

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

The ConVergence 2002 Committee (Concom) has been working hard over the past few months on several aspects of planning for the 2002 National Convention (Natcon). Details can be found inside this Progress Report and also on our website.

A major incentive has been the introduction of a Lay-By Scheme for those wanting to obtain membership to ConVergence (full details on Page No. 2 and on our website). The Concom is mindful that \$130 can be difficult to come up with all at once, especially to pay for an event that is due to take place over twelve months in the future. So it is hoped that by letting people pay off their membership in installments, it will make it easier for them to become part of the fun and excitement of the Natcon. Tell friends and other fans who are not already members about the Lay-By Scheme. It may just be the incentive they need to join us.

The next major step is planning the program, which is an integral part of any convention, as well as organising some of the more formal celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the Australian Natcon. Plans by many groups around the country are under way to celebrate this milestone in Australian fannish history and in 2002, the Natcon's theme will be "ConVergence: the possibilities are Infinite, celebrating the past, present and future." It is an opportunity to look at the science fiction of yesterday, the science facts of today and the infinite possibilities of tomorrow. Members will be able to indulge their interests in Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror across all mediums (including film, TV and literature) over four fun packed days of discussions, workshops, celebrations and parties.

Race Mathews, our Fan Guest of Honour, attended the very first Natcon which was held in Sydney in 1952, albeit there is now some dissension over if in fact that was the year in which the first Australian National Science Fiction Convention was actually held. Never a dull moment in fandom and the controversy bodes well for lively and interesting discussion about the history of the Australian Natcon, not forgetting the celebrations to mark this momentous event.

We are now looking for people who were part of those early days, not only to join the convention, but also to participate in some of the items relating to this anniversary or to set us straight on the history of Australian fandom and the Natcons. Were you there during the early days? Do you know somebody who was but is not a member of ConVergence 2002, or worse, does not know about it? Then please get in touch with us. Pass along this information or Progress Report to any friends, fans and others who may be interested or may have something important to contribute. This is a call to arms of all things fannish or Science Fiction and Fantasy related over the last 50 years.

Rose Mitchell

ConVergence 2002 Committee Members...

Chair: *Rose Mitchell* ☆ Webmaster: *Paul Garvin* ☆ Programming Director: *Sue Ann Barber* ☆ Guests Liaison Officer/Publishing: *Danik Bancilhon* ☆ Treasurer: *Sharon Nebel* ☆ Membership: *Frank Dersken* ☆ Public Relations: *Jamie Reuel, Darren Witt* ☆ Facilities Liaison: *Paula McGrath* ☆ Masquerade Director: *Jane Tisell* ☆ Consultants: *David Arblaster, Bev Hope, Nick Price*

Ansett Deal for Members

Ansett Australia have been appointed the Official Airline for ConVergence 2002.

Special group airfares of up to 45% off the full economy airfares will be available to members of ConVergence 2002 on domestic flights only and will not incur cancellation fees. Published airfares are also available subject to airfare conditions being met. All airfares are subject to availability at the time of booking and are transferable. **Bookings will open 1 June 2001.**

Please contact Ansett Australia on 131 300 and quote Masterfile Number MC04357 to obtain these airfares.

Dealers' Room Bookings Now Open!

The Dealers' Room (or Hucksters' as some members of the Science Fiction and Fantasy community refer to them) is an integral part of any convention. Similar to Trade Exhibitors, it is an area in the Convention where both the professional and fannish (amateur) Dealers display and sell Science Fiction and Fantasy related literature, clothing, merchandise, jewellery, armour, artworks — almost anything that may have a Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror theme. Since the majority of the convention members will be visiting the Dealers' Room at least once during their time at ConVergence 2002, you will not want to miss out on the opportunity to make your work or wares known to the Science Fiction and Fantasy fans. With its excellent access and large open space, the Dealers' Room will be a comfortable area to display and trade wares from both the professional and fannish exhibitors. If you are a club or fan group wishing space at the convention, please contact ConVergence 2002. Space is available at no cost, but is subject to availability. To reserve your space now, refer to the booking form on Page No. 7. Alternatively, you may prefer to use the application form on the ConVergence 2002 website. (All contact details are on the Front Page.)

