



Happy New Year!

Issue Dodici - Jan 2011

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Musings from Under the Mountain

Yes, I know this issue is late—and this time I'm going to put it down to the troubles of changing ISPs. After months of frustration with Vodafone we've changed to Slingshot in the possibly futile hope that it will work better. Of this subject, more in later issues... As it is, you won't see this until after we leave Taupo and get to New Plymouth.

Which brings me to the next subject.... Taupo, the Joust and the Weather. We'll have a full report from the Joust complete with pictures for the next issue, but as I write, on the Sunday morning, it's not looking good. This would be because it's 9 am and it's been raining most of the night... which is not a situation that mixes well with knights in shining armour. We're cosy in our motel room, but I dread to think how it's going for the unfortunate people in the tents on site. Never mind the horses.

Looks like there's unlikely to be much fighting of any description today, least of all actual jousting. It's simply too dangerous. Any historian would tell you of battles that have been won and lost simply due to the weather. And the Taupo Council would not be amused at what horses' hooves would do to the field, saturated as it is. I'm not even sure we'd be able to get into the parking field with our little car. So much for the paying public.

What this means for the future of jousting in New Zealand I don't know. I'd already been informed that this would be the last to be held in Taupo, due to the lease running out, and friction with the Council. It's a pity, because the Joust has been a great opportunity for re-enactors to get together and strut their stuff in public. I had a fine time yesterday at the Roman encampment, inviting older children (mostly boys) to put on a suit of chainmail and helmet, take up scutum and pilum, and make like a Roman legionnaire for their delighted parents to take photos. Good publicity for Legio II Augusta, I rather think. But I don't see any of that happening today.

What I can do, is to encourage you to get involve with re-enactment groups. They'll happily take SF and fantasy fans, teach you useful skills for costume-making, combat, prop-making—whatever is your thing, skills which you can use elsewhere in the hobby. I'll recommend Legio II Augusta as being friendly, and not fussy. Roman costumes are pretty easy to make too.

Jacqui Smith

From the Cramped Office

Well, the New Year has got off to its usual start of high hopes and prayers that it not be worse than the one just finished. I understand that the Lunar Eclipse party was thwarted by the weather. Such, unfortunately, is life. But the club still soldiers on. But from all accounts, the post-Christmas party was a success, and I hope Matt and Maree's cats have forgiven all and sundry. What can we look forward to this year?

Apart from a general election, and one for the government, there is Battle Cry in February. Instead of holding a BOG that weekend, it has been decided to put our energies into supporting this and doing a little shameless club promotion. Volunteers needed! Tell the secretary (Keith), or me, or any one of the Crew if you are willing to help in any way. And keep sending in articles for *Novazine*, Jacqui needs all the material she can get. Reviews, short fiction, poetry, event reports - she isn't proud, she'll print them.

Steve Litten
President



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Curse of the Werewolf Girl

By Martin Millar
Published by Piatkus
Supplied by Hachette

Reviewed by Jan Butterworth

Kalix MacRinnalch is still in London with her laudanum habit. She's now living with human friends, university students Daniel and Moonglow, and she's also enrolled in college in remedial classes. Vex, Queen Malveria's soon-to-be-adopted niece, has also moved in while going to the same school, where she awards herself gold stars for her poems about life as a fire elemental.

Thrix, Kalix's fashion designer/werewolf/sorceress sister has started a relationship with a member of the werewolf hunter guild. Her brother, the new Thane, has a penchant for cross dressing and ends up juggling women and his official duties. Queen Malveria obsesses about fashion and her rival, while others plot to overthrow all them and steal their kingdoms. The cousins are still making very poor music in London's underground scene. And the white haired wolf is being stalked by a man she spurned in college. When Kalix's former lover is murdered, it begins a chain of events that brings everyone together for a bloody showdown at a Scottish castle where a charity opera event is taking place

This is the sequel to 'Lonely Werewolf Girl' and you really need to read the first book as there are many characters. Kalix is still as angsty and depressed as ever and her college life, along with the drama of being hunted by some enemy werewolves is driving her anxiety level WAY up. Kalix is broody and gritty, a really nice change of pace for what a stereotypical main character should be. This is a book for both teenage and adults, offering a fun ride in Martin Millar's demented world.



