

NATCON 2013

CONFLUX

Progress Report 2
5th April 2012



Steam

Angels

Junk

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

Editor: Zena Shapter
Conflux 9 artwork: Grant Gittus



WELCOME FROM THE EDITOR

Hi everyone, and welcome to your second progress report for the 2013 Conflux 9 / Natcon!

As anyone who's ever been to a speculative fiction convention will know, there's a lot involved in organising the extravaganza that we all end up enjoying so much. So I wanted to know... what makes two already-busy writers decide to take on the job? Read on to find out!

Want to know more about our Guests-of-Honour? I do! Read on to find out what they like most about conventions such as Conflux and what social media they prefer.

There's a craft activity too – on how to turn an old book... into an angel! So get reading, and get creative!

As with Conflux 9's previous progress report, I've added hyperlinks where possible – so you can easily access extra internet-based information. Simply click on a name or web address (making sure you're connected to the internet)! 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 Murphy & Donna Maree Hanson **Joint Chair Conflux 9 / Natcon 2013**

A lot of things are happening behind the scenes here as we near 12 months out from Conflux 9...

We are gearing up to sell memberships at Swancon over Easter and later at Continuum over the June long weekend. Note that the membership price rises after Easter (currently \$150) and will be higher at Continuum (\$180). Traditionally, the price of membership goes up 12 months from the convention. So get your memberships in early to get a real bargain.

Again I should point out that we have a very good deal on accommodation at Rydges Capital Hill, that is, a double room with two breakfasts for \$160. So you can reserve your room now without paying by calling the number listed below under accommodation and quoting our code. You will need to leave your credit card details to secure the booking.

Other than that there is not a lot to report as things are kicking along nicely.

Zena has done a wonderful job in putting together this progress report. Have fun reading the guest interviews.

Regards

Donna and Nicole

INTERVIEW WITH DONNA MAREE HANSON

Donna Maree Hanson is:

- the author of short fiction published in various small press & ezines
- the author of "Australian Speculative Fiction: A Genre Overview"
- the editor of "The Grinding House" by Kaaron Warren and co-editor of "Encounters" (along with Maxine McArthur)
- the publisher of "Kered's Crown" by Kaaren Sutcliffe and "Johnny Phillips: Werewolf Detective" by Robbie Matthews.
- an experienced convention organiser, having chaired Conflux 1 & 2 and been the inaugural president of the Canberra Speculative Fiction Guild



What makes two already-busy writers decide to take on the job of organising a speculative fiction convention? I asked Donna:

1. As Australia's 52nd Natcon, Conflux 9 will be the speculative fiction event of 2013 for Aussie writers, readers and fans. To organise such an event, you probably know a fair amount about speculative fiction. How long have you been involved in the speculative fiction scene in Australia?

Well, I started writing creatively in late 2000 and that first attempt was science fiction. That is where I began to discover the spec fic scene in Australia. My first stop was the Canberra Speculative Fiction Guild and from there I was introduced to conventions. I went to a small con in Canberra in 2002 and then went to the best ever Natcon Convergence in Melbourne in 2003. It was at that convention the first Conflux (a Natcon) was born. Since then I just seem to get deeper and deeper. I ended up the Chair of the first Conflux and Conflux 2. Lucky for others, I managed to ensnare others into the convention scene. I'm pretty sure Nicole was an early victim.

2. Most writers have dayjobs and write in their spare time. What motivated you to add to your already full schedule by organising a national speculative fiction conference?

Insanity I'm sure. Well, I think Canberra was ready for another Natcon, but nobody else was putting up their hands and Nicole and I became hysterical about this situation and put our hands up. Our partners were not fast enough in pulling them back down again. So here we are.

Both Nicole and I love a good party, a good convention and being able to choose our guests and have them say yes is one of the great highs. So it is a lot of work but there is a lot of fun in there too.

3. So far, what has been the most personally fulfilling aspect of organising Conflux 9?

Getting the guests we wanted and working with Nicole, who has been a tower of strength. I developed RSI recently so that has impacted on things and work job

pressures have made me less available than I expected. I think that having people get excited about some of the things we have planned like the Regency Gothic Banquet and the Steampunk-themed high tea is really inspiring.

You know, it is the members of the convention and their enthusiasm that make a great convention. The organisers supply the framework to ease things along.

