



Voice of the Echidna

The newsletter of Aussiecon 4
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Issue 5 Saturday Morning
Twitter: @EchidnaVoice

Earthquake in New Zealand

There was a 7.0-magnitude earthquake on the South Island of New Zealand at 0435 NZ time this morning. The epicentre was near Christchurch, where a state of emergency has been declared. There are no reports of fatalities, but there have been some serious injuries. Christchurch airport is closed until at least noon on Saturday. If anyone at the convention is affected, let us know if there's anything we can do to help. Prayer rooms are available on the ground floor of the MCEC (opposite the Press Office) for anyone who needs some quiet space.

Ditmar Winners

Best Novel: *Slights*, Kaaron Warren
(Angry Robot Books)

Best Novella/Novellette: "Wives", Paul Haines

Best Short Story: "Seventeen", Cat Sparks

Best Collected Work: *Slice of Life*, Paul Haines, Geoffrey Maloney, ed.

Best Artwork: Lewis Morley, Cover, *Andromeda Spaceways Inflight Magazine* #42

Best Fan Writer: Robert Hood for *Undead Backbrain*

Best Fan Artist: Dick Jenssen

Best Fan Publication: *Steam Engine Time*, Bruce Gillespie and Janine Stinson

Best Achievement: Gillian Pollock *et al* for the Southern Gothic banquet at Conflux

Best New Talent: Peter M Ball

A. Bertram Chandler Award for Outstanding Achievement in Australian SF: Damien Broderick

Norma K Hemming Award: Maria Quinn, *The Thieves*. A new award celebrating excellence in exploring the themes of race, gender, class and sexuality in speculative fiction.

Short Story Competition: The brief was for new genre fiction that's imaginative, entertaining, and contains the words 'make ready' and an Australian landmark. The winner was "The Perforation" by Helen Stubbs. Runner up: "The Rise & Fall of a Fair Dinkum Superhero" by Aidan

Read This: Site Selection

Site Selection closes at 1800 on Saturday, not 1900 as listed in the Pocket Program! Remember to vote before 1800 on Saturday!

Doyle. Prizes generously provided by the Australian Science Fiction Association.

Peter McNamara Award: for contribution to the SF community. Dr Janine Webb.

Not-a-Ditmar Awards:

William Aethling Award for Criticism: *The Secret Feminist Cabal*, Helen Merrick

Best Fannish Cat: Peri Peri Canavan [*This award thing has clearly got out of hand* — Ed]

— with thanks to Cheryl Morgan, Kevin Standlee, and conreporter.com

Volunteer Update

Please report hours worked (up to 1600) to the Volunteer Desk by 1700 each day to enter tonight's fabulous volunteer raffle. One entry for every two hours worked. Winners will be announced in the newsletter when we get them and at the Volunteer Desk each morning.

Thanks again to the dealers for their generous donations

Where to Find Stuff

Lost and Found is now in the Con Office, on the second floor, rather than at the Information Desk. **Program Participant and Hugo packs** are available only in Program Ops, Room 205. Don't ask us, we only work here.

Prometheus Hall of Fame

The Hall of Fame award went to Poul Anderson's classic story, "No Truce with Kings", which had previously won a Hugo Award. A touching reminiscence about the writing of the story was contributed by Anderson's widow, Karen.

— Taras Wolansky

Art Show News

Remember that even though sales are being handled differently than usual, all potential art show buyers **must** have a bidder registration number (not your con badge number). Please come to the art show and register for yours today!

Art Show has fabulous works of art by Shaun Tan, Patrick Jones, Lewis Morley, Marilyn Pride, Nick Stathopoulos, the Mayfair Collective and many more.

Meet the Artist Saturday:

Lachlan Creagh 1000 – 1800

Bob Eggleton 1400-1600

Elise Matthesen 1000 – 1530

Marianne Plumridge 1400 – 1600

Spring Schoenhuth 1200 – 1330

Sebastian Rice will present a slideshow and talk about his extensive collection of sf/f art at 1400.

Check with the Art Show desk for unscheduled appearances.

Would the following members please drop by the Art Show and register for your bidder numbers? Without a bidder registration number, we cannot guarantee the validity of your bid.

A. Losin (1229), Lynette Maher (1388), M Pauletich (1347), KRin Pender-Gunn (1349), R Kirkpatrick (1392), Joan Mayall, Malcolm Leggett, Tracy Redden (1524), Karen Healey (1889), Tanya de Long-Curtain (2910), Ann Poore (1367), Mandy Herriot (467)

— Jannie Shea

Pink Sheet Erratum:

The play will be going ahead at 1800 in the Plenary, as originally scheduled.

Hospitality Reports

A grand total of four hospitality events this evening, some of which were shared between two organisations.

The only event not associated with a future Worldcon bid was hosted by the **Canberra SF Group**, a quiet gathering with soft drinks, flatbreads and dips.

Décor: minimalist. **Chocolate balls:** orange.

Across the hall the reception for the **Chicago in 2012 Worldcon bid** was a slightly livelier affair with posters from the city's history and references to such things as World Fairs and Presidential Inaugurations. Exotic foods such as Oreos and teacakes were in evidence, and conversation was occasionally silenced by the roar of a fruit-smoothie machine running under zero load. Odd not to see a registration table here.

Date of World's Fair: 1933. **Nature of mutant twiglets:** extra-large, marmite-free.