Membership Lay-By Scheme

It can be difficult for people to find \$130 or more in one hit and then to pay it for an event that is nearly 18 months away. So ConVergence 2002 has decided to provide a Membership Lay-by Scheme to Supporting members. If you want to avail yourself of this service and be assured a place at ConVergence 2002, purchase a Supporting membership, then pay the balance of a Full membership in four easy installments. Future price rises will not affect you, as the price of your Full membership will be fixed at the level that you started your lay-by. At the same time, you will receive all the benefits of a pre-purchased Full membership. Contact Frank Derksen, the Membership Secretary. (All contact details are on the Front Page.)

The ConVergence 2002 Masquerade

Hello! My name is Jane Tisell and I am the Director of the Convergence Masquerade. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to get in touch with me.

The Masquerade is an opportunity to show off your creative side in making and wearing costume and/or in its presentation. You can be funny or tragic, melodramatic or just plain weird—whatever you like. Inspiration might be found from film, TV or a favourite book. It can be an original design of any kind: Fantasy, Science Fiction, Folk or Historical. They are all welcome.

I encourage you all to think up the most challenging and outrageous costume and presentation, and tell everyone you know what you plan to do. Think about it for a year (yes, the convention is only twelve months away). Then, come March 2002, you'll have three months to get it made and rehearsed! Of course, there is always the last-minute absolutely-inspired skit, which can be entered into the Masquerade. As long as it is before close of Registration on the day. A registration form will be available soon, but if you are really eager, just drop me a line and I'll add you to the list.

So, to some basic questions you may have. The theme of the Masquerade? There is none! So you can 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. Go to it! I look forward to seeing some great creations.



Announcing

The ConVergence 2002 Art Show

The ConVergence 2002 Art Show will provide an opportunity for both fannish and professional artists to showcase their work.

Categories may include: Black and White, Colour, Freestanding, CGI and Textiles.

There will be celebrity judges and prizes for each category. The Art Show is proudly sponsored by **Dreamstone Inc.** Register your interest by contacting the Art Show Curator. (All contact details are on the Front Page.)

More information about the Art Show will be provided in the next Progress Report.

Have You Got a Whizz-Bang Science Fiction Exhibition?

If you have any exhibits based on a science-fiction and fantasy theme, why not display it at the ConVergence 2002 Art Show? There will be no charge for displaying these types of exhibits. However, the onus is on the owner to arrange insurance and freight, including set-up and tear-down costs, and the return of item/s. (All contact details are on the Front Page.)



The Masquerade will be run along Australian Costumers' Guild guidelines, the most pertinent of which are:

1. Your costume must not be made or trimmed with any messy substances (The Peanut Butter Rule) as these can damage another entrant's costume. (Who believes in an Evil Overlord who is covered with sparkles from the previous Queen Titania entrant?)
2. No fire, no flame, no flashes, no firecrackers, no explosions, NO EXCEPTIONS. Taped effects will have to suffice.
3. There will be a maximum time limit on stage, depending on how many people are in the entry. This is open to negotiation with the Masquerade Director (but I'm tough).
4. It will be run as an indirect competition. That is, each entry will be judged against what the judges see the award-winning standard to be. This means you will not be competing against anyone — if there are two great entries in a category, there will be two awards in that category. You do not have to beat anyone else.

Curious? Send me an e-mail and I'll explain!! (All contact details are on the Front Page.)

Hotel Rates

We have secured a range of quality hotel accommodation, available at special rates to convention attendees. Block bookings are available from 6 to 11 June 2002. Rooms will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Hotel Y

This is the preferred hotel when booking for ConVergence 2002 members as it is on-site and forms part of the convention centre.

The Hotel Y offers high standards for a budget price and the convenience of staying on-site at ConVergence 2002. Bright, spacious and informal, the Hotel Y offers a range of accommodation from budget rooms through to three star family apartments. The rates are as follows:

- Doubles/Twins. A double is one queen and one single bed. \$121 per night per room.
- Triples. A triple is three single beds. \$131 per night per room.

Note: Does not include breakfast.

Self catering/alcohol is allowed so room parties are not a problem. Noise levels and other restrictions are to be determined by the Concom.

Continued overleaf...

