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# CONFLUX 3

9-12 June 2006 Canberra  
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In 2006, the Conflux SF convention will feature the world's best known writer of science fiction, **Sir Arthur C. Clarke**, appearing virtually—the largest display of science fiction, fantasy, horror, comic, manga and SF digital art at an Australian con—the Queen of Horror and SCI FICTION, US editor **Ellen Datlow**—the national 24 Hour Comic Challenge, where comic artists from across the country create a comic in a day—best-selling fantasy authors **Kate Forsyth**, **Sara Douglass** and **Jackie French**—the largest film festival held at an Australian con, featuring movie marathons, fan films, rare, old

and new anime, SF, fantasy and horror—hip comic artist **Jason Paulos**—a medieval banquet (limited places, so book early)—leading science fiction cover illustrators **Nick Stathopoulos**, **Greg Bridges** & **Les Petersen**—an interactive display where you can design futuristic dwellings and transport modes then see them come alive in a 3D theatre—more exciting International and Australian guests to be announced—a costumed masquerade—gaming tournaments—dealer room and more.

All at the National Museum of Australia, Canberra, from 9–12 June 2006. Visit [www.conflux.org.au](http://www.conflux.org.au) for more details.

### GUESTS

International Editor Guest of Honour:  
**Ellen Datlow**

Honoured Guest:  
**Sir Arthur C. Clarke**

Australian Guest of Honour:  
**Kate Forsyth**

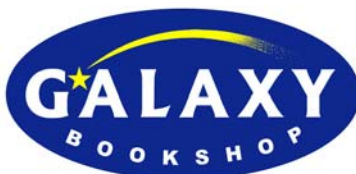
Special Guest :  
**Sara Douglass**

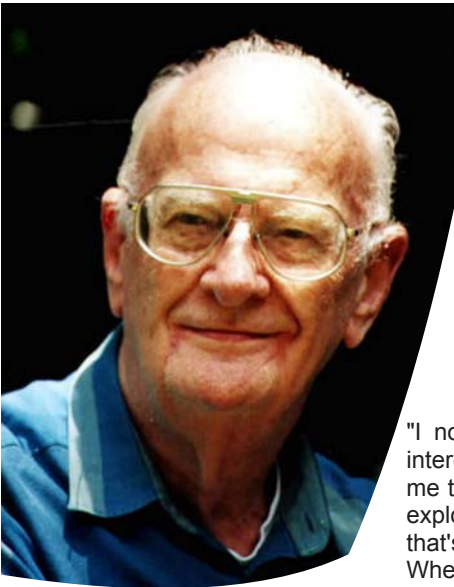
Invited Guest:  
**Jackie French**

Invited Comic Artist:  
**Jason Paulos**

Exhibiting Guest Artists:  
**Nick Stathopoulos,  
Greg Bridges & Les  
Petersen**

*Conflux 3 would like to thank its sponsors*





# PROFILE

## Honoured Guest Sir Arthur C. Clarke

*Isaac Asimov called him the best science fiction writer in the world. Often compared to Jules Verne and H.G. Wells, he is the third of the great novelist-cum-scientists. Here's why.*

"I now realise that it was my interest in astronautics that led me to the ocean. Both involve exploration, of course—but that's not the only reason. When the first skin-diving equipment started to appear in the late 1940s, I suddenly realized that here was a cheap and simple way of imitating one of the most magical aspects of spaceflight—weightlessness," he said.

In the 1960s Clarke collaborated with director Stanley Kubrick to make the highly praised science-fiction film *2001: A Space Odyssey* (1968), based on Clarke's 1951 short story *The Sentinel* and subsequently developed into a novel. Clarke and Kubrick received an Oscar nomination for the film's screenplay.

He has received a galaxy of other awards and honours, including three Hugos, three Nebula Awards, an International Fantasy Award and a Nobel Peace Prize nomination. He was awarded a NASA Distinguished Public Service medal in 1995, and has had an asteroid and a species of dinosaur named in his honour.

"On New Year's Day, 1998, I had the honour of being knighted by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth for 'services to literature'—a phrase that

particularly delighted me since there is reluctance in certain reactionary quarters to ever consider science fiction literature."

This literature, both fiction and non-fiction, has inspired and predicted a number of scientific advances in his lifetime—including the internet. Clarke shuns the term predictions however. "I prefer to say extrapolations."

