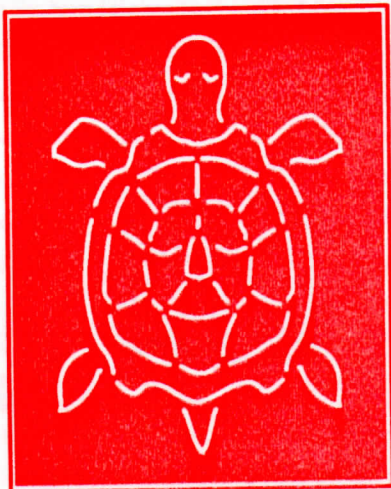


SwanCon 18



Progress Report Two: March 1992

The Australian National Convention for 1993, Easter Long Weekend, Perth

THE CON AT A GLANCE

DATES Thursday April 8th to Monday April 12th 1993

VENUE The Ascot Inn Function Centre
1 Epsom Ave, Belmont, Perth, WA

GUEST OF HONOUR TERRY PRATCHETT

FAN GUEST CRAIG HILTON

MEMBERSHIP RATES
Attending \$50.00 until Easter 1992
\$60.00 until 31/12/92
\$70.00 until 7/4/93

\$75.00 at the door
\$20.00 per day

Supporting \$20.00

Child Membership \$25.00
(aged 5 - 15 on 8/4/93)

THE HOTELS
The Ascot Inn, 1 Epsom Ave, Belmont, WA
Room Rates (no rooms remaining)
Bel Aire, Great Eastern Highway, Belmont, WA
Room Rates (twin only) \$37 per person per night, inc. breakfast

Accommodation bookings will only be confirmed and placed with the hotel upon receipt of one night's deposit. Deposit cheques should please be made out to SwanCon 18.

PUBLICATIONS SCHEDULE
PR3 Due out Sept/Oct 92 Deadline for material 15/9/92
PR4 Due out late-Jan 93 Deadline for material 14/1/93
Program Book Deadline for material 22/2/93

ADVERTISING RATES

PROGRESS REPORTS:	Member/Fan	Professional
Full Page	\$20.00	\$40.00
Half Page	\$12.50	\$25.00
Quarter Page	\$7.50	\$15.00

PROGRAM BOOK:	Member/Fan	Professional
Full Page	\$40.00	\$80.00
Half Page	\$25.00	\$50.00
Quarter Page	\$15.00	\$30.00

HUCKSTERS
Professional \$65.00
Member \$35.00 or \$10.00 per day

EDITORIAL FROM BEYOND THE BLACK LAGOON

A few small things that you should know, as things have changed in the last couple of months since the last PR made it to your hands. I'll try to summarise:

- **The Hotel.** The Ascot Inn has become totally booked out. We have organised alternative accomodations at the Bel Aire motel on Great Eastern Highway (about 5 minutes walk from the Ascot Convention Centre if you are hyperactive and/or young). We'd prefer there not to be a need for overflow accomodation, but it looks like SwanCon 18 will be more successful than we expected, which is some sort of plus.



- **Supporting Memberships.** The committee have been discussing the possibility of providing supporting members a copy of the Program Book (so that they can see what they missed out on), and we've decided to go ahead with that. Remember, at SwanCon 17 some last-minute attendees didn't get Program Books because the Con was oversubscribed, so a supporting membership might be a good idea if you're still unsure about whether you can attend.

- **SwanCon 18 Quiz Night.** Last

year's was a roaring success. This year's will prove to be even better. We've got more than \$1,200 in prizes to give away, a larger and more central venue, and another crop of great questions. It'll be held on the 1st of May, 1992, at 7:30pm in the Westrail Centre, East Perth. Tables of 6 with individual tickets at \$5. Contact Tara Smith or Gigi Boudville if you want to go along. It'll be HUGE.

- **Involvement.** If you'd like to get involved with any of the major strands of the Con, please contact a committee member, or write it on your membership form, and you too can help make this a great con. Areas that we'd like to get more assistance with include: programming, publications, con management, and promotions. Please consider.

We've got about 100 memberships in total so far, which is about on par with expectations, but the whole of the Ascot has been booked already, which was a little surprising.