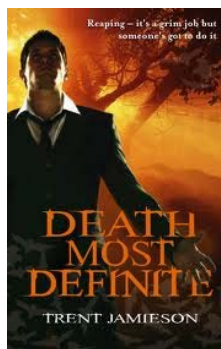
Death Most Definite

By Trent Jamieson
Published by Orbit
Supplied by Hachette
Reviewed by Tosca

Steven de Selby's family is the business of death. To be more specific, he is a "Pomp" and his job is to send spirits on to their next destination. It's a job, much like any other, right? Right. Or at least it is until somebody decides they'd like to be the new Regional Death of Australia...which means the de Selby family is very much in the way...

Death most definite is Jamieson's urban fantasy debut novel in the Death Works series and, right from the start, captured my attention with a dead girl and a bang. Literally. If I have one teeny, tiny niggle it's that the story seemed to drag a big at the beginning and then, suddenly, BAM! It was all systems go and a faster-paced story took place.

Ringing sinuses, gunshots, ghosts, conversations with your dead relatives and a pressing need to track down Mr. Death himself – it's quirky, dark, fun and, in some parts, put me in mind of Jim Butcher's Dresden Files books.



Nightshade

by Andrea Cremer
Published by Atom Books
Supplied by Hachette

Reviewed by Tosca

Calla Tor's life path, as future female alpha of her wolf-shifting pack, has already been decided – she will go to school, graduate and then marry Ren Laroche at 18. She hasn't ever questioned her destiny. And then, one day, Calla

breaks the rules and rescues a human boy...and falls in love with him. It seems like this book could be all about the love triangle and nothing but the love triangle and, in some parts, sure it is. It may also seem like the book is more like Meyer's *Twilight* series than I'd be comfortable with but surprisingly that wasn't the case. The characters are interesting, the world building is solid and it's a really good plot.

I'm all about the pretty and, as a result, tend to judge books by their covers and Cremer's cover choice for *Nightshade* is startlingly eye catching. She's also extremely clever in that the ending is a real cliffhanger! I now find myself waiting impatiently for the sequel. Please note that *Nightshade* is a teen novel that would probably, considering its slightly mature themes, be more appropriate for older teens.

Blameless (an Alexia Tarabotti novel)

Gail Carriger
Published by Orbit
Supplied by Hachette
Reviewed by Steve

This is the third in Gail Carriger's Steampunk/urban fantasy series. Alexia has been thrown out by her husband, Conall Maccon for becoming pregnant. His reasoning, despite her protestations of constant marital fidelity, is that she must have had an affair, else how would she have become pregnant. For Conall, being a werewolf, is incapable of fathering children. Thus Alexia must take shelter amongst her own kin, a situation none find to their liking. Her mother decides that the scandal is too great and throws Alexia out too. On the way to new lodgings, Alexia must fend off a further attempt on her life, armed only with her new parasol and trapped inside her stepfather's carriage.

The story moves apace, with the action moving across the Channel to Paris and more despicable vampires and then to southern France and Italy, wherein Lord Akeldama's warning is explained. Unfortunately for Alexia, it seems to be a case of out of the frying pan and into the fire. She arrived in Italy intent on getting answers as to how she became pregnant (although Alexia is pretty certain as to the true cause of that), and what her unborn child will become. On the Home Front, Professor Lyall creates more problems for the pack by obliging Conall to sire Binky, Lord Akeldama's favourite. The vampire is decidedly not amused. *Blameless* is another rollicking yarn, with much light humour and several absolutely charming hats. Although over 350 pages long, it was quick to read, and more importantly, explains "The Parasol Protectorate," which is the title of this series.



Lover Awakened: Black Dagger Brotherhood Book 3
by JR Ward

Published by Piatkus

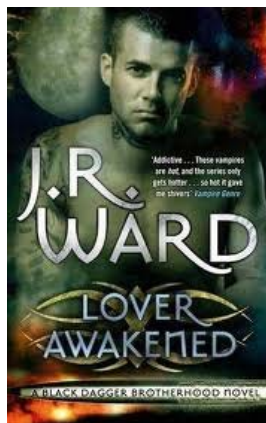
Supplied by Hatchette

Reviewed by Jan Butterworth

A warrior of the Black Dagger Brotherhood, Zsadist lives to fight and kill. The Brotherhood protect vampires from the lessers, de-souled humans whose sole purpose is to exterminate the entire vampire race Zsadist was kidnapped as a baby and sold as a Blood Slave. He endured many years of captivity and torture until being rescued by Phury, his twin brother. He was so damaged by his captor, there is no hope for him to ever live a normal life as he only embraces violence.

