



SWANCON 40

CONVENTION BOOKLET

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF SWANCON
AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CONVENTION 54

Welcome to the 40th Swancon!

Swancon 40 | Natcon 54

Swancon is one of the longest running fan events in Australia. Over the last forty years Swancon has grown and developed from very humble beginnings to a large and vibrant community. This year in addition to celebrating its fortieth anniversary and status as WA's longest-running continuous fan convention, it is also host of the annual Natcon.

Funded and administered under the direction of WASFF, Swancon is organised to promote, develop and celebrate the local talent of our community. Our convention is organic in nature and development, and this has led to a unique weekend long event which is part literary discourse symposium, part writing development retreat, part gaming gathering, and part party.

This year we have John Scalzi as our International Guest, our National Guest is Kylie Chan, and our Fan Guest was the Convenor of the very first Swancon, Anthony Peacey. The Swancon 40 Convention Committee would like to extend our thanks to the guests of honour for joining us this year, and to all the members of the Swancon community who have helped out over the two years that this convention has been brewing.

Best wishes,

-The Swancon 40 Convention Committee

About the Natcon

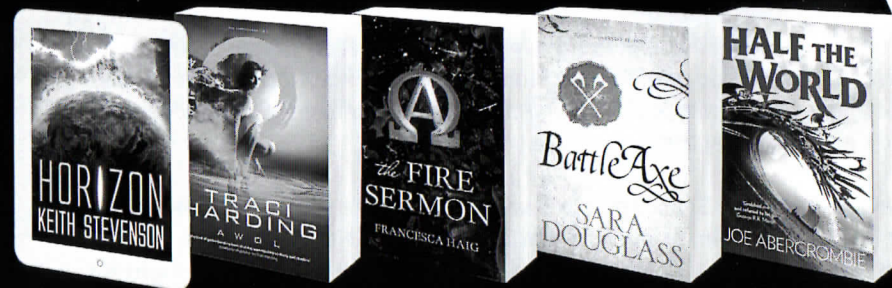
The Australian National Science Fiction convention is the annual convention held annually around Australia. Normally abbreviated to simply "the Natcon", the convention is not an entity in its own right, but rather is hosted by a local con that chooses to bid for the right to be the Natcon.

Over the years, every state has played host to a Natcon, often under the auspices of a regular local convention, but occasionally a convention has been created simply for holding the Natcon.

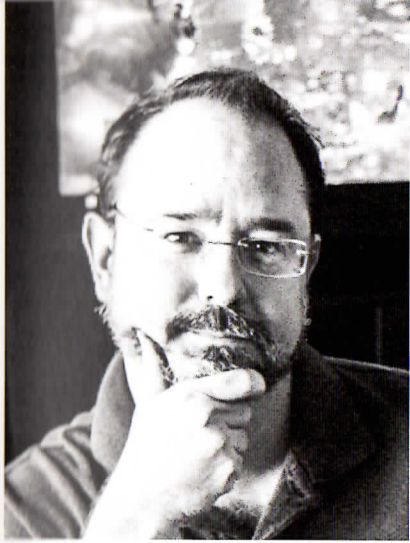
Natcons have varied in flavour over the years, as the only strict requirements are to hold the Natcon business meeting and to present the Ditmar awards. Bids for the Natcon in two years time are presented at the business meeting to be decided by a ballot of the members present.

In 2015, Swancon is the host convention for the 54th Natcon.

HARPER Voyager



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International Guest of Honour: John Scalzi

Well known for his Whatever! blog, John Scalzi has taken the speculative fiction world by storm. He has been the president of the SFWA for three years, creating havoc & chaos wherever he goes.

Along with Mary Robinette Kowal, Jim C Hines, and a host of others, he has participated in a number of projects that critique and investigate sexism, misogyny and racism in the Speculative Fiction genre. He has also won multiple awards (John W Campbell Best New Talent, Geffen Award, Hugo Award, Sien Award, Kurd-Laßwitz-Preis Award, and an Audie Award), & been nominated for many more.

One of the more interesting controversies John has helped foment has been the creation of the Insect Army. Many older writers in the Science Fiction Writers of America have unpopular views of the new writers who are now coming to prominence, some even likening new talent to insects. Taking an insult and turning it into a badge of honour, John and Mary created the Insect Army, offering a community to those who may previously have felt silenced, othered and disregarded by the authoritative voices of SFF.

We welcome John Scalzi to help Swancon celebrate our 40th birthday. We were excited to invite him as our international Guest of Honour and are delighted at his acceptance. We are proud to host this influential ally in the fight for diversity & equity in speculative fiction and fandom. Please make him welcome at Swancon 2015!