4. So far, what has been your greatest personal challenge in organising Conflux 9?

Time and getting enough help for specific tasks. Not having enough helpers on the committee worries me, because that means that it is more work for the rest of us. It also means we can do less in the end. We are lucky to have some great help so far, but we could really do with a book keeper and some other helping hands. (The undertones of pleading are deliberate).

5. How have you been juggling all the organisation with your work, writing and personal life? What changes, if any, have you had to make to fit it all in?

Ahh... was there juggling in there somewhere? Well, lucky so far things haven't been that intense. Later, there will be no writing and very little free time and some leave to help me in the last months. For example, I have put in for some purchased leave. That means I start paying for the time off I need now.

Nicole has taken a larger administrative burden because she is on the Conflux org committee, which is responsible for two conventions and the general running of the organisation.

6. What are you most looking forward to enjoying at Conflux 9?

When the convention comes along, probably the end of the convention. There is a lot of hype and stress involved in running and convention at the venue.

I'm really looking forward to seeing the guests here, see people get something out of the convention. Dressing up and drinking high tea (Nicole and I won't be on the front desk during that event). Catching up with friends and meeting new ones, learning something from a couple of panels.

I am also looking forward to running a successful event that people will think 'wow that was awesome' and that Canberra spec crowd can be proud of. I think I can say Nicole would be wishing that too.

7. Will you get to promote your own writing at Conflux 9? If so, do you know what it is yet, or will it be a surprise we'll have to eagerly anticipate?

Err, well, that's a bit hard to do, I think. I mean I'll be busy with stuff. I have no plans to promote anything in particular. Certainly if I had a book deal I'd be ranting about it to anyone who stands still long enough. If I have a story out in an anthology I'll happily promote it. However, at this stage I have no specific plans. I want to run a good convention and have some fun while do it. Nicole is the one with the books...

Thank you, Donna!

INTERVIEW WITH NICOLE MURPHY

Nicole Murphy is:

- the author of the urban fantasy trilogy "Dream of Asartai", published in Australia/NZ by HarperVoyager
- the author of dozens of speculative fiction short stories appearing in Australia & overseas
- an editor of CSFG anthologies & ASIM
- an innovator at mentoring up-and-coming writers through her new venture In fabula-divinos – see her website at thetalellers.wordpress.com [just click [HERE](#)]
- an ex-primary school teacher, bookstore owner, journalist and checkout chick
- on the internet at nicolemurphy.com [just click [HERE](#)]

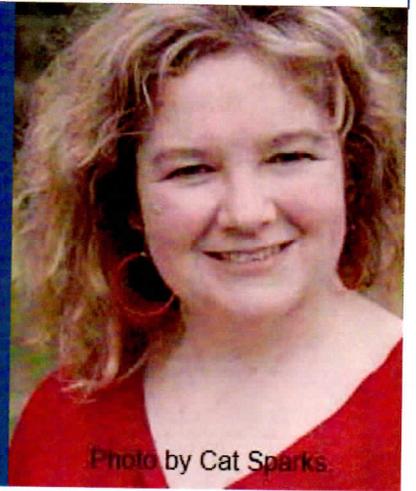


Photo by Cat Sparks.

What makes two already-busy writers decide to take on the job of organising a speculative fiction convention? I asked Nicole:

1. As Australia's 52nd Natcon, Conflux 9 will be the speculative fiction event of 2013 for Aussie writers, readers and fans. To organise such an event, you probably know a fair amount about speculative fiction. How long have you been involved in the speculative fiction scene in Australia?

It was 2002 or thereabouts, and I discovered the Canberra Speculative Fiction Guild. They were putting together the second anthology, *Machinations*, and I decided to submit to it. I needed someone to read over my story and there was this woman called Donna who wanted the same. So we swapped stories and have been friends ever since.

Donna mentioned that she thought I might have been an early ring-in for Conflux and she's right – she roped me into running the short story competition for Conflux 1. Since then I've done the art show, the publications, chaired one, programmed a couple and have been on committee for all but one.

I've had a couple of years on the Natcon Concom, the overseeing committee that looks after bids and is responsible for the Ditmar Awards. I was there during the process when organising the Ditmars was taken from the Natcon organising committees and taken over by this separate committee, which was very interesting.

I was also a special guest at the Natcon last year at Swancon, which is undoubtedly one of the highlights of my fan life!

2. Most writers have dayjobs and write in their spare time. What motivated you to add to your already full schedule by organising a national speculative fiction conference?

