

NATCON 2013

CONFLUX

*Progress Report 3
4th September 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 third progress report for the 2013 Conflux 9 / Natcon!

In this edition, we get to know our Guests-of-Honour a little better, especially through the twelve random facts I asked them to tell us about themselves! Read on to find out:

- who helped embalmed someone
- who used to be a DJ at a huge Nottingham rock club the 90s
- who wrote their first novel at 14
- whose favourite TV show is Time Team
- who used to be an aerobics instructor, legwarmers and all!

There's more information about our social events too, including links to inspire you and pre-Conflux events to get you in the mood!

As with Conflux 9's previous progress report, I've added hyperlinks where possible - so you can easily access internet-based information. Simply look for the blue underlining that looks like this: confluxnatcon2013.wordpress.com then click on it (making sure you're connected to the internet).

And don't forget that Conflux 8 is this month. Its rather topical theme is 'The End of the World'.

Indeed, with impending doom nearly upon us, enjoy and explore this update - as if the Mayans have their way, this report might be the last one I write for you!

Zena Shapter
Publications Editor

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FROM THE CHAIR



Nicole Murphy & Donna Maree Hanson Joint Chair Conflux 9 / Natcon 2013

September 2012. Amazing that it's been nearly twelve months since Conflux 9 officially launched at the end of Conflux 7, and we took our first memberships.

In that time a lot of groundwork has been laid to make this a really great convention. We're looking at ways to be as inclusive and accessible as possible. We're making connections with people to get great ideas. We're considering ways to both deliver the great fun and inspiration of past Conflux conventions but also innovate to make this conference unique.

In a few weeks, Conflux 8 will be held (September 29-30 – you have your tickets and are coming, right?) and immediately after that, Conflux 9 organising is ramping up. The programming planning will begin. Dealers will be chased. The art show will be finalised and marketed. From the end of Conflux 8, there's just seven months until Conflux 9 and there's A LOT to do.

In the meantime – have you entered the short story competition yet? \$500 first prize – that's more than you'd get paid pretty much ANYWHERE for a 3000 word story. Entries close September 15.

And get your thinking cap on regarding the programming – we want your ideas!

At Conflux 8, we'll be making some major announcements about the convention – you ARE going to be there, right? If not, keep an eye on the website/Twitter/Facebook.

Roll on April 2013!

Regards
Donna and Nicole

PROGRAMMING

Once Conflux 8 is done, Donna and Nicole will be starting on the program for Conflux 9. Their aim is to have the first cut ready to go by the end of the year. That's right - the Conflux 9 program will be ready by December 31, 2012! Once that's done, there is going to be limited opportunities to get involved with the program.

So how do you ensure you don't miss out? Email Donna and Nicole on

dmhanson@iinet.net.au

They want to know your ideas, the panels you're desperate to see. They want to know who's planning on coming. Even if you've not yet signed up, but know you're going to make it - let them know. If you know people who are planning to come but haven't signed up yet, tell them to let Donna and Nicole know. Donna and Nicole have been working hard on the mind-reading apparatus, but it's still got some bugs so they don't want anyone to miss out!



And PLEASE - don't tell Donna and Nicole what you want and expect them to remember. By all means, tell them your great idea, but then ALSO get it to them in writing.

Note that suggesting a panel idea is no guarantee the panel will actually take place. Donna and Nicole will make decisions based on the best balance for the program. To give your idea the best chance of getting onto the program, make sure it fits with the convention theme of Steam, Angels, Junk.

They're PARTICULARLY interested in new panellists and new ideas - come forward, folks!

Conflux 9 is also looking for people interested in running a workshop. Donna and Nicole are interested in hearing from the gamers about the opportunities they'd like see at the convention and within the convention space. They also want to hear from people who want to do launches, and authors who want to do readings or be involved in a kaffeeklatsch.

So send in your ideas and be part of the fun!

ABOUT CONFLUX INCORPORATED

Conflux Incorporated is the legal body that oversees the organisation of the Conflux science fiction conventions. 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.

