



Australian Society of Authors

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July 2009: Graphic Novels / Comics Portfolio News

Comics Creators Survey: All portfolio members should have received two emails last month. The first was an “Open Letter to Australian Comics Creators” from portfolio member Tad Pietrzykowski, which asked you to participate in a survey that will help us profile the Australian comics community, as well as help us set Minimum Comics Freelance Page Rates in various disciplines including writing, penciling, inking, colouring and lettering. If you haven’t already done so, please read the letter at http://www.asauthors.org/lib/pdf/zGraphicNovels/GN2009/Open_Letter_May2009.pdf and then link through and fill in the survey at <http://tinyurl.com/pwz2wn>. The letter has also been posted onto the ASA website, PulpFaction, OzComics, FaceBook and various blogs. Please spread the word to any of your comics creators friends. The larger sample we have the better. Deadline: Friday 31 July 2009.

National Library of Australia (NLA) Projects: The second email was about two important NLA projects – *Collecting Australian fringe publishing at the National Library of Australia*, and, *The comics claiming project*. They are about the collection and treatment of comics, graphic novels, manga and zines at the NLA. The projects focus on what is being published by Australian creators and publishers, whether published in Australia or not. This is relevant to graphic novel and comics creators because the library needs your help to ensure that your work is represented in the national collection. For creators this will mean that a copy of your published work is preserved in a controlled environment and is made accessible to library patrons now and in the future. Information about your works will also be made available in

the form of a catalogue record to anyone anywhere with access to the Internet. To obtain an information pack, phone Debbie Cox or Marjorie Currie at Legal Deposit on (02) 6262 1312 or email legaldep@nla.gov.au.

Supanova Sydney Report: The “Legal Self Defence for Comics Creators” seminar went brilliantly. 35 people attended and Dr Jeremy Fisher answered many questions from the floor. We would also like to welcome the eight new ASA and portfolio members who joined at the end of the session. (Please note that the copy deadline preceded Supanova Perth so the WA event will be covered in the August newsletter.)

*~ Julie Ditrich and Jozef Szekeres,
dual portfolio holders*