



Voice of the Echidna

The newsletter of Aussiecon 4
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Issue 7 Saturday Evening
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Further News From New Zealand

While New Zealand is recovering from the earthquake, there is now news that a skydiving light aircraft has crashed taking off from the Fox Glacier. Four international tourists, four local people and the pilot have all been killed. We know that a lot of fans here went to this area recently, and may have flown to the Glacier. The NZ2020 team appreciate the kind thoughts of everyone who has dropped by the desk today to express sympathies.

Dates For Your Diary

Additional Kaffeeklatsch

Susan Xu, Sunday 1400-1450. Sign up at the Information Desk from Sunday 1000.

Les Tricoteuses

Knitters, spinners and other needlecraft folks are invited to get together at 1400 on Sunday in the Fan Lounge (Room 201).

Rare Opportunity

A signed copy of *Odyssey*, the Authorised Biography of Arthur C Clarke, is being sold by silent auction in aid of the New Zealand in 2020 Worldcon bid: please go to the bid table in Room 201 before Monday to place your bids!

Sydney Fans

Fans from Sydney meet at 1800 on Sunday outside Room 202 for dinner.

Strange Horizons

Correction: we incorrectly said that the *Strange Horizons* tea party was on Saturday afternoon. It's actually on **Sunday** from 1400 to 1600 in the Hilton's Ground Floor Sotano.

Apologies From John Hertz

John Hertz apologises for missing his Classics of SF talk: it wasn't on the Pink Sheets, and Program Ops couldn't find it, so he assumed it was cancelled, unlike all the people who went to see it!

Sydney Futurian Meeting

There will be a Sydney Futurian-style discussion at 1600 on Sunday in Room 216.

All interested are invited to contribute the conversation about "Conflict between cities in SF", based on their SF reading and viewing experiences.

From Program Ops

There **will** be an updated Sunday Pink Sheet, available at the Information Desk from 0900.

Please note that "child in tow" means that you must remain with the child. This still applies for child programming: it is not a babysitting service!

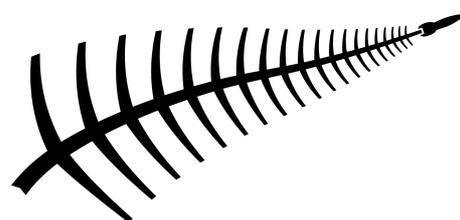
New Zealand 2020

Five days ago, I was expecting to have a nice quiet Aussiecon 4.

Then Sean Williams and BASFA happened, and I found myself standing in a convention room in New Zealand with my mouth open and money being thrown at me. Apparently, I was now the chairman of the bid for a Worldcon in New Zealand in 2020. And then fandom happened.

Fans from all over the world gathered around and had ideas and designs, and within two hours a website. I am in awe of the generosity of time and energy that the fans have poured into this. A word I've been using quite a lot is "awesome".

So I and everyone involved with this bid want to say thank you to the core group who have pulled this together in such a short time, and also to all of you who have



NZIN2020.ORG

Tonight's Hospitality Events

Events run from from 2100 to 0100 in the Crowne Plaza hotel:

- Reno in 2011 (Corporate Left).
- Texas in 2013 and New Zealand in 2020 (Corporate Right).
- London in 2014 (Bridge)

Also, Brotherhood Without Banners (George R R Martin) will be holding an event from 2130 in the CO Nightclub, 2nd floor of the Crown Casino: free entry and open bar!

popped by the table in room 201 to say "Hi", or to sign up as a pre-supporter.

Thank you especially to the Texas in 2013 and London in 2014 bids, who have taken us under their wings and invited us to share their party areas on Friday night.

The designated Russians thank you!

— Norman Cates

Dealer news

The impressive quantity of old S&SF magazines on sale at the Rotary table represents a surprise appearance of (late) Sydney fan Kevin Dillon.

Apparently, one garage of Kevin's books has escaped the public Trustee and is now on sale, with proceeds to charity, to fans who might appreciate them.

— Garry Dalrymple

Tonight's Weather

Predictions for tonight seem to think it will be a bit showery and cloudy, cool at around 14. That's somewhere in the 50s in Real.

When The Going Gets Tough

The Tough Go Shopping

It's a bit late for restaurant reviews for this evening, so we thought we'd tell you about shopping opportunities for the next couple of days. Lots of shops in Melbourne are open on Sundays, but please check by phone or internet before you make a special trip.

Sizing

Any women going clothes shopping should note that the mainstream stores go up to an Aus size 14 (the internet says that's a UK12/US10, but I thought it was more like a UK16/US14). No short fittings were found by your 4'11" correspondent.

There was a thread on shopping for larger sizes on the Australia2010 LiveJournal community, and there's also a fatshionista_oz community you could check out. For lingerie, try Victoria's Affair at the top of the Vic market, which has corsets and bustieres up to size 32.

It's worth shopping around: Australia really is a nation of shopkeepers. Melbourne is full of small independent shops full of unusual things, rather than the mega-chains that have a stranglehold in the UK, although they are also present along with lots of others that you've never heard of.