If you think it is a long way from home, you may be right, but come along anyway, SwanCon is lots of fun.

Swancon 18 will kick off on Thursday night with programming aimed at helping people to get to know one another. Ultimately, you make your own convention, and the programming is only there to help you to enjoy yourself. The more people you know, the likelier you are to have a good time - so, both Thursday evening and Friday morning will have a lot of participatory stuff. Thursday evening will feature the opening of what will become a sub-theme running throughout the convention - the world-design event. Those people interested in taking part will form small groups who will, during the convention, design their own worlds with input from panels/discussions. A two to three page summary (pictures may be added) of the world's characteristics, inhabitants, social structure, legal system, economy etc can be produced by the group towards the end of the convention (we expect to have some desktop publishing facilities available). The most interesting world's designers will be eligible for a prize, and Swancon may also publish a book of the summaries.

There will also be an elimination pun tournament running throughout the convention, and it too will begin on

Thursday night. Of course there'll be a brief introduction and orientation, probably on Thursday night and repeated on Friday morning, for those new to conventions or to the Ascot Inn. Thursday evening will also see the James Tiptree Jr. Memorial Award Bake Sale¹, which will probably act as a practical demonstration of The Importance of Chocolate to SF Fandom. Anyone who wishes to contribute chocolate sculptures to the Bake Sale is particularly welcome. Please contribute baked goods, and your taste buds.

Friday morning will feature the masquerade (costuming and/or presentation) workshop, and probably one or two other workshops. We are currently negotiating with the hotel for an ice-cream social on Friday evening (Good Friday is totally dry in Western Australia). We may be organising a fannish band on one evening; for those not into loud music, organised filking will probably be arranged as another programme stream. There will not be an Awards Banquet as such, since we have not been able to negotiate any reasonable price with the hotel, but they do run an all-you-can-eat pasta banquet on Sundays, which is good value, and there will be a formal Awards Ceremony.

Probably on Sunday, but it may occur on Monday. Or there may be two ceremonies, one for Ditmars (and some traditional Swancon awards such as the Mumfan award) and one for the competitions run during the convention.

We intend, at some time during the convention, to have a Human Orrery presentation/participation; if you think you might like to be a planet, asteroid, comet, moon, star or some such, start thinking about the possibility of some costume associated with your chosen celestial body (e.g. a T-shirt with a big red spot for Jupiter [*What big red spot? Didn't it vanish years ago?* - Ed.]; lots of rings for Saturn...)

Games programming will include not one, but two freeform role-playing games. One will be a pirate scenario, and will make use of the swimming pool at some time; the other is designed by Stefan Brazil, who will write about it in future PRs. There may also be a convention murder mystery, which is being designed at present. The usual Swancon board game tournaments will occur, and there may be some RPG module tournaments too. We hope also to have some electronic games

available for play. Possibly even the interactive Discworld game designed by Terry Pratchett and Paul Kidd, which may be due for general release about the time of Swancon 18!

Our programme will feature, in addition to the scheduled Guests of Honour, several other invited guests. These will include author, game designer and comic writer **Paul Kidd**; artists and past DUFF winners **Lewis Morley**, **Marilyn Pride** and possibly also **Nick Stathopoulos**. We are also currently negotiating with some Australian writers whom we would like to attend.

You can expect that these featured guests will appear on the programme.

¹What is a James Tiptree Jr. Memorial Award Bake Sale? Good question! The James Tiptree Jr. Memorial Award was launched in March 1991, and is an annual award for "a fictional work that explores and expands the roles of women and men". The name of the award is based on the pseudonym used by the late Alice Sheldon, whose writing helped to break down the stereotypes concerning "men's" and "women's" writing. What is a Bake Sale? Australian equivalent is a cake stall.

Sally Beasley



For those who came in late: In *Wyrdsisters* we met Granny Weatherwax, Nanny Ogg and Magrat Garlick, witches. Magrat is a bit of a ditherer, Nanny Ogg is a cheerful old soul who drinks ogres under the table; but Granny Weatherwax is to little old ladies as OP rum is to elderberry wine. She is, as Nanny Ogg remarks, a great one for the laws of Nature as long as Nature doesn't think they include her. And now Granny Weatherwax comes into direct conflict with the Story. Something's got to give.