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

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

SOCIAL EVENTS

Excitement is already mounting over our fabulously-themed socials:

- Steampunk high tea - Thursday (see pages 6 & 7)
- Cocktail party - Thursday
- Regency-Gothic banquet - Friday (see pages 8 & 9)
- Ditmar awards - Saturday
- Masquerade disco - Saturday



STEAMPUNK HIGH TEA

STEAMPUNK TRENDING

Steampunk themed food and events are becoming more and more popular. As well as art exhibitions and conventions, there are now annual steampunk balls and parties, steampunk fashion shows (see next page) and even steampunk weddings!

Just take a look at some of these stunning wedding photos, the attention to detail is incredible - from flowers to stationery and food:

- <http://ruffledblog.com/victorian-steampunk-wedding/>
- <http://emmalinebride.com/real-weddings/steampunk-wedding-shoot/>
- <http://ellendean.hubpages.com/hub/Steampunk-Weddings>



WHAT IS A STEAMPUNK HIGH TEA?

Think tea, champagne, sandwiches, cakes and pastries in a tiered platter. But instead of dressing in your Sunday best, picture yourself cricking your little finger while dressed up all steampunky-posh...

I've been trawling the internet looking for ideas for costumes and there's so much it can be overwhelming. So, just for starters, why not try the links on the next page?

COST

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.

STEAMPUNK IT!

WHAT IS STEAMPUNK?

Steampunk originated during the 1980s & 1990s, and involves:

- elements of science fiction, fantasy, alternative history, horror, and speculative fiction
- settings where steam power is widely used
- futuristic innovations as Victorians might have envisioned them

Steampunk also refers to art, fashion and design as informed by the aesthetics of steampunk literature.

There's a great definition of steampunk here:

<http://www.steampunk.com/what-is-steampunk/>

WANT TO DRESS UP?

Ladies might like to think about wearing a corset or bustle to the Steampunk High Tea, even leather or metal ones if the quasi Victorian/steampunk theme really takes their fancy.

Gentlemen could wear a top hat, or a leather cap and goggles.

Simply google [steampunk](#) or [Victorian](#) clothing and you'll find heaps of ideas. For starters, just try:

- bustledress.com
- <http://www.empblog.com/2010/05/stacy%E2%80%A2eric-married/>
- <http://yfrog.com/kenguxlj>
- <http://yfrog.com/gypbnbxj>
- <http://www.corsets-au.com/steampunk-clothing/steampunk.html>

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 ;)

For more inspiration, why not go to a steampunk fashion show?

There's one in Brisbane this October:



[Steampunk Strides Fashionwalk](#)

The Butter Factory, Kingston, Brisbane

Saturday, October 6, 2012, 6:00pm until 10:30pm.

The Paris fashion week of the Steampunk Community!

Come in your finest Steam-inspired dress and be entertained by a dynamic, visually exciting and sometimes daring and cheeky catwalk-style fashionwalk, Enjoy the show, have a drink, socialise and pick up an amazing bargain from the stalls surrounding the catwalk!

REGENCY-GOTHIC BANQUET

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

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 23), which details the previous menu among other things!

COSTUME AND DRESS

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

See next page for more ideas!



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.

PRACTICE RUN

Want to get into the spirit of things?

There are plenty of events before Conflux to get you started. Here are two of our favourites:

Jane Austen High Tea - on Saturday 16 December 2012 from 2.30pm - 5.00pm at the Hyatt Hotel Canberra to celebrate Jane Austen's Birthday. The High Tea includes: 1 x glass of sparkling wine upon arrival!

<http://www.earthlydelights.com.au/janeaustenfestival>

Regency Period Dancing - Earthly Delights Historic Dance Academy have classes on most Saturdays, 4pm-6.30pm at the Australian National University. No need any special dress or experience. They cater equally for people who have no experience and people with lots. Everyone is welcome.

<http://www.earthlydelights.com.au/the-dance-academy/classes-workshops>

GOING REGENCY-GOTHIC

WHAT IS 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.



Regency fashion is all about the natural shape of the human body. Forget corsets and hoops - think slender silhouettes.