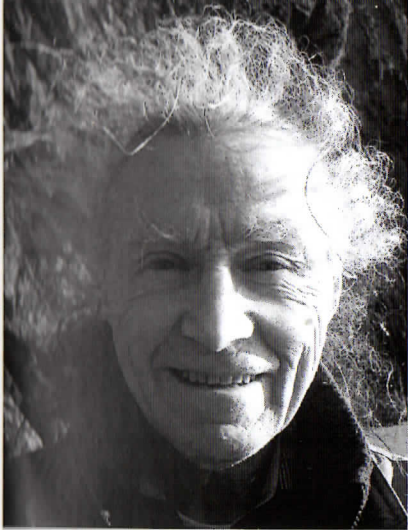
National Guest of Honour: Kylie Chan

Kylie is currently working with University of Queensland academic Dr Kim Wilkins on a research higher degree investigating the impact of digital self-publishing on the traditional publishing industry, and released the eighth book of the Dark Heavens series in June of 2014.

Kylie Chan married a Hong Kong national in a traditional Chinese wedding ceremony in Eastern China, and lived in Hong Kong for ten years as an information technology trainer and consultant.

When she returned to Australia she studied martial arts, Buddhist and Taoist philosophy, and brought these together in her Chinese mythology-based fantasy series published by Voyager-HarperCollins worldwide.

Swancon is excited to have Kylie Chan as one of our Guests of Honour. As an author who excels in writing in other cultures, we look forward to the conversations that will result. Please make her feel welcome at Swancon 2015



Fan Guest of Honour: Anthony Peacey

Anthony Peacey was the man who stood in the tangibly empty hallway of his Bayswater home on a tense Saturday morning in 1976, nervously re-assuring himself; "They'll come: we've got their money."

As first chairman, convenor & provider of venue for Swancon 1, it was only fitting that we invite him to see how far the idea he once nurtured has come.

Anthony lives in the hills of Mundairing, and recently built his own Pteranodon called Alice. She dances in the wind and you can see the full story and a film clip of her on Anthony Peacey's Facebook.

Please welcome Anthony. All of our committee is grateful and pleased he accepted our invitation to join us as our Fan Guest of Honour, and we wish to thank him for his contributions to Perth Fandom. We know you will enjoy meeting him, and hearing the stories he has to tell!

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WASFF values

The Western Australian Science Fiction Foundation was built on & presently stands for the following values:

FANDOM:

To promote speculative fiction* in WA by cultivating a friendly community of both fans and creators, and bringing them together to share their ideas & passions with one another.

DIVERSITY:

We value diversity and will work to provide an inclusive & welcoming community for all fans of speculative fiction.

RESPECT:

We strive to make our events comfortable, accommodating & safe for all guests & patrons. We believe in engaging with one another in the spirit of respect, creativity & the open exchange of ideas.

FAIRNESS:

We believe that you should know why we make the decisions we make, and will work to make our decision-making process as fair & transparent as possible.

* (encompassing science fiction, fantasy, horror and related genres and sub-genres across all media)

Anti-harrasment policy

Swancon is dedicated to providing a harassment, bullying and aggression free con experience for everyone.

We have a zero tolerance policy when dealing with harassment of guests & patrons in any form including (but not limited to) offensive verbal comments, physical assault, or unwelcome physical attentions.

Attendees and participants engaging in harassing behaviour will face sanctions and may be removed from the convention.

If you are being harassed, notice that someone else is being harassed, or have any other concerns, please contact a member of the Swancon Committee or a WASFF board member.

If you cannot find a committee or board member at the registration desk or within the convention spaces, please contact hotel reception and they will find a committee or board member.

Accessibility policy

An accessibility coordinator will ensure that venues are evaluated based on their accessibility. Kitty Hemsley and Katherine McFarlane will address accessibility issues that cannot be dealt with through hotel grievance processes, contact the registration desk (9am-6pm) or the hotel front desk (after hours) to access their support.

CONVENTION RULES

1. Attendees must wear their convention badge at all times when within the convention venue.
2. If it is illegal outside the convention, it is very much illegal inside the convention.
3. Behaviour at Swancon shall not be aggressive, offensive or harassing. See our Anti-Harrassment Policy for further info.
4. When in the common space of the convention venue, you should dress appropriately for a public & child friendly, event. *
5. Children remain the responsibility of a responsible adult member of the convention. Children under the age of 12 must remain under the direct care of a responsible adult.

Events within the convention may be designated 'adults only' or otherwise age restricted, and program items may make other rules based on participant age, and it is the responsibility of the responsible adult member to be aware of these rules and ensure that they are abided by.

* Separate events within the convention may have their own costume rules, that may relax this requirement with the approval of the convention committee.

