

ICON-26TH NATIONAL SCIENCE

CONVENTION

Registration price  
rises on 1 January  
05, so register **now!**



**PROGRESS REPORT 2**  
**Wellington, March 25-28**  
**Easter 2005**

**Guests:**

**Orson Scott Card**  
**Bill Geradts**

PO Box 13-574,  
Johnsonville, Wellington  
<http://www.icon.sf.org.nz/>

creative  
NZ

ARTS COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND *TOI AOTEAROA*



diabetes new zealand



**SFFANZ**  
Science Fiction and Fantasy Association of New Zealand Inc.

## Comments from the Chair

As I type this, it's just five months until the convention.

So far we have around 40 registrations for the convention, and we have our first hotel booking. Yeeha.

It would be great to see you at the convention, being held at the West Plaza Hotel, Wellington, so if you haven't paid your fee yet, get it in:->. Remember, the price rises on 1 January to \$85 for the full weekend.

We're looking forward to a great event with lots of things planned. We've provided a selected list of programme items in this report, while a more detailed timetable will be up on the website shortly. The next progress report, in February,

will have the final timetable (subject to minor changes) in it.

My vision for this convention is to look at icons of science fiction—whether they be local or otherwise. Hence we've asked Orson Scott Card along to the event. He will be hosting a two-day professional workshop on the Wednesday and Thursday before the convention (March 23–24). There are more details about this event on the next page.

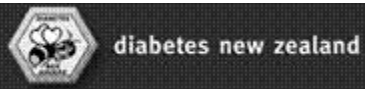
If you have a topic around the "Icons" theme that you would like to discuss, please drop us a line via email or post and we'll see what we can do.

We've ensured the banquet will cater to all palates and dietary requirements (even the diabetics amongst us). The price for this event is \$40. We are also hosting space on our guest tables. For an additional \$10 you can sit with a specified guest of honour—either Mr Card or Bill Geradts, the organiser of the Armageddon expos. There's space on the registration form for you to indicate your preference.

We'll be sending out another report in February, so until then keep an eye on the website for more news.

**Lynelle Howell**

## Our Charities



Diabetes New Zealand (Inc.) is a nationwide non-government non-profit organisation. Its aims are:

- to provide support for its members, member societies and health professionals involved with diabetes
- to increase the general public's awareness of diabetes so the incidence of undiagnosed diabetes is reduced
- to support all people with diabetes in their day-to-day management and control

- to support research in the treatment, prevention and cure of diabetes.



SFFANZ is a national body separate from, but involved with, existing science fiction and fantasy clubs. As such, it hopes to be a major part of the structure of New Zealand fandom:

- enhancing liaisons between existing fan groups
- providing support for events which transcend normal club structures (such as the annual national conventions)
- providing a national voice for fandom.

## Uncle Orson's Writing Class

**Date:** 23–24 March 2005

**Venue:** West Plaza Hotel, Wakefield Street, Wellington

**Cost:** \$300.00

Uncle Orson's writing class is a two-day seminar where you'll get to discuss the essence of writing with the master storyteller. It is open to novice and experienced writers alike. Participants will take part in discussions, lectures and idea sessions from morning until night, with Orson Scott Card leading the way.

For more information, check out the Icon website, <http://www.icon.sf.org.nz>, or Orson Scott Card's website, <http://www.hatrack.com>.

Card is a renowned American author. He is best known for the Ender's series (which includes Ender's Game and Speaker for the Dead). But his experience is not limited to one genre or form of storytelling. His contemporary novels *Lost Boys*, *Treasure Box*, and *Homebody* brought a powerful emphasis

on character and moral dilemmas to the old-fashioned ghost story. His "Women of Genesis" series—Sarah, Rebekah and soon Rachel and Leah—brings these ancient matriarchs to life.

Perhaps Card's most innovative work is his American fantasy series "The Tales of Alvin Maker", whose first five volumes are set in a magical version of the American frontier. France awarded *Heartfire*, the fifth book in the series, its highest science fiction award, Le Grand Prix de l'Imaginaire 2000.

