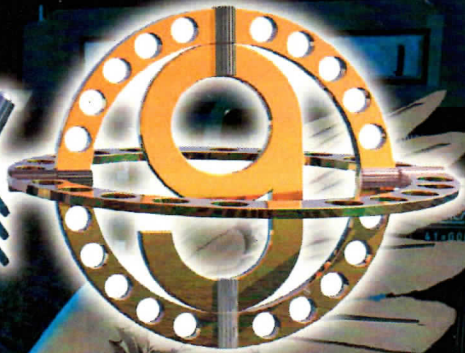
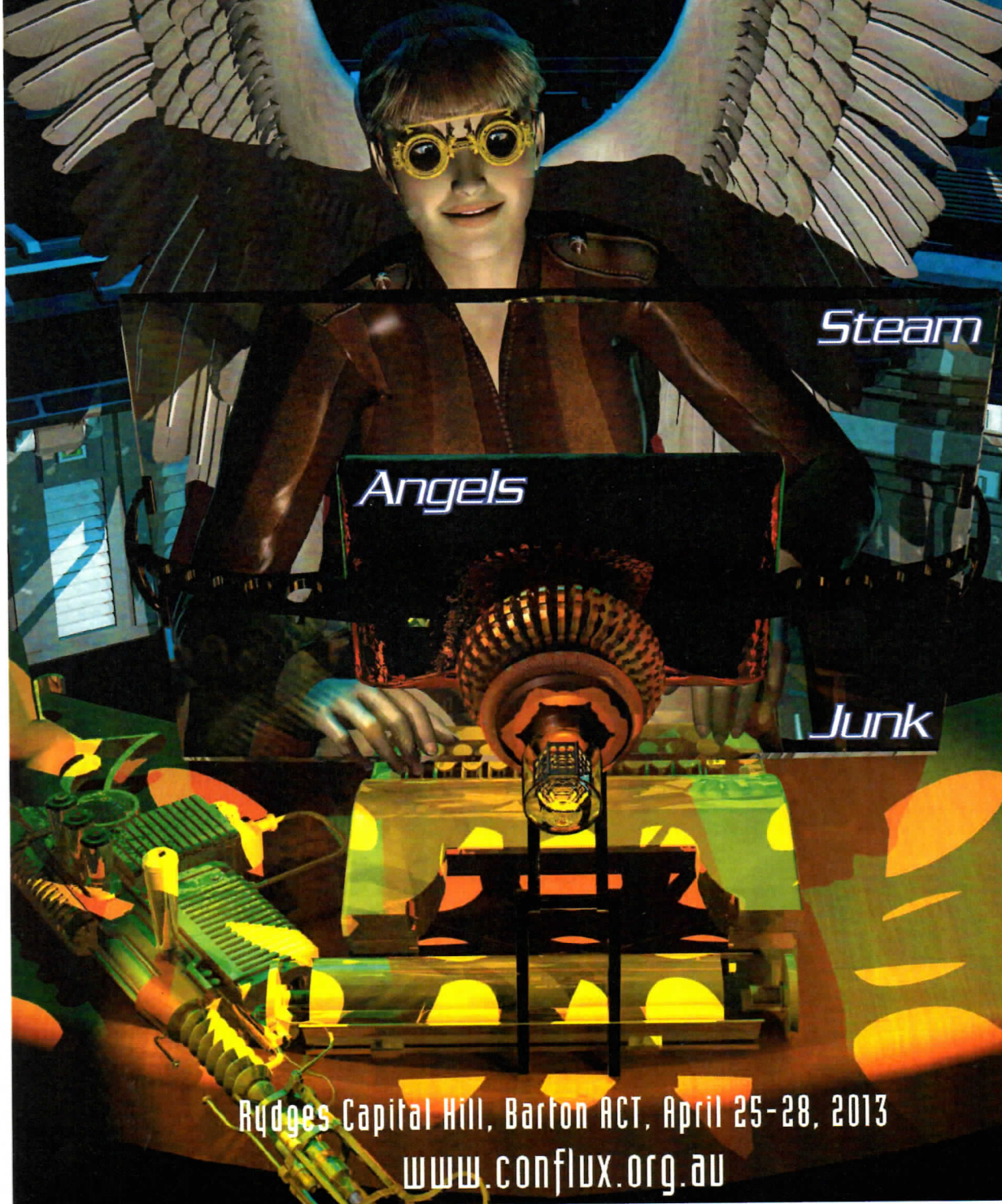


