

Reconnaissance Progress report IV - Four weeks to go!

It's now one month to go until Reconnaissance the 36th New Zealand National Science Fiction, Fantasy *and Horror* convention gets underway at the Sudima Lake Rotorua.

(A reminder that you do not need to have an account with Facebook nor Twitter to follow any of the links provided herein)

Commencing at Sundown on the Thursday the 2nd of April in the Sudima's foyer anyone who arrives early is invited to follow Tee and Andrew as they have a stroll around Rotorua in full Steam Punk garb (and for those not suitably attired, please keep a respectable distance behind). It's a chance for guests and fans to have a stroll, share a laugh and enjoy the evening before the activities begin in earnest the next day.

We've heard there will be informal trips to Hobbiton Friday morning, just on an hour each way from Rotorua, the Sudima has a curtesy bus that does pickups and drop offs and trips can be arranged via the iSite in town too.

Links to attractions in the Rotorua area can be found here -->
<http://www.timelord2067.com/convention.html#Rotorua>

Pip Ballantine and Tee Morris will be holding a one day writer's workshop Friday, the cost is \$60 on top of the convention membership to participate. Numbers are still a little down on what we'd hoped for, but the workshop will definitely be steaming into port from 9am.

The convention proper begins at 1pm Friday, kicking off with some lite panels and activities such as "Your first con", an "RPG" and "My most cherished SF item is (---)" with people bringing along an item they've acquired in their travels to show and tell.

We've decided to have the CosPlay / Masquerade as part of the opening ceremony (more on that a little later) so be prepared to dazzle and impress us with your finery at the opening ceremony by *punking up the opening!*

Judging will be for the following categories: (and a reminder, by request we ask that there is

NO FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY DURING THE CosPlay EVENT.

Best Steampunk

Best CosPlay

Best General Masquerade category

Best Youth entrant

and

Best in Show. (presentation is everything)

Easter Saturday we get down to the serious business of panelling - There will be a CosPlay stream in the Delta room with a number of panels discussing various aspects of costuming, sourcing materials, planing your items and even our Guest of Honour Gail Carriger joining Fiona Brown and Fir McGreavy-Gilmore discussing costuming in print.

 <http://www.Timelord2067.com/convention.html#Downloads>  convention@Timelord2067.com
 #NZNatCon2015 

Our other Guests of Honour Pip and Tee will be having their GoH speech and a little later our Fan GoH, Alan Parker will be presenting his Fan GoH speech.

Both Saturday and Sunday we have a full two days of Written - Print Media panels for the serious and not so serious writers discussing everything from publishing, reviewing, Modern Hard SF and Elizabeth Heritage will give a presentation on Creative Commons in NZ.

At last count, we have four (or is it *five*??) books being launched at the convention!

Norman Cates has confirmed he will very kindly give a presentation of his work with the Weta group which will occur on Saturday at 2pm.

NO PHOTOGRAPHY OF ANY KIND DURING THE WETA PRESENTATION!

Our good friends at Atlantis Books will be having a wine and cheese event in their shop 1206 Eruera Street Rotorua (the Sudima is at 1000 Eruera, so it shouldn't be too hard to find) from 4pm to 6pm Saturday. Along with Pip and Tee, Gail will give short talks and take questions and answers from the assembled guests and a couple of Authors who have book's being launched will also be giving short readings from their works.

Gail, Pip and Tee will be on hand to do autographs.

Saturday evening was meant to be our CosPlay event, however, Rotorua local Karen Hansen has organised a Steam Punk themed Burlesque event (R18+) at an off site location. Details of how to purchase entry can be found here ([📌 https://www.facebook.com/events/1427543374204502/](https://www.facebook.com/events/1427543374204502/)) As a result, we will now be venturing to the outskirts of Rotorua (via Car Pool) to stargaze on Saturday night not Friday.

On Sunday we have our YA - Young Adult stream as a nod to our Guest of Honour Gail Carriger with panels talking about diverse subjects such as Fan Fiction (and why most of it online shouldn't be there) we'll ask "Where is the YA humour?" looking at the drift away from humorous story telling and our FFANZ delegate from Australia (which we won't hold against him;)) David McDonald and other FFANZ alumini's will have a meet and greet to talk about fund raising as a means to travel overseas to attend other countries conventions.

Monday, Norman will be asking people to assemble for a discussion on @NZin2020 the WorldCon bid to bring the annual World Science Fiction convention to New Zealand. Wouldn't it be great to have the opening ceremony at Hobbiton I hear you all cry out in excitement!

The tentative program for the activities at the Te Runanga Tea Rooms have been posted on line ([📌 https://www.facebook.com/events/763323160429079/787020421392686/](https://www.facebook.com/events/763323160429079/787020421392686/)) and I have included them in our program available in the downloads section of the website ([📌 http://www.Timelord2067.com/convention.html#Downloads](http://www.Timelord2067.com/convention.html#Downloads))

We will have a Tea Challenge Saturday – How good are your taste buds? While on Sunday, we will be providing tea on tap during the lunch hour.

The Floating market will be held in the Gallifrey Atrium (otherwise known as the “600 Foyer”) on the ground floor of the Sudima complex – anyone who would like a table, please contact us now!

Hopefully this will have answered any questions you may have – feel free to forward this on to anyone who might be interested in SF conventions. See you all in four weeks time in your finest Steampunk Garb!

Best Wishes,

Andrew Ivamy and Marie Williams.

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