Bella is a member of the glymera - the aristocratic vampires - and a friend of the human woman who is bonded to Rhage, one of the Black Dagger Brotherhood. Bella is openly caring and affectionate but stifled by a controlling brother and society's expectations. In "Lover Eternal: Book 2" she was kidnapped by the leader of the lesser, who considered her his wife. Now, Zsadist searches for her with a vengeance. He returns to her house many times to feel close to her. When he finally rescues her from captivity, she turns to him for comfort and he struggles to find some humanity in his soul to help her. The brothers are stunned to find him cuddling her in his room, because since his rescue he has been unable to touch and let others touch him. He has refused to eat or feed from fellow vampires. He know has to protect Bella from the lesser leader who wants his 'wife' back, as well as her brother who wants to cloister her.

I like how there were several sub-plots of characters, Tohr and Wellsie, Butch and Marissa, John Matthew and fellow pre-trans warrior trainees. You can see more of characters from previous books. Some new characters are introduced who turn out to be integral in later books. This is a book with lots of fast-paced action and hot vampire men in tight leather pants. A must-read but not suitable for tweens. This series should be read in order so you don't miss anything.



Misguided Angel

Melissa de la Cruz

Published by Atom

Supplied by Hatchette

Reviewed by Jan Butterworth

Schuyler and Jack have fled to Florence, where they have been offered asylum by Isabelle of Orleans. They find themselves under constant guard by Venators, which is not ideal when they need to embark on the mission to locate and protect the seven Gates that guard earth from Lucifer, Lord of the Silverbloods. They hatch a James Bondesque escape plan involving jet-skis and a former Somali pirate.

Back in New York Oliver, having been released from his Conduit position with Schuyler, has chosen to become a



Repository scribe, rather than have his memory scrubbed. Mimi has left heartbroken over her missing lover Kingsley, who is either dead or trapped in the underworld. This just adds to her rage that Jack has forsaken her for Schuyler. As is her right according to the Code, she sends Venators to hunt Jack down for breaking their bond. Mimi has a new role in New York – the Regent of the conclave of Blue Bloods. When a homemade movie leaks, signalling the kidnapping of one vampire, Mimi's in trouble. The video, taken at a party, threatens to burn the vampire alive in front of the human world. Mimi knows she needs to find this girl quickly and hush up the vampire rumours. Not only does she need to save this girl's life, but she needs to save her own spot as leader among the Blue Bloods. She brings in reinforcements – a Venator from the Chinese conclave. While several main characters from previous books are missing there are some interesting new ones introduced. There are some big revelations and plot twists. I didn't really like the constant shifting of points of views in the previous books, but I wish the author would've done that instead of dividing it in parts and telling the entire story of one character in a rush. "Misguided Angel" was extremely short, compared to the volumes that preceded it. I grew annoyed with Schuyler's constant insecurities and dependence on Jack. She needs a good smack. I suppose it was a good read. Some intrigue, some action, some mystery, some heartbreak and a possibility to retrieve what was once lost. The book ends with promise but gives nothing tangible to the story, except for Jack and Mimi's paths. Fans of the series should read it just to not miss the only two details in the book that might affect the current of the story, but this is simply filler. Don't bother reading this unless you're a hyper fan and just can't stand to miss it.

Rachel Aaron

The Spirit Rebellion

Published by Orbit, 441pp

Supplied by Hatchette

Reviewed by Jacqui Smith

I'm beginning to wonder if Rachel Aaron has a thing about doors.