For some great costume ideas, just look here:

- <http://www.earthlydelights.com.au/historic-costume/gallery>
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1795%E2%80%931820_in_fashion
- http://www.fashion-era.com/regency_fashion.htm

WHAT IS 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.



Gothic fashion, on the other hand, is all about dark, sometimes morbid, eroticized clothing.

There are some great costume ideas here:

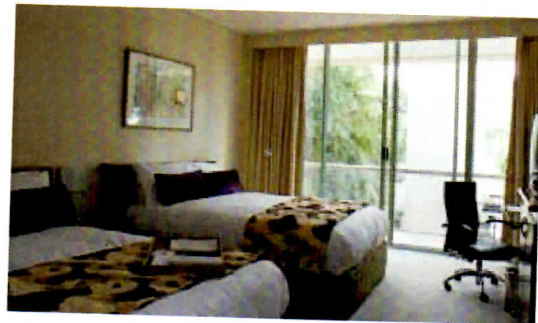
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gothic_fashion
- <https://marketplace.secondlife.com/stores/2>
- <https://marketplace.secondlife.com/p/RFyre-Garrett-Gothic-Regency-Mens-Suit-Red-TagGoth-TagVampire-TagSteampunk/5030>
- <http://immoralfashion.com.au/cart/index.php?gclid=CPqEzOyl2rECFUdNpgodpT4A0Q>

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.

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:

2012 is supposed to bring us the end of the world, So I asked Marc:

1. If the end of the world were nigh, and you only had time to call one person, who would it be??

I can't help thinking you're going on about this supposed "end of the world" rather a lot. Is this something planned for the Saturday night cabaret? Anyway, it would be my daughter, Lydia. She is the apple of my eye, my heart's ease, my morning star. Also, she has special magic powers and could probably do something about the impended Armapocalypse.

2. Tell us twelve random facts about yourself.

1. I was born in a little Kentish hamlet made up of two original settlements, called Temple Ewell with River. The first village is named after a 12th century Knights Templar chapel that was located close to an important well. The second was named after a river.
2. I don't eat shellfish, a decision made after I realised lobsters were just oversized aquatic woodlice.
3. Somehow I am both long- and short-sighted, which I don't fully understand. Surely they should cancel each other out?
4. I still claim the original Sonic the Hedgehog novels I co-wrote many years ago remain the best work I've ever done.
5. I have a scar on my forehead, up near the hairline, that was the ill-advised result of playing Batman and Robin with boyhood chum Ian Pettman on a large pile of breezeblocks. He had neglected to inform me that the Batmobile had recently fitted with an ejector seat, which fact I only discovered when I headbutted the gravel. He later became a fireman; I hope he didn't just throw trapped people out of the windows.

conti...

Marc Gascoigne ... continued

Marc Gascoigne continues to tell us twelve random facts about himself:

6. I have been known to design typefaces, but frankly not so much since my kids came along.
7. I used to DJ in a huge Nottingham rock club the 90s, and even opened for De la Soul, Sonic Youth, Ministry and others. Great days. Pity I can't remember much about them.
8. The first book I wrote hit #4 in the UK children's bestseller list, but I don't like to boast.
9. I was involved with Games Workshop's Black Library line of tie-in fiction for eleven years, but only ever played Warhammer once. Lucky escape.
10. If I don't spend an afternoon in one dusty old bookstore or other at least once every two weeks I start to wither like a vampire in the sunlight.
11. My favourite book may just be "From the Teeth of Angels" by Jonathan Carroll. Or Mark Helprin's "Winter's Tale". Or The Onion's "Our Dumb Century".
12. The design of some Angry Robot book covers are credited to Argh! Nottingham. That's, um, me.

dark matter Fanzine

Science Fiction, Fantasy and Art
Available via e-mail subscription from darkmatterfanzine@gmail.com
and from the
National Library Archives at
http://nla.gov.au/nla_arc-123161
Dark Matter's Facebook page is
www.facebook.com/darkmatterfanzine
Dark Matter's Twitter is
<https://twitter.com/#!/DarkMatterzine>
Dark Matter's website (coming soon) is
www.darkmatterfanzine.com

FREE

The advertisement features a central text block surrounded by several covers of the 'Dark Matter' fanzine. The covers include: a tall, thin spire against a blue sky; a green alien creature; a dragon's head; a woman with a blue snake; a man singing into a microphone; a woman in a black top; a woman's face in a dark landscape; a woman in a red top; and a man in a white shirt and dark vest.

