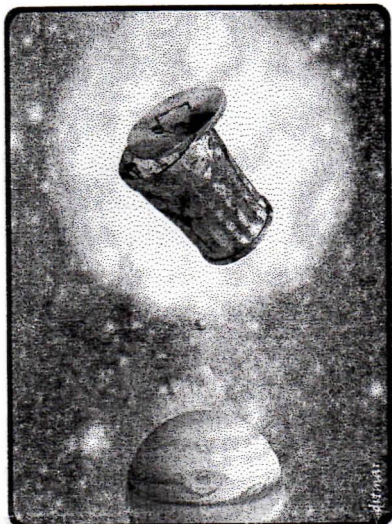


# Out of the Bin



'Space Bin' Artwork by Ditmar

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A Newsletter from MERV BINNS  
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## CONVENTIONS: "CONTINUUM" REPORT

The first convention I attended was in Sydney, I think in 1954 but even after checking reports in the old MSFC magazine *ETHERLINE* I am unable to confirm if it was '54 or '53, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Natcons and it indicates how my memory has faded and my lack of keeping records of trips and such. Alas, con reports never indicated that I had attended. However it certainly is around fifty years since my first con.

I have a box full of con badges and a shelf of booklets and altogether I estimate I have averaged attending one almost every year, and more often in the 1970s and 1980s. So as well as being now in my 70<sup>th</sup> year it is my 52<sup>nd</sup> year in SF fandom and I reckon I have seen between thirty and forty conventions. I am sure many American fans could beat that by a mile, but I guess it is not a bad tally for an Aussie fan.

I have always said that meeting friends at cons is the best part of it, so when I have not been impressed by the programme, talking to other fans at the cons has made them all worthwhile. At CONTINUUM however, there were items, talks and panels that were of real interest and we also got to meet friends that we only see at conventions or otherwise infrequently. Many people from Melbourne fandom, the MSFC in particular, know me but I have a very bad memory for names, I always have had. Consequently many people say hello and I do not have a clue who they are or where they are from, so my apologies to you all. One fan I did want to say hello to was Edwina Harvey from Sydney, but I left it too late to get someone to point her out to me.

Anyway, it was great to see all the Melbourne fans from the MSFC, costumers Robert Jan and Gail Adams whom we have encountered in Star Trek and SF fandom, longtime friend and associate Robin Johnson from Tasmania and organiser of the 2005 Natcon, THYLACON; along with Marilyn Pride, Lewis Morley and Nick Stathopoulos, artists and model makers from Sydney, whom we have also known for quite a few years. These three fans were Guests of Honour of the convention, and it was great hearing them describe their careers and relate their experiences working for movie makers on such as *Dark City*, *The Matrix* movies and the upcoming *Star Wars 3*.

The con was sponsored by publishers Harper Collins and Random House and there was a whole group of Australian authors in attendance and a few book launchings. GoHs Kate Forsyth and Chris Lawson, whose book *WRITTEN IN BLOOD* was launched on the Saturday evening first up, along with Lucy Sussex, Trudi Canavan, Jennifer Fallon and others. There was a predominance of fantasy writers, emphasising the remarkable rise of fantasy literature writing and publishing in Australia, consequently much of the programme dealt with fantasy. But not all and as SF and media fans we found enough of interest. Organiser Danny Heap, who has a talent for putting together visual presentations for the opening of conventions, miraculously found time to do another good one for the start of the con on Friday evening. Panels and discussions included Miriam English giving a presentation on computer animation in *Virtual Reality Fiction*. *The Mega Panel* was a crazy goonish presentation that would have done credit to the infamous, now entirely gaffiated fan Paul Stevens, who presented such affairs ("The Paul Stevens Show") back in the 1970s and 19780s. A little bit too crazy for me now, indicating that I *must* be getting old. We didn't see it all, as we had to leave to catch a train.



CONTINUUM OPENING CEREMONY at the Cato Conference Centre, Melbourne 6.30pm Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2003  
featuring Danny (at far right) with GoHs (from left): Marilyn Pride, Lewis Morley, Nick Stathopoulos, Kate Forsyth & Chris Lawson.

**The JOHN FOYSTER TRIBUTE at  
Continuum 7pm Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2003**

Featuring reminiscences from Bruce Gillespie, Miranda Foyster, Dick Jenssen, Merv Binns, Jenny Blackford, Perry Middlemiss, Bill Wright and Robin Johnson. Myfanwy Foyster Thomas recorded the proceedings, which Bill Wright has undertaken to transcribe.

