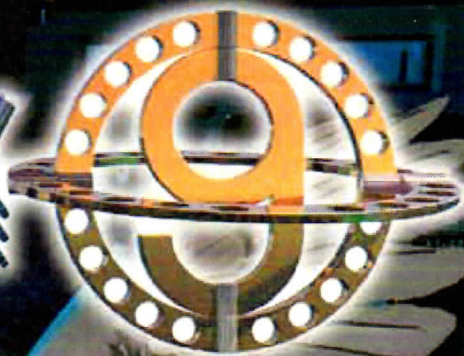


NATCON 2013

CONFLUX



*Progress Report 4
4th December 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 fourth and penultimate progress report for the 2013 Conflux 9 / Natcon. That's right - penultimate. April is just around the corner so, if you haven't booked your ticket yet - get moving! How else will you stay up-to-date with all the news and updates?!!

In this edition, there's more to learn about our Guests-of-Honour. Now that it's summer, let's find out how they like to holiday. Read on to discover:

- who holidayed last in Young, NSW
- who hates the beach
- whose priority on holiday is drinking beer
- who thinks bay beaches are cr*p!

There's more craft too, more about steampunk with the wonderful Richard Harland, and more information about the fantastic opportunities we'll be having at Conflux 9 for aspiring writers - in our fabulous pitch sessions (see pages 11 & 12)!!!

As in our previous progress report, I've added hyperlinks 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).

Enjoy and explore this update - it's written for you!

Zena Shapter
Publications Editor

INSIDE

Welcome & Index	2	Pitching Session Information	11
Greetings from the Chair	3	Craft With Nicole Murphy	14
Programming / Membership	4	Guests of Honour	18
Steampunk With Richard Harland	7	Competitions / Awards	24
Social Event Sign-Up Forms	9	Membership List To Date	29

FROM THE CHAIR



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

There's less than five months until Conflux 9, the 52nd Natcon. As you can imagine, things are starting to ramp up on the organising side of things and we're firming up arrangements for you all.

It's been a busy time since the last PR. Conflux 8 has been and gone and was a great success, with chair Jane Virgo and her committee fitting a huge amount into two days. Congratulations to Jane.

Donna attended Genrecon, where she was given the great opportunity to spruik Conflux as a community partner. Thanks so much Genrecon! If you were on Twitter that week, you got a glimpse of the enthusiasm and interest that the conference created. It's great to have a professional conference for genre writers because we can all learn from each other. Genrecon is happening next year in Brisbane, so if you've any interest in a professional writing career then get planning to attend.

In this PR, you'll find the booking forms for the Steampunk High Tea on Thursday, 25 April and the Regency Banquet, on Friday 26 April. You don't have to be a member of Conflux to attend these events, so spread the word.

The programming is firming up. The committee has met and is really grateful for all the ideas that have been presented. If you've not given us your ideas yet, you need to email conflux9@gmail.com within the next couple of weeks, otherwise you'll miss out.

The program is going to contain some events not normally seen at science fiction conventions. One we're really excited about are the pitches. Writers will have the opportunity to sit and present their work to an editor and/or agent face-to-face. Ten lucky folks will get the opportunity to take part in a pitching workshop, to polish their approach, before they pitch to Angry Robots Books founder (and Conflux 9 guest) Marc Gascoigne. Find out more information here: <http://conflux.org.au/?p=210> Note we have advertised a pitching session with Deonie Fiford. However, this may not happen due to unforeseen circumstances. It may go ahead but with a different editor. We will keep you posted.

We're hoping to go live with the program in January.

Have you booked your accommodation yet? You don't need to pay now - just use your credit card to secure the room and the great rates (see page 13). The hotel isn't very large and we'd love Conflux to pretty much book the place out! Also the hotel has said that it is taking bookings from...

...conti over

FROM THE CHAIR continued

conti from over...

...non-conflux people, so we don't want to lose all those lovely rooms. Call Rydges Capital Hill on +61 2 6295 3144 and quote this reference code F-2504CI.

Memberships go up from \$225 to \$250 on January 1. Don't forget - buying a supporting membership will lock in the current price for an upgrad - a saving of \$50 on the at-the-door price. So join up now!

We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season, and hope that you start 2013 with a bang!

Regards

Donna and Nicole

PROGRAM DESIGN IN PROGRESS!!



That's right... Donna and Nicole have already started on the program for Conflux 9. Their aim is to have the first cut ready to go by the end of the year. Yes, that means 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 conflux9@gmail.com

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!

MEMBERSHIP FORM



Conflux
Incorporated
ABN
18823030943
PO Box 903,
Belconnen
ACT 2616

	June 14 to October 14 (Conflux 8)	October 15 to December 31 2012	1 January to 31 March 2013	From 1 April, including at door
Full Membership (Attendance and publications)	\$200	\$225	\$250	\$275
Student/Concession (Attendance and publications)	\$160	\$170	\$180	\$190
Children under 12	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Supporting (Publications and option to upgrade to attending)	\$30	\$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 www.conflux.org.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 - 9)
- Cocktail party - Thursday
- Regency-Gothic banquet - Friday (see page 10)
- Ditmar awards - Saturday
- Masquerade disco - Saturday



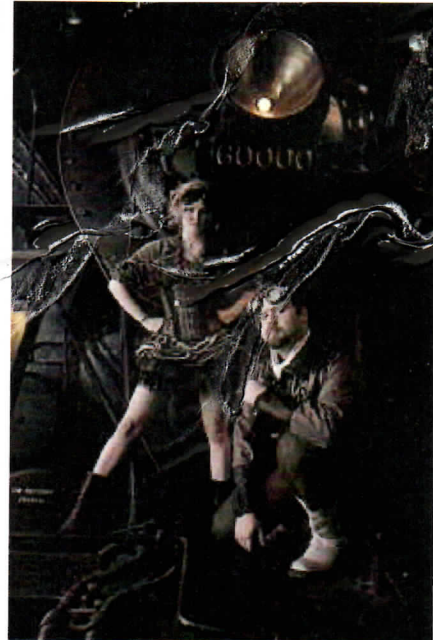
STEAMPUNK HIGH TEA

LIST NOW OPEN!