The Story, you see, has power. Or perhaps it would be better to say that it is power, of a sort. Power to shape things into patterns; and some of the patterns are very, very strong. Strong enough to force humans to conform to them, willy-nilly. So that the humans lose their own identity, and become pieces of the pattern, elements of the story.

Pratchett is drawing on a very old idea, here, and a very seductive one. If you deal much with stories, you will have noticed that they seem to take on a life of their own, after a while. You meant that character to be important, but it refuses to be. You thought that this event would be pivotal, but realise that it couldn't have

happened that way at all. Patterns. Your mind moves in patterns, and it really takes very little stretching of that idea to recognise that the patterns are something which exist outside yourself. There is a denial of free will going on here. You find yourself moving further and further away from what you planned to write, what you meant becoming almost irrelevant. You watch the piece growing of itself under your hands, and there are times when you can't wait to find out what's going to happen next. The pattern imposes itself on the writing.

But what happens when somebody appoints themselves Master (or Mistress) Patterner, like the wizard on Roke in *Earthsea*, and begins to match the frail fabric of reality to the patterns, as Procrustes matched travellers to his bed? When tavern-keepers are prosecuted for being insufficiently red-faced and jolly, and toymakers for failing to whistle, hum and sing at their work? What happens when reality itself twists to accommodate the story?

I've said before about the feeling of solidity underneath Pratchett. There is always something there, some structure on

which the whole is built, other than the build-up to the next laugh-line. But to the other questions, add one more: What happens when Granny Weatherwax turns out to have a sister?

The result is a picaresque novel about the nature of fiction and of reality which would have Don Quixote saluting from his plinth, bowed double with laughter. It has gems - Granny Weatherwax taking down three riverboat sharpers at Cripple Mr Onion, Greebo the shapechanged cat as a bravo at a masked ball. It has truisms - great cuisine happens when poor people

spice up the despised and rejected leftovers of their betters. It has satire - the running of the bulls at Pamplona, head to head, as it were, with the invincible cultural assurance of the British tourist abroad. And, oh Glod, it's funny.

Jacaranda-Wiley are the hardback publishers of Terry Pratchett's work in Australia. *Witches abroad* has just been released in hardcover.

Dave Lockett

CORE COMMITTEE:

(Just so that you will know who we are and how to reach us).

If you want to help out with any of the below-mentioned areas, please feel free to contact any of us so that we can press-gang you into the relevant subcommittee.

Chairman

Dave Lockett
(09) 349-0804 (ah)

Secretary/Fund Raiser

Gigi Boudville
(09) 326-7460 (fax)

Treasurer

Tara Smith
(09) 447-7575 (ah)



Programme Co-Ordinator

Sally Beasley
(09) 224-8248 (bh)

Front Desk Co-Ordinator Mark Bivens

(09) 300-1660 (bh)

Publications

Peter "Comrade" Cooper
(09) 386-8249 (ah)

Your committee has appointed Australian Airlines the Official Carrier for SwanCon 18 (the National Science Fiction & Fantasy Convention for 1992).

UPCOMING CONVENTIONS

SYNCON '92 (1992 Australian NatCon)
17-20 April 1992
Where: The Shore Motor Inn, Artarmon, NSW
Theme: The Art of Science Fiction
GsoH's: Michael Whelan, Nick Stathopoulos
Keynote Speaker: Sean McMullen
Rates: \$80 to 10/4/92, \$90 at door, Unemp/Stud/Pens \$45, \$25 Supporting.
Rooms: \$95 per room (single/double/twin)
Mail: GPO Box 429, Sydney, NSW 2001

HOLODICTION (1992 Star Trek)
15-17 May 1992
Where: Gazebo Hotel, Elizabeth Bay, Sydney, NSW
GsoH's: Patrick Stewart, Richard Arnold
Rates: \$140 to 2/92 then \$160; \$20 Supporting
Rooms: 35% discount on normal rates
Mail: P O Box 157, Matraville NSW 2036

