



The Con at a Glance

DATE: Thursday 8/4/93 to Monday 12/4/93
VENUE: The Ascot Inn, Belmont, Perth.
Room Rates: Single/Double/Twin/Triple \$65.00 per night

THEME: **Apocalypse Wow!**

GUEST OF HONOUR: **Terry Pratchett**

FAN GUEST OF HONOUR: **Craig Hilton**

MEMBERSHIP RATES: Until 30/6/91: Attending: \$40.00
Supporting: \$20.00
Child: \$20.00
Until Easter 1992: Attending: \$50.00
Supporting: \$20.00
Child: \$25.00

THE COMMITTEE:

Chairman Dave Luckett (09) 349 0804 (AH)
Secretary Gigi Boudville
Treasurer Tara Smith (09) 447 7545 (AH)
Programming Co-ordinator Sally Beasley (09) 224 8248 (W)
Front Desk Co-ordinator Mark Bivens (09) 300 1660 (W)
Publicity "Comrade" Cooper (09) 386 8249 (AH)

ALL CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:
P.O.BOX 318, NEDLANDS, W.A. 6009

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Swancon 18

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Chairthing's Thing

Well, hello there, and welcome to SwanCon 18, the NatCon for 1993.

Now, how do you walk the fine line between having the same cons that we always had and loved, and doing something adventurous and weird? Give up? Easy. You don't walk it. You do both.

So SwanCon 18 will try to do both. That's for starters. Personally, I'd like to see a recreational computing workshop, mit maschinen, yet - ghod knows we have the expertise around the place. The Grey Company will probably demonstrate some unusual uses for a falchion. Lots more. The emphasis, as usual with a SwanCon, is doing it. But we hope to have the best video programme ever at a NatCon, as well.

The ConCom are experienced, competent people. The hotel is perfect for our purposes, and I think it's a real plus that we'll have the whole place to ourselves. A party wing and a non-party wing, both separated from the Con facilities. Open all the time (except, of course, when being set up for a specific item.) Fan Lounge ditto. Pub next door, but separate. Swimming pool. Barbecues in the grounds overlooking the beautiful Swan River - barbecue packs sold, cheap. Coffee/tea urn all the time. We have negotiated a cheap buffet lunch/dinner - the one drawback of this location is that there are no fast food outlets within a couple of blocks. The prices will be kept really low, and we already have a firm price on the room rates. But the space is limited to forty rooms (that's all there is, folks) and if you want a room in the Con hotel, you will have to book early. Please note, SwanCon 18 has reserved the entire place. What with the lowered air fares, this will be the best time ever to travel west, and this Con a great occasion to do it.

The Programmer's Bit

Of course we, the Swancon 18 Committee, hope to bring you the best programmed Natcon ever. Towards that end, and learning from my experience as co-programmer at Swancon 11, I have been very fussy about the con hotel's function space, sometimes to the despair of fellow committee members.

As Programmer, I am aware that I cannot be all things to all fans. While I have knowledge and experience in some areas, in others I don't even know the questions to ask, much less the people to ask to fill out a programme. I am therefore in the process of assembling a Programming Subcommittee, each of whom will have expertise in - and responsibility for - particular areas of the programme.

Current plans call for a great deal of diversity in the programme - hopefully more than previously encountered at Swancons. How does happen? Generally, fewer panels. Some academic papers, if possible. More symposia - that's academe for a verbal free-for-all on a specific subject. (The name comes from the Greek, originally meaning a drinking party. Too right, says the Chair.) A drama stream, maybe with a night at the theatre. A masquerade with a costume workshop before and an emphasis on presentation and mass entry. A role-playing games program you sign up for at the Con. The everlovin' Rail Baron Championship, with the usual Night Of The Long Knives final, but also Star Fleet Battles. A writer's workshop and (get this) a GM's workshop, with a sale of results. A cartooning workshop - maybe even a whole cartooning stream - and perhaps a juggling workshop. Children's programming. A strong media stream. The best video programme we can possibly manage. An organised filk singout, with "Little Green Blues" being disqualified.

Representatives of other types of fandom (icecream and jellybean? massage? L. Ron Hubbard as God?) are invited to contact me. If they can convince me that there are indeed people Out There who'd like to see programme items catering to their particular interests, then ... hey, they may find themselves on the Programming Subcommittee! Aqua Space Invaders Championships in the Swan River ... now there's an idea ...

