



Voice of the Echidna

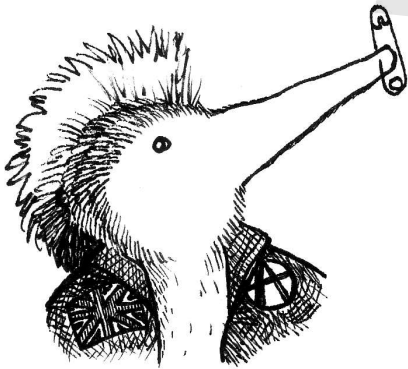
The newsletter of Aussiecon 4
Email: echidna@aussiecon4.org.au

Issue 2 Friday Morning
Twitter: @EchidnaVoice

Issue Two:

An Echidna in the UK

So there we were in Montreal, working on the Worldcon newsletter in a featureless underground cell. "We could be doing this in Walthamstow," we thought. So here I am, the Aussiecon night shift, toiling away on the far side of the planet while you all sleep party attend hospitality functions. It's like living in the future, truly it is.



An Echidna in the UK

— Alison Scott

Key Program Changes

Ellen Datlow will be leaving the con on Friday, due to a family emergency. Sean Williams is not able to attend the con; Lezli Robyn, who started her career as a collaborator with Mike Resnick, will replace him on the "Partners In Crime" panel.

New daily program pink sheets will be available from the Information Desk: please collect yours!

Cheap Pizza and Coffee

Bertha Brown at 562 Flinders Street is offering \$5 pizzas and \$2 coffee to badge wearing Aussiecon 4 members. Tania tells us that the Italiano and Giardino are both delicious. If someone could please send a Quattro Formaggi and a strong skinny cap to East London I could really do with one.

Say "G'Day"

A Linguist Writes

Part of the Australian stereotype is the infamous "G'day." It's something we can't deny. We do say "G'day." From the first words between two lovers in the morning, to a chance encounter on the street: "G'day." As much as I hate the Australian stereotype portrayed overseas, I cannot deny using this greeting. "So, how do you say it?" I hear you ask.

First of all, you must remember that it is a contraction of the more formal "good day." Where some cultures run words together, Australians apply that to whole sentences. Speak to an Australian on a Friday, and they may encourage you to, "Aveagoodweekend." So let's break "G'day." into its component parts.

G: Looking at how "G'day" is in its written form, people tend to pronounce it with a hard "gee" sound. Thinking of it as a contraction of good may have you believing that a softer "goo" is correct. Both are wrong. It is a guttural "grrr," produced in the back of the throat. A soft growl, with almost no hint at the original word "good."

Day: There are many local variations on the pronunciation of "day:" the under-educated city "diy;" the country "da-ay" drawl. The most natural results are with a short, soft "d," followed by a long, soft "a," and almost no "y," giving something like: daaay.

"Grrrdaaay." Finally the lip and jaw movement. Quite simply, there is none. The upper and lower jaw are parted just enough to separate the teeth, but not enough to be able to pass your tongue through. The lips only just part, and there is a slight curl while uttering the growl. The sound is produced nasally. It should be uttered quickly, as if it were only one syllable. Imagine a thousand and one house-flies trying to crawl into your mouth. Australians tend to speak with their mouths closed. Grrdaay. "G'day."

With practice, remembering what I've written above, you will be able to give an almost convincing Aussie "G'day."

— Michael Keogh

Masquerade Participants

Likely to Move Shock

Please note that the Worldcon Masquerade is a theatrical performance, not a costume party. If you wish to enter, you need a form from the Information Desk (please leave your completed form with the Information Desk before 1200 on Saturday). If you have any tech or musical requirements, please make sure that they are included on your form.

A long long time till dinner

David Levine tells us that you can find a crowdsourced Aussiecon 4 restaurant guide at community.livejournal.com/australia2010/60745.html.

Hospitality Report

The Montreal Thank You reception had good atmosphere, good mood, and good people. A variety of maple-based snacks were available together with an appropriate array of other finger-food, and a plentiful supply of all the standard soft drinks. Fans fond of seafood, dairy produce and nut traces would find it easy to find raw materials to taunt their less tolerant peers. Quality of conversation: high. Flags unfamiliar to correspondent: three.

Those in search of other receptions may repeat their searches again on Friday: issues beyond the comprehension of your very thoroughly received correspondents mean that the other receptions thought to be scheduled for Thursday evening are, in fact, available later in the convention.

— Douglas Spencer and Julia Daly,
hospitality correspondents

In Search of WiFi

For those of you desperately seeking free WiFi, there is free (but limited, 30 minutes/50MB) WiFi access at Southern Cross Station, just a few blocks up Spencer Street on the left. Very modern architecture, though seats are sparse – there are benches in front of and inside the passenger lounge, on the track level at the very south end of the station. A walk north will also take you across Flinders Street, on which the free ‘City Circle’ trams (#35) will take you on a nice roughly 1 hour loop around the city centre (including access to Chinatown and Federation Square) and the new Docklands development – note that it only runs until 1800, but is fairly frequent until then. A pretty fast trip (for which fare is required) may also be had on the #96 tram to St. Kilda Beach (end of the line), with an interesting array of shops and restaurants. The trams stop at both Batman Park (of course) directly in front of the Crowne Plaza, and on the south side of the river at the MCEC.