SHAKYCON (1992 NZ NatCon)
29 May - 1 June 1992
Where: West Plaza Hotel, Wellington, NZ
GsoH's: Joe Haldeman, Rex Thompson
Rates: NZ\$45, NZ\$50 at door, NZ\$20 Supporting
Rooms: NZ\$100+GST/room
Mail: P O Box 11-559, Manners St, New Zealand

HONGCON '92 (1992 Media NatCon)
6-8 June 1992
Where: Hotel Adelaide, Adelaide, SA
GsoH's: Neil Gaiman, Danny Elfman, Paul Cornell, Shane Morrissey
Rates: \$75, \$85 at door, \$30 Supporting
Rooms: \$90 Double/Twin/Third person
Mail: P O Box 160, Rundle Mall, Adelaide, SA 5000

MAGICON (1992 WorldCon)
3-7 September 1992
Where: Orange County Convention Centre, Orlando, Florida, USA
GsoH's: Jack Vance, Vincent DeFate, Walt Willis
Rates: \$A145 to 15/7/92, \$US135 at the door, \$A40 supporting
Mail: Justin Ackroyd (Oz agent), GPO Box 2708X, Melbourne 3001

WRITERS' WORKSHOP

We shall be organising another weekend writers' workshop on the weekend of April 2nd - 4th 1993, following the success of the one which preceded Swancon 17. Dr. Philippa Maddern has again agreed to conduct the workshop, and we hope that some other published writers will attend.

Expressions of interest are sought. If you are interested, please send an original, unpublished short story suitable for workshopping. This will enable organisers to have stories photocopied prior to the workshop, and may also act as a basis for selection in the event that more people want to register for the writers' workshop than there are places available. There will be a small cost involved, which will depend partly on whether the workshop is residential.

We'd really like you to tell us if you're interested in attending so that we can get some sort of estimate of numbers, and please specify whether you are dead set against it being a residential workshop ... after all, some people have better things to do than go and stay with wildly interesting fellow writers, many of whom have great ideas and who are willing to workshop them with you in often more informal circumstances ... but we digress.

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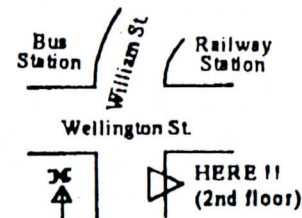
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(entry from William St., diagonally opposite the bus station)



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CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING

Children's memberships are available for children from 5 - 15 years of age, and entitle children to attend the children's or adults' programming. Children's programming is also available to under-5's, with a parent in attendance. Babysitting *may* be available for under-5's, if there are sufficient children in that age group, and/or parents are willing to pay reasonable babysitting costs additional to the children's membership. If no babysitting happens, the under-5's will be treated as Kids-In-Tow™ and will be free.

At present we are thinking along the lines of offering children's equivalents to as many of the program items for adults as possible, and possibly even offering some activities jointly. That's partly for organisational reasons, and partly because we think that children's programming should be fun/fannish/SFnal.

Following from that, it's hoped that we could offer a program on a similar responsibility basis as the adult program: we aim to offer activities that children would find interesting, and perhaps an activity room with resources available to them if the programmed item is not to their taste, but with responsibility for attendance and behaviour negotiated between parents and children, rather than devolving upon the children's programmer or those offering a program item.

The Children's Resource Area would offer pens, paper, simple art gear, games, possibly a computer or computers and games, videos; we would hope to be able to negotiate at least one time a day when children can be supervised at the pool.

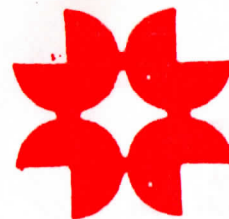
Joint Adult/Children's items may

include a panel on the Art of Storytelling, with how-to hints and a chance to try the out; How to do Roleplaying; Designing Aliens; Creating a Comic; a session on Model-making, hands on and large scale, using recycled materials; a session on Painting, including both T-shirt and fabric painting and model painting; Filking, how to do it, and some well known favourites; Author's readings - perhaps of material they think of as suitable for children, but how many of us "adults" glory in "children's literature"?; a multi-user computer set up with an interactive game; and ongoing Easter Egg hunts as part of the James Tiptree Jr. Memorial Bake Sale.