Proceeding upstairs, we found the first of two shared receptions on the right, hosted by **Texas in 2013** and **New Zealand in 2020**. Fans surviving on hotel breakfasts and bid hospitality alone were served well here: besides macarons, kiwi fruit, shortbread, nuts, Whittaker's Chocolate (for those with taste) and Hershey's Kisses (for others), the bids provided a table laden with ingredients for the assembly of steak sandwiches, ideal for those unaware of the benefits of cheese that has some bite. It was a little disconcerting to find that the drinks which the reception seemingly provided actually came by way of a paid bar, a shock sprung on visitors without notice, leading to stumbling embarrassment (Brits) or swift and drinkless exit (others). Both bids correctly provided an opportunity to pre-support.

Designs of inflatable seen: twofold. **Size of silver fern stickers:** multiple.

Finally, proceeding once more across the hall, your tireless correspondents attempted to penetrate the seething masses attending the **UK and Irish Fandom** and **Continuum 7** reception, marking the London in 2014 bid and the 2011 Melbourne annual convention respectively. Poster-sized book covers from British authors adorned walls to the left, and flags of northern European nations decorated windows to the right. There was shortbread, there was Battenberg cake, there was the sort of cheese that seizes the back of your throat and wrestles it to the ground. The culture of the UK's bonniest parts had been

distilled for the pleasure of the attendants, who were invited on a metaphorical tour of the regions of Scotland, as represented by its most famous export. And, while a jug clearly labelled for donations was available, no-one was charged for anything (except for becoming a pre-supporter or friend of the bid, of course).

Crowd density: high. **Malts sampled:** four.

Oh, one other thing. There were tentacles. We counted four of them, two large and two small, but there may have been more. It probably made some sort of sense at the time. To someone. We have to go and lie down now.

— Douglas Spencer and Julia Daly,
hospitality correspondents

Today on Twitter

#askacurator A few years ago I was lucky enough to see an echidna collected by Sir Joseph Banks on Cook's voyage. Where is it?

Australian Museum: @britishmuseum Do you have the echidna specimen referred to?

British Museum: The echidna specimen is far more likely to be in @NHM_London

The Natural History Museum: We have many amazing things in our collection, but there is no echidna collected by Captain Cook.

That'd be 72 Beats Then

Rather than have **Paul Cornell** sob for an hour about why the BBC didn't pick up his fantastic pilot *Pulse* as a series, you can instead see the classic radio game show *Just A Minute*. Participants are **Jennifer Fallon**, **Patrick Nielsen Hayden**, **China Miéville** and **John Scalzi**. Saturday 1600. So which con will now be the first to actually have a *Pulse* panel?

— Fran Dowd

Attn Former Worldcon Chairs

The traditional gathering for a photo opportunity will take place on Sunday at 1100 in Room 216, at the first break point when the Business Meeting can take a recess. Please be there for the photo shoot, and please pass the word to other former Chairs who may not have heard the word about the session.

— Kent Bloom

Blatant Plug

New Pratchett novel! A fabulous Discworld title filled with witches and magic, *I Shall Wear Midnight* is the fourth Discworld title starring Tiffany and her tiny, fightin', boozin' pictsie friends, the Nac Mac Feegle (aka The Wee Free Men).

Golden Duck Awards

For excellence in Children's SF Literature:

Picture Book Award: *Swamps of Sleethe* by Jack Prelutsky, illustrated by Jimmy Pickering (Knopf)

Eleanor Cameron Middle Grades Award: *ZRex* by Steve Cole (Penguin)

Hal Clement Young Adult Award: *Catching Fire* by Suzanne Collins (Scholastic)

Special Award: You Write It: Science Fiction by John Hamilton (Abdo)

An Echidna In the UK #2

Surely an echidna in the UK would be a hedgehog?

— Marianne Cain

On the Signing of eBooks

Bob Silverberg reports that somebody asked him to sign their Kindle. And Brett Mashado tweets "Kim Stanley Robinson signed my iPad wow!" Could get a little crowded after a while.

— with thanks to Chris Sloan

Strange Horizons

Online magazine *Strange Horizons* will be celebrating its tenth anniversary with a tea party, today from 1400 to 1600 in the Hilton's Ground Floor Sotano. Come along, eat cookies, drink tea and see the magazine!

Breakfast Recommendation

If you aren't into huge breakfasts but need a quick jolt of sugar and caffeine, we found the place for you! It's called Michel's and here's how you get there.

Leave this building and go to Spencer street then turn left and go over the hill (good for getting rid of those calories) to Flinders. Turn right and go about four doors down. There you can also get coffee and cake for \$4.75 and you have a choice of two cakes. Today's (Fri) choices were fresh strawberry gateau and chocolate something (sorry, couldn't understand the accent). My partner chose strawberry; I am a chocoholic. Both of us had skinny lattes. Good food, great price!

— Susan Spitzberg

Nightmare Ball

There was a nightmare ball last night: we have the photo to prove it, but not enough space to run it this issue. Anyone want to send us a write-up to go with it?

We would have gone ourselves, but no one invited us. Sniff.

This issue was produced by Alison Scott, still in a Walthamstow garrett, with help from Flick and Marianne Cain. Special interference from Jonathan Cain, schools go back Monday yay! Masthead by Sue Mason. We're following #Aus4 and #worldcon on Twitter and Flickr. Happy birthday, Dr Plokta!

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