– Duncan Allen

For those not at Aussiecon

Well, that isn't any of you [*Hmph!* – Ed.]. But Twitter reckons that the next best thing is Cheryl Morgan's new webzine *Salon Futura*, launching this weekend with a slick website and lots of relevant SFnal non-fiction content. Personally I think the next best thing would be China Miéville lightly beaten and covered in [*that's quite enough of that* – Ed.]

Fun Echidna Facts #1

A young echidna is called a puggle and is smaller than a jellybean. Monotremes have no nipples so the puggle sucks on oozy patches of skin.

Stats for Stats' sake

Membership numbers: at close of reg on Thursday, there were 1334 pre-registered attending members on site. There were also 49 new attending members and 51 Thursday day memberships, for a total of 1,434 warm bodies on site.

Echidna Editors Cut Off From Continent!

Eventually we resorted to buying internet access on Flick's credit card. But it turns out that you can only buy a maximum of 8 hours access in any 48 hour period. No use for *Echidna* with our 24-hour news cycle! So now we've press-ganged the entire newsletter team into giving up their credit cards for the cause.

Cosmos Limerick #2

*Captain James Tiberius Kirk,
used to wear a black thong with red
needlework,
when he was cruising the bars,
down by the canals of Mars,
it was an unsavoury psychological quirk.*

Volunteer Team Needs YOU

Cons like Aussiecon can only happen because of the army of volunteers helping out on all aspects of the con. Volunteer in Room 201 after 1000 and you can win great prizes! Some have been donated by lovely dealers: Alto Books, Endangered Pictures, Ticonderoga Press, Pink K Designs, Coeur de Lion and Storm Publishing. Thanks to all.

Sirius Cybernetics Customer Information

Apparently the escalators all change speed when empty. Is it (a) to save energy and do their little bit for the planet, or (b) to generate Comedy Moments when unwary fans step on them?

– thanks to Doug Spencer

Half Nymph Half Biscuit

The story of Echidna is a sad story indeed. Born with the unusual genetic condition of being half woman and half serpent, she has been picked on all her life. Some people just ignore her and pretend that she doesn't exist. What's with that? After all, no-one would say that Poseidon doesn't exist.

Echidna has also been subject to racial discrimination. Unlike her siblings the Titans, who were gods, or the Cyclopes, blacksmiths to the Olympians, Echidna has never been accepted. She and her children have been attacked and sometimes killed because of how they look and their beliefs*.

Join the cult of Echidna today at www.echidna_was_misunderstood.com

* Belief 1: Humans are tasty

Belief 2: Humans are tasty

– Marianne Cain

Faneds Feast

Cheap Food: Priceless Conversation

People who like fanzines and people who like people who like fanzines, please meet at Registration Saturday at 1130.

– Murray Moore

Regency Dancing

It couldn't really be called a Science Fiction Convention without a Regency Dance, and sure enough, John Hertz writes: We'll have English Regency ballroom dancing on Friday night at 2100, Room 219. Come in costume or come as you are. If you don't know how, I'll teach you.

A Correction!

Melbourne used to be called Bearbrass.

Fan Funds Plug

This evening's fan fund auction will include a wide variety of rare and otherwise unobtainable things, including Weta Digital Crew Sweatshirts for *District 9* and *Avatar*, and a pair of dogtags that commemorated the *Avatar* crew reaching a petabyte of data. Come along and bid!

– Norman Cates

Buy Your Legacy Pin

Today is 'buy your legacy pin' day and soldiers will be selling pins all around the city today.

Vote Early Vote Often

You've got plenty of chance to show your support for upcoming Worldcon bids this weekend. Get along to the fan tables in room 201, or the parties hospitality events, and join in the fun.

Chicago in 2012 (vote!) www.chicagoin2012.org

Texas in 2013 bid event www.texasin2013.org

Zagreb in 2013

UK in 2014 bid event www.londonin2014.org

[*Rah! Rah! Go London* – Ed.]

Kansas City in 2016

Nippon in 2017 nippon2017.org

New York in 2017

New Zealand in 2020 www.nzcon2020.org

New Zealand in 2020 is very grateful to the Texas and London bids for allowing them to join in with their events this weekend.

– Jan van't Ent

A Short Message for Anticipation Attendees

Bonjourhi! We're still waiting for our cupcakes....

You can deliver them to the newsletter office or to Walthamstow, London!

This issue was produced by an Antiantipodean late night candleburning Alison Scott, with help from bleary-eyed Flick and an army of worldwide contributors. And no help from iTunes 10, which verily doth suck mightily. Masthead and punk echidna by Sue Mason. 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.