Come along in your Victoriana gear and enjoy an old fashioned high tea with a three tiered platter of savoury and sweet goodies, coffee or tea and some bubbly. It's on the Thursday of the convention and the price is \$45.00.

Please fill in the form on page 9 and include any dietary requirements you might have.

Want to know more about steampunk? Go to page 7, where the wonderful Richard Harland is talking all things steampunk.



REGENCY-GOTHIC BANQUET



Regency photos by Cat Sparks

LIST NOW OPEN!

You don't have to dress up to come to our fabulous banquet on the Saturday of the convention, but it is fun! Here are some photos from the last banquet for inspiration...

The price of the banquet is \$70.00.

Please fill in the form on page 10 and include any dietary requirements you might have.

STEAMPUNK WITH RICHARD HARLAND!

STEAMING HOT STEAMPUNK

by Richard Harland

I think of steampunk as giving us an Age of Steam that never was. That is, an extended 19th Century anywhere from the Industrial Revolution to WWI—but in an imaginary version. This period when coal and steam were harnessed for mechanical power is also the First Industrial Age, before the Second Industrial Age brought in electrical transmission, the internal combustion engine, chemicals and plastics, and well before our own Third Industrial Age introduced IT and computers. Steampunk does have a place for imaginary proto-developments of electrical power, plastics or the internal combustion engines, but they have to look like early forms of those things. Gibson and Sterling's "The Difference Engine" even posits a world of Babbage-inspired computers in 1855.



I think a fascination with imaginary steam age technology is a necessary part of steampunk. Without it, we're looking at what Americans call 'gaslight romance' or Gail Carriger calls 'bustlepunk'. The techno-scientific imagination relates steampunk to SF, but with the crucial difference that SF, set in the future, imagines technological and scientific developments that are still in principle possible, whereas steampunk, set in the past, imagines developments that we know never happened. Jules Verne didn't write steampunk, but we read him in a steampunk spirit nowadays.

The functionality of machinery is hardly relevant if the machines never existed or never became important; instead, it's the aesthetic quality of the machinery that matters. Perhaps any technology takes on aesthetic appeal as it goes out of date—I don't know. I only know I love brass and copper gadgets, pipes and levers, springs and wires—the more intricate and contraptiony the better! And often the bigger the better too! It's an aesthetics of ugliness, if you like, with angular shapes, roar and rattle, smoke and grime—but ugliness has its own kind of appeal. The great thing about steampunk is that the author gets to hyper-accentuate those qualities that really existed in 19th century machinery.

You can see the appeal of imaginary steam age machinery in the amazing artefacts created by steampunk artists—steam powered guitars, typewriter-like computers, jewellery made from cogs and dials and gizmos. Google through a sample of steampunk imagery, and I defy you not to get sucked in! For a follow-up, google non-mechanical imagery too, and see the wonderful things people have done with clothing styles and decorative accessories!

I suspect it's the world of fashion that has given steampunk its second wind in the last ten or fifteen years. Along with fashion goes culture—and I think here's a better sense of human experience in the recent steampunk stuff, a fleshing out, a fuller sense of atmosphere and living conditions. After all, the Age of Steam was also the age of Jack the Ripper and Jekyll and Hyde, of claustrophobic alleys, cobblestones and pea-souper fogs!

Here's a mix of accepted classics and personal favourites—

THE ORIGINALS

- Joan Aiken didn't start the ball rolling, although "The Wolves of Willoughby Chase", the first in her series of steampunk books, came out as early as 1962. Trouble is, they were 'only' kids' books, so you won't find them in many steampunk histories. But a lot of those kids grew up to be steampunk-loving adults!

...conti over

RICHARD HARLAND continued

conti from over...

- Michael Moorcock's "The Warlord of the Air" (1971) and "The Land Leviathan" are as wildly imaginative as you'd expect from Moorcock.
- Harry Harrison (with "A Transatlantic Tunnel, Hurrah!" in 1972), K.W. Jeter (with "Morlock Night" in 1979), Tim Powers (with "Anubis Gates" in 1982) and James Blaylock (with "Homunculus" in 1986) were SF authors writing steampunk in the '70s and 80s, when steampunk was definitely a sub-branch of SF. Jeter coined the word 'steampunk' (by analogy with 'cyberpunk'); Tim Powers' novel is generally considered the best of the bunch.
- William Gibson and Bruce Sterling's "The Difference Engine" (1990) is a masterpiece of research, imagination and Victorian atmosphere way beyond anything before and possibly anything since. It's also—for this reader, at least—an inexplicably frustrating book in terms of storyline.

SECOND PHASE

Second phase steampunk tends to be less SF oriented, with more fantasy elements, including vampires, zombies and such.

