

ICON-26TH NATIONAL SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION



PROGRESS REPORT 1

**Wellington, March 25-28
Easter 2005**

**Guests:
Orson Scott Card
Bill Geradts**

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



diabetes new zealand



SFFANZ
Science Fiction and Fantasy Association of New Zealand Inc.

Comments from the Chair

Welcome to the first progress report for Icon. It contains information about our guests, the hotel, competitions, Kamp Kon and other bits and pieces that you might find interesting.

The programme is still in the planning stages, but it's already starting to fill up. If you have any ideas for panels, or would like to volunteer to run something, please get in touch with us via

enquiries@icon.sf.org.nz
We'd love to hear from you.

At time of press we have one international guest, Orson Scott Card. We hope to be able to announce an-

other international guest by the next progress report in December 2004. Bill Geradts, organiser of Armageddon will also be joining us.

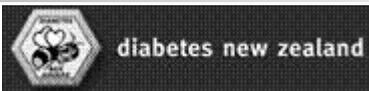
We will also be hosting Kamp Kon later this year. It is a chance for a more informal get-together of fans to participate in activities that there normally isn't enough space to run at a convention. This includes items such as film-making or role-playing. This event, scheduled for December 3-5 at Brookfield Scout Camp, Wainuiomata, should be great fun.

You'll find more about Kamp Kon in the flier included with this progress report.

Finally, I can announce that the venue for the convention will be the West Plaza hotel, Wellington. This was the site for the 1998, 2000 and 2002 conventions. An explanation of how we reached the decision on this venue is on page 5.

Keep an eye on the website for changes prior to the next PR and feel free to drop me a line through the email address if there's anything you'd like to say.

Our Charities



Diabetes New Zealand (Inc.) is a nation-wide 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), and providing a national voice for fandom.

The Guests 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, Clar-

ion, 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).



William (Bill) Geradts

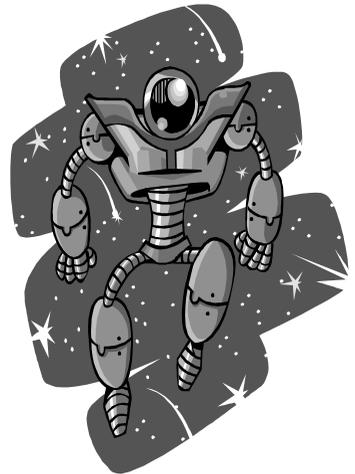
(Much-admired organiser of Armageddon)



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, December 2-3, 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.



Events



“You could have either werewolves or Pyrex nine-cup percolators in the world, but not both, surely.”

-Lila the Werewolf, by Peter S. Beagle

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The Programme so far

The events that are planned for ICON include, but are not limited to:

- My First Convention
- Modellanary—Pictionary with plastercine.
- In the Buff—a panel on, of course, Buffy.
- Alien Easter Egg Hunt—find the egg with the voracious queen alien embryo in it and win a prize...
- Children’s Easter Egg Hunt—focussed on children, but good for anyone who needs a chocolate fix on Sunday morning.
- Scavenger hunt—have a great time hunting down cool stuff, and maybe win a prize.
- Car Wars—loads of fun for the maniacs, I mean competitors, among us.
- Auction—a great chance to buy items for your collection; if you have anything to donate, or something substantial you’d like auctioned on your behalf, contact enquiries@icon.sf.org.nz.
- Masquerade—what more can we say?
- Board gaming—there will be a winner in this one, folks!
- "1000 Ideas"—Orson Scott Card’s session on how to come up with story ideas.
- Story structure—Orson Scott Card’s session taking you from idea to story outline.
- Banquet
- Cocktail Function
- Music in Science Fiction
- The Quiz
- Floating Market
- The Sir Julius Vogel Awards
- Spoof/Fan Made Movies
- Babylon 5
- Movie Nights
- Guest Signings
- Late Night Filking

Call for events

Do you have an idea for something that other fans would like to know more about? Do you enjoy talking to groups of people, or maybe need experience doing it for work?

If any of these applies to you, consider volunteering to run an event at ICON. You could chair or take part in a panel discussion, run a workshop, or make a more formal presentation.

To volunteer, contact enquiries@icon.sf.org.nz.

Hi ho, hi ho, it's off to con we go...

Once upon a time, the Icon committee decided to run a convention in Wellington. After listening to potential attendees' views on what they wanted from the venue, we set about finding ones fitting the bill.

We tried one posh hotel which seemed happy to host us with great accommodation and venue hire rates but then they decided the con would not "provide [the hotel] sufficient yield".

We started to look for another hotel.

Unfortunately there aren't too many hotels in Wellington which fit the requirements our conventions have so our choices were limited. We thought about

separating the venue and the accommodation, but that proved far too expensive—particularly since we knew people want to attend conventions as cheaply as possible.

