



Progress Report 2

conflux (n) = a confluence

confluence (n) = a flowing together of two or more streams / the point of juncture of such streams / the combined stream formed by this juncture / a gathering, flowing, or meeting together at one juncture or point

A Message from Conflux 2 Chair, Donna Hanson

The Conflux 2 Committee are pleased to present you with our second progress report. After a quiet period around Christmas, we have been beavering away to prepare for the convention.

There has been some re-jigging of the convention space. After some discussion we have opted to have the whole of the first floor again so that we can accommodate the traders and artshow on the same floor. As we envision this, the largest room will contain the traders, the art show and a large fan lounge with plenty of room for book signings and just plain hanging out during opening hours. We should also have the sandwich kiosk on Saturday and Sunday. Bobby McGee's Disco has been booked for the Sunday night and that masquerade is going to be fun.

We are in danger, however, of losing our room bookings as take-up of rooms by convention attendees has been rather low. The room rate is \$140.00 for a double room with full buffet breakfast for two people included in the rate. Breakfast at the convention venue is a great social event in itself. So book now to avoid disappointment!

Other news is that the draft program is up on the website www.confliux.org.au so feel free to take a look, put your hand up for vacancies or show it to your friends. Once again the fantastic range of people attending make for an interesting and fun convention. Many thanks to those who have agreed to be on panels: if you aren't listed and want to be please email me chair@confliux.org.au

On a personal note. I have a new website called www.austspeculativefiction.com.au which contains details about a non-fiction compilation that I am working on. My website also contains articles and links and a bookstore.

Cheers

Donna Hanson

January, 2005

MAGIC CASEMENTS

A festival of sci-fi, horror & fantasy writing

SATURDAY 19 MARCH

Come and hear the best of Australia's SF writers talk about their craft, read from their books and describe their path to success.

Featuring Terry Dowling, James Cain, Kirsten Bishop, Maxine McArthur, Lucy Sussex, Rowena Lindquist, Robert Hood, Robert Hoge, Anne Melano and many more.

NSW Writers' Centre

Callan Park grounds, Balmain Road (opposite Cecily St), Rozelle
10am – 6pm. Free entry and parking. Cafe and bar open all day.

SPEC FIC WORKSHOPS

Marvellous Journeys – Science Fiction and Fantasy Writing
with Terry Dowling

Sunday 27 February, 10am – 4pm

Terry Dowling is one of Australia's most awarded and internationally acclaimed writers of science fiction. He has been described as "Australia's premier fantasist" & "among the masters in the field".

Writing Speculative Fiction with Karen Miller

Saturday 3 September, 10am – 4pm

Karen Miller is the author of a number of SF works including *Voyager*, to be published by HarperCollins in August 2005.

WORKSHOPS COST

Non-members \$99; Members \$66; Members' Concession \$55

Bookings can be made by phoning (02) 9555 9757 or emailing workshops@nswwriterscentre.org.au

For a complimentary magazine and festival program, and/or a course brochure, call the Centre on (02) 9555 9757 or visit www.nswwriterscentre.org.au.

News from the Guests!

Maxine McArthur

Fantastic news! Maxine McArthur's novel, *Less than Human*, has won the 2004 Aurealis Award for best Science Fiction novel. Published by Warner Aspect in the US, it's a thriller set in near-future Japan. With her experience of Japan, Maxine was able to make the culture authentic but understandable for us easterners. In fact, Maxine has just returned to Australia from Japan.

Jackie French

Jackie French has just finished two volumes of the 8 volume *History of Australia* for Scholastic. *The Secret World of Wombats*, and *How to Grow your own Spaceship*, which is speculative science, with just a touch of fiction.... A kid's fantasy in June: *My Uncle Wal the Werewolf*, the fifth in the Wacky Family series. *Flesh and Blood* short-listed for the Aurealis Awards.

Jennifer Fallon

Jennifer Fallon arrived back from holidays to commence a re-write of *Warlord*, and commence corrections for the US and UK editions of *Harshini*.

Terry Dowling

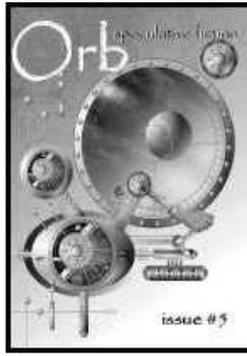
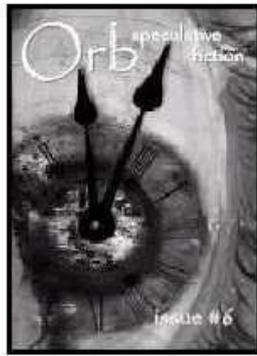
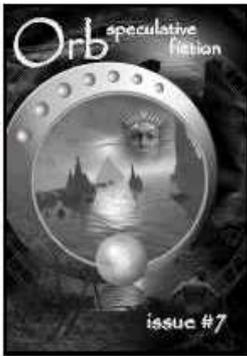
Terry's computer adventure *Sentinel: Descendants in Time* has been released in the USA. See the website www.dormeuse.info for more information. Ellen Datlow has bought Terry's horror story, 'Clownette' for SciFiction and 'The Lagan Fishers' for her Barnes and Nobel Best of SciFiction collection.