YA BOOKS

- YA now often leads the way, and Phillip Reeves' "Mortal Engines" (starting 2003) series was a key influence. Unusually for steampunk, it's a retro-future rather than alternate history.
- Three Australian-based authors all highly recommended (of course!) are Richard Harland with "Worldshaker", "Liberator" and "Song of the Slums"; Michael Pryor with the "Laws of Magic" and "The Extraordinaires" series; and Scott Westerfeld with the "Leviathan" trilogy.

ADULT

- I love Jay Lake's "Mainspring", which is actually pre-steam age, but gives clockwork machinery the same kind of early techno appeal.
- Cherie Priest's "Boneshaker" is maybe a bit short on story for its length, but it's a wonderful world she creates.
- Paula Volsky's adult fantasy often has a steampunk tinge, and "The Grand Ellipse" is fully in the genre.

CLOSE RELATIVES

Some of the best books around are steampunk-ish rather outright steampunk. For example, Philip Pullman's "Northern Lights". China Miéville's "Perdido Street Station" and Neal Stephenson's "The Diamond Age".

MOVIES

- For me, the best mainstream steampunk movies are "Hugo" and "The Prestige". Not so much machinery in the latter, but it does include Nikola Tesla! (Steampunk so often zooms in on the quirky forgotten geniuses and roads not taken in scientific history.)
- My favourite non-mainstream movies are "The City of Lost Children" (French) and "Steamboy" (Japanese anime). Many anime films have a steampunk feel; the Japanese just love huge machines (e.g. "Howl's Moving Castle")!

STEAMPUNK HIGH TEA



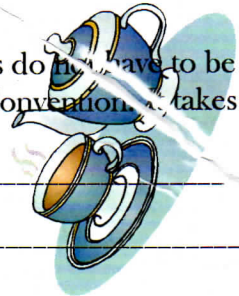
Conflux
Incorporated
ABN
18823030943
PO Box 903,
Belconnen
ACT 2616

Steampunk High Tea sign up and payment form

Conflux 9 will be hosting a steampunk themed high tea at Rydges Capital Hill on Thursday 25 April 2013 at **3.00pm-4.30pm**.

Come sit in elegance or clinking with cogs and gears and share in a tiered platter of savouries and sweets, washed down with excellent tea or coffee, with a splash of bubbly. Dietary restrictions accounted for (See below.)

This is an open event and participants do not have to be members of Conflux 9, the 59th Australian National Science Fiction Convention, which takes place before Conflux 9 starts.



Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Do you wish to be seated with your partner? Please provide name of partner _____

Dietary requirements (tick the applicable boxes)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Gluten free	<input type="checkbox"/>	No fish	<input type="checkbox"/>	No nuts
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lactose free	<input type="checkbox"/>	No pork	<input type="checkbox"/>	No meat (vegetarian)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vegan	<input type="checkbox"/>	No dairy	<input type="checkbox"/>	No eggs

Payment for Conflux 9 Steampunk high tea **\$45.00 per person***

- Pay Pal (via button on www.conflux.org.au) accepts credit card payments)
 Credit Card Visa Bankcard MasterCard Amount \$45.00

Card Number _____ Expiry Date _____

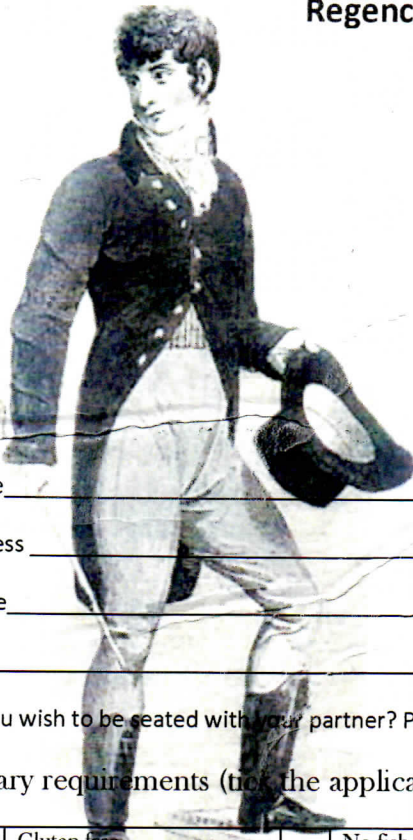
Name on Card _____ Signature _____

REGENCY-GOTHIC BANQUET



Conflux
Incorporated
ABN
18823030943
PO Box 903,
Belconnen
ACT 2616

Regency Banquet Sign-up Sheet



Conflux is hosting a Regency-themed historical banquet, with a menu researched by local historian, Dr Gillian Polack. The night will also include period music and dance from Earthly Delights. Dress up in period costume.

Join us Friday evening at 7.00 for 7.30. (26 April, 2013)

Members \$70

Non-members \$80

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Do you wish to be seated with your partner? Please provide name of partner _____

Dietary requirements (tick the applicable boxes)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Gluten free	<input type="checkbox"/>	No fish	<input type="checkbox"/>	No nuts
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lactose free	<input type="checkbox"/>	No pork	<input type="checkbox"/>	No meat (vegetarian)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vegan	<input type="checkbox"/>	No dairy	<input type="checkbox"/>	No eggs

Payment for Conflux 9 Regency Banquet is **\$70.00 members, \$80 non-members**

Pay Pal (use button on the www.conflux.org.au)

Credit Card Visa Bankcard MasterCard Amounts \$ _____

Card Number _____ Expiry Date _____

Name on Card _____ Signature _____

NEW – PITCHING SESSIONS!

Pitching session with Marc Gascoigne Managing Director and Publisher of Angry Robot Books

Do you have a completed speculative fiction manuscript?

