



Australian Society of Authors

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August 2008: Graphic Novels / Comics Portfolio News

On 9 August 2008, portfolio holders Jozef Szekeres and Julie Ditrich spoke to the Committee of Management on the comic book and graphic novel market, as well as proposed activities. We met with Jeremy Fisher and Susan Bridge to discuss the Comics Creators Minimum Approved Contracts (for both work-for-hire, as well as creator owned properties across comic book and mainstream book publishing). Susan is currently researching and drafting the contracts. Perth member and webcomic writer/artist Jessica McLeod is currently researching the Comics Creators Rates, and ASA Executive Director Jeremy Fisher will be costing the proposal for the Comics Talent Register that we want to put online with the aim of marketing portfolio members to publishers and other individuals/organisations. We will also be sending out a regular ezine and important bulletins exclusively to ASA membership.

It recently came to our attention that several portfolio members haven't received some email updates (eg. the TokyoPop contract warning and information on the various ASA/Supanova seminars), as well as some ASA Newsletters and the April *Australian Author* magazine, automatically sent out as part of your membership. We urge all members to check their spam filters to ensure that ASA emails are accepted by your system. If you have not received any of the aforementioned material, please phone the office on (02) 9318 0877 or email: emma@asauthors.org so we can bring you up to date.

Literary agent and publishing consultant Brian Cook and portfolio holder Julie Ditrich presented a session at Sydney Supanova on 21 June on "How to Write a Graphic Novel Proposal for the Mainstream Book Market". About 20 people attended and, due

to a last minute change in venue, many other interested individuals didn't make it to the new location. We also had a great line up for the Perth session "The Time is Now: Marketing Your Comics to Book Publishers" but unfortunately there was a small turnout of actual exhibiting comics creators at the Supanova event (compared to shows in other cities) and the panellists decided to cancel. The post mortem revealed a gap in the promotion and, after discussions with the Supanova organisers, we came up with a list of recommendations and solutions for next year to build the seminar profile and to promote it to all the attendees through additional Supanova publicity.