NATCON 2013

CONFLUX



*Progress Report 1
1st December 2011*



Steam

Angels

Junk

Rdges Capital Hill, Barton ACT, April 25-28, 2013
www.conflux.org.au

*Report: by Zena Shapter
Conflux 9 artwork: by Grant Gittus*



WELCOME FROM THE EDITOR

Hi everyone, and welcome to your first progress report for the 2013 Conflux 9 / Natcon! If you're reading this, you've probably already done the clever thing and signed up for membership early. Now here's some more information about the event, so you can decide what other clever things you might want to do/book/get-involved-with in advance of the big day.

Of course, if your excitement levels mount anything like mine do, this report won't be enough... it will merely pique your interest! With this in mind, I've scattered hyperlinks throughout the report to sate your curiosity. Simply click on a name or web address, make sure you're on the internet, and a wealth of knowledge will be yours! You could:

- Follow our guests of honour on Twitter or Facebook
- Find out more about our fabulous committee members
- Research the location and setting for Conflux 9
- Plan your attire for the Regency Gothic banquet or Steampunk high tea

Just look for the blue underlining that looks like this: confluxnatcon2013.wordpress.com

Enjoy... and explore!

Zena Shapter
Publications Editor

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FROM THE CHAIR

Nicole and I are very happy to once again be chairing Conflux, with a fantastic line up of guests (and yes we do say so ourselves): [Nalo Hopkinson](#), the World Fantasy Award winning editor; Marc Gascoigne from [Angry Robot Books](#); [Karen Miller](#), a prolific and successful writer; and local Canberra genius [Kaaron Warren](#). Our fan guest of honour is the amazing Rose Mitchell who was instrumental in the establishment of Conflux way back when.

Along with a great venue ([Rydges Capital Hill](#) – it's so pretty), this convention is piled high with lots of goodies, featuring a steampunk-themed high tea, a Regency Gothic Banquet, three streams of programming, an art show, workshops, booksignings, readings, masquerade disco and Ditmars. Phew!



As you can see we have lots of things planned and we also need help so we can run all this and still keep sane. So if you want to be part of this excellent convention then drop us a line dmhanson@iinet.net.au. In particular we are looking for some short story competition judges, someone to manage the art show and a bookkeeper. But there's lots of other jobs, big and small. Also, if you can't help out now then there is always room for volunteers at the convention itself.

If you've got an idea for a program item, you can also email that to dmhanson@iinet.net.au. Nicole and I will be doing the programming and we're happy to consider any suggestions. The sooner you get them to us, the easier our job will be. Note – if you've mentioned an idea to us, that doesn't count – we need them emailed so we have a record.

Also, we should say a little bit about the membership fee. The earlier you become a member, the easier it is for us to plan. The membership is currently \$150 for an adult membership. We are hoping to keep it at that rate until April, unless we have to increase it before then. We are currently receiving memberships via the form on the [website](#), with payment through paypal. We are hoping to have eftpos available at Swancon this Easter 2012 and Continuum in June 2012, where we will be taking memberships.

And, because we want the venue to ourselves as much as possible, please book your room as early as you can. A phone call and a credit card number is all that's required to secure your room but you must quote our code to get the convention deal (a double room and two breakfasts for \$160). The best way to book a room is to call the hotel on +61 2 6295 3144 and book quoting this reference code F-2504CI.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

[Nicole Murphy](#) & [Donna Maree Hanson](#)
Joint Chair Conflux 9 / Natcon 2013

JOIN IN!

VOLUNTEER!

Conflux is created by volunteers, fans and writers – people like you who love the genre so much they want to share the fun with everyone.



Volunteers are always very welcome and it's a great way to meet people. I did some volunteering at Conflux 7 and it was the best way to get to know folks fast!

Let Donna or Nicole know if you'd like to volunteer, either on your membership form, by emailing Nicole or Donna on dmhanson@iinet.net.au, or through the Conflux 9 website:

confluxnatcon2013.wordpress.com/contact

PANELS

Donna and Nicole are also welcoming volunteers for the Conflux 9 panels. So, if you have a passion for a particular topic, and experience that might interest others, please let them know!



AUTHOR READINGS

If you're a published author and would like to read from your own work for a small audience, please let Nicole or Donna know.