Would you like to pitch your novel to Angry Robot Books's Marc Gascoigne?

Conflux 9 is providing the opportunity for 10 to 15 debut and previously published authors with the opportunity to pitch their novels to Marc Gascoigne in April 2013 as part of the Australian National Science Fiction Convention to be held in Canberra from 25 April to 28 April 2013. This is a professional development opportunity to have your novel manuscript in front of an editor.



What do you have to do?

Ensure your MS is as good as it can be. Send the first 30 pages of your MS in standard format RTF or DOC file and a maximum two page synopsis (that is, summary of characters, plot and your intentions/inspiration, in that order) to conflux9@gmail.com during the submission period and using the subject line AngryRobotPitch.

It may pay for you to check out some of Angry Robot's publications beforehand to ensure your work is what they might be looking for. Here is a link to their submissions page for more information. <http://angryrobotbooks.com/submissions/>

If you are already member of Conflux 9 you don't have to do anything more than wait.

If you aren't a member of Conflux 9, then join up! The minimum requirement is for entering is a \$30 supporting membership.

To attend the pitching workshop during Conflux 9 you need to be attending Conflux on the day of the workshop and a full attending membership is preferred. Those who win a place and cannot attend Conflux 9 will have to give up their place to those the next in line.

What is the process?

The manuscripts will be assessed by two readers and a final list of up to fifteen decided. The authors of these manuscripts will be invited to a preparatory workshop and then to the pitching session.

A two-hour workshop on how to pitch novels will be presented by author, Rowena Cory Daniels. This will be followed by a one-on-one pitching session with editor Marc Gascoigne for 5 minutes.

...conti over

PITCHING SESSIONS continued

conti from over...

When will this take place?

Submissions will be open from 1 January to 31 January 2013. The entries will be read during February 2013. The announcement of the shortlisted authors will be made during March. The top ten synopses will be sent to Marc Gascoigne in early April.

And then what?

Marc Gascoigne may invite authors to send him manuscripts for consideration. However, there is no guarantee he will do so. Conflux 9 and Marc Gascoigne do not provide any guarantees that authors who are selected to pitch novels will be invited to submit a full manuscript. All decisions are final and discussion will not be entered into.

Marc will be available during Conflux 9 for any member to talk to, either during general events or in the bar.

GOOD LUCK!!!

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.

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

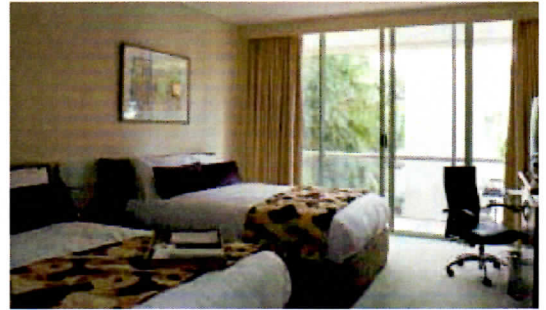
See you in 2013...!

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, a 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.

ALTERNATIVE ACCOMMODATION

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

BOOK CRAFT – with Nicole Murphy

Sometimes, printers make mistakes in books. If the mistake is a small one, publishers will let it slide (particularly small publishers) but if it's a massive one that impacts the readers ability to enjoy the book, then you get the book re-printed.

This can leave you with copies of the book that are, quite frankly, useless.

All this happened to Conflux 9 guest Kaaron Warren with her latest book 'Through Splintered Walls' from Twelfth Planet Press. When Kaaron took to Twitter asking what on earth to do with these books, Conflux 9 co-chair Nicole Murphy had an answer.

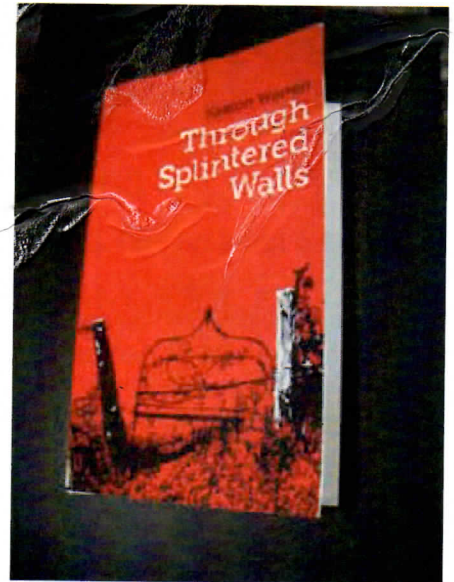
A crafty answer.

From Nicole: "I started turning books into handbags last year. It's fun, pretty easy and it's a great way to keep an otherwise unwanted book alive. I've only ever done it with hardcovers, so turning Kaaron's paperback into a handbag was going to be a challenge.

Because of the size, I decided to make it a clutch purse and because clutch purses tend to be more for evening use, I decided to use black satin as the internal fabric.

If you're doing this with a hardcover - take the slip off and put it somewhere safe. At the end, when the book is assembled, your last step will be to trim the slip and glue it back onto the book to make the outside look pretty again.

Bookophiles, you might want to skip step one and pretend it never happened..."



Turning a book into a handbag.