"The Spirit Thief" began with a door being talked into opening – and "The Spirit Rebellion" ends with a tormented door getting its revenge. In fact, quite a lot of very annoyed objects get their own

back. There's plenty of action of course, but there's a more serious tone in this second book, and some difficult choices for some of the characters. "The Spirit Rebellion" takes Eli Monpress to the Duchy of Gaol, where things are rather less perfect than they seem. It is probably intentional that Gaol reminds us of Shrek's "Duloc", although its Duke does not seem as vertically disadvantaged as Lord Farquaad, and is an entirely different sort of villain. Eli is trying to steal a sword... Duke Edward wants a piece of Eli, and Miranda, expelled from the Spirit Court, is just trying to figure out what is going on. Once more Eli and Miranda have to work together and save the day... and bring freedom to a great many oppressed spirits. Another satisfactory book, plenty of action, lots of fun, and where's the next one?



Sin Undone

by Larissa Ione
Published by Grand Central Publishing

Supplied by Hachette

Reviewed by Tosca

Sinead Donnelly, known as ‘Sin’ for short, is the only female Seminus demon in existence. As if that isn’t enough to make life interesting she’s also *the* master assassin which means she commands a band of not-so-merry men. Having spent years as a slave she’s quite determined to never be in that position again and, as a result, is leery of emotional commitment of any sort – even to her brothers. When Sin accidentally creates a virus harmful to werewolves (thereby kicking in motion a civil war), Conall Dearghul – half-werewolf/half-vampire – is given the mission to bring her in. Conall, even more into avoiding emotions than Sin (and I didn’t think that was possible), actually begins to like her. And that’s where things really get interesting.

‘Sin undone’ is the fifth book in Ione’s very popular Demonica series. Don’t start partway through the series, like I did, otherwise you’ll spend the whole book flipping back and forth wondering what you’d missed out on. For newbies to the series, much like myself, there is a glossary at the beginning which really will come in handy. I’m a fan of tough-talking heroines who give no quarter and I definitely found that in Sin. For the literary-adrenaline junkies who prefer their romance novels spiked with loads of suspense and fight scenes you’re in for a real treat because this couple provide them in spades. Another thing the story isn’t short on is sizzle. Serious sizzle. I’ve since gone back to the start of the Demonica series and caught myself up to date, which only leaves me with one question...when’s the next one due out...?

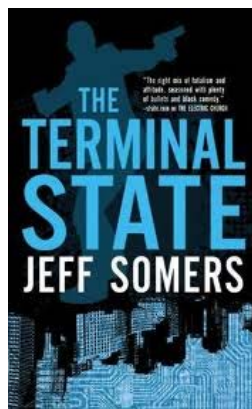


Jeff Somers

The Terminal State
Published by Orbit, 353pp
Supplied by Hachette

Reviewed by Jacqui Smith

I have to say that I found the fourth Avery Cates novel a much more straightforward read than its predecessor. For one thing, there is only one Avery, even if he has voices in his head and nanobots in his blood. You see, at the start of this book, Avery gets pressed into the Army, is pumped full of military augments, and then promptly sold on to his old pal and enemy, Wa Belling. Who, naturally, has a small job for him. Avery has to get into Hong Kong, just incidentally one of the hottest war-zones on the planet, and kill a man who has turned himself into a god. There is no lack of the usual R18 violence and action on the way, at a breakneck pace – though I have to say that I found the ending a tad anti-climatic. Which was probably intentional...



Sir Julius Vogel Nominations are Open

The Sir Julius Vogel Awards opened for nomination on 1 January and will close on 31 March, 2011.

The Awards are made annually by the Science Fiction & Fantasy Association of New Zealand (SFFANZ) and recognize achievement in Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror by New Zealanders. Initial nominations are open to everyone - and anyone - but the final vote for shortlisted works is restricted to members of SFFANZ and those attending the national convention, Context, which is to be this year over Queen’s Birthday weekend, 3-6 June.



