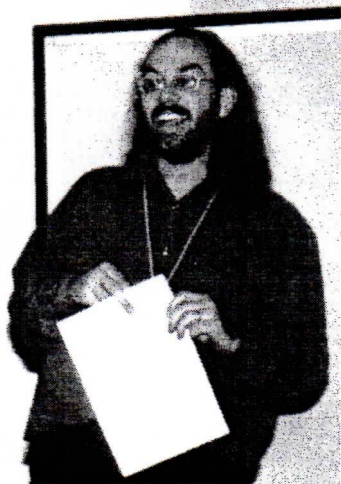


Out of the Bin



Organizer **DANNY OZ** welcomes guests and members to *CONTINUUM 2*

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A Newsletter from MERV BINNS
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SPECIAL CONTINUUM 2 ISSUE

With Photos by Helena

Dear Readers,

I just worked out roughly how many SF conventions I have attended and it is over forty. That probably pales into insignificance compared to many American fans, as there are more cons to attend each year, but I do not think that I have done too badly during my fifty years in fandom in Australia. I have missed a lot in other places than Melbourne, due to what has been my financial situation over the last twenty years or so, but it is good to know that we will be having one in Melbourne probably every year from now on. At least I know that *CONTINUUM III* will be the 2005 one, having just attended *CONTINUUM II* over the Queen's Birthday holiday weekend June 12 to 14. *THYLACON III*, the 2005 National Australian SF Convention, being held in Hobart, Tasmania, has picked the Queen's Birthday weekend and as you know Helena and I will be attending. So *CONTINUUM III* will be held later on July 15-17 and Helena and I will be attending that also, having hopefully recovered from the Tassie trip.

AND how did *CONTINUUM II* go? Each con we attend we see less of our very old friends, but we are getting to know more of the current Melbourne SF Club members.

It would appear that Danny Oz (Heap), who has been involved with Melbourne SF cons I would guess for about ten years, is a driving force in our current Melbourne SF cons organisation along with many other MSFC members. It was great to see Marilyn Pride and Lewis Morley down from Sydney again. Bill Wright was busy urging everyone to contribute to the fan fund for Bruce Gillespie to attend CORFLU Fanzine Convention in San Francisco next February 2005, while Bruce himself was selling copies of *THE INCOMPLEAT BRUCE GILLESPIE*, which is a collection of some Bruce's best articles from his zines, selected by Irwin Hirsch, produced to help raise funds for the trip also. You can obtain a copy and contribute to the fund by sending \$10.00 to Bill Wright (the administrator of the fund), Unit 4, 1 Park St, StKilda West, Victoria, 3182, Australia.

CONTINUUM
Guests included:
Artist **EDDIE CAMPBELL**
who currently has *Batman* and *Captain*

America comics due out in the US. He also created the comic book *From Hell*, which in 2001 was made into a movie starring Johnny Depp.



EDDIE CAMPBELL with MC **JACK DANN** at the opening of *CONTINUUM 2*, 11th July 2004

Melbourne award winning fantasy author **TRUDI CANAVAN**, author of *The Black Magician Trilogy*, who is working on another trilogy tentatively titled *The Age of Five Gods*. **MAX BARRY** is a full-time writer whose novels include *Syrup* and *Jennifer Government*, the latter being developed as a movie for George Clooney. Melbourne fan **DEREK SCREEN** was Fan GoH, and he has been heavily involved in media fandom in such clubs as Austrek, Starwalking, the Dr Who Club of Victoria, the MSFC and more including the very successful, now disbanded organisation Multiverse. Other Invited Guests included Morgan Evans – stunt actor, director and producer. Stephen Schutze – music composer and audio expert who won a Game Developer's Award for the score for the game *Jurassic Park Operation Genesis*. Dillon Naylor – artist, cartoonist and designer. Graeme Farmer – New Zealand radio and TV writer. Chris Roache – Film and TV script writer and developer. Pat McMurray – The GUFF fan fund delegate from England, who has helped organise conventions including next year's 2005 World Con in Glasgow.