I'm one of the lucky non-dayjobby writers, so I've got a bit more time (the lack of children helps in that as well). At the end of the day, though, it was about loving conventions, Conflux in particular, and also wanting to break the Melbourne/Perth bounce for the Natcon which had been running for a few years at that point.

3. So far, what has been the most personally fulfilling aspect of organising Conflux 9?

So, there hasn't really been one. The convention is still taking shape (although finding the fabulous venue we've got was a thrilling moment). For me, it's all going to come down to the opening ceremony, when I see all those smiling faces and realise we've done it – we organised a Natcon.

4. So far, what has been your greatest personal challenge in organising Conflux 9?

I'm also the president of Conflux Incorporated and we've got a really interesting time at the moment because we're organising two conventions at the same time (Conflux 8 will take place just six months before Conflux 9). I'm doing the marketing and promotional stuff for both cons cause I thought it would be a good idea to combine them. Yeah. BRILLIANT idea Nicole :)

So dealing with the two hats and the two sets of responsibilities of being both Conflux president and a Conflux chair has at times been very confusing. I'm getting there, but I'm sure I will drop the ball from time to time and I rely on others to remind me of things I've promised to do.

5. How have you been juggling all the organisation with your work, writing and personal life? What changes, if any, have you had to make to fit it all in?

Ah, I LOVE my Google calendar. I set up all the things I need to do and it sends me reminders. Not just of specific things – for example, every four days it sends me a reminder to consider what I should be doing for Conflux. Otherwise I'd disappear into the world of whatever book I'm writing at the moment and nothing will get done.

6. What are you most looking forward to enjoying at Conflux 9?

Seeing everyone laughing, smiling, having a great time. As chairs, you tend not to get to do a lot of the socialising, or sitting in on panels. It's a very different experience – rewarding, but exhausting as well.

7. Will you get to promote your own writing at Conflux 9? If so, do you know what it is yet, or will it be a surprise we'll have to eagerly anticipate?

In my mind, for that weekend, I'm Nicole the con organiser, not Nicole the writer. If I get to do a bit of spruiking, fabulous, but that's not the aim of this. I'm doing it because I love conventions. Besides, I've pretty much tapped the Aussie SF field in terms of promotion. They all know (and love) me and know about my books :) I'm focussed on other fertile fields in that respect.

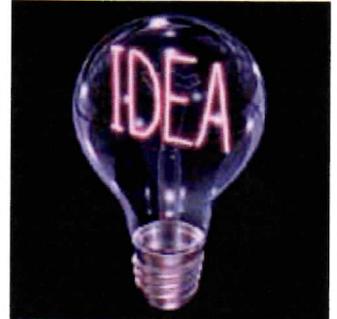
Thank you, Nicole!

PROGRAMMING

At Conflux 9, you won't know what to do with yourself – there'll be so much to do! There will be three streams of panels (including fan panels, horror panels, science fiction and academic panels), as well as workshops, author readings, a mass book signing, 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.

After the success of offering additional workshops on the first registration day at past Conflux conventions, we've decided to do it again with workshops, guest talks and book launches on the Thursday too.

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 :)



What's that? You want to know more about steampunk? Then stay tuned... they'll be more on steampunk in later progress reports.

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.

MEMBERSHIP FORM



Conflux
Incorporated
ABN 18823030943
PO Box 903,
Belconnen ACT
2616

	Until April 9, 2012 (Swancon)	April 10 to June 13, 2012 (Continuum)	After June 14
Full Membership (Attendance and publications)	\$150	\$180	\$200
Student/Concession (Attendance and publications)	\$110	\$140	\$160
Children under 12	FREE	FREE	FREE
Supporting (Publications and option to upgrade to attending)	\$30	\$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 April 11 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@iinet.net.au accepts credit card payments)
- Credit Card (until end of Continuum) Visa Bankcard MasterCard

Card Number _____ Expiry Date _____

Name on Card _____ Signature _____

REGENCY-GOTHIC – what is it?

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 sooo 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.

ACCOMMODATION

Don't wait to reserve your room onsite at [Rydges Capital Hill](#)! Conflux 9 has bargained a great standard room rate:

\$160 per night for bed and breakfast!!!

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



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

Just call the hotel on +61 2 6295 3144 and book quoting this reference code **F-2504CI**

The \$160 convention rate is available from 24 April to 28 April 2013 and covers two people for a room including two buffet breakfasts. There are also a range of rooms:

- 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 use for discounts on meals, etc.