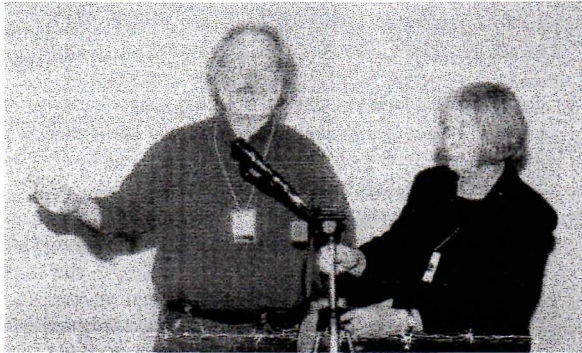
*Photos by Helena Binns*



*Above: Perry Middlemiss, Bruce Gillespie, Robin Johnson  
Left: Perry Middlemiss, Myfanwy Thomas*



*Above: Jenny Blackford, Bruce Gillespie, Bill Wright*



*Above: Miranda Foyster, Dick Jenssen, Merv Binns*



*Left: Myfanwy Thomas,  
Bruno Kautzner, Helena  
Binns, Merv Binns, Bruce  
Gillespie (behind Merv),  
and Miranda Foyster.*

*Photo by Dick Jenssen*

*Right:  
Some friends  
attending the  
memorial  
gathering,  
including Lewis  
Morley, Nick  
Stathopoulos,  
Russell Blackford  
and Justin  
Ackroyd.*

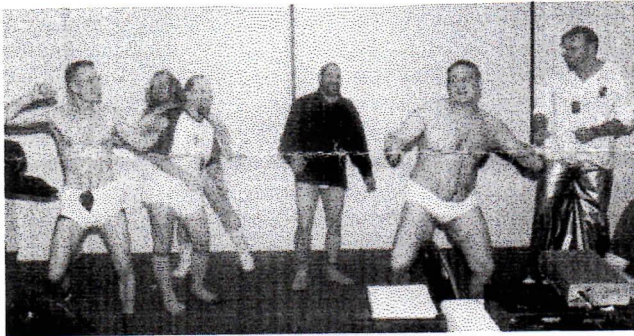


**SOME MORE HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CONTINUUM PROGRAM**

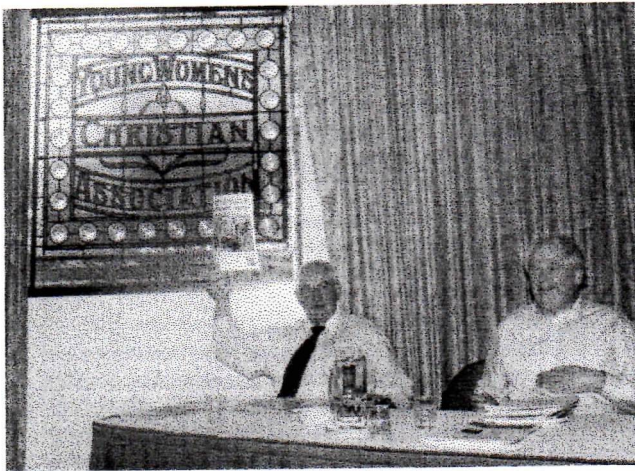
*A Continuum first: THE MEGA PANEL 10pm Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July Presented by Aaron Jacks & Mitch, with victim/guest interview subject Nick Stathopoulos under interrogation. (Right)*



*The Mega Panel also featured a not-the-Village-People not-quite-the-full-Monty song-and-dance troupe of guest artists (below) who probably should have known better!*



*The Continuum FANZINE PANEL 10am Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2003*



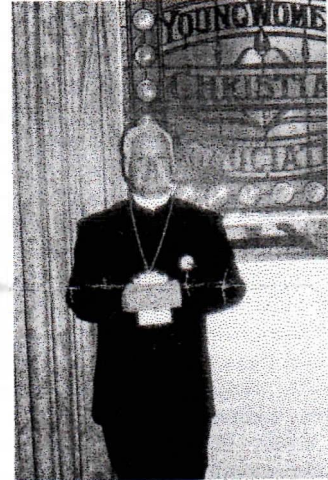
*Publishing on paper and electronically, presented by Bill Wright and Bruce Gillespie (pictured above) with Aaron Jacks, Lily Chrywenstrom, & Russell Farr. The Cato Conference Centre was formerly known as the YWCA, as its glowing gold-toned stained glass window reminds us.*