To make a nomination, here’s what you do:

If you wish to make a nomination - and remember that anyone may nominate - here’s what you do: Go the Sir Julius Vogel Award site and check out “the rules” http://sffanz.sf.org.nz/sjv/sjvAwardsRules_2011.shtml

But my take on “what to do” is basically this: If you like a work of fiction or SFF tv series or film (that has been created by a NZ-er and released in 2010) then make a nomination—it costs you nothing and helps support and recognise SFF in NZ;

You can **nominate as many works as you like but only once in each category**—in other words, you can nominate all the NZ-created works that you loved this year; no need to pick and choose at this stage! Remember to **include your name and contact details** when you make a nomination;

Also **include the contact details for the creator of the nominated work**, where you know them, as the nomination must be accepted by them;

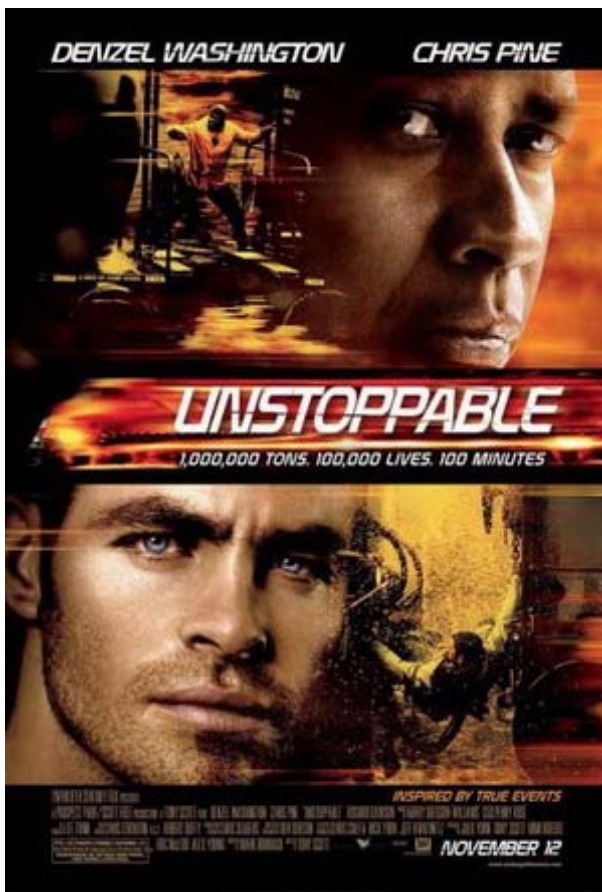
Email your nominations to: sjv_awards@sffanz.sf.org.nz

A separate email for each nominated work is very much appreciated but not absolutely required.

And **do nominate** - the works that make the final ballot are based entirely on the number of nominations received, so if you loved a work this year and want to see it recognised, then **your nomination counts!**

Novels eligible for nomination this year can be found under the ‘Interesting Lists’ link on the SFFANZ homepage or <http://sffanz.sf.org.nz/lists/WritersByInverseDate.shtml>

Helen Lowe
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For the full blog post visit: <http://helenlowe.info/blog/2011/01/13/sir-julius-vogel-awards-now-open-for-nomination-how-to-nominate/>



Unstoppable

Directed by Tony Scott
 Produced by Tony Scott
 Julie Yorn
 Starring Denzel Washington
 Chris Pine
 Rosario Dawson
 Review by Jon Hardy

The tagline for this movie would be that the train is the monster. In fact, the engine even has a low level laughing roar or two as it causes chaos during it's run.

This is a nice study of life on a working train yard, which slowly gets very serious as one or two mistakes build up to a very dangerous situation.

The movie is a quite exciting update of a true happening called the Crazy Eights unmanned train incident that occurred in 2001 and is set complete with live TV feeds and helicopters swooping in and out following the runaway train on the run.

Add some bungled attempts to stop the train, and corporate worrying about their stock valuation working against the experienced supervisors, with disagreements on how best to stop the train, makes the story become very tense.

A number of near misses, and not quite near misses, make for some exciting viewing with a lot of great practical stunts, and very little obvious computer graphics, lead up to a daring finale for this movie, which works well on the big screen.

Tangled

Directed by Nathan Greno, Byron Howard
 Produced by Roy Conli, John Lasseter
 Starring Mandy Moore
 Zachary Levi
 Donna Murphy
 Review by Jon Hardy

Tangled is a fun modern fairytale romp that is visually styled in the fashion of old storybook illustrations. A clever expansion on the old Rapunzel story, Tangled goes further adding a smart-alec love interest and a number of new characters that are individuals in their own right. The main character Rapunzel, is a very feisty princess voiced by Mandy Moore, and is the tenth Disney Princess. Rapunzel has some great expressions and attitudes and is a good example of girl power in action. The movie has some interesting star character voices, including Ron Perlman of Hellboy and Richard Kiel of Jaws fame who is now 71.

