Convention**

MR ALAN STEWART (Memb ID 27)  
PO BOX 222  
World Trade Centre  
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