DEALERS

An area will be set aside for Dealers. Reservations for a Dealer's table may be made by emailing Donna or Nicole on dmhanson@iinet.net.au. Tables are limited, so book early to ensure your space.

MASS BOOK SIGNING

As in previous Conflux Conventions, there will be some time set aside for a mass book signing. If you've published works and would like to participate, please let Nicole or Donna know.

CONFLUX COMMITTEE

Co-chairs: [Donna Maree Hanson](#) and [Nicole Murphy](#)

Treasurer: Mark Loney

Memberships: Karen Herkes

Progress Reports Editor: [Zena Shapter](#)

Con book Editor: [Cat Sparks](#) and [Rob Hood](#)

Short story competition coordinator: Elizabeth Fitzgerald

Webmistress: [Lily Mulholland](#)

Dealers Room: Paula McGrath

VENUE

Conflux 2013 will be held in conference rooms at the [Ryldges Capital Hill](#), in Barton, ACT.

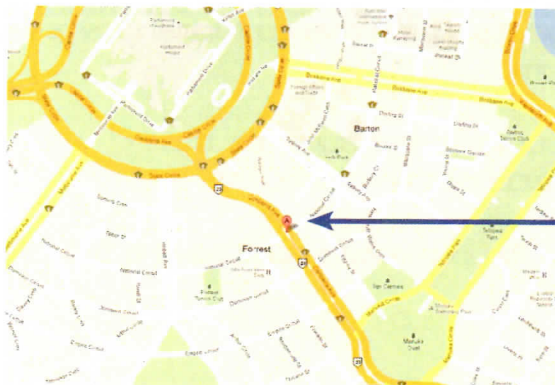
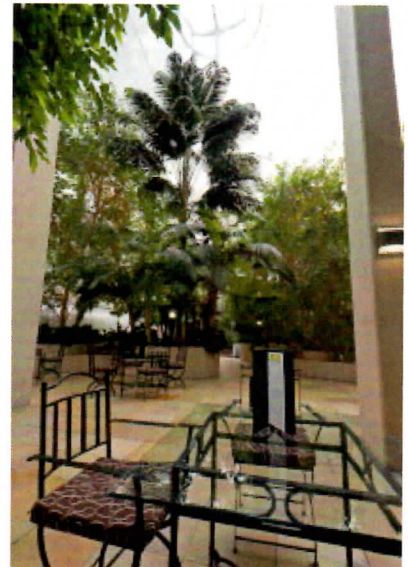
It's a beautiful hotel – built around a central atrium full of trees and greenery...



Conflux has access to the full convention space, which has three full sized meeting rooms and some interesting spaces for events.

The bar is in the corner of the building and can be a cozy venue or we can spread out into the spill-over area to accommodate a larger group.

The cafe suburb of [Manuka](#), Canberra's premier eating location, is about a ten minute walk down the road. There's serviced accommodation next door, for those who prefer it. The synagogue is across the intersection and there's a Catholic and Anglican church in Manuka. On the foot path, you can even see [Parliament House](#) (as Ryldges Capital Hill borders the parliamentary triangle). What more do we need?!



Ryldges Capital Hill Canberra Hotel
Cnr Canberra Avenue & National Circuit
Forrest ACT 2603
(02) 6295 3144

ACCOMMODATION

Don't wait to reserve your room onsite at [Rydges Capital Hill!](#) Conflux 9 has bargained a great standard room rate of \$160 per night for bed and breakfast – so book up quick to avoid disappointment! Canberra may be busy at that time of year.



You can use your credit card to secure your booking over the phone without charge. Don't worry if your card will expire before Conflux 2013, you can simply update it closer to the convention time with the new card number and expiry date.

HOW TO BOOK

The best way to book a room is to call the hotel on +61 2 6295 3144 and book quoting this reference code **F-2504C1**

The convention rate is available from 24 April to 28 April 2013. \$160 covers two people for a room including two buffet breakfasts in the price. There are a range of rooms you can book:

- Superior Queen Room with a Queen Size Bed, 1 sofa bed is upon request
- Superior Twin Room with Two separate Double Size Beds
- Superior Queen room with accessible facilities
- Executive King Suite with a King Size Bed (\$180)
- Embassy Suite with a King Size Bed with a separate lounge area (\$200)

Two adults and two children under 12 can share a room at no additional cost. However, for children over 5 and under 12 the breakfast is charged at an additional \$12 per child. Children 5 years and under have a complimentary breakfast from the buffet. Cots are complimentary but please request one. They are available subject to availability.