GUESTS OF HONOUR – Karen Miller

karenmiller.net
Karen-Miller

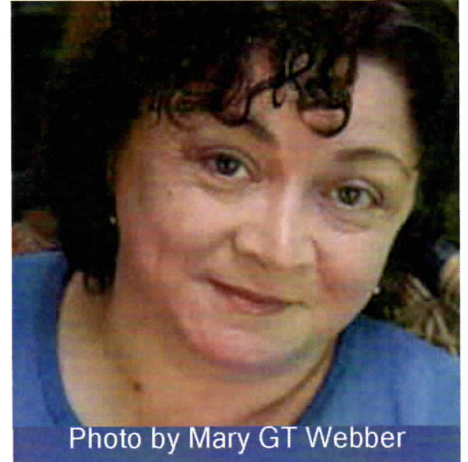


Photo by Mary GT Webber

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”

Editor’s questions:

2012 is supposed to bring us the end of the world, So I asked Karen:

1. If the end of the world were nigh, and you only had time to call one person, who would it be??

My editor, to say the manuscript’s going to be a bit late.

2. Tell us twelve random facts about yourself.

12????? Sheesh!

1. I used to be a vegetarian
2. The first naked man I ever saw was dead
3. I represented Australia at an international equestrian event
4. The sight of mathematical equations bring me out in a cold sweat
5. And so do slimy foods
6. I am very, very bad at ballet
7. I once sang lead in the musical Nunsense
8. I have written off 2 cars in accidents
9. I used to be a checkout chick in Scotland
10. I came first in English every year at High School
11. I’ve been security checked by the NSA
12. I’ve helped embalm someone

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*.

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:

2012 is supposed to bring us the end of the world, So I asked Kaaron:

1. If the end of the world were nigh, and you only had time to call one person, who would it be??

Depends on who I was with. If with hubby, then my mum and dad. If not with hubby then him.

2. Tell us twelve random facts about yourself.

1. I like soup.
2. I had cataract surgery 50 years before most people need to.
3. I lived in Fiji for three years.
4. I find guinea pigs irritating.
5. I wrote my first novel at 14.
6. I tried for the nickname “Jazzy Kазzy” but it never took off.
7. I adore obscure non-fiction books, such as “Uncommon and Unheralded Museums” by Lincoln S. Bates.
8. When I was 7, a piece of wire gouged my leg so deeply I could see my own bone.
9. I won a dance competition at a pub, but the tickets I won were stolen ones, so my friend and I got kicked out of the Sydney Entertainment Centre. The dance competition was still the most embarrassing bit.
10. I’ll happily drink dessert wine with dinner.
11. My karaoke ambition is to crack “Bobby McGee” and “Gangsta’s Paradise”.
12. More than once, I drank milk which had been poured over an effigy of Krsna.

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.

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:

2012 is supposed to bring us the end of the world, So I asked Rose:

1. If the end of the world were nigh, and you only had time to call one person, who would it be??

Probably wouldn't call anybody. Most likely if the end of the world was nigh, comms channels would be off line.

2. Tell us twelve random facts about yourself.

1. Over the last couple of years I have read more crime/espionage than science fiction

2. I belong to the 'toilet paper forward over the roll' school of thought. The other way is just wrong.

3. My favourite author is Kim Newman. Ross Temple put me onto him years ago - he thought I would enjoy Newman's work. He was right. I recently read "Professor Moriarty - The Hound of the D'Urbervilles" - an irreverent take on the dastardly arch villain told from his 2-i-C's (Sebastian Moran) point of view and what a fun collection it is.