The Opening Ceremony featuring **Danny Oz** and the guests, was made memorable by a voluble **Jack Dann**, who in due course introduced the first program item featuring the "Encyclopedia Man" **Peter Nicholls**. The achievements of this Melbourne man, editor of *The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction*, were celebrated by Russell Blackford, Jenny Blackford, Jack Dann, Janeen



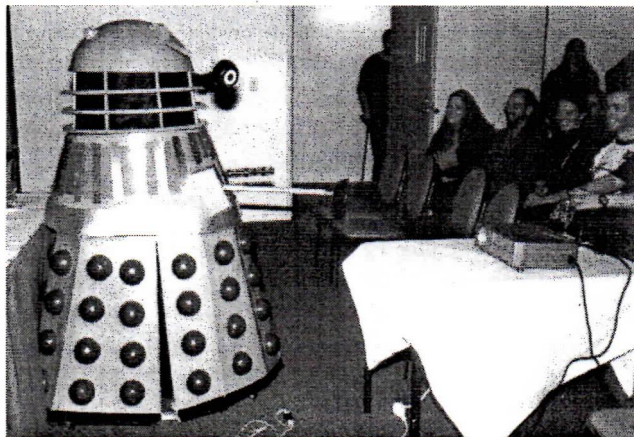
JACK DANN (right) regales the audience with an entertaining anecdote about the 'Encyclopaedia Man' PETER NICHOLLS (centre) while fellow speaker JENNY BLACKFORD breaks up.

Webb and Andrew Macrae, and Peter's wife Clare Coney. Peter was very active in the SF field in England for quite a few years but is now settled down in Melbourne with his family.



The MSFC session (from left) Fan GoH DEREK SCREEN, JAMES ALLEN and TED McARDLE

The rest of the first evening dealt mainly with an introduction to fandom, the con and the MSFC, along with a cocktail party and the "Super Robot Happy Hour", the successor to last year's "Mega Panel", featuring the wisecracking match-making Robot, with entertaining satirical presentations by some quirky humourists, and the Return of The Dalek, which terrorized the audience into a state of quivering hilarity.



It is evident that these conventions have become a means for the local authors to get together and talk about their work and to encourage and advise other authors. We were only mildly interested in that, but we managed to find other items of particular or passing interest during the con.



THE FERMI PARADOX panel. From left: PETER FAGAN, CHRIS LAWSON, RUSSELL BLACKFORD and JON SWABEY

On the Saturday we attended **THE FERMI PARADOX** panel which discussed the SETI Project and the possibility of alien contact.

VIRTUAL VS REALITY STUNTS featured stuntman Morgan Evans, who talked about his work on *The Lord of the Rings* and other movies. He and his fellow panelists also discussed the advantages and disadvantages of live action and CGI techniques of dealing with action/adventure scenes.



ALISON BARTON, stuntman guest MORGAN EVANS and DANNY OZ discuss VIRTUAL VS REALITY STUNTS

A panel on amateur film making featured some spectacular and colourful short films. Not fan films such as the "A '75" World Con bid movie that we made back in 1973, but attempts to make SF and fantasy movies, many costing not insignificant amounts of money.

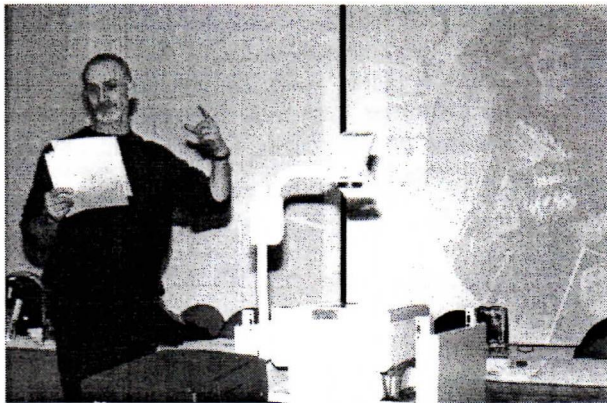


RUSSELL DEVLIN and DARREN MAXWELL presented a choice selection of amateur movie epics.