SWANCON 18

GENERIC APPLICATION FORM

Remember that completed forms should be sent to:
Swancon 18, P O Box 318, Nedlands WA 6009.

MEMBERSHIPS

Please find enclosed a cheque/money order (made out to Swancon 18) for
\$ _____ for the following:

Attending - Adult

\$40.00 per membership until 30th June 1991 and \$50.00 until Easter 1992.

Attending - Child

\$20 for children 15 years or younger at 8th April 1993 until 30th June 1991
and \$25.00 until Easter 1992.

An Attending Child membership can only be issued with an Attending Adult membership.

Details of children's programming and/or creche to be advised.

Supporting (non-attending) \$20.00

Name(s): _____

Address(es): _____

HOTEL BOOKINGS

Accommodation at Swancon 18 has been arranged at The Ascot Inn in
Belmont, Perth, Western Australia.

Please find enclosed a cheque/money order (made out to The Ascot Inn)
for \$ _____ as one night's deposit for accommodation.

Accommodation bookings will only be confirmed and placed with
the hotel on receipt of one night's deposit.

Triple / Twin / Double / Single room(s) at \$65 per night

Dates: 8th 9th 10th 11th 12th _____ April 1993

(Delete those not applicable)

SPECIAL NEEDS: (eg extra bed in room) _____

I/we intend to share our room with: _____

GAMING REGISTRATION

Yes, I want to play!

Star Fleet Battles

Other _____

Free-Form Gaming

Rail Baron

BANQUET

DETAILS TO BE ADVISED.

CRECHE FACILITIES / CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING

Please indicate interest:

YES

NO

Number of Children: _____

Age(s): _____

ONE SMALL STEP FORWARD

(The Volunteer's Section)

I would like to volunteer for:

(a) A PANEL OR OTHER PROGRAM ITEM

Title: _____

People needed: _____

Equipment needed: _____

Preferred timeslot(s): _____

Absolutely impossible timeslot(s): _____

(b) A JOB:

Day Manager

Gopher

Registration Desk Jockey

Gamesmaster

Videoroom Day (or Night) Manager

Please photocopy as necessary

Please photocopy as necessary

Swancon 18's Guest of Honour...

Have you invented a world lately?

Terry Pratchett has.

Terry Pratchett is one of the most prolific humorous fantasy writers around, even in a field of surprisingly large series. His work is of a consistently high quality, and he has even been known to delve into the realms of science fiction and, sometimes, cat stories.

The book that catapulted him into public acclaim was *The Colour of Magic*, which poked fun at many of the most popular fantasy series, and introduced the fabulous Discworld, a world populated by the most bizarre monsters, people, and other things.

His offbeat sense of humour has captured a varied readership who delight in crazy characters, like the failed wizard Rincewind, misunderstood Death (who really likes cats), the strangely reminiscent witch Granny Weatherwax, and of course, the more-than-faintly-threatening Luggage.

Terry Pratchett's books are full of gently ironic humour, showing us distorted (and often hysterically funny) views of our own world ... this has obviously touched a chord in many, judging from the diversity of his readership.

Apart from the Discworld, there have been at least two of his sf books generally available, *The Dark Side of the Sun*, and *Strata*. The book of thinly-disguised cat anecdotes, *The Unadulterated Cat*, has a very Pratchett theme: *The Campaign for Real Cats*. Back in fantasy, *Good Omens* was published quite recently, taking a good swipe at the horror genre epitomised by movies like *The Exorcist*. Recently he has released several books, ostensibly for children, which include *Truckers* and *Nomes*.

So ... meet the man, meet the myth, and maybe even meet the luggage. All at Swancon 18.

... and Swancon 18's Fan GoH.

Now deeply immersed in medical practice in the south-west but was for many years a mad medical student and fan. Continues to be a fan. Continues to be mad. Frequently on the Ditmar ballot as best fan artist, Craig is well-known in Australia and overseas for his furry anthropomorphic cartoons and has produced his own strip featuring rabbits doing what rabbits would do if they were James Bond, which he will probably display during the Con. He also draws cartoons for the local medical rag. It is his devout wish to have an actual cartooning stream in the program; now all we have to do is find somebody else who can run it with him. Further, he was responsible for "Lord of the String", a seagoon show in the grand tradition.

However, Craig is also famous for writing some of the weirdest filksongs yet produced on the continent. You think intricate rhymes and strict (so strict it's slightly bent under the strain) metre have gone out of style? Lend an ear to "The Tsunami" or maybe "Weasels on Parade", not to mention the infamous shrink-wrapped lit. Words fail me. And when he starts singing about his rooster ...

