

# *SwanCon 18*

Progress Report the Last

March 1993

## Ditmars, the care and feeding of

SF fandom is fond of silly traditions, tradition being defined as any event that has happened twice. Some of them have no known origin, like the habit of putting the letter "h" in words just for the fun of it, like "bheer" and (in Australia) "Thyme". Others can be traced back to typos - typographical errors - committed 'way back in the Dark Ages when a spell checker was something encountered when reading sword an' sorcery. In this class we find 'filk music' instead if 'folk music'. Or they simply arise out of the mind-set of SF fans, like punning. (Of course, those who delve into the mind-set of fantasy fen are likely to wind up with a lot of dirty hobbits.)

The Ditmar Awards are like that, and not like that. (Do not go to the fans for advice, for they will say both "yes" and "no". Also, "Thanks, mine's a double".) Word has it that they were named after a famous old-time fan whose name escapes me. Another story is that 'ditmar' is actually the Swedish for 'penis', and was snuck into Australian fannish history by certain low-minded persons who have now moved to Sydney and become video freaks, or done things equally depraved.

However they came to be named, the Australian SF Awards are still called the Ditmars, twenty-five years on. They are no more than a trophy - a piece of art with the recipient's name on it - and they are awarded once every year. The things they have been awarded for have varied, but usually there have been awards for the best SF writing published in Australia that year, for art, for publications and for criticism. They are nominated by Australian SF fans in general and are voted on by the members of the Australian National SF Convention for that year. They are awarded at the Convention, which in 1993 is SWANCON 18, held in Perth over the Easter weekend.

Now you know about the Ditmars. If you're a member of SWANCON 18, you can vote, and if you have any opinion about the works nominated, you should think about doing so. The Ditmars are about thanking people for the pleasure they have given us, about encouraging our own achievers, about finding our own distinctive voice in a mass global culture.

Is it strange that we Australian SF fans should find that worthwhile? After all, we spend our time promoting a future in which nations are generally dismissed as either anachronistic or evanescent, and where world culture has replaced parochialism. Isn't it time that we abandoned the idea of uniquely Australian awards? Are we just kidding ourselves?

Nah.

Dave Lockett

## THE CON AT A GLANCE

### DATES

Thursday 8/4/93 to Monday 12/4/93

### VENUE

The Ascot Inn Function Centre — 1 Epsom Avenue, Belmont, Perth.

### GUEST OF HONOUR

TERRY PRATCHETT

### OTHER GUESTS

Robert Jordan (Author of *The Wheel of Time* series)  
Paul Kidd (Designer of *Albedo* and *Lace&Steel*)  
Lucy Sussex (Author of *My Lady Tongue* and *Other Tales*)  
Nick Stathopolous (Artist *extraordinaire*)  
Roman Orzanski (Previous GUFF winner)

### FAN GUEST OF HOUOUR

Craig Hilton

### COSTS

Attending Membership — \$70.00 until 7/4/93, then \$75.00  
Attending Day Memberships — \$20.00 per day  
Supporting Membership — \$20.00  
Child: (ie 15 years or younger at 8/4/93) — \$25.00

### THE HOTEL

No rooms remain in the Ascot Inn. Overflow accommodation has been arranged in the Bel Eyre Motel, 285 Great Eastern Highway, Belmont, WA  
Room Costs: \$74 per night twin share (ie \$37 per person).  
*This price includes a continental breakfast.*  
A few triple rooms have become available at \$37 per person, on a first-in-best-dressed basis.

ALL CORRESPONDENCE AND PAYMENTS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

SWANCON 18  
P.O. BOX 318, NEDLANDS, W.A. 6009

## FOOD!

The Ascot Inn is very keen to have us all eat in their Bistro, and are developing a series of reasonably-priced menus to tempt us into not straying up the road to the competition. Look out for the big whiteboard at reception which will list their offerings. The Bistro will be open Midday-2:00pm and 6:00pm-8:00pm daily over the entire weekend. (By the way, they make a top Steak Sandwich - my staple diet all weekend last year!)