"I make a spectrum of possibilities, and they include what I think might happen and what I hope won't happen. I'm always quoting the writer Ray Bradbury: 'I don't try to predict the future, I try to prevent it.'"

*Sir Arthur C. Clarke will be joining Conflux 3 as a virtual guest.*

*Conflux 3 is proud to announce Sarvodaya, Sir Arthur's preferred charity for post tsunami rebuilding in Sri Lanka, as the official con charity. For more information, see [www.sarvodaya.org](http://www.sarvodaya.org) or email [info@conflux.org.au](mailto:info@conflux.org.au)*

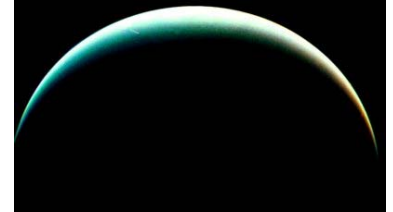
Even people who have never read SF know the name Arthur C. Clarke. He has published more than 100 books, 500 articles and short stories, hosted numerous TV shows and influenced scientific advances through his stories, essays, and technical writing in the fields of physics and mathematics.

He started writing when he was still in school, and at the age of 19 he moved to London, became involved with the British Interplanetary Society and began to write science fiction.

In 1945 UK periodical *Wireless World* published his paper "Extra-terrestrial Relays", where he laid out the principles of using geostationary satellites for global communications. This revolutionary idea paved the way for the communication satellites of today, and the geostationary orbit at 36,000km above equator is known as the Clarke Orbit.

His early fascination with space later developed into a love of the sea. This interest inspired him to move to Sri Lanka, where he has lived since 1956.

## DID YOU KNOW?



### Clarke's Three Laws:

- 1) When a distinguished but elderly scientist states that something is possible, he is almost certainly right. When he states that something is impossible, he is very probably wrong.
- 2) The only way to discover the limits of the possible is to go beyond them into the impossible.
- 3) Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic.

(Profiles of the Future, 1961)

Clarke was quoted in a recent edition of *Popular Science Magazine* as saying religion was the "most malevolent and persistent of all mind viruses. We should get rid of it as quick as we can."

It may have been these views that led one of his well-known correspondents, C.S. Lewis, to remark "I think you are very wicked people, but wouldn't the world be a dull place if everyone was good?"



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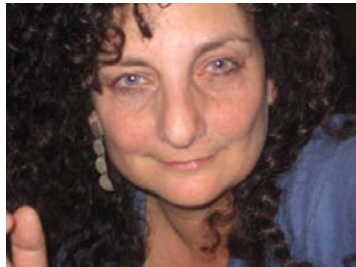
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# Conflux 3 Guests

*Conflux 3 are pleased to introduce their International and Australian guests*

## International Editor Guest of Honour

**Ellen Datlow** has been editor of SCI FICTION, the fiction area of SCIFI.COM, (the SCIFI Channel's website) for five years. Previously, she was fiction editor of OMNI for over seventeen years, and of Event Horizon, an award-winning website created with her former OMNI colleagues.



She has edited and co-edited a variety of anthologies and has been editing the horror half (with Terri Windling, and now Kelly Link and Gavin J. Grant) of *The Year's Best Fantasy and Horror* for nineteen years. Datlow has won the World Fantasy Award seven times, the Bram Stoker Award, the International Horror Guild Award, the 2002 Hugo Award, and the 2005 Locus Award, for her work as an editor. She is also a Consulting editor for Tor Books and lives in New York City. Her website is at: <http://www.datlow.com>

## Australian Guest of Honour

**Kate Forsyth** is the proud author of around dozen books, including a collection of poetry, two childrens' book, one serious literary attempt, and several big, fat fantasy series. Her books have been published in Australia, the US and Canada, the UK, Germany and Russia, and she has received fan-mail from Saudi Arabia, Korea, Finland and the Netherlands, where one fan is attempting to translate her books into Dutch. She writes articles for a variety of magazines and newspapers, including Spectrum, Good Reading, The Age, Aurealis and Vogue. Her latest book *The Shining City* has just been released, with its prequel *The Tower of Ravens* hot off the presses in the US, where an early reviewer at 'Romance Junkies' gave it an almost unprecedented five blue ribbons.



