



Voice of the Echidna

The newsletter of Aussiecon 4
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Issue 1 Thursday Afternoon
Twitter: @EchidnaVoice

Welcome!

It's a Worldcon!

We'd like to welcome everyone to Aussiecon 4, the 68th World Science Fiction Convention!

— Perry and Rose

It's a newsletter!

And welcome too from *Voice of the Echidna*, the Aussiecon 4 newsletter.

We're hoping to produce two or three issues each day over the convention, but we need your help to do it! Please let us have your news, program item reviews and restaurant recommendations, as well as anything else that you think the members of the convention ought to know!

The newsletter will be available online (see the aussiecon4.org.au page) and on paper at the convention: you'll find racks with current and past issues by the information desk on the ground floor and just inside Room 201 on the second floor.

You can email us at echidna@aussiecon4.org.au, or you can send us a message on Twitter to @EchidnaVoice. You can also leave news (legibly written) in the submission boxes, which are by the distribution points. Newsletter deadlines are planned to be at 0900, 1400 and 1900, but please get things to us as early as possible.

Tags

Speaking of Twitter (and, indeed, Flickr), those who use it are hoping that people can limit themselves to using #Aus4, #Worldcon and #Hugos: please don't use #A4 or #Hugo, as they're far too popular already, and #Aussiecon4 is just too long!

Please think about making any photos you upload CC licensed, so that lovely people like the newsletter team can also use them!

Security

Please remember to wear your badges at all times!

Volunteers

Worldcons don't happen without lots of volunteers. If you're not already helping out, please go along to the volunteers desk in Room 201. Remember, there are exciting prizes and special gifts on offer if you work hard enough!

Limericks

In July and August, COSMOS magazine asked our readers to write a limerick about their favourite science fiction book, character or movie. We'll be running some of their favourites over the course of the weekend.

*Luke knew that he shouldn't have kissed her,
but found he just couldn't resist her.
said his Jedi insight
"something's not right",
but he didn't know she was his sister!*

Fan Funds!

Aussiecon 4 is pleased to welcome delegates from DUFF (John Hertz), GUFF (James Shields), NAFF (Gina Goddard) and FFANZ (Stephen Litton and Jan Butterworth).

Please make them welcome, and go along to the fan funds introduction panel on Friday at 1200 on Room 215. There's also an auction in aid of the fan funds on Friday at 1600 in Room 210: remember to take lots of money!

Educational Facts

Melbourne used to be called Batmania. This is because it was founded by Batman after he arrived on the *Enterprise*.

We did warn you that we'd have to make up facts about Melbourne if you didn't send us contributions....

WOOF

Contributions for Aussiecon4's WOOF fanzine should be taken to the Con Office, Office 201.

Hospitality Update

After a little last-minute negotiation, we can confirm that hospitality events will be going ahead in the Crowne Plaza. They will be in the Corporate Lounge, up the stairs from reception, and the Bridge Rooms, down the stairs from reception.

Tonight's hospitality events are:

- Montreal Thank You (Corporate Lounge, left)
- Continuum 7 (Corporate Lounge, right)

Weapons policy

Please see your Pocket Program Book for the full policy, but remember that:

We appreciate that many people would like to carry a display weapon as part of a hall costume. We also concede that most people are sensible and careful individuals. However, the risk of weapons causing accidents or distress to other convention members is too great. Apart from this general concern for the well being of our members, Australian laws now forbid the carrying of weapons of any type in almost all circumstances.

Internet access

There will be no free wireless internet at the con: you'll have to pay the MCEC for access.

Art!

Remember that, because of sales tax issues, the Aussiecon 4 Art Show will not handle art payments. Buyers will pay for artwork directly to the artist or their agent.

Please check your Pocket Program for more details, or go along to the Art Show in Room 202.

Among other fabulous works of art are Sue Mason's original Aussiecon 4 badge designs, with the proceeds to the convention.

Food!

Food courts

There are a couple of food courts near the con, which are a good bet for groups including the usual variety of fannish food and budget restrictions. How else can the rich, the poor, the vegetarian and the carnivore, all sit down to eat together? The one we re-tested today (it was good during Aussiecon 3 and is still good now) is in the Crown casino building. Go along the river (through the vasty outback of the convention and exhibition centre, where lost tribes of ~~Batmanians~~ Melburnians howl in the distance) and out the other end. Cross Spencer Street and keep along the river, going in through the entrance just before Calatrava. This is a gelateria with ice creams in all the colours of playdoh. We await a report on the latter from any fan who does not live in fear of artificial additives.

— Giulia De Cesare

Kouzina

Greek restaurant Kouzina (www.kouzina.com.au) on Southbank (from the MCEC, walk along the Yarra past the flaming columns (oooh!) past lots of restaurants, negotiate another pedestrian crossing and go past the Southgate food court entrance to ascend the green metal spiral staircase. It's well worth the effort: if you like your meat then the mixed grill for two should do you fine, and it combined nicely with a retsina too. The baklava was excellent according to my expert (nice and sweet, as opposed to the disappointing version he tried last week in Wellington).