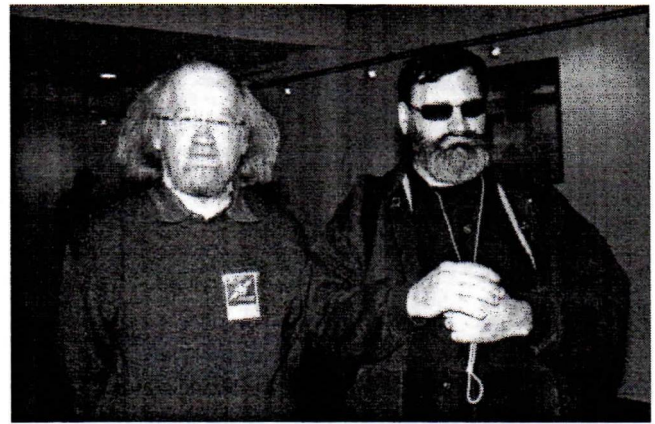
"The Two Justins" (Ackroyd and Semmel) at the FAN FUND AUCTION, featuring SF, memorabilia and a few inexplicable items such as the SAS Security Handbook that Justin Ackroyd is displaying.

Sean McMullen spoke about the historic background to the development of computers and related it to his own story writing and that of others in the **COMPUTER AGE OF THE PAST**.



SEAN McMULLEN (in a pose that could belong in a Renaissance painting) expounds on the background to modern computing, including the work of nineteenth century mathematician Ada Lovelace (on screen), who did the calculations for the operation of inventor Charles Babbage's "Difference Engine" (a mechanical precursor of electronic calculators and computers).

We spent the Saturday evening dinner break with friend David Russell, who generously took us to a pizza restaurant in Carlton, by taxi, accompanied by Les Robertson, Bruce Gillespie and Elaine Cochran.



DAVID RUSSELL and LES ROBERTSON

We returned from dinner in time to catch the latter part of Robert Jan's "Zero-G Hour of Frightfulness", a humorous presentation of musical highlights and lowlights from his radio show (3RRR on Tuesdays from 1PM).



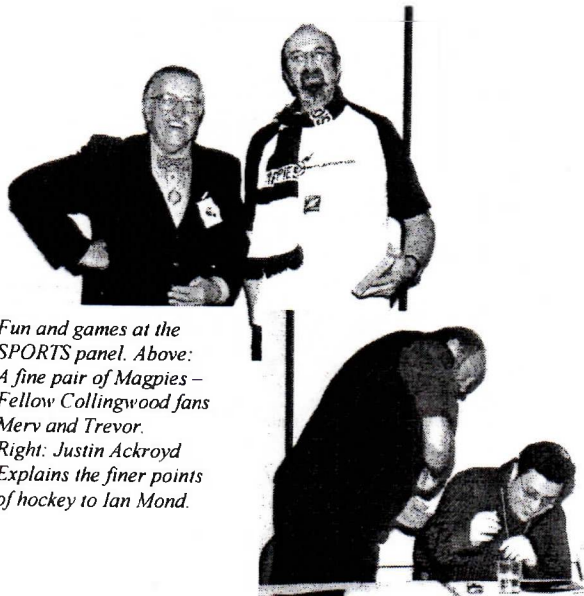
ROB JAN'S "ZERO-G HOUR OF FRIGHTFULNESS"

In the night program our main interest was a panel on **THE LORD OF THE RINGS**; The Book Vs The Film, with authors Richard Harlan, Russell Kirkpatrick (NZ author of *Across The Face of the World*, first in an epic fantasy trilogy, which is being compared by Voyager to *LotR*), Kirstyn McDermott and others. It confirmed my opinion that the movie must be viewed as a separate entity to the book, as movies must have a wide appeal to viewers and must be looked at and judged as a movie. Whatever, the visual aspects of the movie makes it even more enjoyable to read the book, as the scenes in the movie will always be in my mind's eye.