Other eateries in the area include the standard Hungry Jack's, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Chicken Treat, Pizza Hut, two chinese restaurants, a lunch bar, and a couple of deli's.

## THE COMMITTEE (OR "WHO'S RESPONSIBLE...")

Chairman	Dave Luckett	(09) 349 0804 (AH)
Secretary	Gigi Boudville	
Treasurer	Tara Smith	(09) 447 7545 (AH)
Front Desk Co-ordinator	Mark Bivens	(09) 581 3222 (W)
Publicity/Programming	"Comrade" Cooper	(09) 386 8249 (AH)
Gaming Programming	Rod Coate	

## MEMBERSHIP LIST AS AT 22/3/93

Terry Pratchett	UK Goh	Kathy Bennett	NSW	Simon Coates	WA
Robert Jordan	USA G	Annette Bergner	NZ	Peter Cooper	WA c
Craig Hilton	WA FGoh	Mark Bivens	WA c	David Crew	WA
Paul Kidd	VIC G	Gigi Boudville	WA c	Gerald Croll	WA
Roman Orzanski	SA G	Paul Branch	WA	Kevin Cross	WA
Nick Stathopolous	NSW G	Stefen Brazil	WA	Mike Cumpson	WA
Lucy Sussex	VIC G	Suzie Brokken	WA s	Cathy Cupitt	WA
Julian Ackermann	WA	Lawrence Brown	ACT s	Dianne De Bellis	SA
Jenny Ackroyd	VIC	Valma Brown	WA	Tony de Groot	WA
Justin Ackroyd	VIC	Thomas Bull	VIC	Stephen Dedman	WA
Adrian Anastas	WA	Doug Burbidge	WA c	Michael Deegan	WA
Anthony Andersen	WA	Peter Burns	VIC p	Larry Dunning	WA p
Ted Andrews	VIC	Jeremy Byrne	WA s	Guy Dyson	WA c
Jenny Aram	WA	Trevor Calder	WA	Tom Edge	WA c
Jason Armstrong	WA	Dorothy Cantoni	WA	Leigh Edmonds	WA
Chris Arnold	WA	Luigi Cantoni	WA	Paul Ewins	VIC
Paul Ashfield	WA p	Peter Cardy	WA	Russell Farr	WA
Andrew Bailey	WA	David Chandler	WA	Roy Ferguson	VIC
Sue Ann Barber	WA	Henry Chartroop	NSW p	Laurie Fleming	NZ
Garfield Barnard	NSW s	Graham Chow	WA	Terry Frost	VIC
Julia Bateman	WA p	Robin Clarke	WA	Owen Godfrey	WA
Sally Beasley	WA	Rod Coate	WA c	Michael Goh	WA p

