



Australian Society of Authors

Australian Society
Of Authors Limited
ABN 26 008 558 790
PO Box 1566
Strawberry Hills NSW 2012

98 Pitt Street
Redfern NSW 2016

Tel (02) 9318 0877
Fax (02) 9318 0530

asa@asauthors.org
www.asauthors.org

February 2008: Graphic Novels / Comics Portfolio News

WA MEETING: On a recent and unexpected holiday trip to Perth, Portfolio Holder Julie Ditrich combined business with pleasure and presented a portfolio session on Thursday 31 January 2008 at the State Library of WA. The meeting attracted a small but warm and enthusiastic group of both established and emerging local comics creators, as well as the managing editor of Gestalt Publishing (www.gestaltcomics.com), one of two independent comics publishers in Australia. The talk provoked discussion about future activities for the portfolio and highlighted networking opportunities for comics creators around Australia. The group also identified the need for marketing education targeted for comics creators specifically in the form of resources and seminars – most creators are adept at managing the artistic side of their work but some stumble on the entrepreneurial aspects of managing their business. These ideas have been added to the portfolio project management plan. Julie and dual Portfolio Holder Jozef Szekeres will follow up on these ideas once the Contracts and Rates projects are well underway. The group reconvened after the event for dinner at a Korean restaurant with a pledge and commitment from about 80 percent to join the ASA portfolio. Thank you to Sharon Flindell, CEO of WritingWA and ASA Executive Director, Jeremy Fisher for organising the meeting at such late notice.

The day after the session Julie was interviewed about the portfolio by radio presenter Grant Stone for a community radio program called "Faster than Light" which will be broadcast nationally through a satellite network of community stations with 4000 subscribers. A podcast will later be available through the OzComics website (www.ozcomics.com) for anyone interested in the portfolio initiative.

CALENDAR/DIARY NOTES: Supanova, the pop culture expo that focuses on comics, graphic novels, anime, movies, TV, games, toys, and science fiction and fantasy books, has traditionally run annual events in Sydney and Brisbane. Subsequent to its success measured by increased attendance in 2007 (the Sydney show attracted 9,000 people and the Brisbane show attracted 10,300 attendees), the organisers have recently announced new events in Melbourne and Perth during 2008. These conventions are a networking must for serious comics creators or anybody interested in the medium and the evolving publishing world of graphic novels. Here are the dates and venues:

Supanova Melbourne 2008

Friday 28 to Sunday 30 March 2008

Venue: Melbourne Showgrounds, Melbourne

Supanova Brisbane 2008

Dates: Friday 4 April to Sunday 6 March 2008

Venue: RNA Showgrounds, Brisbane

Supanova Sydney 2008

Dates: Saturday 21 to Sunday 22 June 2008

Venue: Sydney Olympic Park, Sydney

Supanova Perth 2008

Dates: Saturday 28 to Sunday 29 June 2008

Venue: Claremont Showground Perth

For further information including the line-up of overseas and local guests go to:

www.supanova.com.au.

SOBI STYLE FILE: Comics artists are encouraged to submit their material for the SOBI Style File in the next (and subsequent) rounds. ASA Committee of Management member and the Portfolio Holder for Illustrators, Ann James, expressed her enthusiasm last year about adding comics artists to the Style File. This is a great time to apply as Australian publishers are actively searching for local talent and the Style File is often considered a

one-stop shop for sourcing comics artists who understand their craft and the discipline of sequential art.

Stylefile submissions - Round 6

Opening date Friday, 1 February 2008

Closing date Friday, 29 February 2008

For further information on the submission criteria, eligibility etc, please go to:

<http://www.thestylefile.com/submissions.php>