**Exhibiting Guest Artists Nick Stathopoulos, Greg Bridges & Les Petersen** will be featured along with examples of their work in Conflux 3 Progress Report One.

## Special Guest

**Sara Douglass** is the internationally best-selling author of 16 books, three of which have won the Aurealis Award for Best Fantasy Novel. These include *The Axis Trilogy*, *The Wayfarer Redemption Trilogy*, *The Crucible Trilogy* and the first three books in the four-book series *The Troy Game*, of which *Darkwitch Rising* has just been released. Sara lives in Hobart, Tasmania, where she spends much of her time enjoying her garden.



Photo by A. Jennings

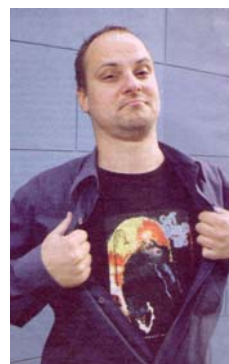
## Invited Guest Jackie French

has a writing career that spans sixteen years, 42 wombats, 120 books for kids and adults, many genres, translations into 19 languages, and slightly more awards than she's had wombats, in Australia and overseas (that's overseas awards, not overseas wombats). An SF devotee, *Cafe on Callisto* (Aurealis award 2000), *In the Blood* (ACT Book of the Year) and *Flesh and Blood* (Aurealis shortlisting 2005) are science fiction and SF elements have snuck into many others. Books soon to be released include *The Secret World of Wombats*, *How to Grow Your own Spaceship*, *Phredde and the Haunted Underpants* and *Macbeth and Son*.



Photo by P. Gosney

## Invited Comic Artist Jason Paulos



debuted on the Sydney comics scene in 1989 with the first self published issue of 'Hairbutt The Hippo', the story of a hard boiled anthropomorphic private eye roaming the seedy underbelly of a future city. Over the years Jason has regularly contributed to Australian MAD magazine and published over a dozen Hairbutt comics. He has also contributed to the DC comics 'Bizarro' project. Hairbutt The Hippo books are available from [www.lulu.com/ratrace](http://www.lulu.com/ratrace). His website is [www.HairbuttTheHippo.com](http://www.HairbuttTheHippo.com)



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## CONFLUX CREW

### Kaaron Warren - Hotel Liaison

*You're a weary traveller looking for lodgings in Canberra. Who better to ask for a bedtime story than Conflux's own Procrustes, horror writer Kaaron Warren.*

Between raising children and writing, Kaaron is finalising the accommodation arrangements for Conflux 3. Who better to do this than an accomplished SF writer who enjoys exploring the unsettling world of "domestic horror"?

Kaaron has had more than 40 short stories published in Australia, the UK and the USA, won an Aurealis Award for Best Horror Short Story with "A Positive" in 1998, and has had seven other nominations in the awards. Her first novel reached the top 22 in the Vogel awards, and she is now working on her third.

Now her first SF collection *The Grinding House*, published in Australia by CSFG Publishing, has just been picked up by US publishing house Prime Books. The 18 stories in the collection, including a 20,000 word science fiction novella, explore a mix of genres.

But her first love is for horror. And for Kaaron, it has to be believable – something that gives her the feeling "it can happen to me." She strives for "a sense of reality in an unreal world" by introducing elements of domestic life.

"My stories contain some really strange situations but they must be believable to the reader. I think the mundane voice of many of my narrators helps this sense of reality, because to the character, their world IS normal.

"With my SF stories, I often create worlds which exaggerate small parts of our own. I take things to their illogical conclusion."

Kaaron says she has always thought in terms of a story: "At school I couldn't write a simple sentence, I had to expand it into a story. I write science fiction and fantasy as well as horror because these are the stories I like to read".

"I don't often have likeable characters," she says. "The horror I write is what I call Domestic Horror. Situational sort of stuff, with people in their own existence experiencing things. I'm not so keen on imaginary monster stories; I like the human monster.

"For me, writing is a release of negativity; it releases my Dark Side... If I'm not writing, pouring out the dark stuff onto paper, I find it harder to be positive."

*But for all her talk of human monsters and her own dark side, Kaaron is approachable and helpful, and can be contacted at [hotel@conflux.org.au](mailto:hotel@conflux.org.au) for information on hotel arrangements.*



Photo by Cat Sparks

## VENUE

### The National Museum of Australia

Named Australia's Best Major Tourist Attraction, the National Museum of Australia boasts an astounding array of technology and exhibits. It's the perfect venue for Conflux 3.