For bookings contact ConVergence 2002 (All contact details are on the Front Page.). Please provide all relevant information, i.e. check-in date, check-out date, number of persons, type of room, contact details etc.

Hotel Ibis

The Hotel Ibis is only a few minutes walk from the convention site. The hotel offers accommodation at the right price. The one and two bedroom apartments are fully self contained with kitchenettes, microwave ovens, separate lounges, folding divan and bath. Complimentary use of the Melbourne City Baths is available to all in-house guests. Only one minute's walk, the baths feature an Olympic size swimming pool, sauna, spa and solarium. The rates are as follows:

- Standard Twin. No rollaway available in room \$114 incl. GST.
- Standard Queen \$114 incl. GST. Rollaway available in room for \$27 extra.
- One Bedroom Apartment \$145 incl. GST. Sofa for one \$27 extra.
- Two Bedroom Apartment \$198 incl. GST. Sofa for one \$27 extra.

Note: Breakfast \$13 per person extra. Children under 12 free.

For all bookings, contact Reservations at Hotel Ibis and quote "Group Reference SCI070602".

Reservations
Hotel Ibis Melbourne
15-21 Therry Street
Melbourne 3000

Telephone: 03 9639 2399
Facsimile: 03 9662 9263
web: www.ibishotel.com
e-mail: reservations@ibismelbourne.com.au

FAQ – What Members Should Know About ConVergence 2002

What does my membership entitle me to?

- Entry to the convention and all related areas (Full, student or child only).
- Progress Reports, including post-convention wrap-up.
- Convention Handbook.
- Convention para-fanalia at special rates.
- A vote in the Australian Science Fiction Achievement Awards (The Ditmars).

Where is the Convention site?

The address is at 489 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne. The site is right next door to the Queen Victoria Market in the northern outskirts of the central business district (CBD).

PH: 03 9329 4612 — Fax: 03 9329 5188 — Email: cato@ywca.net — Web: www.ywca.net

How do I get there?

By Train: Nearest station is Melbourne Central which is three blocks south of the Cato Centre. If travelling by train from interstate, trams up Bourke Street, alight at Elizabeth Street then trams to the Market.

By Tram: Number 55 along William Street, alight at stop 9 and walk east towards Queen and Elizabeth Streets. Or trams along Elizabeth Street (Numbers 59, 57 and 19) and alight at the Queen Victoria Market.

By Bus: Buses which travel along Lonsdale or Queen Streets. The nearest cross street is Elizabeth and Franklin Streets. The Interstate bus terminal is a short distance away in Franklin Street.

By Car: Ample and inexpensive short term or day parking is available at the Queen Victoria Market. Longer term car parking is available at the following nearby carparks:

Kings Parking
8 Franklin Street
9639 0635
b/w Elizabeth and Swanston

Kings Parking
350 Queen Street
9329 3900
near cnr A'Beckett Street

Kings Parking
151 Franklin Street
9326 6592
b/w Elizabeth and Queen

By Air: The Skyways airport shuttle terminates next door to the interstate bus terminal. Taxis from Tullamarine Airport to the hotel should cost in the vicinity of A\$30. There is also a hotel shuttle bus which

Guests of Honour Updates

The following is only a brief summary of some of our guests' most current (at time of print) activities/projects etc. Their individual websites should be checked for further details. (See under "Guests" on the Convergence 2002 Website. Note: Lucy Sussex's website is still "under construction".)

▶ **Sean Williams** and Shane Dix have sold US publisher Del Rey a trilogy of Star Wars New Jedi Order novels. None of the details of the novels had been settled at the print of this Progress Report. Recently, Sean visited Star Wars producer/director George Lucas' Skywalker Ranch to brainstorm titles and storylines. "There's a chance we could be writing the last three books in the series," says Sean. "If that means we get to kill anyone off, I don't know (after all, they've already topped poor old Chewie); we can only keep our fingers crossed." Sean has also been honoured as part of the South Australia Day celebrations, winning the 2000 South Australian Great Award for Literature.