ALTERNATIVE ACCOMMODATION

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

ANGELS - craft with Nicole Murphy

HOW TO MAKE A LITERARY ANGEL (using a recycled book)

If you find you can't bear the thought of destroying a book in order to create a craftwork, then you'd best look away now!

Otherwise, here's how to take an old book and turn it into something pretty



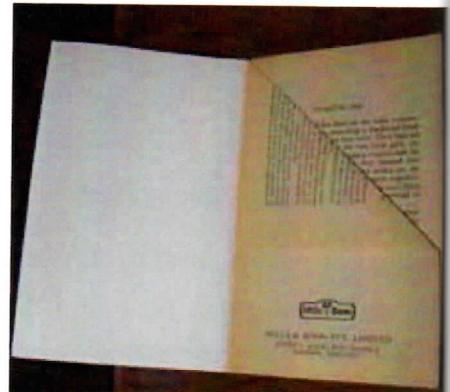
You will need

- a Mills and Boon book (these work best because they're thin and so are easiest to manipulate)
- white cardboard
- white paper doily
- spray can of gold paint
- wooden skewer
- polystyrene ball
- dolls hair
- paints/textas

Step One

Fold each one of the pages in the book the following way:

- a) take top right corner to the spine of the book, with the top of the page lying along the spine
- b) repeat the same action so that the fold you just created now lies along the spine
- c) there will be a triangular piece of paper sticking out from the bottom of the book. Either trim it back in line or fold it under



Continue until every page in the book has been folded. It's going to take about half an hour.

When done, it will look like this!

The fan of pages forms the skirt of the angel.

ANGELS - craft with Nicole Murphy

Step Two

Trim the cover of the book so that it matches the outline of the folded pages.

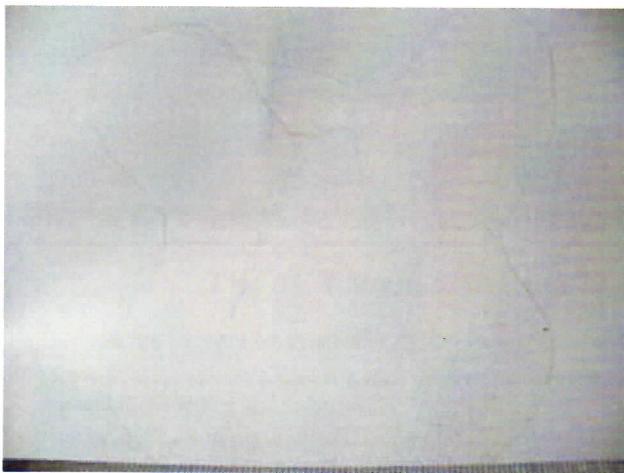


Cut the paper doily in half. Wrap it around the top of the folded pages so it makes a collar sitting on the top half and glue to the cover.



Step Three

Lying the book with the cover open, spine down and pages out, trace the outline on the piece of cardboard.



Remove the book and using the outline you've marked as the centre, draw two angel wings.



Cut the wings out and glue onto the cover so that the cover remains flat and the folded pages fan out. Don't glue where the spine is just yet - you need a gap between cardboard and book for later.



ANGELS - craft with Nicole Murphy

Step Four

Spray paint the whole thing gold.



Step Five

Stick the polystyrene ball on the pointed end of the skewer. Paint/draw a face on the polystyrene ball. Glue the doll hair onto the top of the head.

If you like, you can use some more of the cardboard and the gold paint to make a crown for the angel to wear.

Step Six

When dry, put glue on the skewer and insert between the cardboard and spine of the book. Press it into place until glue dries. Trim skewer in line with the bottom of the book.



There you have it - your very own literary angel!