6. Weapons or replica weapons are not permitted unless authorised by the committee. These conditions will typically include peace binding where appropriate.
7. Merchandise is only to be sold in designated dealers areas. The committee may make the decision that any merchandise is inappropriate for sale or display within the convention area.
8. Photography is only permitted in groups of more than 6 people (unless directed otherwise by a committee member). Photographers must obtain the permission of individuals or smaller groups to photograph them.
9. Attendees must obey directions of venue staff, committee members and WASFF board members.

Breaches of the rules may result in refusal of membership, revocation of membership, expulsion from the convention, or expulsion from WASFF.

Venue info & rules

All program items will take place at the **Pan Pacific Hotel**, with items scheduled between 10am and 11pm each day.

Day memberships expire at 11:59pm on the day for which they have been bought, after this time day members must leave the venue unless they have upgraded or extended their membership. Further day or full memberships may be bought from the registration desk during open hours.

Registration Desk Opening times:

Thursday 3pm-9pm

Friday 9:30am-6pm

Saturday 9:30am-9pm

Sunday 9:30pm-6pm

Monday 9:30pm-3:30pm

No smoking or vaping is allowed inside the venue. A smoking area is available out the front of the venue, near the main entrance driveway.

Alcohol may be purchased by patrons over the age of 18 from the hotel bar or official kiosks at Swancon programming items. Attendees exhibiting intoxicated behaviour that is aggressive, offensive or harassing will face sanctions and may be removed from the convention/venue.

Further information about the venue, including local restaurant and food vendors open during the convention can be found on the Swancon website:

<https://2015.swancon.com.au/content/venue>

The Program | Livecon

For an ongoing, up to date version of the convention program, visit the Livecon website:

livecon.net/convention/48



Up-to-date daily programs and details of events & activities will be available at the convention reception and on notice boards around the venue.

Alternatively, attendees can access the live program via the free Livecon mobile app, which is available to download from the Google Play and iTunes App Stores.

iTunes download:



Android download:



WASFF Grants

WASFF is the incorporated organisation which funds & enables events such as Swancon within WA. The charter calls for support for other projects which foster interest in science fiction within WA.

If you have such a project, but need some seed money to get it off the ground, we encourage you to apply for a WASFF grant!

If we award the grant, you will receive the money and access to WASFF's body of experience with running events, possibly including legal protection if your project is under the auspices of WASFF.

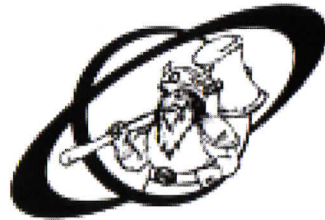
To find out more, visit the WASFF Grants page at <http://wasff.sf.org.au/grants>, email WASFF on wasff@sf.org.au, or speak with of the current Board members :)

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Convention Highlights

Please refer the main program handout or the up-to-date program via Livecon for times and locations of program items on the day.

Panels, presentation, gaming, & discussion are the lifeblood of Swancon. Panels are a discussion led by usually two to five people, and carried out in front of an audience, often accompanied by Q&A sessions, powerpoint or multimedia presentations. We also have panels devoted to showcasing & screening up and coming film or television, and flash presentations dedicated to TV shows we should be watching.

Video Gaming and Board Gaming streams will be running throughout the convention. The Board Game stream has several teaching tables, with scheduled games that anyone can play. In addition there are also live action games, signup sheets are available at the registration desk.

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The Masquerade

Saturday evening is the night of the Swancon 40 Masquerade. Time Warp is the masquerade theme – think any fandom from between then (40 years ago) with any fandom now (present) mashed up to create something new or simply pay homage to the fandoms from before. Celebrate forty years of speculative fandom through cosplay, conversation, and dance – with prizes for Best Group Costume(s) and Best Single Costume.

Awards Ceremonies

Western Australia is proud to host Natcon this year, and as such we are also home to the Ditmar Awards, and other Australian SF Awards such as the Chandler and the Norma K Hemming Award. We also host our local Tin Duck awards, for the many authors, editors and artists who make WA's SF community so rich with talent in the publishing and art industry.

Kaffeeklatches

A kaffeeklatsch is an informal meet and greet with authors and other publishing people. You get a coffee or tea and a quiet moment to network or ask questions of people who have already sold their novels, edited them and released them in a professional arena. While kaffeeklatches are designed for the aspiring writer, this is not limited, so any one can sign up.*

*Pre-con sale was available to members, any remaining seats are available for purchase from the convention's front desk.

Traders Area

At Swancon 40 the designated Market Days for traders are Friday and Saturday (3rd and 4th of April) 10am-5pm. A variety of fan and professional traders will be selling their wares, including copies of books by the Guests of Honour, and a variety of other specialist items. (Come visit the traders. BUY ALL THE THINGS!)

Swapmeet

To enable casual traders to sell items, there will be a Fan Swapmeet held Sunday morning (6th of April). The Swapmeet will be open for 3 hours, from 9am to 12 noon. You can hire a blanket sized square of floor for \$10, and free space will be provided for people wishing to fundraise for a Fan Fund or Convention. Feel free to bring along any items of fannish nature as well as books, toys, souvenirs, and knick knacks.