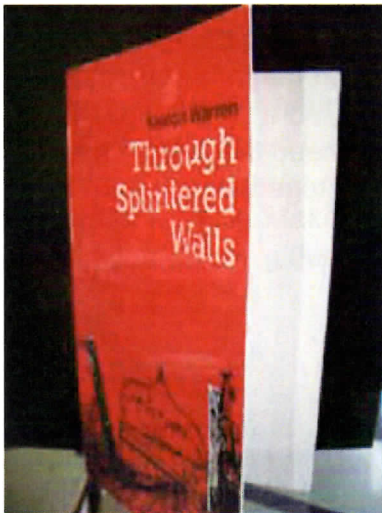
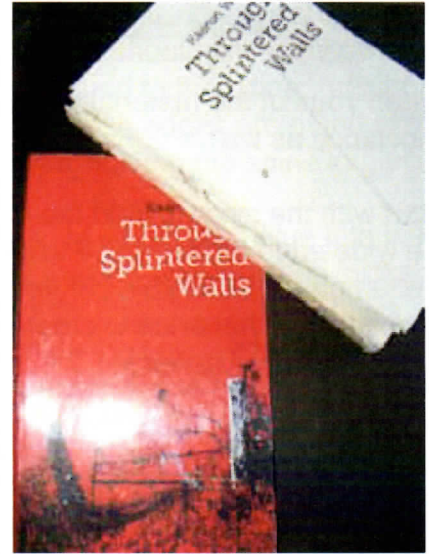
You will need:

- an unwanted book
- a knife
- scissors
- pencil
- grease proof paper
- thin and thick cardboard
- material
- iron-on interfacing
- clasp (you can buy these or make your own - in this case I used a pearl button and elastic)
- craft glue

BOOK CRAFT continued

STEP ONE - destroying the book

Cut the pages out of the book. This is MUCH easier to do on a hardcover, but still you need to get those pages out.



STEP TWO - making the templates

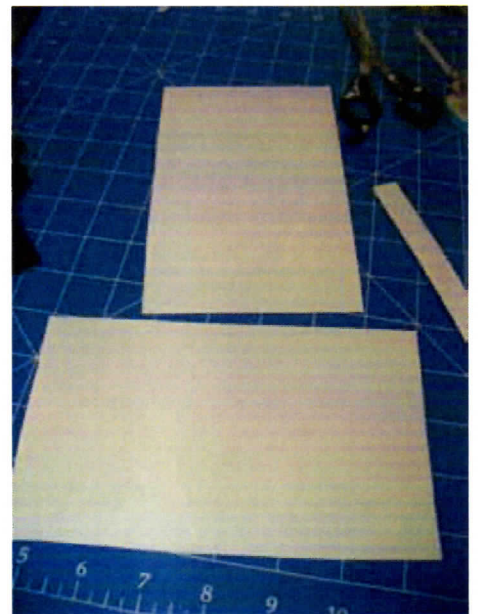
Lie the cover flat and use it to trace onto the greaseproof paper to make the templates. You'll need one for the front cover, one for the back, one for the spine.

Then stand the book on one end and open it to the angle you think would work best for the purse to be open - somewhere around 45 degrees works well. Trace down the front, across the spine, up the back and then draw a straight line across to make a four-sided shape - narrow at the spine, wide at the top. This is for the gusset of the handbag.

STEP THREE - Cut out the cardboard

You need to cut both the thin and the thick cardboard to the size of the template. You'll have three pieces of each - front cover, back cover, spine.

Glue the thin cardboard directly onto the book - this is to reinforce it and make it a little stronger. NOTE: you don't need to cut thin cardboard or do this step if you're using a hardcover, because that cover is strong enough.

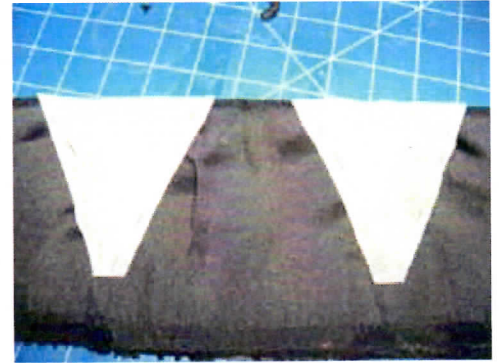


BOOK CRAFT continued

STEP FOUR - Cut out the material

When you cut the material, you're going to need to cut an allowance as well.

Start with the gusset. Fold the material in half and lay the wide edge on the fold. Pin into place. Cut around the template but do so a centimetre from the edge of the template. Do this twice to create two gussets and do the same on some interfacing.



Next, do the front and back cover and the spine. Pin the three templates on the material and cut, again doing so a centimetre from the edge. You need the extra material to put the bag together.

STEP FIVE - Assembling the bag

This takes time as you need to leave the glue to dry several times. I found it worked really well with a pomodoro for my writing. I'd glue something, go write for 25 minutes (which I do to save my back), then use the five minute break to come back and glue something else.

a) Iron the interfacing onto the two gussets then either sew the long edges together or glue them together.

b) Glue the cover material onto the thick cardboard pieces. Do this by folding over and gluing on the back - don't glue the material that will be viewed onto the cardboard as it doesn't look good. Pull it nice and tight against the cardboard as you do so.



c) Glue the spine material onto the thick cardboard. Only glue the short ends and leave the long ends free - you'll need them to put the bag together.

d) Glue the gussets into place on the cover. This can be tricky. Spread glue along the front and back cover edge and the spine. Put the top of the gusset in line with the top edge of the book, then push the rest of the gusset against the glue and hold it until its tacky enough to stay.

BOOK CRAFT continued



e) Glue the spine into place. The short edges that you've glued down should sit nicely over the gusset bits that are glued to the spine, making that look neater. The two long edges are glued to the front and back cover, holding the spine in place.