GUESTS OF HONOUR – Nalo Hopkinson

nalohopkinson.com

[@nalohopkinson](https://twitter.com/nalohopkinson)

Nalo Hopkinson 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*)
- the co-editor of fiction anthologies (*So Long Been Dreaming: Postcolonial Science Fiction* with Uppinder Mehan, and *Tesseract Nine* with Geoff Ryman)
- the 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*

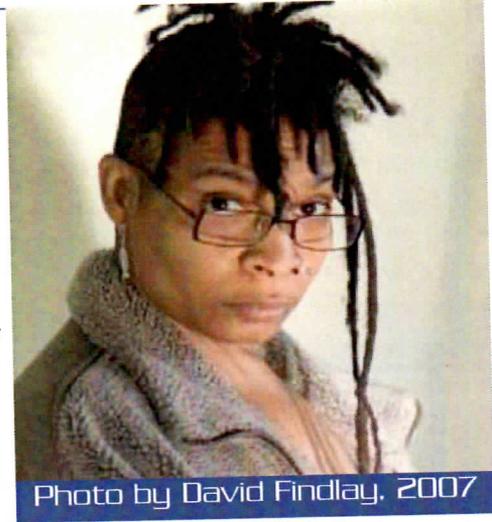


Photo by David Findlay, 2007

Editor's questions:

With Conflux 9 now only a year away, I asked Nalo:

1. What do you enjoy most about conventions such as Conflux?

Being somewhere new. Being able to interact with readers in person. I don't think many other literary genres have that luxury, but in science fiction and fantasy, fandom is mighty, enthusiastic, and organized.

2. What social media do you use most frequently?

Twitter. I'm @nalohopkinson.

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**.

Wait a minute, I want to advertise too!

It's a good idea, isn't it? Promote yourself through the PRs, the con book or at the convention by contacting Nicole Murphy via president.conflux@gmail.com for pricing and information. Save money by grouping Conflux 9 advertising opportunities with those of Conflux 8! Just email to find out what's available.

GUESTS OF HONOUR – Karen Miller

karenmiller.net

 [Karen-Miller](https://www.facebook.com/Karen-Miller)

Karen Miller is:

- the author of fourteen novels, including the *Kingmaker Kingbreak* duology
- a writer of fiction in both the *Star Wars* and *Stargate* universes
- a Master in Children's Literature (from Macquarie University)
- due to bring out more of the *Rogue Agent* books (published under the name KE Mills), as well as a new fantasy series called *The Tarnished Crown*

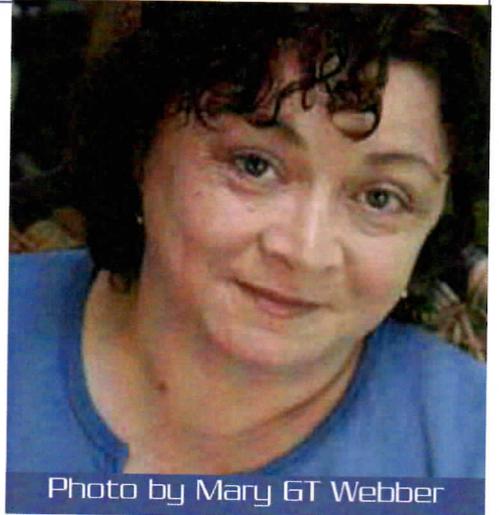


Photo by Mary GT Webber

Editor's questions:

With Conflux 9 now only a year away, I asked Karen:

1. What do you enjoy most about conventions such as Conflux?

Well, really I enjoy two things equally -- the chance to catch up with folk I never get to see because this damn country's too big, and the chance to rabbit on about books and writing, a couple of my great passions. The icing on the cake is knowing that Conflux is always friendly and accessible, well run and inclusive.

2. What social media do you use most frequently?

Well, it's a toss up between LJ and Facebook, but I'm woefully bad at both.

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.

GUESTS OF HONOUR – Marc Gascoigne

angryrobotbooks.com

[@Marc_Gascoigne](https://twitter.com/Marc_Gascoigne)

Marc Gascoigne is:

- the Publishing Director of Angry Robot, Britain's gobbiest SF/F imprint
- 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
- the winner of the World Fantasy Special Award (professional) for his work with Angry Robot



Editor's questions:

With Conflux 9 now only a year away, I asked Marc:

1. What do you enjoy most about conventions such as Conflux?

The travelling to distant, often exotic locations (and Birmingham, England) only to spend four days sitting in the same seat in a sweaty bar. Old friends, new friends, and the occasional cheeky bottle of champagne just because one can, alright? The chance to swan about pretending that one is in any way important to the fun being had all around. And of course, the six hour dubstep rave dance party that's sure to break out on the Saturday night.

2. What social media do you use most frequently?

Twitter, I suspect. Oh, except that everything I tweet (barf) is also copied to Facebook. I'm forever lobbing tunes up on ThisIsMyJam too. But you know what, I rather like the good old telephone. A bit one-to-one most of the time, but it doesn't half cut out the crap and confusion at times.