Card's works have been translated into many languages, including Catalan, Danish, Dutch, Finnish, French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Slovakian, Spanish, Swedish and Turkish.

A dozen of Card's plays have been produced in regional theatre, including the musical *Barefoot to Zion* (written in collaboration with his com-

poser brother, Arlen L. Card). His historical novel, *Saints*, has been an underground hit for several years, and he has written hundreds of audio plays and a dozen scripts for animated video plays for the family market.

Card has written two books on writing: *Character and Viewpoint* and *How to Write Science Fiction and Fantasy*, the latter of which won a Hugo award in 1991. He has taught writing courses, including his Literary Bootcamp at UNC-Greensboro and Utah Valley State University, and a novel-writing course at Pepperdine. He has also taught in such workshops as Antioch, Clarion, Clarion West, Seton Hall, and the Cape Cod Writers Workshop.

For more information, email [enquiries@icon.sf.org.nz](mailto:enquiries@icon.sf.org.nz), or write to Writing Class, PO Box 13-574, Johnsonville, Wellington.

## Sir Julius Vogel Awards nominations

Sir Julius Vogel Award nominations for 2004 are now being accepted. These are awards in professional and fan fields from the 2004 calendar year. Categories include Best Novel, Best Short Story, Best Fan Writing, Best Fan Artwork, and Best Fanzine.

At each national science fiction convention, fans vote on nomi-

nations from the previous year and the awards are presented. For 2004 awards, that will be Icon in Wellington.

You can find full details of the categories and rules for the awards at the SFFANZ website (<http://www.sffanz.sf.org.nz>) or you can request details by post. Please feel free to nomi-

nate anyone you feel qualifies, and encourage other people to do the same.

Nominations will close Sunday, 13 February 2005.

You can send nominations to [sjv\\_awards@sffanz.sf.org.nz](mailto:sjv_awards@sffanz.sf.org.nz) or via post at: SJV Awards, PO Box 13-574, Johnsonville, Wellington.

## Hotel

Nestled next to Wellington's Civic Centre, just 10 minutes drive from the International and Domestic Airport is the West Plaza Hotel. Wellington is the home of Government and Commerce and the West Plaza's superior central location makes it possible to experience the best that New Zealand's beautiful and exciting Capital City has to offer.

Our rooms offer attractive, modern decor and are fully self-contained for complete comfort.

For guests who prefer a smoke free environment, there are designated 'non smoking' floors.

Wakefields Restaurant, with its windows embracing the street,



Women and cats will do as they please. Men and dogs had better get used to it.—  
Robert A. Heinlein,  
*Time Enough for Love*

is open throughout the day for brasserie style a la carte dining or more substantial indulgences, complemented by fine wine. The intimate atmosphere is enhanced by live entertainment in the evening.

From busy business breakfasts to cosy late night suppers, Wakefields offers a range of fresh, enjoyable cuisine and truly something for everyone seven days a week. A great place to sit and watch

the world go by.

Room rates for the convention (GST inclusive) are as follows:

Single, Double, Twin \$123.75 per night.  
Triple Rooms (4 available) \$151.90 per night.  
Suites (4 available) \$168.75 per night.

All room bookings require a first night's deposit and should be forwarded to Icon, by no later than January 31, 2005.

## The Medieval Shop



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## Guests of Honour

### Literary Guest of Honour: Orson Scott Card

Orson Scott Card is best known for the *Ender's* series (which includes *Ender's Game* and *Speaker for the Dead*).

Card has also written two books on writing: *Character and Viewpoint* and *How to Write Science Fiction and Fantasy*, the latter of which won a Hugo award in 1991. He has taught writing courses at several universities, including most recently a novel-writing course at Pepperdine, and has also taught at such workshops as Antioch, Clarion, Clarion West, and the Cape Cod Writers Workshop.