Minotaur Comics is Melbourne's largest comic shop. It's located downstairs at 121 Elizabeth Street, tel. 03 9670 5414.

Also, if you're doing trendy foodie shopping, don't forget that cupcakes are so last year, you should be looking for macarons, and no, we don't mean macaroons. [*Hint, hint.*]

— *Giulia De Cesare and others*

Exterminate!

Saturday's Build a LEGO Dalek (for kids) was a big success with about twenty-five children cramming around the table loaded with parts to build their evil Dalek. Some needed a little assistance, but most just had to be shown the parts and they knew exactly what to do. The biggest challenge was making sure there would be enough parts left for the adult session.

The Sunday Build a LEGO Dalek (for adults) takes place in room 216 at 1700, and looks like it will be very popular. We only have parts for 50 of them, so make sure you get there early to avoid disappointment.

To cover the cost of Dalek parts, there will be a small charge of AU\$3 if you want to keep your Dalek.

— *James Shields*

On The Subject Of LEGO

If anyone has found extra pieces for the LEGO Pirate pack, could you please let either Keith or Jacqui Smith know, or leave a message at the Kids' Room (209).

What Are We Sitting On?

Friday morning, and I'm at an academic panel: along the lines of "Anarchy in the Cosmos; that the history of SF has always been punk", but all I can think about is the seating. The chairs here in the convention centre are *amazingly* comfortable.

Seriously. They appear to be made entirely of that stuff they use underneath playground swings to absorb some of the bounce, and as I sit here typing, my butt is gently bouncing on the seat in a very comfortable, if slightly disturbing, fashion. Hopefully nobody notices my quiet smile ...

— *Zara Baxter*

Quote of the Day

From the Fringe panel (1300 Saturday)

Seanan McGuire: "You'd be familiar with the Dr Who episode Father's Day?"

Paul Cornell (author of same): "..."

Signing eBooks

Adrian Emery suggests that you get the author to sign a book plate then scan it in: lots of eBook management software will let you add the image file to the eBook file, as long as it's DRM free!

Kathryn Sullivan, on the other hand, suggests asking the author to sign using the "notes" function of your eBook reader, or to sign a CD containing the file.

[*I'm sorry I started this now -Ed*]

Editor's Question

Enough of the eBooks already, what exactly *is* the difference between a flat white and a latte?

Long Memories

Does anyone remember throwing a drunk Queenslander out of Aussiecon 2? Because he's now a salt-water-croc wrangler on the Daintree and said to tell you he hasn't forgotten ...

Echidnas Not In The UK

A hedgehog doesn't eat ants! We could do with an echidna right now, in the UK, where it's cold and damp and not at all like Melbourne.

— *Helen Armstrong*

Badger Penguin Parade (cont.)

Then it was back on the bus to visit the Koala sanctuary. We followed a boardwalk around their favourite trees, carefully obeying the signs that said you mustn't shake the branches to try to get them to move. We saw three, and one of them moved, so we are prepared to believe that they were neither animatronic nor stuffed.

On to the penguins, the true reason for the trip. We made our way through the distracting visitor centre full of sweetie shops, fast-food counters, souvenir stuffed penguins and other Australasian tat, passed the blue-screen photo opportunity and out onto the board walk. After a day of rain the steps and bench seat-tops were very very wet, and we used one of our waterproof coats to protect our bottoms from that otherwise inevitable seeping damp. We got good seats and the area slowly filled with noisy, snack-munching tourists and school-children. As the light faded a ranger settled the silver bullets firmly on his hips and delivered a serious talk about penguins coming in-shore in groups known as "rafts", their shy nature and the need for us to be as quiet as possible. It got darker. We stared at the ocean. It got darker. We gazed through the twilight at penguin-sized rocks in the surf. Nothing. It got darker.

Suddenly there was a rustle of interest. And there they were. Our first set of penguins, a group of about eight, were swimming together parallel to the shore trying to decide where to land. They fell out of the surf, bobbing up and down from standing to tummies to standing, and then they were off, no hesitation, waddling purposefully across the beach, leaving no penguin behind, and then ... gone. After that whole series of penguins followed. Some made it first go, others shimmied forward and back in and out of the water, like reverse reluctant swimmers fearing the cold of the new environment.

Like the penguins, we headed inland along the boardwalk, watching penguins making their way along penguin super-highways, or stopping and gazing around like Alzheimer sufferers knowing they'd left their burrow round here somewhere... And the noise was incredible.

The night landings were to avoid predators who hunt by sight, but anything that hunts by sound would be too stuffed with penguin to ever move again. It was like being surrounded by 12 "black and white Chewbaccas and Mogwais.

An astounding experience and one we would recommend to anyone.

— *Julia Daly*

This issue was produced by Fran Dowd, with help from Flick, Jan, Doug, Steve, Ang, mrgazpacho. Also Fran's glasses, which she left here last night. So if she's been ignoring you, there was a reason ...

Masthead 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.