Special Children's sessions may include presentations by W.A.'s SF clubs, Westrek, the Dr Who Fan Club, the SCA or related groups (not including weapons or displays of fighting), and presentations by interested gaming groups. Other activity sessions might include Costume-making, leading up to a daytime Masquerade for the children, a Fan Olympics/Fannish Games session, and Creating a Fanzine (writing might run through the early part of the convention, and production and collating at a couple of programmed sessions so that the resulting zine could be distributed during the convention; child members could, of course, bring contributions written/drawn beforehand).

Resources: as much as possible we'd like to use resources from within the fan community or draw on sources like CATS Unrubbish for materials, and of course welcome any contributions of resources and ideas anyone may have - contact Susan Margaret or Sally Beasley.

Sally Beasley



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CURRENT MEMBERS

Terry	Pratchett	UK	guest	Eric	Lindsay	NSW	
Craig	Hilton	WA	guest	Martin	Livingston	WA	pre
Paul	Kidd	VIC	invitee	Dave	Luckett	WA	c
Lewis	Morley	NSW	invitee	Gary	Luckman	NSW	pre
Marilyn	Pride	NSW	invitee	LynC	LynC	VIC	
Adrian	Anastas	WA		Peter	Lyons	WA	
Ted	Andrews	VIC		Kevin	MacLean	NSW	
Chris	Arnold	WA		Susan	Margaret	WA	
Paul	Ashfield	WA	pre	Jenny	Matthews	WA	
Sue-Anne	Barber	WA	pre	Adam	McCaw	WA	child
Garfield	Barnard	NSW	supp	Ken	McCaw	WA	
Julia	Bateman	WA	pre	Kevin	McCaw	WA	
Sally	Beasley	WA	c	Shelley	McCaw	WA	
Mark	Bivens	WA	c	Doug	Miles	WA	
Gigi	Boudville	WA	c	Ken	Moylan	ACT	pre
Lawrence	Brown	ACT	supp	Sarah	Murray-White	NSW	
Valma	Brown	WA		Clive	Newall	VIC	
Doug	Burbidge	WA		John	Newman	VIC	pre
Peter	Burns	VIC	pre	Cath	Ortlieb	VIC	pre
Jeremy	Byrne	WA	supp	Denis	Pack	WA	
Dorothy	Cantoni	WA		John	Parker	WA	
Luigi	Cantoni	WA		Robin	Pen	WA	supp
Henry	Chartroop	NSW	pre	Karen	Pender-Gunn	VIC	
Graham	Chow	WA		Nick	Robinson	WA	pre
Robin	Clarke	WA		Geoff	Roderick	VIC	
Peter	Cooper	WA	c	Eugene	Roseveare	WA	
Cathy	Cupitt	WA		John	Samuel	WA	
Dianne	De Bellis	NSW	supp	Richard	Scriven	WA	supp
Larry	Dunning	WA	pre	Brad	Smart	WA	pre
Guy	Dyson	WA		Jan	Smith	WA	
Leigh	Edmonds	WA		Ralph	Smith	WA	pre
Owen	Godfrey	WA		Tara	Smith	WA	c
Michael	Goh	WA	pre	Alan	Stewart	VIC	
Julia	Gosling	WA	pre	Grant	Stone	WA	
Ian	Gunn	VIC		Jay	Stratton	WA	pre
Michelle	Hallett	NSW		Lewis	Sutton	WA	
Martin	Harvey	WA		Shelley	Templar	WA	supp
Danny	Heap	VIC		Jeanette	Tipping	VIC	pre
Iain	Henderson	WA	pre	Greg	Turkich	WA	supp
Melissa	Henson	WA		Barbara	van den Berg	WA	
Gary	Hoff	WA		Danny	Varney	WA	pre
Kohan	Ikin	WA	pre	Dale	Verdi	WA	
Marjory	Ikin	WA	pre	Paul	Verdi	WA	
Van	Ikin	WA	pre	Roger	Weddall	VIC	
Philip	Johnson	WA	supp	Annette	Wilson	SA	
Rod	Kearns	NSW		Carol	Wood	WA	pre
Ian	Kerr	VIC		Stephen	Wroth	WA	
Damien	Kneale	WA	pre	Owen	Wylde	WA	pre
Kate	Langford	WA		David	Yeates	WA	pre