Flash Presentations

A Flash Fan Presentation is a ten minute Powerpoint Presentation sprinkled throughout the convention program. Each speaker has 10 minutes to present, followed by a couple of minutes for questions before the next presentation begins. Themes for the presentations include little known television shows, complete works of artists and authors in ten minutes, and science and technology.



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The Tin Duck Awards

The Tin Ducks are the annual WASFF Achievement Awards for WA writers and artists. They will be presented, along with the Ditmar awards and Natcon awards at the awards ceremony on the Sunday (5th of April).

The categories for the 2015 Tin Ducks are:

Best WA Professional Long Written Work

Professional long written work is for a piece published in the 2014 calendar year which was at least 40,000 words for which the creator received monetary payment.

Best WA Professional Short Written Work

Professional short written work is for a piece published in the 2014 calendar year which was less than 40,000, for which the creator received monetary payment.

Best WA Professional Art Work

Professional Art Work is for a piece of art that was published in the 2014 calendar year for which the creator received monetary payment. This can be via commission or submission.

Best WA Professional Production

Professional productions include professional podcasts, anthologies and works edited by Western Australian editors, which have been produced by a professional body or for which they received monetary payment.

Best WA Fan Written Work

Recognising the work a fan has put in for their written work, whether by blog, publication, in a fan magazine or any other form of written work, for which they have not received monetary payment for their services.

Best WA Fan Artwork

Recognising the work a fan has put in for their art work, whether by display at the Art Show, publication in a fan magazine or any other form of Artwork, for which they have not received monetary payment for their services.

Best WA Unpaid or Fan Production

Recognising the work of the community who have produced a production for which they have not received monetary payment for their services, whether in the form of a podcast episode, a fanzine production or a small convention.

All members of Swancon are able to vote in the Tin Ducks. Voting ballots are available at the registration desk, and votes must be placed at the ballot before 6pm on the Saturday of the convention.

The Ditmar Awards

The Ditmars honour achievement in Australian Science Fiction and have been awarded annually at Natcon since 1969. Formerly known as the "Australian Science Fiction Achievement Award", they are now named after Ditmar "Dick" Jensen, the early financial benefactor of the awards.

Ditmars are now awarded in two main categories - Professional and Fan-nish - as well as the Special Award category for Best New Talent and the William Atheling Jr Award for Criticism or Review (while not technically a Ditmar Award for historical reasons; it is presented with them).

WASFF Board Members

CHAIR: Doug Burbidge

TREASURER: Jack Bridges

ADMINISTRATOR: Anna Hepworth

BOARD MEMBERS: PRK, David Cake, Sarah Parker, Stephen McGlone, Cathy Cupitt, Alexis Hemsley

Convention Steering Committee

WASFF BOARD MEMBERS: PRK (Chair), Jack Bridges, David Cake

2014 CO-CONVENER: Chris Coman & Samara Morgan

2015 CO-CONVENER: Stephen Griffiths

2016 CONVENER: Isobel White

NON VOTING MEMBERS: Doug Burbidge, Rohan Wallace

Notice of WASFF AGM @ Swancon 2015

The Western Australian Science Fiction Foundation Annual General Meeting for 2015 will be held in The Hamersley room of the Pan Pacific hotel in Perth on Sunday the 5th of April, at 4pm.

Swancon 2015 Committee

FOUNDING CONVENER: Kat Griffiths

OPERATIONS CONVENER AND SECRETARY: Stephen Griffiths

TREASURER: Helen Duffill

HOTEL LIASON: Matt Holmes

HEAD PROGRAMMER: Sarah Parker

FAMILY PROGRAMMER: Kitty Hemsley

GAMING COORDINATORS (TABLE-TOP, GAMING STREAM): Alicia Smith, Rob Smith

GAMING COORDINATOR (VIDEO GAMES STREAM): Adam McCaw

ART SHOW COORDINATOR: Sorsha Roberts

MASQUERADE COORDINATOR: Jade Rolfe

TECHNICAL ADVISOR: Brendan Ragan

AUDIO VISUAL COORDINATOR: Andrew Hahn

GUEST LIASON: PRK

AWARDS COORDINATOR: Samara Morgan

AWARD MAKER: John Parker

VOLUNTEERS COORDINATORS: Ruth Turner, Rachel Turner

TRADERS AND SWAPMEET COORDINATOR: Sarah McFarlane

ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBER: Katherine McFarlane

INITIAL DESIGN: Kimberley Larking

DESIGN: Julia Alison

CONBOOK LAYOUT: Christopher Percival

Special thanks to Jonathan Durnford, John Parker, Kimberley Larking and Richard Maulen.