Born in Richland, Washington, Card grew up in California, Arizona, and Utah. He lived in Brazil for two years as an unpaid missionary for the Mormon Church. He received degrees from Brigham Young University (1975) and the University of Utah (1981). He currently lives in Greensboro, North Carolina. He and his wife, Kristine, are the parents of five children: Geoffrey, Emily, Charles, Zina Margaret, and Erin Louisa (named for Chaucer, Bronte and Dickinson, Dickens, Mitchell, and Alcott, respectively).



### Fan Guest of Honour: William (Bill) Geradts

(Much-admired organiser of Armageddon)



Armageddon is run twice a year: in Auckland during the first school holidays, and in Wellington during the third school holidays.

The first Armageddon was held at the Avondale Raceway, Auckland, 2–3 December 1995.

Bill is an avid supporter of the science fiction community in New Zealand and has spoken on panels and contributed fan memorabilia and merchandise to previous SF con auctions.



An alterometer converted the magnetix flux into diometric energies.—James Harvey, *Titans of the Universe*  
[No typos here—I checked three times!—Ed.]

## Contests

**Send electronic entries to competitions@icon.sf.org.nz and postal entries to: Competitions, PO Box 13-574, Johnsonville, Wellington.**

**Enter by 31 January 2005:**

**Short story competition** — email in Word or Rich Text Format (RTF) OR mail on disk or CD. Categories are:

- **Drabble**—100 words exactly—a twist on an icon of SF/F.
- **Short short story**—100–1000 words—beginning with the line “A funny thing happened to me on the way to the convention.”
- **Short story**—1000–3000 words—has to involve an icon.

**Video competition**—music video or short film. VHS tape where possible; if provided digi-

tally codec must also be provided.

**Filking competition**—written filks, theme: icons of science fiction and fantasy.

**At the con:**

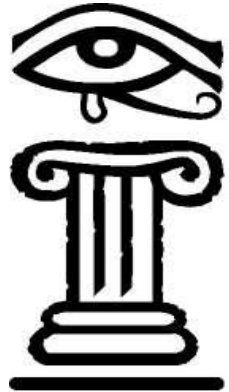
**Modelling competition**—more details in the next PR.

**Punning competition**—at a time to be scheduled, with a theme announced at the beginning of the competition.

**Conspiracy theory competition**—if you’re part of the conspiracy, you know where and when.

**Board game competition**—to be run at the con. More details available in the next PR.

**Masquerade**—open competition, with special category of icons of science fiction and fantasy. There will be marks for presentation and/or workmanship.



“Is this a chain of command, or a chain of credulity?”

“There’s a difference?” Miles grinned.—Lois McMaster Bujold, *The Vor Game*

## Writers workshop at the con

In addition to the writing class run by Orson Scott Card, there will be a free-of-charge writers workshop held at the con.

This will be a Clarion-style workshop—participants will read and comment on other writers’ work, and have their own work commented on in turn.

The workshop will start at 9 am on Friday, and go as long as

necessary for participants to finish commentary on all works.

To participate, send your work in Word or rich text format to WritersWorkshop@icon.sf.org.nz by 31 January.

Your submission will be acknowledged, so if you do not receive an acknowledgement please follow up.



## Auction items



A bright gray sky woke me, sunlight diffused through high, thin clouds. That, and the extraordinarily cheerful sound of some bird I did not know and wanted to strangle.—L.E. Modesitt, Jr., *The Magic of Recluse*

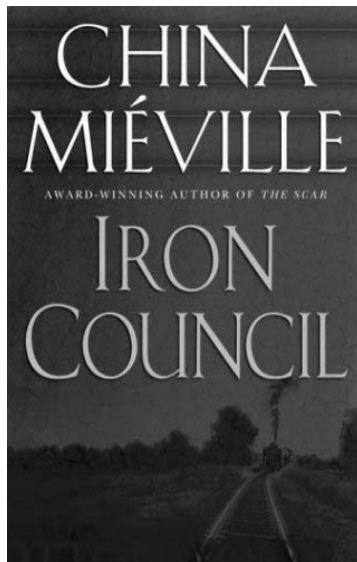
The following items will be available in the Auction at Icon.