*Facilities were provided for people to produce an on-the-spot fanzine, with computers and copying machines on hand and a panel with Bruce Gillespie, Bill Wright and some much younger enthusiasts discussed the production of fanzines and why we do them. There were panels on writing, fan funds, animated cartoons, comics, and other items such as The Physics of Magical Weapons presented by author Sean McMullen. (Right)*



*Continuum 8pm Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2003 VIRTUAL REALITY FICTION A new medium for storytelling (CGI), presented by Miriam English*

*'Father' Geoff Allshorn looking contemplative before the YWCA's stained glass window. (Geoff's elegant retro '60s suit and prematurely greyed hair actually represent the character of Commander Straker from the popular 1960s TV series UFO.)*



*I regret the trend to do away with a fancy dress competition although people have been encouraged to dress up for the MASKOBOLO music and dancing parties at Convergence and Continuum. The painfully loud music on Saturday night at both killed it for us, though we would have liked to have stayed around for a while at least this year, but we exited in a hurry.*



*The Continuum MASKOBOLO, from 8.30pm Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2003*

*Robert Jan as Tolkien's 'Dark Lord' Sauron, getting a good kicking from 'hobbit' Sue Bursztynski, while 'Father Geoff' prays for divine intervention.*



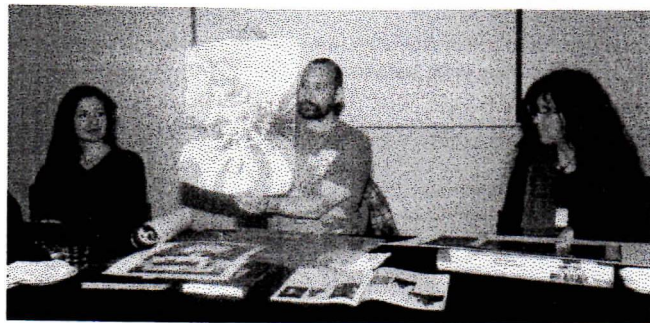
*Exploring the Worlds in Your Head* 3pm Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2003  
 Lewis Morley & Marilyn Pride tell the story of a world of their own creation, published as Peregrine Besset, *The Red World*. Their comic strip story book *Red World Holiday* was launched at this session.

*You do it for a 'living'?*  
 Lewis Morley and Marilyn Pride discuss their careers as professional model-makers for films, including *Dark City*, *Star Wars* and *The Matrix* series.

Other panels and discussions included *Romance in Fantasy* presented by Kate Forsyth and Trudi Canavan, and *The Wearing of Costumes* by costumers Robert Jan and Gail Adams who did attend the *Maskobolo* wearing the usual outstanding examples of their work. They showed us albums of photographs of costumes they have done previously and their work is truly amazing.

One of the last panels I was interested in featured Nick Stathopoulos talking about movie sound track music and its relationship to classical music. It was of particular interest to me as I have a great interest in both kinds of music. I have often noticed the similarities in not necessarily themes, although a lot have been pinched for popular music of course, but more in the styles. In fact Nick pointed out that some composers blatantly use whole phrases of classical pieces in their soundtracks. Many sound tracks in fact use similar orchestration and phrasing. It was great to know that somebody else shared my interest; movie music has been my passion for years.

So all in all we enjoyed *CONTINUUM* and we are very pleased to know that there will be another *Continuum* put on by the same people next year and hopefully every year from then on. We did try to do that way back in the 1970s and 1980s but times change, people find they have other things to do, but if you have new people coming in all the time you should be able to keep it going. Rose Mitchell and *Convergence* in general set a standard for cons to be held by Melbourne SF fandom and congratulations to Danny Heap and company who have carried on very nicely with a well organised con.



*The Art Panel* *Continuum* 5pm Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2003  
 Cat Sparks, Conny Valentina, Nick Stathopoulos and Marilyn Pride talk about their experiences as professional graphic artists.

*The Wearing of Costumes* *Continuum* 3pm Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2003  
 A lively presentation by Robert Jan, Gail Adams, Karen Root, Paul Polton and Jennifer Mackenzie, dramatizing the creativity of costuming, and some of its pitfalls.

All we would like to see is even a little more variety in the panels and subjects covered and in particular more about written Science Fiction and movies and a little less on the fantasy side. The venue of the "Y" is very close to food and drink outlets, but tea and coffee available in the con in a fan lounge area at least, would be nice to see. I guess we cannot expect the noise to be more subdued in the next *Maskobolo*, but we can hope!  
 M.B



8pm Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2003. Authors at a book signing following the launch of Chris Lawson's collection *Written in Blood*.