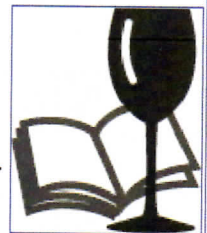
4. Some days, I just can't bear being around anyone. I like my own company then - pottering and mooching around by myself. Don't answer phone or check email.

5. I don't like to play games - board, card, and computer. They just bore me.

Conti...

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!



Rose Mitchell ... continued

Rose Mitchell continues to tell us twelve random facts about herself:

6. My name appears in the Caledonian Book, or so I have been told. I've never checked if this is true.
7. I'm not a hoarder. Periodically, I have massive clean outs where I toss stuff I haven't worn, used, looked at in a given period of time.
8. I'm anal about filing. Everything must have a proper place.
9. I like to cook. Spanish is my thing at the moment, served with a good slightly chilled Rose - a much underappreciated wine variety.
10. Reality shows bore me. I don't like being blatantly manipulated and I cringe at the poor people who appear on these shows. A whole season to tell a "journey (WTF?)" which could be done competently in less than an hour.
11. My favourite TV show is Time Team - especially when they dig up Roman archaeology. I love history.
12. I am the most unphotogenic person in the universe. I hate having my photo taken.

– The 34th New Zealand National Science Fiction and Fantasy Convention –

Au Contraire! 2013 science fiction † fantasy † geekery

Friday 12th – Sunday 14th July
at the Quality Hotel, Cuba St, Wellington, NZ



GoH: Jennifer Fallon best-selling fantasy author

FGoH: Anna Klein prominent NZ Live Action Roleplayer

And Featuring Art, Writing, and Costume competitions with fantastic prizes! (Details TBA)

*Three days of panels, workshops, presentations, gaming, and partying! Theme: Regeneration.
Charity: Wellington Women's Refuge. Standard membership \$60. See our website for more details:*

www.aucontraire.org.nz

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

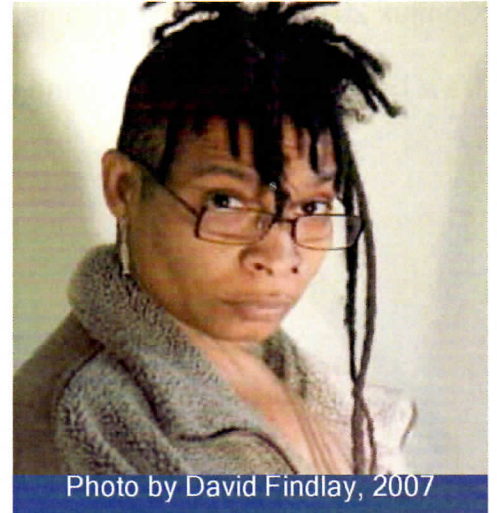


Photo by David Findlay, 2007

Editor’s questions:

2012 is supposed to bring us the end of the world, So I asked Nalo:

1. If the end of the world were nigh, and you only had time to call one person, who would it be??

Conference call; my mother, my brother, my loves.

2. Tell us twelve random facts about yourself.

1. I used to be an aerobics instructor, legwarmers and all.
2. In addition to English, I speak a fair bit of French
3. ...very basic Russian
4. ...some German
5. ...and maybe five words of Polish.
6. I collect and sometimes use vintage sewing patterns; I’ll probably want to be on the lookout that kind of thing when I’m in Australia.
7. Just to get the obligatory offensive tourist statement out of the way; I think kangaroos fight like girls; nine feet tall, 200-pound girly girls who can chew cud, go for months without water, disembowel with a single kick, and who don’t want to get their makeup mussed.
8. I love to dance.
9. To my eternal shame, I’m really bad at Scrabble.
- 10....which doesn’t prevent me from playing it.
- 11.As a kid growing up in the Caribbean, I used to watch “Skippy the Bush Kangaroo” (still remember the chorus) and the “Rolf Harris Show”.
- 12.I acknowledge that in coming to Australia, I will be standing on Native land. As I do in North American, and in the Caribbean.