THE LORD OF THE RINGS panel.

From left: RUSSELL KIRKPATRICK, KELVIN WELBOURN, KIRSTYN McDERMOTT, JON SWABEY and RICHARD HARLAND



Fun and games at the SPORTS panel. Above: A fine pair of Magpies – Fellow Collingwood fans Merv and Trevor. Right: Justin Ackroyd Explains the finer points of hockey to Ian Mond.



The AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL and the FLYING CAR panel.

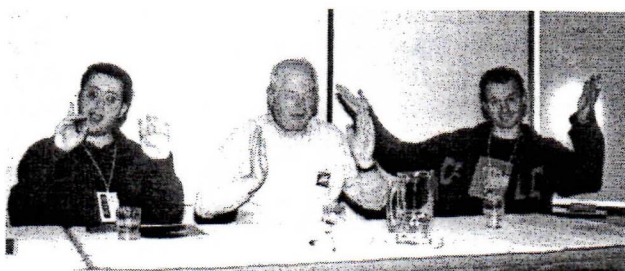
There were other panels and discussions on creating comic books, and Gothic Movies rather than horror. We missed panels on Dr Who and why do authors keep on writing the Dreaded Trilogies, but we did catch AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL IN THE AGE OF FLYING CARS with Trevor Clarke and Andrew Macrae. They decided that what we have seen of flying vehicles as numerous as cars in movies such as *Blade Runner* and *The Fifth Element* is unlikely to eventuate.

Following the earnest discussion of TLoTR was a panel on (of all things at a science fiction convention!) **SPORT**, presented by a panel of sports enthusiasts Trevor Clark, Ian Mond and Aaron Jacks, with lifelong sports hater Bruce Gillespie weighing in for the opposition as the “Devil’s Advocate”.

Bruce Gillespie and panel spoke about Bruce’s enduring interest, the life and work of SF author **PHILIP K. DICK**. They did not overlook the irony that so many movies of recent years (*Blade Runner*, *Total Recall*, *Minority Report*, *Paycheck*) have been based on his work, with other people reaping the financial rewards that he never attained.

Right: The PHILIP K. DICK panel. JON SWABEY, BRUCE GILLESPIE, ANDREW MACRAE and ALISON BARTON

Below: IAN MOND, BRUCE GILLESPIE and AARON JACKS Agree to disagree on the subject of Sport



The Sports panel was enlivened by breaks in which Ian received live phone reports from Sarah Marland at the AFL football *Essendon vs Brisbane* match taking place that evening. Following the Sports panel, an interesting talk by **Ian Mond**, with Aaron Jacks, about his enthusiasms for SF, sport and other things in relationship to his Orthodox Jewish faith and traditional lifestyle (managing the inevitable conflicts of interests at times entailing a delicate balancing act), was the last thing we attended that evening.

Max Barry and Zara Baxter spoke about **e-BOOKS** and if they will have any effect on “books” as we know them.

On Sunday **Morgan Evans** talked about being a stunt double for *LotR* and other movies, and we listened to Russell Blackford on AIs.

The **ORB Speculative Fiction** magazine launch began the evening, but we had to miss that and the following **MASKOBOLO** party, even though the costumes have always been one of the major highlights of any convention for both of us. Helena, who’d woken with migraines both Saturday and Sunday and still wasn’t feeling too well, just wasn’t up to waiting around for hours then facing music at the pain threshold. So despite our regret at not seeing the evening’s costumes, we left the “kids” to enjoy the loud music and dancing. I have always enjoyed cons and meeting people at them, even when the program has held limited interest for me. Helena and I had enjoyed this one, even though we found that the number of our old friends attending was diminishing. But neither of us felt up to attending the Monday program. Enough was enough! We were both tuckered out and we reckoned it was appropriate for us to scoot off home So we said goodbye to Danny and friends and went home for dinner and watched *SHREK* on the box, which Helena had not seen.

MERV BINNS