The hotel has advised us that there is an additional charge of \$74 for a third person sharing a room, which includes a breakfast. You cannot negotiate a price without the breakfast, because of the nature of our deal. This additional charge covers additional towels, servicing, and set up if a sofa bed is required. The hotel has advised that they have limited occupation in the rooms to three adults. Given this additional charge, it's not cost-effective for four people to share a room.

The other thing to note is that while other discounts do not apply for the accommodation, priority cards can be used for discounts on meals, etc.

➔ Please start your booking now so we can fill up the hotel and have it to ourselves!

ALTERNATIVE ACCOMMODATION

The venue is surrounded by a number of alternative accommodation options – we'll let you know the best ones nearer the time.

ADVERTISING

The ACT Writers Centre: The destination for all your writing needs

Our members receive a subscription to *ACTWrite* magazine, which is full of articles and information about writing, publishing and literature.

Our workshops include beginner classes through to masterclasses, general and genre-specific, on topics from writing and publishing through to marketing and social media.

Our services include manuscript appraisals, Invite-a-Writer (which connects people with writers, editors, teachers and speakers) and our design and layout service for self publishers, New Territory Press.

Visit www.actwriters.org.au for more information, or email admin@actwriters.org.au to subscribe to our *free weekly enews*.

April 5 - 9, 2012, Perth.

DOOM-CON

SWANCON 37



W.A.S.F.F. 2012

Brandon Sanderson

(*Wheel of Time* conclusion, *Mistborn* trilogy)

Marianne de Pierres

(*Nylon Angel*, *Sentients of Orion* series)

Check out swancon.com.au to find out more.

**Wait a minute,
I want to
advertise too!**

It's a good idea, isn't it?

If you wish to promote yourself through the PRs, the con book or at the convention, then you need to contact Conflux Inc president Nicole Murphy via president.conflux@gmail.com. Nicole will then forward you the pricing and information.

Conflux 9 advertising opportunities can be grouped with those provided by Conflux 8 and you can save a lot of money. So email to find out what's available!

GUESTS OF HONOUR

INTERNATIONAL GoH: NALO HOPKINSON

Nalo Hopkinson has lived in Jamaica, Trinidad and Guyana and, for the past 30 years, Canada. She is the author of four novels and a short story collection (*Brown Girl in the Ring*, *Midnight Robber*, *The Salt Roads*, *The New Moon's Arms*, *Skin Folk*), the editor of fiction anthologies (*Whispers From the Cotton Tree Root: Caribbean Fabulist Fiction*, and *Mojo: Conjure Stories*), and the co-editor of fiction anthologies (*So Long Been Dreaming: Postcolonial Science Fiction* with Uppinder Mehan, and *Tesseract Nine* with Geoff Ryman). Hopkinson's work has received Honourable Mention in Cuba's "Casa de las Americas" literary prize. She is a recipient of the *Warner Aspect First Novel Award*, the *Ontario Arts Council Foundation Award for emerging writers*, the *John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer*, the *Locus Award for Best New Writer*, the *World Fantasy Award*, the *Sunburst Award for Canadian Literature of the Fantastic*, the *Aurora Award*, and the *Gaylactic Spectrum Award*.

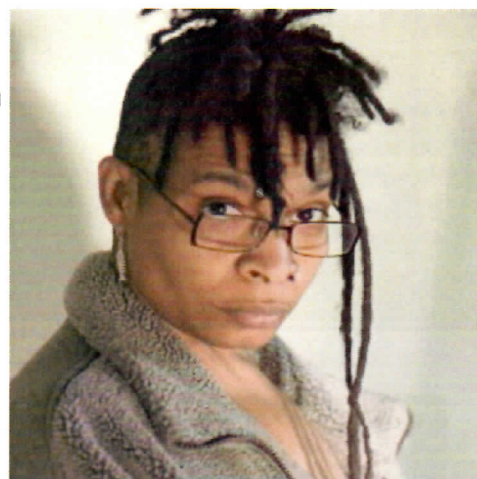


Photo by David Findlay, 2007

Her latest novel, *The New Moon's Arms*, was released in February 2007 from Warner/Hachette Books. Nalo is currently living in California, where she is teaching at University of California Riverside. Nalo blogs and tweets about cooking, writing and other interesting stuff. For more information about Nalo please check her website at nalohopkinson.com and/or follow her on Twitter [@nalohopkinson](https://twitter.com/nalohopkinson)

AUSTRALIAN GoH: KAREN MILLER

Karen was born in Vancouver, Canada, and came to Australia at the age of 2. She lives in Sydney and has a BA Communications. She's been a training officer, done PR for local government and taught English and Business Communication at TAFE. She ran the sf/fantasy/mystery bookstore Phantasia in Penrith. She has a Master's Degree in Children's Literature from Macquarie University. When not writing she's heavily involved in the Castle Hill Players as an actor, director, prompt, stage manager (but not all at once!) and publicity officer.