The movie plays more like a 3D cartoon rather than standard looking CGI with some beautiful backgrounds and design. There are some pleasant songs which fit in with the theme of the story and there are some cute sidekicks which are not annoying and work in with the story. The production was originally called Rapunzel Unbraided, then Rapunzel then just Tangled and the movie is presented in 3D but works just as well in normal 2D, so you don't necessarily need to see it in 3D if you are not a fan of that format. A worthwhile longish movie which can be enjoyed by kids and adults alike.

Wiki-facts:

To date, Tangled is the second most expensive film ever made, and the most expensive animated film, with a budget of \$260 million in US dollars. Wikipedia also details some controversy over the movie name changes and the justifications for those changes. Also described is the distinctive non photo-realistic computer rendering used and the work done to create a picture book style.



Uncorked by Broderick Wells



TRON: LEGACY

Directed by Joseph Kosinski
 Produced by Sean Bailey, Jeffrey Silver
 Starring Jeff Bridges
 Garrett Hedlund
 Bruce Boxleitner
 Olivia Wilde
 Michael Sheen
 Reviewed by Jacqui Smith

I was really glad that we were able to unearth a copy of the original “Tron” (recorded off TV long ago I think) to watch before going to see the movie. It made it a much better experience to have all the backstory in recent memory, so it’s surprising that Disney didn’t see fit to re-release it on DVD before releasing the sequel. We can but hope that the House of Mouse may see fit to give us a re-mastered Tron when they put out Legacy on DVD.

“Tron: Legacy” is in many ways “Tron: the Next Generation”. It begins when Sam (son of Kevin) Flynn gets a mysterious message. He goes to check out his father’s old games arcade, and promptly gets himself digitized, finding himself inside the “Grid”. Naturally, he gets captured and sent to the Games where the inevitable light-cycle race ensues (I kept wondering when they were going to wander into a “World of Warcraft” scenario, but it didn’t happen). Anyhow it turns out that the Grid is ruled by an autocratic program named Clu, a security program with big ideas, who must be defeated in order to set free the “ISOs” - “isomorphic algorithms”, self-aware programs. Definite similarities to the original plot-line there, but modern CGI certainly make it a lot easier on the eye, and Martin Sheen puts in a sterling performance as “Castor”. Not at all a bad sequel even if it does all feel strangely dated, and rather lacking in originality.

El Presidente is too proud to mention it, but he’s improved his wheels. Of course, this wasn’t a conscious decision on his part, as he’s too embarrassed to mention that he made the previous set of wheels worth considerably less than the insurance value. Less said about that the better. No longer will you see the familiar, and pitiful, ancient Toymotor Coroda. It has gone to a better place – the car knacker’s yard - to be replaced by a spiffy black German number. El Presidente is now a man of the people, seeing as he drives a People’s Car (*Volkswagen* to you German speakers). Yes, he is the proud owner of a VW Passat stationwagon, replete with remote unlocking, air-conditioning, CD player and a towbar.

He says the initial driving experience was so good, he was halfway to Warkworth before he knew it and had to go back to the car yard (and work). However, he didn’t purchase his *Mashina Naroda* immediately. Seeking the advice of someone he trusted, he approached Kevin (don’t talk to me about Microsoft) MacLean, whose car he had been borrowing for the past fortnight as a stopgap for expert second opinion. Off to the car yard they both hived, taking said Car of the People for a second drive, this time with Kevin as the pilot. Interesting thing, changing from Japanese to European automobiles and a trap for the unwary is that the Europeans have the indicators where the Japanese have the windscreen wipers and *vice versa*. I’m told Kevin only wiped the screen three times. In a five minute drive.

So, if you want large objects transported from one side of Auckland to the other, or a ride in relative luxury, don’t ask El Presidente because he’s going to be too busy changing CDs and playing with the door remote to do anything. That and polishing the blasted thing, because it is black, and black cars show the dirt worse than white ones (even if the white ones were 16 years old and getting rusty).



Not El Presidente’s new wheels—this one is brand new... but you get the general idea.