It houses future-exploring interactive multimedia displays, luxurious theatres with near cinema-size screens, a broadcast studio, and \$1000 per hour satellite teleconferencing facilities—all of which Conflux 3 will be using.

The National Museum also features changing exhibitions, on everything from space exploration to 500-year-old shipwrecks. Behold the saw used by the great Australian magician Levante, witness a buffalo catcher with a bionic arm, investigate one of the oldest operational steam-powered vessels in the world (and it's called the Enterprise) and so much more.

Lawson Crescent  
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AUSTRALIA

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**Want to be involved in Conflux 3 as a panellist, presenter, art show or film festival exhibitor, volunteer, dealer, advertiser or sponsor?**  
Email Trevor Stafford at [chair@conflux.org.au](mailto:chair@conflux.org.au)

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This list does not show members who have requested their names be withheld

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 Mark Barnes, NSW (Aus)  
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 Jules Bartlett, ACT (Aus)  
 Alison Barton, VIC (Aus)  
 Graeme Batho, NSW (Aus)  
 Susan Batho, NSW (Aus)  
 Jiri Baum, VIC (Aus)  
 Zara Baxter, NSW (Aus)  
 Conor Bendle, ACT (Aus)  
 Deborah Biancotti, NSW (Aus)  
 Greg Bridges, NSW (Aus)  
 Lawrie Brown, ACT (Aus)  
 Thomas Bull, VIC (Aus)  
 Michele Cashmore, QLD (Aus)  
 Angela Challis, WA (Aus)  
 Alan Chick, ACT (Aus)  
 Bill Congreve, NSW (Aus)  
 Robert Cox, ACT (Aus)  
 Kevin Cox, ACT (Aus)  
 Patricia Crowther, ACT (Aus)  
 Shane Jiraiya Cummings, WA (Aus)  
 Marai Curtis, NSW (Aus)

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 Ellen Datlow, United States  
 Sara Douglass, TAS (Aus)  
 Barbara Edgar, ACT (Aus)  
 Kate Eltham, QLD (Aus)  
 Peter Fagan, VIC (Aus)  
 Matthew Farrer, ACT (Aus)  
 Kate Forsyth, NSW (Aus)  
 Jackie French, NSW (Aus)  
 David Grimshaw, ACT (Aus)  
 Donna Hanson, NSW (Aus)  
 Christopher Herkes, ACT (Aus)  
 Joanne Herkes, ACT (Aus)  
 Karen Herkes, ACT (Aus)  
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 Robin Johnson, TAS (Aus)  
 Russell Kirkpatrick, New Zealand  
 Jonathan Kromka, TAS (Aus)  
 Adrienne Losin, VIC (Aus)  
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 Lewis Morley, NSW (Aus)  
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 Shane Parker, ACT (Aus)  
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 Barbara Robson, ACT (Aus)  
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 Trevor Stafford, ACT (Aus)  
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<p><b>MELBOURNE</b>                  Palais Theatre                  Sat 16 July, 8pm                  Book now on 1300 136166,                  9537 2444 or  <a href="http://www.ticketmaster7.com.au">www.ticketmaster7.com.au</a></p>	<p><b>PERTH</b>                  Burswood Theatre                  Thurs 21 July, 8pm                  Book at BOCs                  on (08) 9484 1133</p>	<p><b>CANBERRA</b>                  Canberra Theatre                  Tues 26 July, 7.30pm                  Book at Canberra Ticketing                  on (02) 6275 2700</p>	<p><b>BRISBANE</b>                  Brisbane Convention Centre                  Mon 1 Aug, 8pm                  Book at Ticketek on 132 849                  and <a href="http://www.ticketek.com">www.ticketek.com</a></p>

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<b>MEMBERSHIP FEES</b>	<i>Price to</i>	<i>Price</i>	<i>Price</i>	<i>Price from</i>
	<i>31 Jul 2005</i>	<i>1 Aug 2005 – 31 Jan 2006</i>	<i>1 Feb 2006 – 30 April 2006</i>	<i>1 May 2006</i>
Full (attendance, publications)	\$110	\$145	\$190	\$220
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