Karen's first books, the *Kingmaker Kingbreak* duology was published by Voyager Australia in 2005 and since then she's published fourteen novels and recently signed a massive deal with Orbit for more of the *Rogue Agent* books (published under the name KE Mills), as well as a new fantasy series called *The Tarnished Crown*. She's written in both the *Star Wars* and *Stargate* universes.

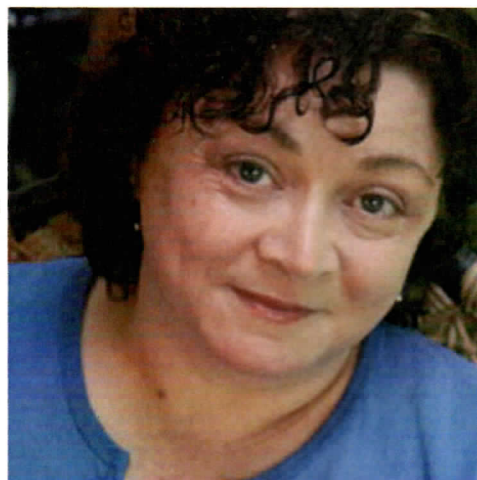


Photo by Mary GT Webber

Karen's website is at karenmiller.net and she's on Facebook as [Karen-Miller](https://www.facebook.com/Karen-Miller).

GUESTS OF HONOUR

EDITOR GoH: MARC GASCOIGNE

Marc Gascoigne is the Publishing Director of Angry Robot, Britain's gobbiest SF/F imprint. It's one of the most interesting publishers in the business at the moment – not just in terms of who they are publishing around the globe (including Australians Trent Jamieson and Joanne Anderton, as well as Conflux 9 guest Kaaron Warren) but in how they're approaching the industry.



Marc has just won the World Fantasy Special Award (professional) for his work with Angry Robot. He's been in science fiction publishing since 1984, and previous offences include Solaris Books, the Black Library, Fighting Fantasy game books, various role-playing and computer games... and some genuinely wonderful Sonic the Hedgehog novels.

You can check out Angry Robot at angryrobotbooks.com and Marc's on Twitter [@Marc_Gascoigne](https://twitter.com/Marc_Gascoigne). There's a Wikipedia entry about Marc's illustrious career here: wikipedia.org/wiki/Marc_Gascoigne

There's also an interview with Marc by Charles Tan here at Bibliophile Stalker: charles-tan.blogspot.com/2009/09/interview-marc-gascoigne.html

SPECIAL GUEST: KAARON WARREN

Kaaron is a writer, wife and mother from Canberra. She started sending stories out when she was about 23, and sold her first, *White Bed*, in 1993. Since then she's sold about 70 short stories, three short story collections and three novels.



Kaaron's been nominated for a number of awards, winning the 2006 ACT Writing and Publishing Award for her short-story collection *The Grinding House*; a 2006 Ditmar Award for her novella/novelette: *The Grinding House*; a 2006 Ditmar Award for her Short story: *Fresh Young Widow*; and a 1999 Aurealis Award for her horror short story: *A Positive*.

About her name, Kaaron says – *People always ask me about the spelling of my name, wondering where I'm from. I actually made the spelling up, because there were five Karens in my year at school and I knew I wanted to stand out. Even at 17 I wanted my writing to be remembered, and I thought that a memorable spelling would help me in that quest. Does it work?*

Kaaron's website is kaaronwarren.wordpress.com, she's on Facebook as [Kaaron-Warren](https://www.facebook.com/Kaaron-Warren) and Twitter as [@KaaronWarren](https://twitter.com/@KaaronWarren)