VENUE

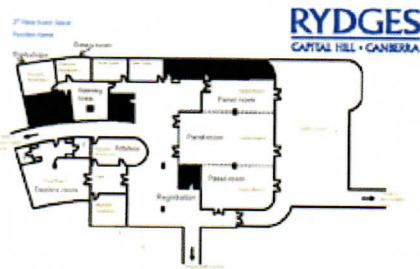
Conflux 2013 will be held in conference rooms at the [Ryldges Capital Hill](#), in Barton, ACT.

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



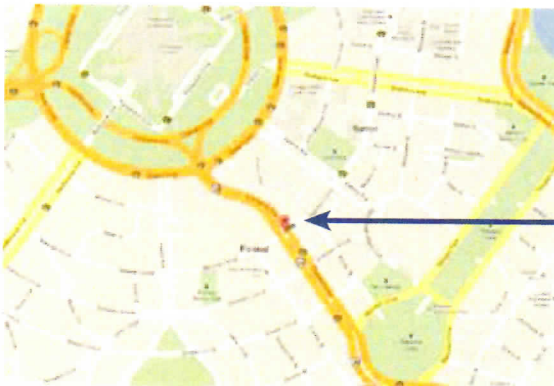
Conflux has access to the full convention space, which has three full sized meeting rooms and some interesting spaces for events.

Ryldges 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 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

COMPETITIONS

The convention theme for 2013 is Steam Angels Junk.

SHORT STORY COMPETITION

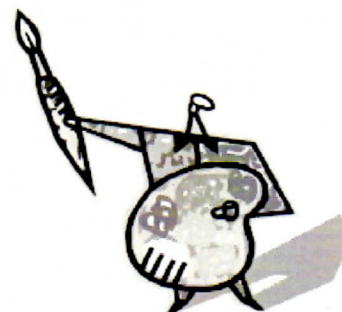
The Conflux 9 short story competition is now open! You've got until 15th September to enter, so get writing! Stories must be on the theme of the convention, "Steam, Angels, Junk"; have a speculative fiction element; and be a maximum of 3,000 words. To enter, you must be an 'amateur writer' and either a Conflux 9 member (Supporting or Full Membership) or pay the \$5 entry fee. The usual competition rules 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). Judges will be Joanne Anderton, Jenny Blackford and Dirk Flintart. First prize is \$500 (plus possible publication in the Conflux 9 con book), second prize \$250, and third prize \$100. Wow! See here for more details:

<http://confluxnatcon2013.wordpress.com/2012/06/17/short-story-competition-steam-angels-junk/>



CONFLUX ART COMPETITION

There will be an art competition at Conflux 9, although the details of the competition are yet to be fixed. 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



SUPPORTING MEMBERSHIP

WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH SUPPORTING MEMBERSHIPS?

So, how many times have you looked at the 'supporting memberships' part of a convention membership form and wondered what it meant? Probably none, but I'm going to tell you anyway :)

There's a few ideas behind the supporting memberships. Some conventions use them to get people to sign up at a cheaper price with the promise that they can pay later but at the early-bird price. It gets money into the account, and also names to help you start programming. Some conventions see it as a way of building community, knowing who is out there supporting the convention but unable to attend.

Generally, all supporting memberships get you access to all the convention publications, including the con book.

At Conflux 9 however, the \$30 you spend on a supporting membership gets you more than just the publications. If you become a supporting member, you can:

- Enter the short story competition, with a first prize of \$500 (entries close 15 September)
- Get access to the livestreaming of interviews and some panels/events from Conflux 9
- Vote in the 2013 Ditmar Awards AND the 2014 Ditmar Awards

So as you can see, a supporting membership at Conflux 9 offers a lot of value.

Regarding the livestreaming – we're planning on doing interviews with our guests and, if we can, show some aspects of the convention for those who love Conflux but can't attend.

We love our Conflux family – the fabulous people who have attended Conflux in the past and want to come back again – and we're going to do everything we can to make those who can't come to Canberra feel like they're taking part.