One Spangen helm (pictured) supplied by The Medieval Shop, located at 175 Symonds Street, Auckland. Check out their advert on page 5.



One limited edition (number 305 of 550) trade paperback reading copy of China Miéville's book *Iron Council*. It is signed by the author and was donated by Pan MacMillan publishers. We understand that Mr Miéville does

not conduct signings and only signs reading copies of his books. This is an excellent opportunity to collect a very rare item.



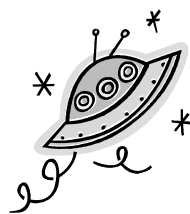
If you have items which you would like to donate to the auction, please let us know. We can auction items on your behalf for a **15%** fee.

## Registering for Icon

You can use the registration form inserted into the middle of this PR. Fill it out and post it to Icon, PO Box 13-574, Johnsonville, Wellington.

You can also get a copy of the registration form online, at [www.icon.sf.org.nz](http://www.icon.sf.org.nz). Print it out, fill it out, and post it to the PO Box.

Whichever way you do it, don't forget to enclose a cheque!



# Programme

**Note:** This list is a selection of the events and is subject to change. If there is something you would like to see on the programme, please get in touch with the convention committee at [enquiries@icon.sf.org.nz](mailto:enquiries@icon.sf.org.nz) or PO Box 13-574, Johnsonville, Wellington. If you want to help out on the panels listed below, that's even better.

The convention events include:

## Writers workshop and events

**My first convention**—What will I see at this convention?

**Modellinary**—Pictionary with clay.

**Speed conning**—How to meet everyone in one easy hour.

**Opening ceremony**—Formal convention kickoff.

**Mixer**—Party on, dudes!

**Auction**—Sell/buy those rare collectables etc.

**Rubber and how to make it**—Getting sticky with latex.

**Make your own SPFX**—Easy video editing at home.

**Guest of Honour speeches**

**Guest signings**

**Video competition screenings**—We show what you sent in.

**Cocktail party**—Food, beverages and a reading.

**Theatersports**—Whose line is it now?

**Battletech gaming**

**Babylon 5**—What is everyone doing now?

**Anime**—State of the graphic art.

**Conspiracy theory**—Present your pet theory.

**Super marionation**—No strings attached.

**Masquerade**—Who was that masqued man?

**Ice cream PJ party**—The icy rings around satin.

**Filking**—Sing till you drop.

**Alien Easter egg hunt**

**Script to screen**—What does it take to film my book?

**Car wars 2005**—Screeching tyres and dented egos.

**Current state of the art**—Where's my flying car?

**Spot the strings**—The nit-pickers guide.

**Buffy/Angel/Firefly**—The Joss Whedon Hour.

**Quiz**—Prove you do/don't know everything.

**Design a future history**—It all started back in...

**Board gaming**—A roll of the dice.

**Banquet**—Formal nosh-up.

**Prizegiving/Vogel Awards**—You may have already won!

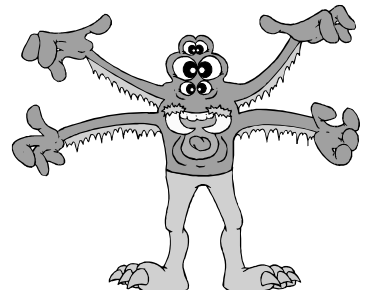
**Business meeting**—Have your say on fandom's future.

**Hosted meals**—Get together and chow down.

**Con closing ceremony**—That's a wrap!



"No, no, never send interim reports," said Miles. "Only final ones. Interim reports tend to elicit orders. Which you must then either obey, or spend valuable time and energy evading, which you could be using to solve the problem."—Lois McMaster Bujold, *Brothers in Arms*





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If you are interested in  
science fiction or fantasy,  
please see inside this letter.



Got an email address? Please let us know either by returning this form with your correct details, or emailing us at [enquiries@icon.sf.org.nz](mailto:enquiries@icon.sf.org.nz).

If the addressee is no longer at this address, and mail cannot be forwarded, please write "Return to Sender" on this letter and mail it back to us. This will not cost you anything.