Julia Gosling	WA p	Kevin MacLean	NSW	Simon Stainsby	WA
Craig Greenbank	WA	Susan Margaret	WA	Karen Stannard	WA
Darren Greeve	WA	Robert Masters	WA	Craig Stephenson	WA
Ann Griffiths	WA	Jenny Matthews	WA	Alan Stewart	VIC s
Don Griffiths	WA	Adam McCaw	WA child	Grant Stone	WA
Brett Griggs	WA	Ken McCaw	WA	Jay Stratton	WA p
Ian Gunn	VIC	Kevin McCaw	WA	Mark Suddaby	WA c
James Gwinnett	WA	Shelley McCaw	WA	LewisSutton	WA
Christopher Hall	WA	Andrew McColl	WA	Paul Talbot	WA
Michelle Hallett	NSW	Cath McDonnell	NSW	Coreynn Tan	WA s
Rebecca Handcock	WA	Sean McMullen	VIC s	Shay Telfer	WA
Martin Harvey	WA	Doug Miles	WA	Shelley Templar	WA
Emma Hawkes	WA	James Millar	WA	Annette Thomas	SA
Danny Heap	VIC	Danny Mok	WA	Carl Thomas	WA
Martin Heaton	WA	Ken A Moylan	ACT p	Debbie Thomas	SA
Donna Heenan	VIC	Neil Murray	VIC	Chris Thompson	WA
Iain Henderson	WA p	Sarah Murray-White	NSW	Jeanette Tipping	VIC p
Melissa Henson	WA	Clive Newall	VIC	Jane Tisell	VIC
Jack Herman	NSW	John Newman	VIC s	Greg Turkich	WA s
Margaret Hilliard	NSW p	Lec Nordling	WA	Rachel Turner	WA
Gary Hoff	WA	Sandra Normanc	WA	Ruth Turner	WA
David Horth	WA	David O'Meara	WA	Barbara v.d. Berg	WA
Leanda Horth	WA	Thomas Ong	WA	Danny Varney	WA p
Warren Hughes	WA s	Cath Ortlieb	VIC p	Dalc Verdi	WA
Tania Humphreys	WA	Glenn Pabst	WA	Paul Verdi	WA
Kohan Ikin	WA p	Denis Pack	WA	Elaine Walker	WA
Marjory Ikin	WA p	John Parker	WA	Lorna Walker	WA
Van Ikin	WA p	Robin Pen	WA s	Rohan Wallace	WA
Sue Isle	WA	Karen Pender-Gunn	VIC	Jeff Watkins	WA
Kimberley Jenkinson	WA	Kevin Perry	WA	Jason Watson	WA
Susan John	VIC*	Allan Price	ACT	Jean Weber	NSW
Philip Johnson	WA s	Nick Robinson	WA p	Roger Weddall	VIC
Rod Kearins	NSW	Geoff Roderick	VIC	Greg Wheatley	WA
Allen Kelley	WA	Jason Rodgers	WA	Annette Wilson	SA
Peter Kelly	WA	Burke Rogers	WA	Carol Wood	WA p
Ian A Kerr	VIC	Eugene Roseveare	WA	Justin Woods	WA
Damien Kneale	WA	Todd Rowlands	WA	Paul Wroth	WA
Jeff Knight	WA	John Samuel	WA	Stephen Wroth	WA
Kay-Sen Lam	WA	Richard Scriven	WA s	Owen Wylde	WA
Kate Langford	WA	W Simmons	WA	David Yates	WA
Susan Leighton	WA	Brad Smart	WA p	Celine Zhu	WA
Eric B Lindsay	NSW	Adrian Smith	WA		
Martin Livings	WA	Alicia Smith	WA		
John Lloyd	WA	Jan Smith	WA		
Sally Lloyd	WA	Ralph Smith	WA		
Dave Luckett	WA c	Tara Smith	WA c		
Gary Luckman	NSW p	Tom G. Sounness	WA		
LynC	VIC	Greg Spencer	WA		
Peter Lyons	WA	Robert Spencer	WA		
David MacKinnon	WA	Suzanne Srzich	WA		

DEMOGRAPHICS	
Guests	7
Attending	168
Supporting	13
Prsupporting	<u>21</u>
Total	209

## MASQUERADES, BANQUETS

Some form of costume will be compulsory, even if it is only a mask. For those who totally forget to bring anything, domino masks will be available for a nominal fee at the door. Be creative, be daring: join in.

Prizes will be awarded for costumes best reflecting the works and world of our guest Terry Pratchett. But only ONE LUGGAGE will be allowed in the door at a time (for the protection of our partons). Nick Stathopolous will MC the event, so be there!

Instead of the usual Ditmar Banquet, we are having a champagne breakfast in the Bistro on the Sunday morning, followed by the awards ceremony. The breakfast will be \$10.50 per head, and the champagne/orange can be bought by the glass from the bar. Just something a bit different. What use is tradition if you can't break it?