— Jan van't Ent

Even Closer?

Even closer is the food court glimpsed but not yet tried out in the basement of the South Wharf shopping centre, round the back of the Hilton. Any volunteers care to report back?

Breakfasts

By now you might have realised that breakfast isn't necessarily included in your room rate, and also that Going Out For Breakfast is a great Melbourne activity. There are smart and stylish places, like the Little Press (the old bar) at the Press Club on Flinders Street, or Cumulus Inc on Flinders Lane. Cumulus features the 65/65 egg (poached for 65 minutes at 65 degrees), and fresh-baked madeleines stuffed with lemon curd. Little Press is the child of George Calombaris, who is the short tiggery judge from Masterchef Australia, and has a Greek influence. Even

the bog-standard Coffee Shop Round the Corner is likely to do a muffin/coffee deal, or you can visit the restaurant in a neighbouring hotel if you want to go exploring. Melbourne is the home of the Third Wave of coffee trends, so expect a good range of espresso-based coffee wherever you go. Chai Latte is the alternative, a milky sweet spiced tea. Unfamiliar breakfast dishes (for foreigners, anyway) include Bircher Muesli, which is like raw porridge and has been soaked overnight in milk, juice, or yoghurt. You can pay anything from \$5 for a snack to \$20 for a main cooked meal somewhere smart. Most places open from 0700-0730, why not go for a wander and explore?

— Fran Dowd

WSFS Newsletter

Mark Committee Meeting

The WSFS Mark Protection Committee, which manages the intellectual property of WSFS such as the service mark on "Hugo Award" and "Worldcon", will meet at Aussiecon 4 to finalise its report to the WSFS Business Meeting. This meeting is open to all Worldcon members: please meet outside the entrance to Room 202 at 1800 on Thursday to be taken to the secret location.

— Kent Bloom

WSFS Business Deadline

The deadline for submitting new business to this year's WSFS Business Meeting is 1700 on Thursday. To submit new business, bring 200 copies (including an original signed by at least two Worldcon members) to the Con Office (Office 201) and ask that they be set aside for Business Meeting.

— Kent Bloom

WSFS Business Preview

The Preliminary WSFS Business Meeting is at 1000 on Friday morning in 216. Friday's meeting deals with receiving reports from WSFS committees such as the Mark Protection Committee (MPC) and the Hugo Eligibility / Rest of the World (HEROW) committee, and sometimes taking action on those reports. For example, there will be a resolution from the HEROW committee to extend eligibility for non-US-published works for an additional year as has been common practice for the past few years, and there will also be a proposal to extend eligibility for a specific work based on limited distribution. The Preliminary meeting also sets the agenda and debate time limits for the discussion of amendments to the

WSFS Constitution, which will happen at Saturday's meeting.

New constitutional amendments will first come up at Friday's meeting, where they will be subject to technical scrutiny and may be dismissed without debate. The Friday meeting is also where members may make nominations for the WSFS Mark Protection Committee, the only permanent standing body of the World Science Fiction Society.

Elections for the Mark Protection Committee will be held at Saturday's meeting.

On Sunday, the Business Meeting will receive the official results of the 2012 Worldcon site selection and hear the first official statements from the newly-seated committee. In addition, representatives of the 2011 Worldcon will be present for Question Time, and bidders for future years may make presentations if time permits. Any business not otherwise handled at Saturday's meeting will be resolved on Sunday. Also, at approximately 11:00, the meeting will recess for the traditional Former Worldcon Chairs Photo Session.

Although a Monday Business Meeting appears on the schedule, it will only be held in the unlikely event of Sunday's meeting being unable to resolve all business by the end of the scheduled time. This hasn't happened since 1992.

Remember that the WSFS Business Meeting is open to all members of Worldcon. Every member may attend, debate business, and vote, as WSFS gathers for its annual "town meeting" to discuss its fundamental governing rules.

— Kent Bloom

WSFS Constitutional Changes

Four substantive changes to the WSFS Constitution have been proposed:

- Repeal the existing initial price cap on Worldcon memberships for people who vote in Site Selection.
- Explicitly authorize Worldcons to conduct Hugo Award and Site Selection elections electronically.
- Permit Worldcons to distribute their rules electronically.
- Allow members of the following Worldcon (as well as the current and previous one) to nominate for the current year's Hugo Awards.

There are also two technical amendments.

Only items that survive Friday's initial round of agenda-setting will be debated and voted upon at Saturday's meeting.

— Kevin Standlee

This issue was produced by Flick, with help from Jan van't Ent, Steve Davies, Fran Dowd, Ang Rosin and some other people. Masthead by Sue Mason. It's a good job that we have tame geeks, that's all that I can say. We're following #Aus4 and #worldcon on Twitter and Flickr.

Aussiecon 4 is supported by the Melbourne Convention and Visitors Bureau and the City of Melbourne.