

The Sleepers Almanac 2005 – The Deathbed Challenge LAUNCHED!

Funnyman and author Sean Condon kicked off the launch of the first *Sleepers Almanac* earlier this month. He was everything you could ever want a book launcher to be – kind and relevant – and he'd read the book to boot, so we were wrapped. The night included readings from the book by Adam Ford, miles vertigan, Melissa Dwyer, Ian McBryde, Augusta Zeeng and Russell McGilton, an origami instructional, book signings, and lots of mushy touching and just silly moments.

The greatest bit was watching the faces of the writers when they picked up their books. The *Almanac* itself looks beautiful, and it feels safe

est when it's in the car on the way home from the bookshop. We know because it told us, so if you haven't got a copy, lob on down to your local and if it's not there, order it, or just hop onto our site and order it at www.sleeperspublishing.com.



Almost standing room only at the *Almanac* launch

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• **Submissions for the next *Sleepers Almanac* OPEN NOW**
We've just opened submissions for the next *Almanac*! The theme for the second one is the Nervous System. Checkout the website for more details: www.sleeperspublishing.com – make sure you submit something for your chance to be in the next one, which is guaranteed to be as different as it will be similar.



Photograph of Sean Condon doing George Clooney impression by Terence Hogan

Manuscripts

We've stopped manuscript appraisals because we simply ran out of time, but we're still searching for a searing heart-stopper to back to the hilt. Send hard copies and bribes* to us at PO Box 1204, Collingwood VIC 3066. Make sure you include an SSAE if you want it back, make sure you include a bio, a synopsis and some description of your audience. We're accepting submissions from anywhere and everywhere.

* Just kidding. About the bribes. But if we *were* being bribed, we absolutely *love* Moët, and we also really like Violet Crumble a lot, too. And books.

"Read omnivorously. Don't wait for something brilliant to come along, write something that's rubbish, and then you can pull yourself up by your fingernails to something that's very good." *David Mitchell, Cloud Atlas.*

Sleepers at the St Kilda Writers' Festival and the MWF Writers At Como weekend

We've been appearing on panels and selling books at the St Kilda Writers' Festival, back this year after a decade-long absence, and the second Writers At Como weekend, featuring the likes of Nigeria's Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie as well as Sleepers' very own* Gideon Haigh and Nathan Hollier.

* Not really our very own. We only wish.





Who is this man?

This man is a cartoonist, so we can't show you his face. But we can tell you his name. It's Paul Davis, and his website is www.hungrygeese.com. He is our employee of the month, or he would be if we employed him, or if he wanted us to employ him. Or knew that we could put him on a wage that at least went on the right side of the poverty line. So, Paul Davis, the most talented cartoonist IN OUR LIFE TIMES, is our non-employee of the month. Buy the *Almanac* and go to his website to see Paul in action.

Website Hack!

The server that our website is hosted on was hacked last week, resulting in a few days' downtime and a brief moment when the president of the US appeared on our site sporting a Ronald McDonald face. Thanks to Martin Goulding, our patient and hard-working host, for getting things up again as quickly as possible. Let's face it, his dial is menacing enough as it is...



Arts Victoria

Sleepers has just applied for an Arts Victoria Grant, because we would love to pay writers for the next *Almanac*. Keep your fingers crossed. If we get it, we'll have a big party and you're invited.*

*Just kidding. About the party. But if we *did* have a party, you *would* be invited.

Not on our mailing list?

Then how did you get this newsletter? Just kidding. Join now by emailing: sleepers@sleeperspublishing.com.

Tell your friends, tell your enemies, just pass it on.

Bookseller Note

Please direct all bookseller enquiries to Dennis Jones & Associates, our distributor.

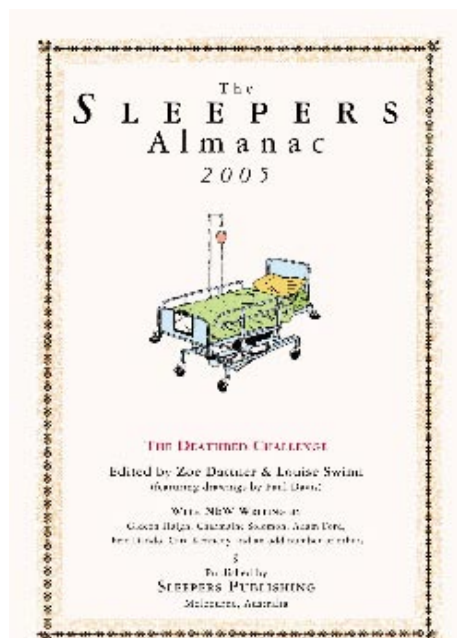


Russell McGilton reads from the *Almanac* at the launch



Zoe speedily trying to get the 1st box of *Almanacs* open

For those of you who have been living under a dozing dugong these past four weeks or so, this is the *Sleepers Almanac 2005*. Take a mental photograph of it and carry it in your wallet. Exchangeable for the real thing at all good bookstores.



Deathbed List Response

On top of the general submissions, we are also inviting people to submit their responses to the lists contained in the *Sleepers Almanac 2005* – *The Deathbed Challenge*. For this, you will need to get your mitts on a copy of the current *Almanac*. In the next *Almanac*, we will publish the most creative, entertaining, and meaningful submissions to the Deathbed List Response section.

Be in the running – www.sleeperspublishing.com – submissions close June 30, 2005.