The curious thing about this severely warped individual, this obvious candidate for the giggle academy, is that he looks as straight as James Baker on downers. You'd think he'd be all rolling eyes and waving arms, crackling sparks of verbal mayhem sent carelessly spiralling in all directions, just barely coherent enough to be marginally intelligible. Instead, he looks just exactly like the sort of bloke you'd expect to find asking you how your bowels are and tut-tutting at the response. When you talk to him he produces the occasional one-liner, so dry as to be desiccated, and then expects you not to notice. He's gotten used to that, you see. Do not be fooled. Behind those horn-rimmed specs, that mildly-enquiring professorial air, that conformist exterior, there lurks the soul of a chaoticist.

Who's Responsible for the Apocalypse?

Dave Luckett, Chairthing

Dave Luckett. Dave's first convention was Swancon 2, but it was all a big mistake; he'd thought they were playing wargames. He wasn't seen again till Swancon 5, but has attended most Swancons since. Along the way, he chaired the very successful Swancon 9 (known by some as Harrycon, or the Claytons Natcon) and co-programmed Swancon 11. As Chair, he is able to weld a disparate group of individualists into a working Concom by the simple expedient of threatening to sit on anyone who misbehaves. Even the normally imperturbable ViceChair blanches at this threat, and the rest of us are frankly terrified.

Sally Beasley, Programming

Sally Beasley. Rightly described as having a grin like a demented pixie, but is actually finicky to the point of wilful nitpickery about nearly everything. Can always think of reasons why it can't work, and then goes away and makes it work anyway. Has been associated with Swancons since forever. Was the second palace revolution from the right during Swancon 5, but has been on committees for 9 and 11 and probably others. As far as programming is concerned, follows the mad scientist school of creativity. Will be delighted when the lightning strikes, and the thing actually gets up from the table and walks.

Gigi Boudville, Secretary

One of the most generous and warm-hearted people that it is possible to know, Gigi is an active member of most of the fannish associations around Perth, and even has accumulated a goodly number of Honorary Life Memberships in the short time that she's been involved. Gigi has a gift for finding the most *amazing* prizes for raffles, and has got to be worth her weight in precious gems for all of her tireless work.

Tara Smith, Treasurer

Faster than a recalculating spreadsheet, more powerful than double-entry bookkeeping, able to leap cost accounting in a single bound, Tara is our Treasure(r). Aside from being a financial wizard (witch? sorceress? thaumaturge?), Tara is a warm, cuddly, human being who delights in family, wine, and keeping unruly Swanconners in line. It is believed that her ambition is to salt away enough of the profits of Swancons to allow us to buy our own venue ... at L5.

Mark Bivens, Jack-of-all-trades

Mark Bivens. Mark has been attending Swancons since 1980, and has been working on them since Swancon 9. He started as a gopher, and has graduated through hotel liaison, running the front desk, and attempting to organise day managers to his present dizzy height of ViceChair and troubleshooter extraordinaire. In his private life, Mark is the proud possessor of a Macintosh (the machine, not the raincoat), works as a child psychologist, and has fantasies about being a pirate. So far he's only got the beard. Donations of parrots gratefully accepted.

Peter Cooper (aka Comrade), Publications

He is a charming fellow and is best summed up from a quote by Logan Pearsall Smith in *Afterthoughts*:

Charming people live up to the very edge of their charm, and behave as outrageously as the world will let them.

When and Where is the Apocalypse?

Swancon 18 is to be held at the Ascot Inn (situated on the banks of the Swan River in Perth, Western Australia) over the 1993 Easter long weekend. The rates are very reasonable, considering the quality of the hotel, and the facilities available to the Con.

Swancon 18 has booked the entire hotel, which should ensure a fun and hassle-free Con. The Ascot Inn will be quite suited to our needs as it has several large function areas, a swimming pool, lovely gardens, and a 'piped video' system to every room which may be used for the major component of the Video stream of the program.

Swancons have been long known for an active 'alternative program' of great room-parties, gaming, and pizzas. Especially pizzas. There is little doubt that all this will happen again. You'll find booking forms in the Generic Application Form in this PR.

The Short Story Competition

We will be having a short story competition for previously unpublished short-stories (100 - 8000 words). The prizes will be awarded by a committee including the Professional GoH. The conditions of the Competition will be advised in the next PR.