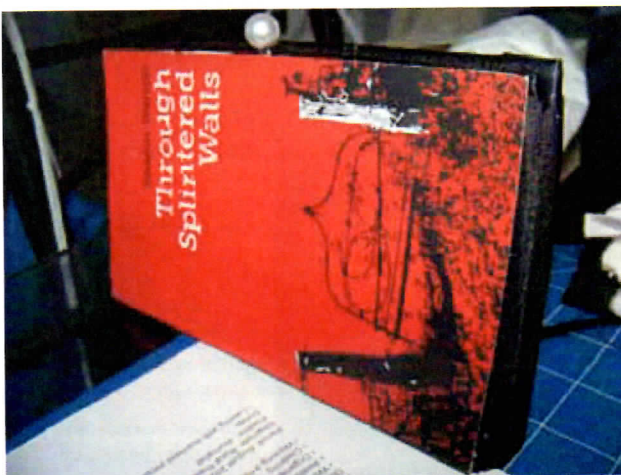
f) Take a small loop of elastic and glue it to the top of the back cover, making sure the loop sticks out over the book.

g) Take the pearl button (mine had a small hoop at the bottom). Glue the hoop into place on the back at the top of one of the cover material-covered pieces. Sew it as well to make it extra secure.

h) Glue the cover material-covered pieces into place. They should sit nicely over the visible gusset and spine glues material so the inside of the bag looks neat. Make sure the piece with the pearl button on it is glued to the front cover.

THAT'S IT!

Leave it to dry and your book bag is done!



Note - with Kaaron's I decided it wasn't wide enough so I made it wider. To do that, after step one cut the covers off the spine. Make a wide strip of the material, iron some interfacing onto it. Glue the spine onto the good side of the material. Glue the short ends of the material down to match the length of the spine, then glue the long ends to the edges of the two covers, making sure the covers are separated by half a centimetre from the spine by the material. Then continue from step two.

If you're having handles, part f of the last step is where you would connect them to the cover.

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:

Sorry folks, Mark's been really busy and we're still awaiting his answers :)

MEANWHILE, SOMEWHERE IN PERTH, AUSTRALIA...

SWANCON

Western Australia's Premier Speculative Fiction Convention
29th of March to 1st of April 2013
Ibis Styles Hotel, Northbridge

WITNESS THE AWESOME POWER OF **GAIL SIMONE!**
Writer of *Batgirl*, *Wonder Woman*, *Secret Six*, *Birds of Prey*, *Welcome to Tranquility*, *Deadpool*, and *The All-New Atom*.

SEE THE SENSATIONAL **CHARLES STROSS!**
Author of *Accelerando*, *Glasshouse*, the *Halting State Series* and *The Bob Howard-Laundry Series*.

FEAR THE MYSTERIOUS **JOHN BIRMINGHAM!**
Author of the *Axis of Time Trilogy*, *Without Warning*, and *He Died with a Falafel in His Hand*.

SCI-FI • FANTASY • COMICS • GAMES • ANIME • and MUCH MORE!

Be a part of this great event and purchase your tickets now!
Available online - check our website for details.

swancon.com.au | facebook.com/swancon | twitter.com/swancon

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”

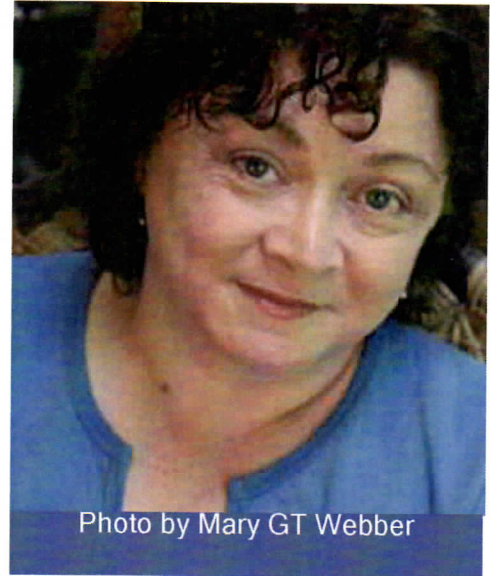


Photo by Mary GT Webber

Editor’s questions:

December/January is summer here in Australia. So I asked Karen:

1. Where did you last go on holiday?

I don’t remember the last time I had a holiday holiday - but my last research trip, which in its way was as much fun as a holiday, was a castle crawl around England.

2. What do you enjoy/dislike most about the beach?

I enjoy the fact that it’s very far away. I dislike everything else. Seriously.

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](#)

 [@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:

December/January is summer here in Australia. So I asked Kaaron:

1. Where did you last go on holiday?

Young in NSW. It was a long weekend, we had a new car, so we just drove.

We bought Cherry Wine from The Grog Shed in Wombat. We didn’t visit the site of the Lambing Flat Riots; next time.

2. What do you enjoy/dislike most about the beach?

Put it this way: at a holiday house recently, I stayed home reading and writing while others went to the beach. That’s what’s so good about being a grown up. You can stay home from the beach if you want to.

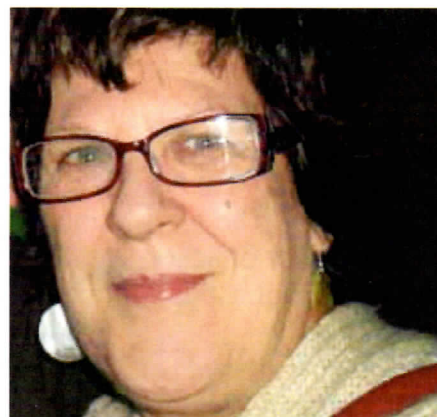
Wait a minute, I want to advertise too!