GUESTS OF HONOUR

FAN GoH: ROSE MITCHELL

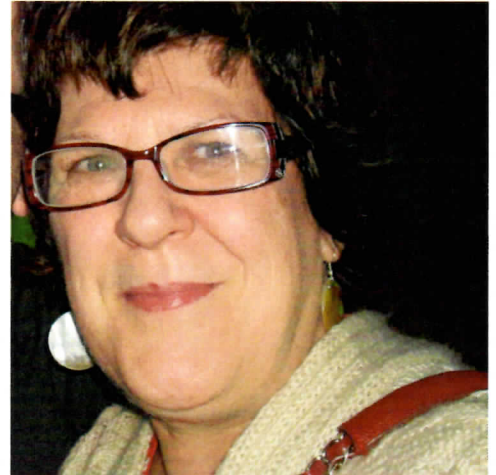
Rose has been an avid fan of science fiction since a nubile young girl (just as every body else claims to have been), but only discovered fandom and cons and such stuff in the early nineties.

Her involvement with the science fiction community has concentrated on club activities, convention running and supporting the fan funds associated with Australia.

She commenced her work with fannish organizations with *Austrek*, a Melbourne-based *Star Trek* fan club, as The Captain's Log editor, and culminated in Co-chairing Aussiecon 4, the world science fiction convention held in Melbourne in 2010.

In the intervening years, she held a range of senior positions in various clubs or on convention committees including two Confluxes. She chaired the Australian Natcon in 2002 and 2007, and headed up the Finance Division for Aussiecon 3, the 1999 Worldcon. She was the FFANZ candidate for 2003 and is currently the Treasurer of Victorian Science Fiction Conventions, the legal entity for Aussiecon 4.

Oh yeah, and she likes SF – in all its forms but mainly contemporary, groovy writers, particularly those from the UK. Rose lives in Melbourne.



ABOUT CONFLUX INCORPORATED

Conflux Incorporated is the legal body that oversees the organisation of the Conflux science fiction conventions. If you wish to be considered to chair a future Conflux convention, or wish to make suggestions for them, you can do so by emailing: president.conflux@gmail.com. Any member of a Conflux convention can become a member of Conflux Inc just by asking to be so.

If you have concerns about a current or past Conflux convention, and you're not satisfied with the response of the convention chair, then you can also come to Conflux Inc for us to mediate the dispute.

The current president is Nicole Murphy, vice president is Rachel McGrath-Kerr, secretary is Karen Ott and treasurer is Mark Loney.

PROGRAMMING

Conflux 9 will have three streams of programming, workshops, author readings, a mass book signing, plus an academic stream, an area for gamers and an art show – yippee! The dealers area will be able to be locked away too, while we use the rest of the convention space.

With your feedback in mind, the program will include workshops on Thursday; single programming for special items such as guest's talks; and book launches.

If you have an idea for an item or a panel, or would like to be involved, please contact Nicole or Donna: dmhanson@iinet.net.au



SOCIAL EVENTS

Excitement is already mounting over our fabulously-themed socials:

- Steampunk high tea – Thursday (see below)
- Cocktail party – Thursday
- Regency-Gothic banquet – Friday (see page 11)
- Ditmar awards – Saturday
- Masquerade disco – Saturday

WHAT IS A STEAMPUNK HIGH TEA?

Think tea, champagne, sandwiches, cakes and pastries in a tiered platter. Picture yourself cricking your little finger and dressing up all posh...

Ladies might like to think about wearing a corset or bustle, even leather or metal ones if the quasi Victorian/steampunk theme really takes their fancy. Gentlemen could consider wearing a top hat, or a leather cap and goggles. Simply google [steampunk](#) or [Victorian](#) clothing and you'll find heaps of ideas (try bustledress.com). Second-hand clothing shops are a good place to start as some old wedding dresses and other long dresses can easily be dressed up. Nicole and Donna's top hint: a cheap way of making a bustle is with a little cushion :)



We'll bring you more articles on Victorian/Steampunk clothing over the coming months to get your creative juices going.

Just remember that the steampunk high tea will be before Conflux officially opens and is a separate fee-paying event. We don't have a firm price yet but it will be in the vicinity of \$45.

BANQUET HIGHLIGHT

Due to the enormous success of the banquet at Conflux 4 in 2007, the banquet theme for 2013 will be Regency-Gothic.

WHAT IS REGENCY-GOTHIC?