The Sky at Night – February 2010

By Keith Smith

The Sky at Night – February 2011

The area around Orion dominates the evening sky with Gemini also being more visible in the north east. Low to the north, (if you have a decent north horizon free of glare) the bright star Capella in the constellation of Auriga can be seen., Next to Auriga, to the west, are the stars of Perseus.

Orion is nearly due north at this time of year with Taurus next to it to the west. Aldebaran is easy to see and it is located at one arm of the ‘V’ marking the Hyades cluster. Aldebaran isn’t actually part of the cluster but is on the same line of sight, being halfway to the cluster. To the west of that, and assuming that there is little skyglow is the Pleiades or Matariki.

To the east of Orion is the bright star Procyon marking the location of Canis Minor. Below that are the two bright stars Castor and Pollux marking the heads of the Gemini twins. Remember that they appear to be standing on their heads from our location in the Southern Hemisphere. More about Gemini next month. Higher than Orion and to the east is the very bright star Sirius in Canis Major.

To the south the two bright stars Canopus and Achernar still dominate the southern sky. The Southern Cross is getting close to the ‘9 o’clock’ position and the long axis of the Cross points towards Achernar. Halfway between

the two is the South Celestial Pole. There are no bright stars like Polaris near the pole, in fact the South Pole star is Sigma Octans which is a very faint star, so faint that you need a dark sky to see it.

Low in the north east, Leo, marked by the bright star Regulus, is beginning to appear.

Jupiter is still prominent in the western sky in the evening and sets mid evening. The next planet to appear is Saturn which is located in Virgo and rises an hour or so before midnight. The only other planet that makes an appearance in the night sky this month is Venus which is high in the east before dawn. Mercury and Mars are too close to the sun to be seen.

Events:

- 29th January – Moon close to Venus
- 1st February – Moon close to Mercury
- 3rd February – New Moon
- 11th February – First Quarter Moon
- 18th February – Full Moon
- 25th February – Last Quarter Moon
- 28th February – Moon close to Venus

More information can be found at:

- <http://www.astronomy.co.nz/pub/home.asp>
- <http://www.astronomy.org.nz/>
- <http://www.skyandtelescope.com/index.html>



Obits

December 26, 2010

Albert Ghiorso (aged 95)

American nuclear scientist, helped to discover no less than twelve chemical elements, from element 95, Americium, in 1945 through to element 106, Seaborgium, in 1974. Maybe they'll name the next one after him... oh, and he also invented the world's first commercial Geiger counter. Good thing, really.

December 27, 2010

Grant McCune, (aged 67)

American visual effects artist. Won the Academy Award for his work in creating the robots and aliens in "Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope". This is the man you gave us R2-D2. However, he went uncredited for earlier work in creating the great white shark in "Jaws".



December 28, 2010

Agathe von Trapp, (aged 97)

Austrian-born American singer, eldest daughter of the Trapp family. Portrayed as Liesl in "The Sound of Music".

December 29, 2010

Brigitte Burdine (aged 46)

Casting Director for "World of Warcraft" and other games, killed in a hit-and-run accident.



January 2, 2011

Anne Francis (aged 80)

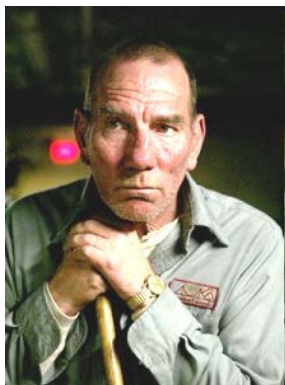
American actress.... Like the song says: "Anne Francis stars in Forbidden Planet". Also the female private detective in the television series "Honey West" (the first to have a female detective in the title), and several appearances on "The Twilight Zone".

Pete Postlethwaite, (aged 64)

British character actor, played Roland Tembo in "The Lost World: Jurassic Park".

Nominated for a Best Supporting Actor Oscar for playing Giuseppe Conlon in "In the Name of the Father".