▶ **Joe Haldeman's** latest published book is *The Coming* (Ace, 2000). Of the storyline, Joe says, "This is a first-contact story, in a way; it's also the story of a small town fifty years from now in a Florida that hasn't improved with age. An astronomer fighting politics of the garden and academic varieties while trying to protect her husband's dark secret. A little Hispanic and Mafia culture thrown in for spice, and virtual-reality sex in different flavors." Currently, he is working on *Listen to the Raven*, a hard-sf novel set in 1894, 1952, 2004, and points beyond. He has also finished the first draft of a screenplay of *Mindbridge*. On the "back burner" are the novels *Reset* and *Out of Phase*. Joe will be attending the Nebula Awards Weekend in Los Angeles, in April, as part of the LA Times Festival of Books.

▶ **Lucy Sussex's** *Absolute Uncertainty* will be published in the April issue of F&SF. It is a story about the physicist Heisenberg and his complicity, or not, with the Nazi regime. Lucy was also interviewed through the PhillipKDick.com. She talks about *Kay & Phil* which was in the *Penguin Book of Modern Fantasy by Women (& Alien Shores)* and postulates a meeting between Phillip K Dick and the writer Katherine Burdekin. A piece she wrote about the origins of the story and the writing of it is also on the site.

▶ Our Toastmaster, **Jack Dann**, had his story *Marilyn* shortlisted for the 2000 Aurealis Awards. Jack will be appearing as a guest of Swancon 2001 (See Back Page for details) where he'll be launching his *Jubilee*. This is described by HarperCollins as the "Essential Jack Dann. A collection of his short fiction which showcases his originality, range, and narrative power — which also demonstrates why critics have compared his work to that of Jorge Luis Borges, Roald Dahl, J.G. Ballard, Philip K. Dick and others." Jack adds, "the book will have a gorgeous cover by Nick Stathopoulos and an introduction by John Kessel. It will weigh in at somewhere around 170,000 words. As Gardner Dozois would say: "a bugcrusher". Jack will also be appearing at the 2001 Sydney Writers' Festival.

departs from outside the international terminal at Melbourne Airport (the one in the middle) and stops at most of the larger hotels in the CBD and also at others enroute (Essendon, Parkville, Carlton).

Child Minding

A child is a person under 12 years of age, and while in attendance at the convention, must be accompanied and supervised by a parent or guardian at all times. ConVergence will not be providing a child minding service to con attendees. Members are advised to make their own arrangements for childcare. If staying at a hotel, enquire about their baby-sitting services.

How do I book travel?

As announced on Page No. 2, Ansett Australia has been appointed the Official Airline for ConVergence 2002. Special group airfares of up to 45% off the full economy airfares will be available to members of ConVergence 2002 on domestic flights only and will not incur cancellation fees. Published airfares are also available subject to conditions being met. All airfares are subject to availability at the time of booking and are transferable. Bookings will open 1 June 2001. Please contact Ansett Australia on 131 300 and quote Masterfile Number MC04357 to obtain these airfares.

Apart from the Hotel Y and Hotel Ibis, what other accommodation is available?

Backpackers: try <http://www.hostelmelbourne.com/> or else contact Tourism Victoria (132 842) for comprehensive information.

Budget Hotels and Bed and Breakfasts: try <http://melbourne.hotelguide.net/> or else contact Tourism Victoria. Four star and higher: Radisson on Flagstaff Gardens: 380 William Street, Melbourne (9322 8000).

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Weapons Policy

No weapons are to be brought to, worn or carried at any time during the convention (including water pistols, real or replica guns, swords or knives), unless approved as part of an official event. Only the convention organisers may approve such weapons and their participation in any event. Please see the supplementary set of rules for the Masquerade.

Smoking, Drug and Alcohol Policy

The use of illegal drugs is expressly forbidden within the convention site. Alcohol may not be brought into the convention site and may only be consumed within the confines of the convention site if purchased from official sources, i.e. bars and restaurants. What you do in your own hotel room is your own business, although most accommodation providers would not approve of you "bonging on". As the convention has secured the entire Hotel Y for ConVergence 2002 members, there will be few restrictions on room parties and such. However, guests will be liable for any malicious damage that is caused by them. Furthermore, the convention organisers reserve the right to eject any troublemakers from the convention, the convention site and the on-site hotel.

Dealers' Room Reservation Details

The Dealers' Room is a large secure area located on the upper level of convention centre.