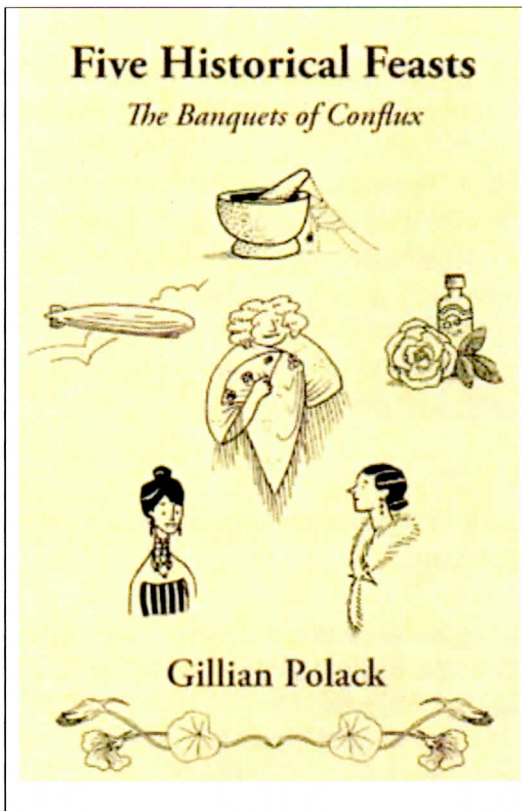
So sign up for your supporting membership now, to get the fullness of the benefits!

Our membership form is on page 5, or you can download it from our website, where you can also pay via credit card!

<http://confluxnatcon2013.wordpress.com/memberships/>



FIVE HISTORICAL FEASTS ORDER FORM



Five Historical Feasts
The Banquets of Conflux

Gillian Polack

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...



CONFLUX 8

Conflux 8 runs from 28 September to 1 October.

With Pre-Con Workshops on Friday, a full program on Saturday and Sunday and a space tour on Monday, it's a whole lot of Con for very little money.

Friday at Gorman House: Pre-Con Workshops

- **Jack Dann:** The Keys To The Kingdom: How To Overcome The Three(+) Basic Hurdles To Writing "Saleable" Fiction
- **Alan Baxter and Ian McHugh:** Fighting The Details - Getting It Right In Your Fiction
- **Nicole Murphy:** Writing Backstory
- **Gillian Polack:** History In Your Fiction
- **Dawn Meredith:** Creating Stories That Young People Want To Read
- **Rik Lagarto:** Introduction To Writing For Games

Most workshops cost \$35 for Conflux members. Places are limited.

Saturday and Sunday at Novotel:

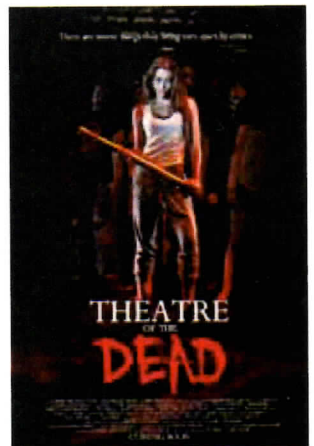
Featuring 50 program items - panels, discussion groups, readings and Kaffeeklatches, plus seven book launches and zombies.

- Conflux 8 'On the Beach' presents an Australian Apocalypse.
- Guests are New York Times bestselling paranormal romance and urban fantasy writer Keri Arthur and Keith Stevenson, speculative fiction editor, reviewer, podcaster, author and coeur de lion publisher.
- MC is multiple-award winning author and editor Jack Dann.
- Canberra filmmaker Patrick Gallagher discusses his zombie feature film "Theatre of the Dead" now nearing the end of post-production.
- Booklaunches: Adam Browne, Kaaron Warren, Jodi Cleghorn, Gillian Polack, Craig Cormick, Tor Roxburgh and Greg Mellor.

Cost, including three course buffet lunch: \$140.

Monday 1 October: Full day bus tour of Canberra's space related sites.

\$40 including lunch and admission to Black Mountain Tower. Email info@conflux.org.au by Monday 24 September to secure your place.