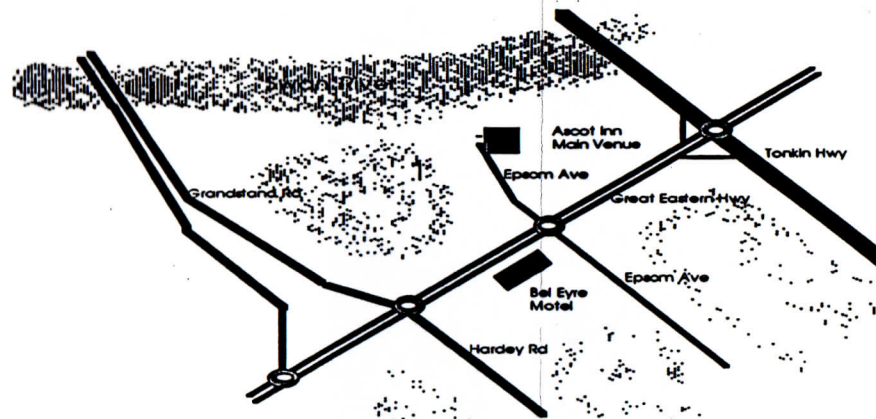
## THINGS TO BRING

- ⇒ A costume for the Masquerade (I know, I know, I'm nagging.....)
- ⇒ Freeform Costumery — if you want to join in *Master of Xenophobia* or *Pirates*, costume will be compulsory (although it can take almost any form you like!).
- ⇒ A spoon and bowl, and perhaps some of your favourite topping for the Ice-cream Social.
- ⇒ A container for Popcorn (if you want some). Yes, the popcorn machine will be outside the Video Room again this year, but it will be much easier to eat out of a bowl than from cupped hands or little piles on the floor . . . . .
- ⇒ Participants in the *Show and Tell* panel (the art and science of collecting) please remember to think about what they want to bring along.
- ⇒ Shadow Games — participants may want to bring along dark, hard-wearing clothes.
- ⇒ Materials for the *Spaceship Building* (we've got lots of stuff, but if you have anything especially interesting or useful — such as bits of PVC tubing, plastic drink bottles, alfoi, strange containers of all types — please bring it along).
- ⇒ Interesting bits to go in the *Time Capsule*.
- ⇒ That special video you own and wish to share with us (but please be aware that while we will take every care, we can't take responsibility for loss or damage).

## THE AUCTION

John McDouall and Justin Ackroyd have kindly agreed to run the auction again this year. Reception will be accepting materials (Full Name, Address and Reserve Pricing to be clearly marked with each item) from the time the Con opens on Thursday until mid-afternoon Sunday for the general auction and until mid-afternoon Friday for the Fan Fund Auction. The Con will take 15% of total sale price, with the exception of items auctioned to benefit Fan Funds or other Conventions.

# The Con Hotel & Venue



SwanCon 18 returns to the site of SwanCon 17 - which has been described as *the most fantastic long weekend in the history of civilization*, namely the Ascot Inn.

There are 5 programming areas; the 'Derby' and 'Oaks' rooms - major programming, the 'Epsom' room - fan lounge and hucksters, the 'River' room - gaming, and the 'Ledger' room which is set up as the video lounge. There is also a swimming pool, which will occasionally be used for programming such as free-form gaming (*cackling maniacally, Palsied, Paxy, Peg-leg, Purlblind Lemon Jefferson, pirate chieftain and part-time blues singer croaked, "now ye walk the plank, lubber!"*...)

We have booked out all of the accomodation at the Ascot Inn, so additional accomodation has been arranged just a hop, step and jump away at the Bel Eyre motel, on Great Eastern Highway. The cost there is \$37.50 per night, including breakfast. As we have booked out the Ascot, a *reasonable* level of barbarity will be tolerated in room parties (party animals: watch out for Heinlein fans - they have strong feelings about law and order).

Many, many eating places are within easy travelling distance of the hotel. These offer a wide variety of interesting edible materials.

The whole complex is only 15 minutes from the centre of Perth. To help speed our attendees in their peregrinations from Perth to the con (and vice versa), a shuttle (*Gallileo*) service is envisaged.

ASCOT INN  
ON THE SWAN

Epsom Avenue Belmont WA 6104  
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Telex: AA94725

# TERRY PRATCHETT

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531 HAY ST. SUBIACO 6008

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

TEL / FAX (09) 382 1833

**BOOK SIGNING**

**TUESDAY APRIL 6th 6.30pm - 8.30pm**

Terry Pratchett Will be Guest of Honour at SwanCon 18,

The 1993 Australian National Science Fiction Convention

Ascot Inn April 8 - 12

*SwanCon 18 PO Box 318 Nedlands WA 6009*