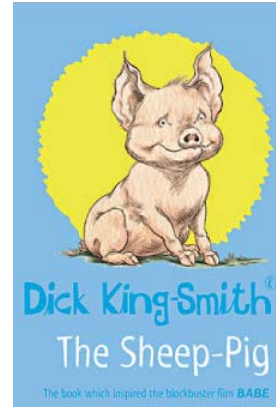
In his 2004 book, "The Art of Discworld", Terry Pratchett said that he had always imagined Sam Vimes as "a younger, slightly bulkier version of Pete Postlethwaite". He was Maurice Fisher, the wealthy old tycoon whose death kicks off the whole crazy story in last year's hit "Inception".



January 4, 2011

Dick King-Smith, (aged 88)

Prolific author of books for children including "The Sheep-Pig" which re-titled as "Babe the Gallant Pig" gave us "Babe", and "The Water Horse" which was also made into a movie (mostly here in New Zealand, although it's set in Scotland). He lived near Bath in Somerset, very close to where your editor was born.



January 6, 2011

John Ertle Oliver, (aged 87)

American Earth scientist, best known for finding the seismic evidence in 1968 to support the theory of continental drift (which hadn't been taken seriously when Wegener first proposed it in 1912).



January 6, 2011

Aron Kincaid, (aged 70)

American actor, perhaps best known for voicing Killer Croc on "Batman: The Animated Series" and Sky Lynx on "Transformers". He also voiced characters for "The Smurfs", for "Duck Tales" and others,

January 14, 2011

Ron Patterson, (aged 80)

Co-founder of Renaissance Pleasure Faire of Northern California, the first Renaissance Faire in 1963.



January 15, 2011

Susannah York, (age 72)

English actress who played Superman's mother, Lara, in the Superman movies, and gained an Oscar nomination for Alice in "They Shoot Horses, Don't They?".



ConText 2011

New Zealand National SF Convention

ConText will be held over Queen's Birthday weekend in Auckland, Friday 3rd to Monday 6th June. The venue has been changed to the Quality Hotel Barrycourt, 10-20 Gladstone Road, Parnell.

Catherine Asaro, an American author of both science fiction and fantasy novels, will be the GoH. The fan GoH will be Lynelle Howell, editor of Phoenixine and an active Wellington fan. Also attending will be Helen Lowe, the Christchurch based author of the Heir series, of which the first 'The Wall of Night' was released earlier this month. The crew are also in negotiations with other potential guests.

This is a marvellous opportunity for anyone who enjoys science fiction to participate in 4 days of sharing their hobby with other fans. There will be discussion panels, organised gaming, costuming events, the Quiz, a video stream and a chance to buy science fiction related items. The winners of the 2011 Sir Julius Vogel Awards for Excellence in New Zealand Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror will be announced on the Sunday night at the Conjunction Banquet.

Full and day memberships will be available if you wish to attend for one or two days only. Organised events will be going into the early evening. The bar will be open all day until late.

The Barrycourt Hotel is holding a block of rooms for convention attendees. Book directly and quote the reference number 64913 to ensure you receive the rates.

Phone: +64 9 303 3789
Facsimile: +64 9 377 3309
<http://www.barrycourt.co.nz/reservations@barrycourt.co.nz>

Standard King Room

King bed, ensuite bathroom, coffee & tea facilities. LCD TV, DVD, writing desk. Some rooms with amazing city & harbour views. Rate includes car parking & daily newspaper (on request). \$109.00 per night including GST (maximum 2 pax)

Double Room

1 Queen & 1 Single bed, ensuite bathroom, coffee & tea facilities, private balcony. LCD TV, DVD, writing desk. Some rooms with amazing city & harbour views. Rate includes car parking & daily newspaper (on request). \$129.00 per night including GST (maximum 2 pax)

Stella Nova Wiki:

http://stella-nova.sf.org.nz/wiki/index.php/Main_Page

Nova Zine Back Issues:

<http://stella-nova.sf.org.nz/wiki/index.php/StellaNova:Novazine-new>

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This Month:

BOOK Monday 31 January
at Chez Smith in Mangere
(email for details).

SPACE at the BEACH
Saturday 5th February
3 pm till after dark
at Omana Beach

Next Meeting:

Wednesday 16 February, 2010 at 7:30pm
Auckland Horticultural Centre,
990 Great North Road, Western Springs



Upcoming Events:

June 3-6th 2011 Context
2011 New Zealand NatCon in Auckland
http://context.sf.org.nz/wiki/index.php/Main_Page