The cost per table is only \$75. A deposit of \$25 is required now. The full amount of \$75 is payable by 30 April 2002. Please note that all dealers and fan groups must have a Full membership to ConVergence 2002. Note: Science Fiction, Fantasy or Horror fan clubs and groups will be accommodated at no cost depending on the available space. For further details please contact Sharon Nebel, Treasurer, either by post or by email (see the address details at the bottom of this page).

- Table dimensions are 2,100 mm x 750 mm.
- Each table is provided with two chairs, skirt/draping.
- Every table is entitled to a Dealer Staff membership.
- Access is limited to the Dealers' Room only.

Room Only:

- A booking fee of \$25 applies for each table.
- Total fee of \$75 to be paid by 30 April 2002 (subject to change).
- A Dealer must be a member of ConVergence 2002.

Proposed Open Times:

Friday 7 June 2002:	18.00-21.00 hrs.
Saturday 8 June 2002:	10.00-18.00 hrs.
Sunday 9 June 2002:	10.00-18.00 hrs.
Monday 10 June 2002:	10.00-15.00 hrs.

Note: The Dealers' Room will be locked outside these times.

Proposed Set-Up Times:

Friday 7 June 2002	14.00-17.00 hrs.
Saturday 8 June 2002	07.00-09.00 hrs.

Proposed Tear-Down Time:

Monday 10 June 2002	15.00-17.00 hrs.
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Note: Dealers must vacate premises by 18.00 hrs, otherwise a surcharge will be payable.

Freight is the responsibility of the dealer. Insurance of stock is also the responsibility of the dealer. ConVergence 2002 will make due effort to ensure that the area is secure at all times, however, we will not accept responsibility for theft or damage.

DEALERS' ROOM APPLICATION AND RESERVATION FORM

Name of Business: _____

Contact Person: _____

ConVergence 2002 Membership Number: _____

Mailing Address _____

Home Phone No.: _____ Work Phone No. _____

FAX No.: _____ Mobile Phone No. _____

E-mail Address: _____

Type of Merchandise. Please supply a list of categories of your stock (e.g. new books, secondhand books, comics, games, video, clothing, jewellery, music, toys, media-related etc.):

Extra Equipment Requirements (these will be charged back to the Dealer at cost):

Number of Tables Needed _____

Amount Paid \$A _____

Payments may be made by cheque (in Australian dollars) or by Mastercard/Visa/Bankcard.

Type of Card: Mastercard/Bankcard: _____ Visa: _____

Cardholder's Number: _____

Cardholder's Name: _____

Expiry Date: _____ Signature: _____

PLEASE SEND ALL APPLICATIONS/RESERVATIONS TO: Dealers' Room Manager, ConVergence 2002, GPO Box 1212K, Melbourne VIC 3001, Australia.

Disclaimer: ConVergence 2002 reserves the right to reject any Dealers' Room Application/Reservation it deems inappropriate to the purposes of the Australian National Science Fiction Convention (Natcon). ConVergence 2002 will make every effort to ensure that the area is secure at all times but accepts no responsibility for loss through theft or malicious damage. Valuables (such as PDAs, laptops etc.) and moneys should not be left in the Dealer's Room unattended or overnight.

CONVERGENCE 2002
"THE POSSIBILITIES ARE INFINITE
CELEBRATING THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE..."

Convergence: The Possibilities are Infinite

2002
41st Australian
National Science Fiction Convention

ALAN STEWART
PO BOX 222
WTC 3005
VIC
AUS

If Undeliverable, please return to:
GPO Box 1212K
Melbourne VIC 3001
Australia

Swancon 2001

The 40th Australian National Science Fiction Convention, Masquerade, aka Swancon 2001, will be held in Perth over the Easter holiday weekend. The annual Australian Science Fiction Achievement Awards, fondly known as The Ditmars, and the Western Australian Science Fiction Awards, The Tin Ducks, will be presented during the convention. The 2000 Ditmars, delayed from last year will also be presented. Guests of Honour are Robert Silverberg and Karen Haber. Contact details:

PO Box 162 Nedlands WA 6909
swancon2001committee@egroups.com
<http://www.sf.org.au/swancon2001>



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