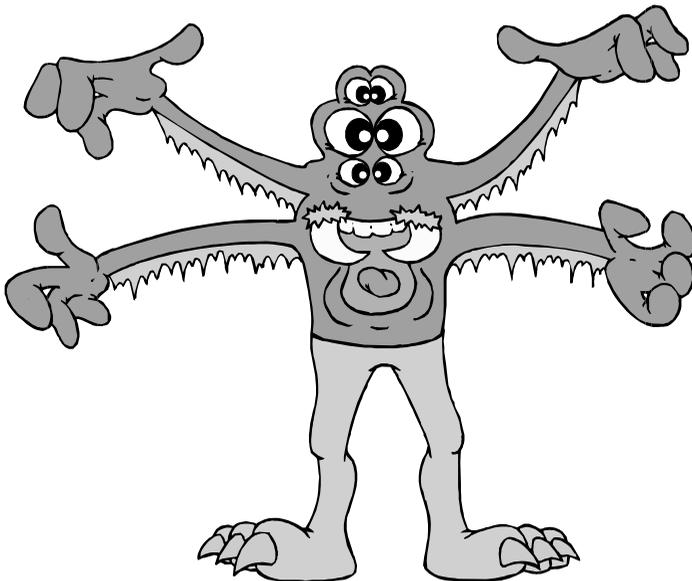
We were really impressed with another hotel. Great number of rooms and accommodation rates were well priced. The only sticking point was the venue hire price. They wouldn't budge from a number that was twice our hotel budget!

We know there is a limit to how much fans will pay for a convention fee, so we started to look for another hotel.

With our limited choices we made the only decision available—to go for a hotel which meets our requirements. It is relatively cheap (therefore making accommodation prices for you as good as we can get) and is centrally located. We have also been to this hotel before so are aware of its potentials in terms of programming space.

We felt it was important to indicate that we had tried other options, but had decided on West Plaza Hotel because it meets the requirements as both a convention venue and an accommodation space.

Lynelle, Convention Chair



Writers Workshop

Because the con is being held over Easter weekend, there is time to schedule the workshop so it doesn't conflict with any events. It will be held on Friday, 25 March.

It will be a Clarion-style workshop, with each writer critiquing all the stories other writers bring to their workshop. Numbers will be limited for each workshop, but we will try to organise multiple workshops if there is enough interest.

Stories must be 3000 words or less. They should be submitted in Word or Rich Text Format (.RTF) to



writers@icon.sf.org.nz by Monday, 31 January 2005. We can accept hard copy by prior arrangement only, so contact Katie at the email address above or via the post office box if you wish to submit hard copy.

To receive more information closer to the workshop deadline, tick the writers workshop box on the application form. Details will include the name(s) of the author(s) leading the workshop, information about any other special writing sessions we organise, and details about the venue.

There will also be writing-related events during the rest of the con, including two presentations by Orson Scott Card: "1000 Ideas", which helps people learn how to come up with story ideas (and so much more), followed by a session on structure—from idea to story outline.



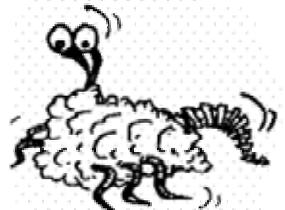
I feel I have proved one of two things: either I have fully recovered...or a hole in the head is no handicap to a science fiction writer.

-Robert A. Heinlein, talking about his brainsurgery

Dealers' Room

We are intending to operate a dealers' room at the Convention site.

Prices for this have yet to be set, but if you are interested in getting information about costs per day and sizes of tables, please contact Lynelle Howell through enquiries@icon.sf.org.nz for further details.



Competitions



"Oh Cecily my dear, you're looking lovely, as usual. Hey, wait a minute. You're dead. You've been dead for thirty years."

-The Ghost in the Invisible Bikiini, 1966

Short story competition —

Closing 31 January 2005; send in Word or Rich Text Format (RTF) to competitions@icon.sf.org.nz 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 digitally codec must also be provided. Deadline 31 January 2005.

Filking competition—Deadline for written filks is 31 January 2005. Theme: icons of science fiction and

fantasy.

Modelling competition—This will be an at con event. More details in the next PR.

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

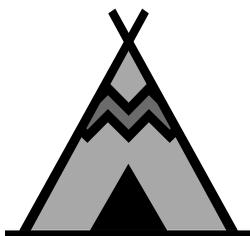
Conspiracy theory competition—to be run at the con. If you're part of the conspiracy, you know where and when.

Board game competition—to be run at the con. More details available in future Progress Reports.

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

Note: All physical mail entries should be sent to PO Box 13-574, Johnsonville, Wellington.

Kamp Kon



Kamp Kon, being held from 3-5 December, 2004 is a fun weekend event for people to get together and talk SF and Fantasy in a relaxed camp setting.

The venue is Brookfield Scout Camp in Wainui-

mata, on the outskirts of Wellington.

The aim is to run events not normally possible at con, such as film-making and role-playing.

Check out the enclosed flier in this Progress Report!

Our Venue—The West Plaza 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, 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 break-

fasts 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 \$110 + GST per night.

Triple Rooms (4 available) \$135 +GST per night.

Suites (3 available) \$150 + GST per night.

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



Aldiss' Law of Civilisation:
'Civilisation is the distance man has placed between himself and his excreta.'

-Epigraph for
The Dark Light
Years

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. 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!



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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 email us at 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.