Regency – the Regency era generally refers to the years between 1795 and 1837, a time of excess for the aristocracy, when King George III was deemed unfit to rule, and so his son, the Prince of Wales, ruled as Prince Regent. It was also a time of uncertainty, following the Napoleonic wars, periodic riots, and the French Revolution. It's often referred to as the "Age of Elegance" and is noted for its achievements in the fine arts and architecture.



Image source: fanpop.com

Gothic – Horace Walpole's *The Castle of Otranto* (1764) is often regarded as the first true Gothic romance. Walpole was obsessed with medieval Gothic architecture, and built his own house, Strawberry Hill, in such a forbidding form it sparked a fashion for Gothic revival. The work of the Romantic poets (Coleridge, Lord Byron and Keats) furthered the rise of neo medieval imagery, as did gothic fiction such as Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* and Polidori's *The Vampyre*. These were the chilling tales that paved the way for the fantasy and horror stories we know and love today.

COSTUME AND DRESS

You don't have to dress up, but it is fun! Here are some photos from the last banquet for inspiration...



Regency photos by Cat Sparks

REGENCY FOOD

Regency food is rich and scrumptious and, since we're recreating the menu of that fabulous Conflux 4 banquet (with a little polishing, as there was sooooo much food!), you can get a sneak-peak at the delights in store by ordering Gillian Polack's *Five Historical Feasts* (see page 14), which details the previous menu among other things!

COST

Remember, the banquet will be an additional cost to the convention. It'll be a while before we finalise prices, but judging by past conventions, keep \$60 per seat available in your budget to take part.

COMPETITIONS

The convention theme for 2013 is Steam Angels Junk.

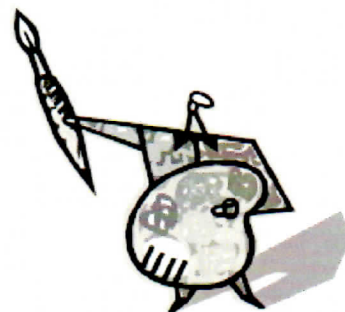
SHORT STORY COMPETITION

There will be a short story competition for Conflux 9, but the details haven't been confirmed yet. However, entries will most likely open in late 2012 and the theme will be the same as the convention: steam, angels, junk. You will have to be a Conflux 9 member (Supporting or Full Membership) to enter and the usual competition rules will apply (ie. your story must not be published elsewhere, nor have won a place in any other competition). Stories that fail in any of these elements will be judged ineligible. More details to come in the next PR but in the meantime – let the muse sit quietly and work!



CONFLUX ART COMPETITION

There will also be an art competition. Again, the details of the competition haven't been fixed yet. However, as in previous years, artists will be welcome to display their works at the Conflux Art Show. To be eligible for judging, works must be exhibited at the Conflux Convention from Noon Thursday to Noon Sunday. Works may be sold at the Convention, but purchasers should not collect works until Noon Sunday. Nicole and Donna will have the forms ready for you asap but, in the meantime, start thinking about a piece of art that you can display in April 2013!



THE E. G. HARVEY AWARD FOR AUSTRALIAN SF ART

The E.G. Harvey Award for Australian Speculative Fiction Art is for the best original visual art work produced by an Australian artist in the previous 12 months. Judging will be made from works exhibited at the annual Conflux Art Show by a panel of non-participating artists. The medium for the work may be acrylic, oils, watercolour, pencil and/or ink, charcoal, mixed medium, sculpture, photography, animation and video-works. The value of the award is AU\$500. To be eligible for judging, works must be exhibited at the Conflux Convention from Noon Thursday to Noon Sunday. Works may be sold at the Convention, but purchasers should not collect works until Noon Sunday. So, again, start thinking about a piece of art that you can display in April 2013!



MEMBERSHIP FORM



Conflux Incorporated
ABN 18823030943
PO Box 903,
Belconnen ACT 2616

	Until 31 March 2012	From 1 April 2012
Full Membership (Attendance and publications)	\$150	\$200
Student/Concession (Attendance and publications)	\$110	\$160
Children under 12	FREE	FREE
Supporting (Publications and option to upgrade to attending)	\$30	\$30

Terms and Condition of Membership Refunds may be obtained by writing to the Treasurer at the address below by Thursday April 11 2013. To cover costs incurred in processing memberships, an administration levy of \$20 applies. This levy does not apply to those converting to supporting membership. You may also transfer your membership to another person without charge. Refunds are unavailable after 11 April 2013, but if a member is unable to attend they will receive supporting membership benefits. Applications for concession or student membership must be accompanied by evidence to confirm (for example a healthcare card) or full time student status. If you have not yet done so you may provide this information on registration at the Convention. Thank you for your support.