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.

GUESTS OF HONOUR – Kaaron Warren

kaaronwarren.wordpress.com

 [Kaaron-Warren](https://www.facebook.com/Kaaron-Warren)

 [@KaaronWarren](https://twitter.com/KaaronWarren)



Kaaron Warren is:

- the author of 70 short stories and three short story collections
- the author of three novels
- the winner of 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*

Editor's questions:

With Conflux 9 now only a year away, I asked Kaaron:

1. What do you enjoy most about conventions such as Conflux?

People, readings, meeting writers I admire.

2. What social media do you use most frequently?

Twitter and Facebook equally.



dark matter Fanzine

Science Fiction, Fantasy and Art
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FREE

GUEST OF HONOUR – Rose Mitchell

Rose Mitchell is:

- an avid fan of science fiction – mainly contemporary, groovy writers, especially those from the UK
- an organiser of fandom, from being the Captain's Log editor of Melbourne-based *Star Trek* fan club *Austrek* to organising and helping to organise conventions such as Aussiecon 3 & 4, two Confluxes, the Australian Natcon in 2002 and 2007, and the 1999 Worldcon
- the Treasurer of Victorian Science Fiction Conventions



Editor's questions:

With Conflux 9 now only a year away, I asked Rose:

1. What do you enjoy most about conventions such as Conflux?

At science fiction conventions, like Conflux and especially the Natcon, all sorts of people attend - interesting people from all walks of life and all are fascinating in their own ways. There is a sense of camaraderie and not merely because we all share a common interest and passion for science fiction. There is a very real sense of acceptance in each other of each of our differences. Conflux and similar SF conventions offer an opportunity to the attendee for involvement, of participation rather than passive viewing. You can participate in panels and discussions if you choose, or if you prefer help with running the con. They are inclusive; everybody mixes together whether you are a guest, an attendee or part of the organising group.

2. What social media do you use most frequently?

I don't use social media – that is to say I don't post status updates on Facebook or blog. I am an extremely private person; don't like to give away too much about myself, except to my close and personal friends and family. That is people I care about know about me. However, I do lurk around Facebook – it never ceases to astound me what intimate details people will tell the world. I also use it from time to time to message groups of 'real' family members or friends. I also read other people's blogs, even occasionally commenting on them. I never blog myself – I can't write for love or money. Just not creative enough.

What is a Kaffeeklatsch or Literary Beer?

It's a small group meeting that you can have with a conference guest, writer, editor or artist, while sipping on a hot beverage or something more... inspiring! You can ask them questions, or simply enjoy chatting with them in an informal setting. To keep these events informal, numbers are limited. So make sure you sign up for your favourite Kaffeeklatsch or Literary Beer when you register!



VENUE

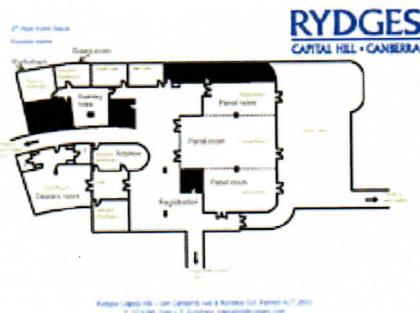
Conflux 2013 will be held in conference rooms at the [Rydges Capital Hill](#), in Barton, ACT.

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.

Rydges Capital Hill – Floor Layout



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 Rydges Capital Hill borders the parliamentary triangle). What more do we need?!



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

COMPETITIONS

The convention theme for 2013 is Steam Angels Junk.

SHORT STORY COMPETITION

The Conflux 9 short story competition will open late in 2012 and be judged by Joanne Anderton, Jenny Blackford and Dirk Flintart. Stories must be on the theme of the convention, "Steam, Angels, Junk", and have a speculative fiction element. Stories should be a maximum of 3,000 words and you must be a Conflux 9 member (Supporting or Full Membership) to enter. The usual competition rules will also apply (ie. your story must not be published elsewhere, nor have won a place in any other competition as at the closing date of the competition). Stories that fail in any of these elements will be judged ineligible. There will be a monetary prize. Further details to follow.



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!



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!