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:

December/January is summer here in Australia. So I asked Rose:

1. Where did you last go on holiday?

Wellington, New Zealand last October. I didn't want to go to WorldCom in 2011 - still decompressing even a year after the event. So instead, I lobbied on a friend (Simon Litten) and had the most marvellous relaxing holiday in many a long year. We made no plans except at breakfast that day when we'd choose something to do, usually around 11am. Simon's partner commented one day "is all you two do all day is drink beer?" Which pretty much summed it up. Wellington has a wealth of craft brew houses.

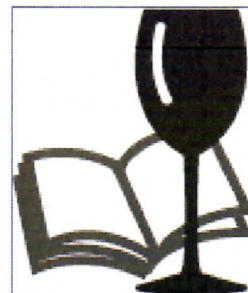
Now in the throes of planning to go to Chicon (Chicago) in late August with some R&R in Hawaii on the way back home.

2. What do you enjoy/dislike most about the beach?

I love the beach: the salty smell, the vista, the sound of waves breaking against the shore, the cry of sea gulls, the casualness of the beach life. I dislike very much that here in Melbourne one has to drive so bloody far to get to a good ocean beach. Bay beaches are crap.

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!



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

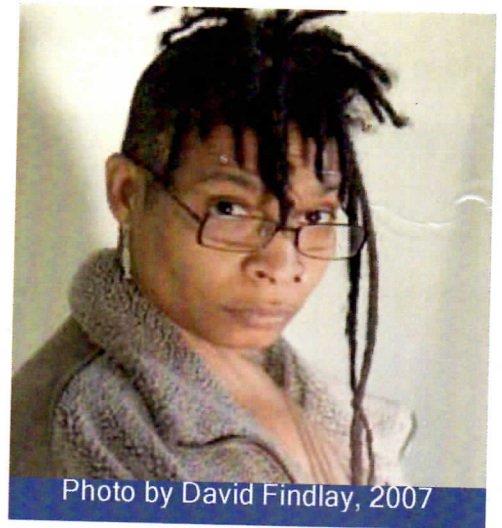


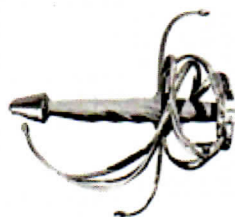
Photo by David Findlay, 2007

Editor’s questions:

Sorry folks, Nalo’s been really busy and we’re still awaiting her answers :)

– 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

VENUE

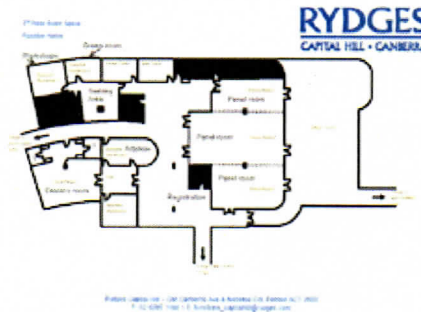
Conflux 2013 will be held in conference rooms at the [Rydgcs Capital Hill](#), in Barton, ACT.

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



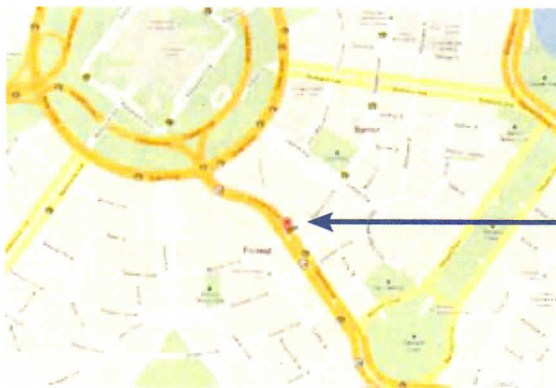
Conflux has access to the full convention space, which has three full sized meeting rooms and some interesting spaces for events.

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



Rydgcs 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. You must be an 'amateur writer' and either a Conflux 9 member (with a Conflux 9 Membership) or pay the \$5 entry fee. You must also apply (ie. your story must not have been published, nor have won a place in any other competition 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:

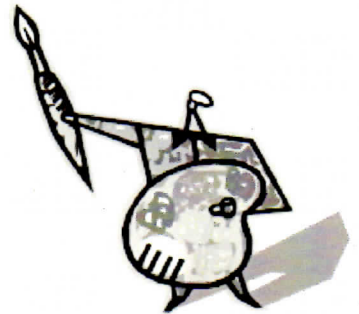
Competition Now Closed!

<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

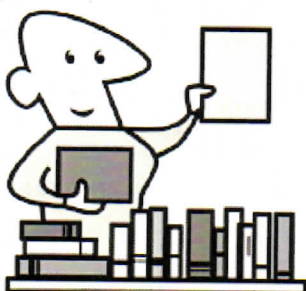
PANELS

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:

- Vote in the 2013 Ditmar Awards AND the 2014 Ditmar Awards
- Get access to the livestreaming of interviews and some panels/events from Conflux 9

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.

