

Progress Report

Thylacon

Following on the hoary tradition established at the first Thylacon three years ago, here is a much-too-late first and final Progress Report, to accompany the Ditmar ballot.

Thylacon 2 is lucky to have the use once again of the Country Comfort Hadley's Hotel, in Murray Street. The location, in the middle of the city of Hobart, and the ambience of cosy wood fires and friendly staff, made this a very pleasant convention venue at Thylacon 1 in 1995. Let us hope the weather is as kind to us this year (although there were a few complaints about not enough snow last time.) Our banquet was another highlight three years ago: we hope to repeat the satisfaction, if not the menu.

To start with the bad news, we have to relate that the hoped-for virtual visual attendance of J Michael Straczynski has had to be cancelled, for financial reasons. The costs blew out and blew us out of the water.

Our Australian Guest of Honour is Leanne Frahm, who has been producing a string of well-regarded tales for decades now, and whose long-awaited collection of short stories was recently published. In addition, we are pleased to welcome our Special Guest Sara Douglass, by arrangement with HarperCollins.

Thanks to the Queen, whose birthday is celebrated on successive Mondays on opposite sides of the Tasman, we are pleased to welcome Neil Gaiman, Guest of Honour at Construction, the NZ Natcon in Wellington 29th May to 1st June, as well as our own Overseas Guest of Honour George R.R.

Current Membership List as of 20/5/98

Jenny Ackroyd
Justin Ackroyd
Matthew Bailey
Derek Binns
Jenny Blackford
Russell Blackford
Paul Collins
Claire Coney
Nicola Cowles
Mark Dewis
Neil Doran
Andrew Finch
Amanda Flack
Lloyd Flack
Leanne Frahm
Terry Frost
Neil Gaiman
Rosie Gibbons

Terry Gibbons
Adam Gray
Paul Harris
Donna Heenan
Mandy Herriot
Alicia Johnson
Karen Johnson
Robin Johnson
Brenden Lenehan
Cary Lenehan
Marjorie Lenehan
Sarah Lenehan
Eric Lindsay
Parris McBride
Craig Macbride
David McDonnell
Sean McMullen
George RR Martin

Bonnie Montgomery
Dougal Montgomery
Cheryl Morgan
Sharon Nebel
Peter Nicholls
Anne Osmond
Tony Power
Tansy Roberts
Trish Smyth
Richard Sprent
Kevin Standlee
David Stevens
Alan Stewart
Wayne Turner
Jean Weber
Shane Welch

Program (preliminary)

FRIDAY, JUNE 5

- 5.00pm Registration opens
7.30pm Neil Gaiman, introduced by Sean McMullen
(open to Thylacon 2 registrants & public ticketholders) 11.00pm Close

SATURDAY, JUNE 6

- 9:30am Welcoming panel - meet the guests: George RR Martin, Leanne Frahm, Neil Gaiman, & Sara Douglass
10:30am Book launch: Pilgrim by Sara Douglass (coupled with refreshments and afternoon tea)
11.00am Comics panel
12.00pm Convention theme: Bioethics, panel 1 - moral
1.00pm LUNCH
2.00pm Is a bad pilot required for a successful SF series?
2.45pm Comics panel : are comics literature?
4.15pm Short story panel
5.00pm Fun panel: Make a Mutant - throw those bioethics to the wind!
6.00pm TEA
8.00pm Good Science Week!!! A competition trivia panel loosely based on the TV show of similar name. Featuring selected guests, including the legendary Dr Margaret Scott

SUNDAY, JUNE 7

- 9.00am Business meeting
11.00am Writing for TV
12.00pm Getting published
1.00pm LUNCH
2.00pm Gaming panel: Terminated or Still Resident - are Role Playing Games disappearing?
2.45pm Convention theme: Bioethics, panel 2 - legal
3.30pm Book launch: The Encyclopaedia of Australian Science Fiction and Fantasy (to be confirmed with MUP). .
4.15pm Auctions: DUFF and general
5.00pm TBA / Auctions continued
6.30pm Convention Banquet, including Guest of Honour speeches and the DITMAR awards ceremony

MONDAY, JUNE 8

- 10.00am Virtual slot
11.00am The Great Debate 2: Thylacon 1 settled which were the best & worst SF television programs of all time. Now SF movies are in our sights!
12.00pm Guests panel: future directions for SF?
1.30pm LUNCH
2.30pm Closing ceremony