CONFLUX 8

A promotional banner for Conflux 8. The background is a tropical beach scene with a blue sky, white clouds, and a yellow sun. In the foreground, there are two palm trees with coconuts. The text 'Conflux 8' is written in a large, stylized, orange font. Below it, 'On the Beach 2012' is written in a similar font. The dates 'Saturday 29 September and Sunday 30 September 2012' are written in a yellow font. Below the dates, there is a paragraph of text in black. At the bottom, there is a line of text in black and a website URL in blue. There are also three red stars scattered across the bottom of the banner.

Conflux 8
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...!

BEFORE CONFLUX 9, THERE'S ALSO...



**GENRE
CON**
2012

THE CONFERENCE
FOR AUSTRALIAN
GENRE WRITERS

**2ND TO 4TH
OF NOVEMBER**
RYDGES PARRAMATTA

PITCHES • PANELS • WORKSHOPS

PRESENTED BY

the AUSTRALIAN
WRITER'S marketplace

GENRECON.COM.AU

CONFLUX 9 MEMBERS (as at August 2012)

(Please note: the list below does not show people's level of membership or the names of people who did not wish to have their names to be published.)

Justin Ackroyd VIC	Kristine Johnson ACT
Joanne Anderton NSW	Alisa Krasnostein WA
Peter Ball QLD	Glenda Larke Malaysia
Sue Ann Barber VIC	Eric Lindsay QLD
Michael Bennett ACT	Martin Livings WA
Phillip Berrie ACT	Mark Loney ACT
Jenny Blackford NSW	Rosalie Louey VIC
Russell Blackford NSW	LYNC VIC
Leigh Blackmore NSW	Peter Lyons WA
Wade Bowmer NSW	Maxine McArthur ACT
Lawrie Brown ACT	Kirstyn McDermott VIC
Sarah Buckler NSW	Paula McGrath VIC
Trudi Canavan VIC	Karen Miller (Guest) NSW
Alan Chick ACT	Rose Mitchell (Guest) VIC
Trevor Clark VIC	Lewis Morley NSW
Margaret Curtis NSW	John Morris ACT
Tsana Dolichva VIC	Ken Moylan ACT
Terry Dowling NSW	Lily Mulholland ACT
Edna Dundas ACT	Nicole Murphy NSW
Anthony Dyer NSW	Cathryn Nagle ACT
Thoraiya Dyer NSW	Jason Nahrung VIC
Barbara Edgar ACT	Tara Ott ACT
Paul Ewins VIC	Shauna O'Meara ACT
Matthew Farrer NSW	Tycho Petrie ACT
Elizabeth Fitzgerald ACT	Simon Petrie ACT
Carol Neist (Satima Flavell) WA	Robert Phillips ACT
Gale Funston ACT	Alexandra Pierce VIC
Jason Gale VIC	Gillian Polack ACT
Marc Gascoigne (Guest) UK	Rob Porteous ACT
Michelle Goldsmith VIC	Marilyn Pride NSW
Deborah Green NSW	Tim Reddan ACT
Michael Green VIC	Tracy Reddan ACT
Patricia Gray ACT	Michael Richards ACT
Ellen Gregory VIC	Jane Routley VIC
Donna Maree Hanson NSW	John Samuel ACT
James Hanson NSW	Terri Sellen WA
Edwina Harvey NSW	Zena Shapter NSW
Nalini Haynes VIC	Cat Sparks NSW
Karen Herkes ACT	Alan Stewart VIC
Kevin Hemingway VIC	Helen Stubbs QLD
Margaret Hilliard NSW	Valerie Toh ACT
Barbara Holten QLD	Melissa Walter VIC
Nalo Hopkinson (Guest) Canada/USA	Kaaron Warren (Guest) ACT
Robert Hood NSW	Michael Wauchope VIC
Lewis Hutton VIC	Emma Wearmouth VIC
Patty Jansen NSW	Jean Weber QLD
Devindran Jeyathurai Singapore	Tehani Wessely WA
Kathleen Jennings QLD	Bill Wright VIC