Bob Eggleton

Bob is working on the cover to *Daikaiju*, Rob Hood and Robin Pen's anthology of giant monster stories.

Programming

The draft program is up on the website www.conflux.org.au. It already gives a good indication of what will be happening at Conflux 2. There are vacancies on some panels and perhaps some fine tuning to be made in a few places. The media stream is roughed out but if you have comments please contact Michael Kraaz media@conflux.org.au



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The program will be jammed pack with fun and activities. Bridge Crew will be operating and there will be a schedule of readings in a decent size room that is easy to find this time.

Over the next few months we'll be looking for chairs (not to sit on but to referee panels); it would also be nice to have someone to co-ordinate the steamy readings session. The history behind this idea is that the Canberra Speculative Fiction Guild challenged the Romance Writers to a read-off. There was a huge turn out and the event has now been programmed for the ACT Writers' Centre Literary Festival next August so we thought why not have fun at Conflux 2. The venue Cahoot's Bar is the obvious choice because of the proximity to alcohol. From experience I can say it takes three glasses of red to be game enough to read a piece aloud. Readings will be short, no more than five minutes, fit for your audiences ears (otherwise pummelling with popcorn may be in order) and can be either flash fiction (no pun in intended) or a love scene, romantic scene from a longer work. Anyone game enough to manage this please let me know chair@conflux.org.au

Blurbs for the panels are being prepared and will appear on the website over the next four weeks.

For those keen to pay tribute to the war dead we will once again run a bus to the dawn ceremony if there is enough interest. So far we have received no expressions of interest in this. We will need some indication but if in the end there is only a few of you we can order a taxi. Later after the rest of us have slept off our post-masquerade hangovers and have finished our high-powered networking over the full buffet breakfast— it's pizza in the park (weather permitting) or just lurch into the bar for a 'dead dog party' when Cahoot's opens.

Games

Bridge Crew is returning to Conflux 2. Yes it's on again. This time I want a certificate. Come and role play on a Star Trek bridge. Other games are of a spontaneous nature or self-combusting. If you want to organise games feel free to let us know and we can send enquiries your way.



www.andromedaspaceways.com

We'll get you there... sooner or later

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the first Envision
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Venue

Rydgess Lakeside is the venue for Conflux 2. We will be hiring the first floor as before, but with a little bit more room to play with. Their conference package is a standard double room with two full buffet breakfasts each morning for \$140.00 per night. Please note that we will lose our block of rooms shortly and take-up of rooms has been slow. If you are coming and want to room please book as soon as you can.

Also there is an alternative for the Bobby McGee's restaurant in the evening. Either Cahoot's Bar, which has bar food available or the newly refurbished restaurant on the top floor for more up market dining with great views of Canberra's traffic jams.

To reserve your room ring [1800 026 169](tel:1800026169) and quote Conflux, Canberra Science Fiction Convention. Remember Canberra is busy at that time of year with the Dawn Service so it pays to secure your room early. A credit card number is sufficient to make a reservation.

Passover

Unfortunately Conflux 2 co-incides with Passover this year. If this affects you and you still want to come to Canberra (yes, we want you!), book early and let us know you are Jewish. (program@conflux.org.au)

Someone will be in touch with you to talk about your dietary needs and how we can help meet them, and we will give you details of the Jewish Community's seder. You do need to book well in advance (both for Conflux and for the seder) because Canberra has only a very tiny Jewish community and food that is kosher for Passover has to be imported from Melbourne or Sydney.

Traders Room

Greg Toohey is once again running the traders room, which will be on the first floor in the largest room. **Please note this is a change from the previous PR.** This means the only restriction on the number of tables is that it be manageable!

Full payment must be made prior to the convention and you need to make a deposit (\$20-payable to Conflux, Po Box 903, Belconnen, ACT 2615) to secure your table. Most of the traders who were at Conflux will be back again for Conflux 2. So there'll be artwork, pottery, new books, small press, second-hand books and collectibles for sale or browsing. If you are interested in trading please contact us to reserve a table.

Traders' rates for Conflux 2005 are the same as for Conflux 2004, & are \$220 for one professional table; or \$330.00 for two pro tables. This includes one full membership and one assistant membership Fan rate is \$143.00 and includes one table and one membership only.

Artshow

The guidelines for the Artshow have been finalised and are available on the website, www.conflux.org.au. Last year's Art Show was extremely well received and with special guest judges Bob Eggleton and Marianne Plumridge-Eggleton, we're looking forward to 2005 being just as good.