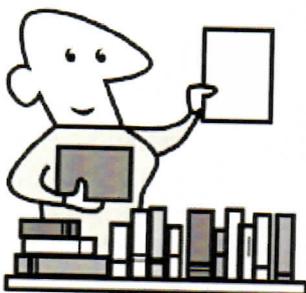


AUTHOR READINGS

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](#)

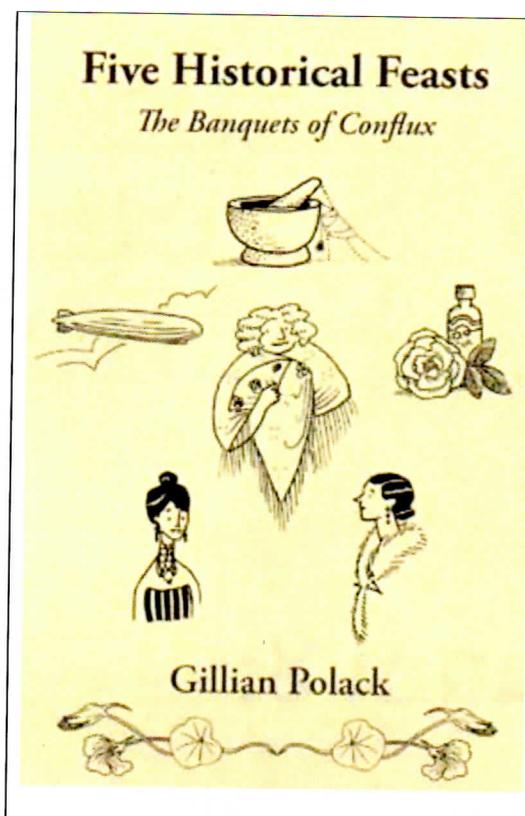
Short story competition coordinator: Elizabeth Fitzgerald

Webmistress: [Lily Mulholland](#)

Dealers Room: Paula McGrath



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 _____

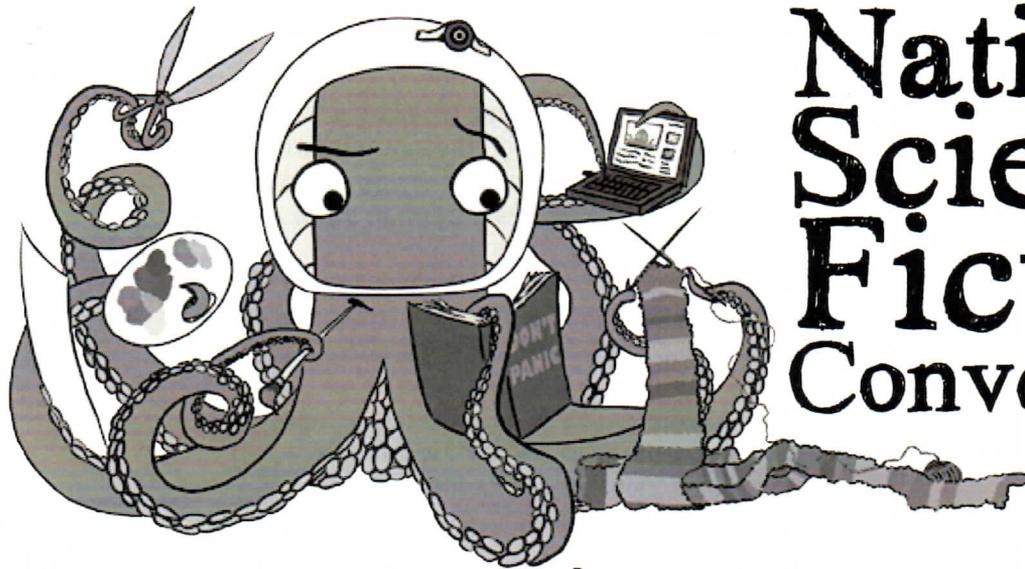
POSTCODE _____

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...

presenting the 51st
**National
Science
Fiction
Convention**



Continuum 8: **Craftonomicon**

8-11 June 2012 at the Rydges on Swanston, Melbourne • continuum.org.au

**PANELS • WORKSHOPS • GAMES • TRIVIA
COMPETITIONS • DEALERS • ART SHOW
MASKOBALO • KRAFTEEKLATCHES
CHRONOS & DITMAR AWARDS CEREMONY**

with Guests of Honour:



**KELLY
LINK**



**ALISON
GOODMAN**



**SUE ANN
BARBER**

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 our website – 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...!