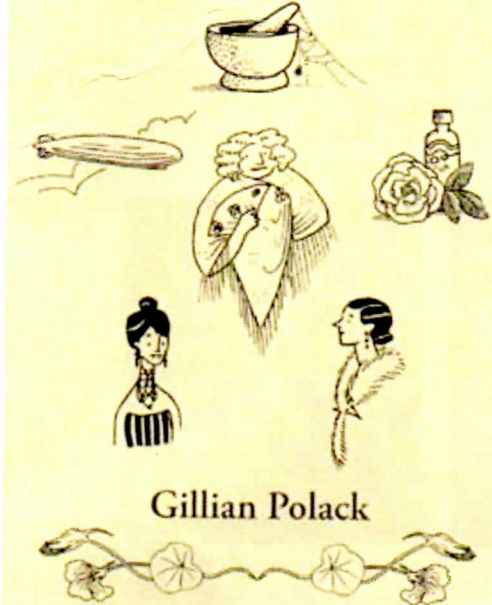
So sign up for your supporting membership now, to get the fullness of the benefits!

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

<p>Five Historical Feasts <i>The Banquets of Conflux</i></p>  <p>Gillian Polack</p>	<p>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?</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
--	---

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 IS...

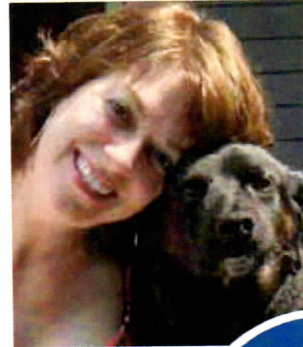


AUSTRALIAN ROMANCE
READERS ASSOCIATION

Australian Romance Readers Convention

Proudly brought to you by Booktopia

1-3 March 2013
Mercure Hotel, Brisbane, Queensland



Special guest speakers will include
Anne Gracie, Rachel Vincent and Kristan Higgins

**Registration
now open!**

The Australian Romance Readers Association was created by romance readers, for romance readers. With a growing community of avid fans of all sub-categories of the romance fiction genre, we are the largest network of romance readers in the Southern Hemisphere.

**Visit our table in the
dealers room!**

Join ARRA today and:

- connect with our blog and email group—enjoy 24-hour access to reviews, interviews, giveaways and other people who like to read the same things you do
- get the inside scoop with authors and publishers via our monthly e-newsletter
- receive discounts at a number of booksellers
- vote in the Australian Romance Reader Awards
- attend the annual ARRA Awards Dinner
- rub shoulders with best-selling authors at our biennial Australian Romance Readers Convention
- catch up with other members at our monthly social events around Australia.

Visit www.australianromancereaders.com.au and join today!

Australian Romance Readers Association
Read. Share. Engage.

CONFLUX 9 MEMBERS (as at December 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	Flavell)	Luke Mercieca	Valerie Toh
Alex Adsett	Gale Funston	Mark Mercieca	David Versace
Chris Andrews	Kimberley Gaal	Dawn Meredith	Jane Virgo
Marcus Amman	Jason Gale	Karen Miller	Melissa Walter
Joanne Anderton	Marc Gascoigne	Lewis Morley	Aidan Walsh
Corinne Archer	S Gleeson	John Morris	Kaaron Warren
Keri Arthur	Michelle Goldsmith	Ken Moylan	Michael Wauchope
Peter Ball	Deborah Green	Lily Mulholland	Emma Wearmouth
Sue Ann Barber	Michael Green	Nicole Murphy	Jean Weber
Alison Barton	Yaratji Green	Cathryn Nagle	Janeen Webb
Michael Bennett	Patricia Gray	Jason Nahrung	Mark Webb
Phillip Berrie	Ellen Gregory	Abigail Nathan	Tehani Wessely
Jenny Blackford	Donna Maree Hanson	Pam Newton	Diana Whiley
Russell Blackford	James Hanson	Tracey O'Hara	Sean Williams
Leigh Blackmore	Aileen Harland	Tara Ott	Bill Wright
Wade Bowmer	Richard Harland	Shauna O'Meara	Cora Wright
Amanda Bridgeman	Edwina Harvey	Barbara Petersen	
Jody-Ann Brockelbank	Nalini Haynes	Tycho Petrie	
Lawrie Brown	Karen Herkes	Simon Petrie	
Sarah Buckler	Kevin Hemingway	Robert Phillips	
Trudi Canavan	Margaret Hilliard	Alexandra Pierce	
Alan Chick	Rachel Holkner	Gillian Polack	
Trevor Clark	Barbara Holten	Rob Porteous	
Margaret Curtis	Robert Hood	Judi Powis	
Taissa Danilovich	Nalo Hopkison	Marilyn Pride	
Rowena Cory Daniels	Lewis Hutton	Amanda Rainey	
Jack Dann	Patty Jansen	Tim Reddan	
Garry Darymple	Devindran Jeyathurai	Tracy Reddan	
David Davies	Kathleen Jennings	Michael Richards	
Edward Denison-Edson	Kristine Johnson	Bernarra Jane Routley	
Pauline Dickinson	Russell Kirkpatrick	Carol Ryles	
Terry Dowling	Alisa Krasnostein	John Samuel	
Tom Dullemond	Glenda Larke	Terri Sellen	
Edna Dundas	Eric Lindsay	Kylie Seluka	
Anthony Dyer	Martin Livings	Zena Shapter	
Thoraiya Dyer	Mark Loney	Catharina Sheely	
Barbara Edgar	Rosalie Louey	Karen Simpson Nikakis	
Nick Evans	LYNC	Angela Slatter	
Paul Ewins	Peter Lyons	Cat Sparks	
Matthew Farrer	Maxine McArthur	Alan Stewart	
Chris Fellows	Michael McRae	Graham Storrs	
Jason Fischer	Kirstyn McDermott	Helen Stubbs	
Elizabeth Fitzgerald	Paula McGrath	Katie Taylor	
Carol Neist (Satima	Ian McHugh	Nichola Tchan	