If you've got a piece of work that you've always wanted to show the general public, now is the time to get up the courage to show it to the world. Your efforts will be well rewarded, by the admiration of the people who view it, possibly by money if you decide to put it up for sale, and even may win you a prize. The Art Show is willing to accept entries from people not attending Conflux, so if you've got a friend who you know would love to exhibit, point them to the website.

If you wish to enter the display space and thus be eligible for competition, entry fees will be \$5 if your piece is for sale and \$10 if it is not. If your piece is sold, Conflux will require at 10 percent commission. It will not cost anything to have artwork available for sale at the Print Shop, but Conflux will require a 15 percent commission on any sales made. Any questions you have can be directed to conflux@nicolermurphy.com

The Art Show is looking for volunteers. We particularly need people who will be available Friday afternoon and Sunday afternoon to pick up and deliver the display boards and help hang the art. We also need people to sit at the show and guide visitors around the display. Anyone willing to help, please contact Nicole Murphy on conflux@nicolermurphy.com.

The ACT Writers Centre has invited Terry Dowling to present a workshop on 22nd April, 1-5 pm, the Friday afternoon before the commencement of Conflux 2. There is a special rate of \$70 for this workshop for Conflux members and \$60.00 (concession \$50.00) for ACT Writers' Centre members, \$100.00 for non-members. There is a strict limit on numbers (only 14) so you will have to get in early to secure your place. Contact admin@actwriters.org.au or ring (02) 6262 9191

Conflux2 combined Masquerade & Disco presents...VooDoo HooDoo!

Join us at Bobby McGee's—deep in the evil heart of Rydges—for a night of intoxicating potions, tribal rhythms, dark rites, and er...intoxicating potions! *FEEL!* The beat, as DJ Chuck McKenzie harnesses the awesome power of disco to raise the dead! (In Canberra, raising the living is a feat in itself). *THRILL!* to the sight of decaying corpses crawling from their graves to strut their funky stuff! (Or is that just Bob Eggleton getting down to ABBA?). *GASP!* at acts of demonic possession, as partygoers writhe, spin, and speak in tongues (or maybe Donna Hanson's just had a few too many. Again).

Where: Bobby McGee's nightclub

When: Sunday 24 April, 7.30 for 8.00pm start!

Occultists, virgins and members of the Undead (that should cover most of you) all welcome! Ceremonial dress requested—prizes awarded for the best sacrificial robes.

We cannot guarantee the safety of your soul—but we *can* guarantee a party to remember for eternity! So be there! And remember...

When there is no more room in hell
The Dead will Dance

Advertising rates for convention magazine

We've already sold the inside cover and tentatively sold the back cover. We have one colour page available for \$300.00 (inside back cover). So get in quick.

Black and white interior advertisements:

- Full page \$100 pro rate, \$50 fan rate
- Half page \$75 pro rate, \$35 fan rate

Book launches = \$150 for pro launches and \$50 small press.

Con bag inserts = \$40.00 professional rate per item and \$10.00 for fan/small press.

Continuum 3 –July 15-17

Continuum 3 is going to be huge this year. The venue is the Hilton in Melbourne and the convention features guests Neil Gaiman, Poppy Z Brite, Robin Hobb, Richard Harland and Harper Collins is bringing the majority of its Voyager authors to celebrate the 10 year anniversary of the Voyager Imprint. For more information see www.continuum.org.au

Thylacon (44th Natcon)

June long weekend 10-13 in Hobart. Guests Anne Bishop and Marianne De Pierres and Merv Binns

Conclave

Adelaide are having a convention Friday September 30 to October 3, 2005 See www.conclave.asn.au

Swancon XXX Easter 2005 March 24-28.

International guest Charles De Lint. See website for more information www.swancon.com.au



CONFLUX 2

Modern Myths & Ancient Legends Membership Form

*info@conflux.org.au or phone 0421-005-511 or see the website
www.conflux.org.au*

Conflux 2, Modern Myths and Ancient Legends, will be held in Canberra over the ANZAC Day long weekend from 22-24 April 2005 at Rydges Lakeside. Room rate is \$140 per night for standard double room, includes full buffet breakfast for two people. Call toll-free on 1800 026 169 and quote Conflux 2, science-fiction convention.

Guest of Honour will be Jennifer Fallon, author of the *Demon Child Trilogy* and the *Second Sons Trilogy*. Special guests are Terry Dowling, Maxine McArthur and Jackie French.

Supporting memberships can be upgraded to an attending membership by paying the difference at any time before or during the convention.

Membership applications and payments may be mailed to Conflux, PO Box 903, Belconnen ACT 2616 or faxed to 02-6241-3211 (credit card payments only).

.....
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Name on badge.....

Address.....

Suburb.....State/Post Code.....

Phone

Full Membership . \$110.00 .

Student/concession Concession \$77.00 .

Supporting \$33.00

(please tick as appropriate)

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I certify the above details are correct.....

(Please sign the form)