FIRST NAME

LAST NAME

NAME ON BADGE

ADDRESS FOR POSTAGE (STREET OR PO)

SUBURB

STATE

POSTCODE

TELEPHONE

EMAIL ADDRESS

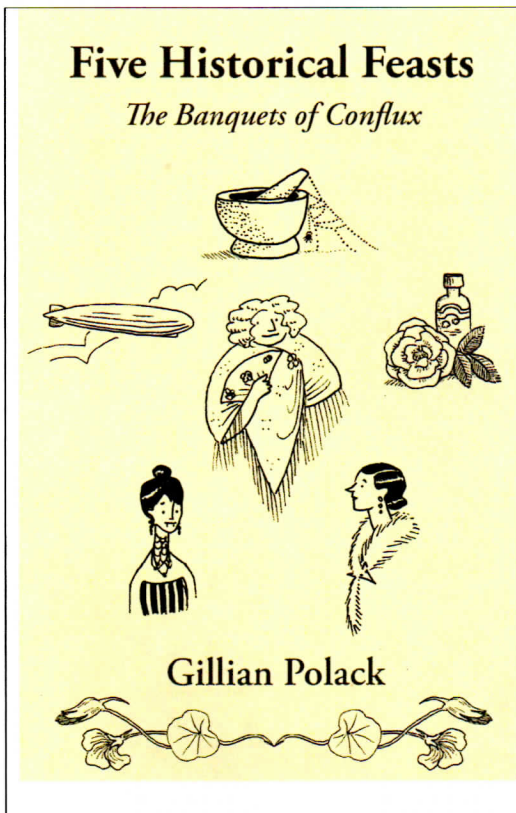
Information and attendance

- Participate in programming.
- Volunteer
- Participate in steampunk high tea (Thu Apr 25, price TBC).
- Participate in regency banquet (Fri Apr 26, price TBC)
- Participate in a mass signing event (Author or Artist?).
- Have updates mailed to me (NB they will be emailed as default choice).
- NOT receive updates on the convention.
- NOT have my name / state on the website or in the con book member list.

Payment for Conflux 9 membership

- Cheque / Money Order (to be made out to Conflux, mailed to address above)
- Pay Pal (via dmhanson@inet.net.au accepts credit card payments)

FIVE HISTORICAL FEASTS ORDER FORM



Ever wondered what a medieval recipe actually looked like? Five Historical Feasts ~ The Banquets of Conflux can show you. How did one order an ever so slightly illegal drink to enjoy with their meal during Prohibition? Have you wondered how makeup was made in Jane Austen's time?

Dr Gillian Polack's research; Tales from Blogland; and notes from the more than fifty testers who helped to recreate as authentic a meal as possible in a modern commercial kitchen, all combine in this unusual cookbook.

Included are the recipes for each Feast; and five new short stories from Kaaron Warren, Nicole Murphy, Maxine McArthur, Donna Maree Hanson and Mik Bennett.

Cost: \$27 per book

Postage: Single book within Australia \$6.50. For multiple copies and international – price on enquiry to chair@conflux.org.au



NAME

ADDRESS

STATE

POSTCODE

No of books to be purchased: _____ Total amount: _____

\$ Cheque / Money Order (to be made out to Conflux, sent to PO Box 903, Belconnen ACT 2616)

\$ Pay Pal (via paypal@conflux.org.au)

AND BEFORE CONFLUX 9, THERE'S...



On the Beach 2012

Saturday 29 September and Sunday 30 September 2012

Conflux 8 will be held at Novotel Canberra, a 4 ½ star hotel located in Canberra's city centre within easy walking distance of shopping malls, cinemas, restaurants, bars, sporting grounds and tourist attractions.

Book now and take advantage of our cheaper rates

2012 is a great year for the End of the World! Let's party like there's no tomorrow!

www.conflux.org.au

CONFLUX ONLINE

Keep up with what's happening between progress reports...

- browse on – confluxnatcon2013.wordpress.com
- follow us on Twitter – [@CbrNatconBid13](https://twitter.com/CbrNatconBid13)
- join us on Facebook – facebook/pages/Conflux-9-Natcon-2013

See you in 2013...!

