



Canberra's annual
speculative fiction
convention.

At The Vibe Hotel,
AIRPORT ACT

www.conflux.org.au

[www.facebook.com/
confluxcanberra](http://www.facebook.com/confluxcanberra)

Registration:

www.trybooking.com/nirl

*Special thanks to Shauna
O'Meara for Conflux 13
artwork!*

With Special Guests Angela Slatter and Ellen Datlow

Greetings from Canberra!

Join us for this year's Conflux Convention, the annual conference for writers, artists, readers and fans of speculative fiction, including fantasy, sci-fi and horror books, stories, movies, television shows, podcasts, music, art and games. Whether you are a creator wanting to develop your skills and networks or a fan looking for a chance to talk about your favourite books and shows, Conflux invites you to join in this annual celebration of spec fic in all its permutations.

The theme this year is "Grimm Tales" - dark fairy tales and related fantasies – enjoy!

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About our Special Guests

International Guest of Honour: Ellen Datlow

Ellen Datlow has been editing science fiction, fantasy, and horror short fiction for over thirty-five years as fiction editor of OMNI Magazine and editor of Event Horizon and SCIFICTION. She currently acquires short fiction for Tor.com. In addition, she has edited more than ninety science fiction, fantasy, and horror anthologies, including the annual The Best Horror of the Year, Lovecraft's Monsters, Fearful Symmetries, The Doll Collection, The Monstrous, Children of Lovecraft, Nightmares: A New Decade of Modern Horror, and Black Feathers. Forthcoming are, Hallows' Eve (with Lisa Morton), and Mad Hatters and March Hares (stories inspired by Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass and What Alice Found There).

She's won multiple World Fantasy Awards, Locus Awards, Hugo Awards, Stoker Awards, International Horror Guild Awards, Shirley Jackson Awards, and the 2012 Il Posto Nero Black Spot Award for Excellence as Best Foreign Editor. Datlow was named recipient of the 2007 Karl Edward Wagner Award, given at the British Fantasy Convention for "outstanding contribution to the genre," was honored with the Life Achievement Award by the Horror Writers Association, in acknowledgment of superior achievement over an entire career, and honored with the World Fantasy Life Achievement Award at the 2014 World Fantasy Convention.



Conflux 13 Guest of Honour: Angela Slatter



Angela Slatter is the author of the collections *The Girl with No Hands and Other Tales*, *Sourdough and Other Stories*, *The Bitterwood Bible and Other Recountings*, *Black-Winged Angels*, *Winter Children and Other Chilling Tales* and *A Feast of Sorrows: Stories*, as well as the novellas *Ripper* and *Of Sorrow and Such*. With co-conspirator Lisa L. Hannett she has written *Midnight and Moonshine* and *The Female Factory*. Angela has won a World Fantasy Award, a British Fantasy Award, one Ditmar Award, and five Aurealis Awards.

She has an MA and a PhD in Creative Writing, is a graduate of Clarion South and the Tin House Summer Writers Workshop. She was an inaugural Queensland Writers Fellow in 2013, and the Established Writer-in-Residence at the Katharine Susannah Prichard Writers Centre in Perth in 2016. Her work has been adapted for the screen, and translated into Japanese, Russian, and Bulgarian. Angela's debut novel, *Vigil*, was released by Jo Fletcher Books (Quercus/Hachette) in July 2016, and the sequel, *Corpselight* in July 2017. The final book in the trilogy, *Restoration*, will follow in 2018.

MC: Kaaron Warren

Kaaron Warren has been writing stories since she was five, around the same time she discovered Grimm's Fairy Tales. The chilling thrill of *Hansel and Gretel*, *Rumpelstiltskin* tearing himself in two; all of these helped her become a writer.

She's been publishing fiction since she was 28, with 4 novels and 6 short story collections to show for it. She still reads Grimm's, every now and then.



CONFLUX 13 Committee

Leife Shallcross and Karen Herkes (Chairs)
Adam Hale
Tara Ott
Kellie Takenaka
Kim Gaal (PR Consultant)

Cat Sheely (Treasurer)
Tim Napper
Maddy Piggott
David Versace (Dealers)



Bonus Flash Fiction

DISSECTION

LEIFE SHALLCROSS

The species is common enough, but I have another reason for being excited about this specimen. It was difficult to procure. I have had to make promises to the family I am not sure I can keep.

The creature is laid out upon my vivisection table, its limbs splayed out and pinned down. Its belly is grotesquely swollen, the pale-furred skin stretched to translucence, distended by the disturbing shapes beneath.

My hand is trembling as I set the scalpel in the hollow of its throat. I take a deep breath to steady myself. I must press hard, but not too hard. I don't want to—

The flesh parts. And the muscle wall beneath it.

I see a fold of sodden, red wool. I draw the knife down.

"Peek-a-boo," I murmur as the child's face comes into view. I wince. I pressed too hard. I have nicked her waxen cheek.

When I reach the creature's anus I lay the knife aside. The wolf's belly gapes open. I have a perfect view of the two of them, curled up within. The old woman's gnarled, grey hands enfolding her dead grandchild, perfect—but for that one, careless scratch—in her red, hooded cloak.

The Program

The program includes loads of great panel discussions, workshops, kaffeklatsches with our special guests and other guest authors, pitching sessions, special events, book launches, off-site excursions and other great activities.

Visit <https://conflux.org.au/program/>
For all the latest details!



Pitching

A pitch session is an invaluable opportunity to sit down with a publisher or agent one-on-one to pitch them your book (novels, novellas, short story and poetry collections, etc.).

This year Conflux is again offering attending members the opportunity to pitch their work. At this date pitches will be taken by Odyssey, Fantastica and Angry Robot.

To pitch, you need to be one of the first six people to nominate that you wish to pitch to that particular person. The sign-up sheets are located at Conflux Registration and will be available from 5pm on Friday 29 September 2017.

Film Special – with the ANU Film Group

Conflux 13 has been provided with special passes for members to attend the ANU Film Group screening of *The Dark Tower* 7:30 PM, 29th September, 2017, at the ANU campus Coombs Theatre, where there is ample free parking on weekends.

This gritty Western adventure/fantasy follows Jake Chambers (Taylor), an 11-year-old adventure seeker, who is spirited away to an alternate dimension. There, he encounters The Gunslinger – Roland Deschain (Elba) – who roams an Old West-like landscape in the hope of preserving his dying world by finding the mythical Dark Tower, a nexus point between time and space that holds the multiverse together. But his quest is complicated by a vicious sorcerer known as The Man in Black (McConaughey), who is hot on the Gunslinger – and now also Jake's – trail.

If you would like to attend, please see Conflux registration for your pass.

The Banquet

Conflux 13 is delighted to share the menu for the convention banquet, which will be a served sit-down dinner in the Helix Bar and Restaurant at the hotel.

Note that menu items will be served alternatively. Dietary requirements can be catered for if provided in advance, and preferably at time of booking.

Entree:

Red Riding Hood Beet Salad: Roast baby beets, beetroot chips, sweet beetroot and marinated feta with aged balsamic.

Ugly Duckling Confit: Confit duck and orange segments with baby herb salad and pistachio praline.

Main:

Black Bull of Norway Medallions: Grain fed beef medallions in an herb coating, served with green asparagus, potato gratin, and a rosemary jus.

Breast of Chicken Little: Chicken breast with thyme, mash, and baby carrots topped with an aubergine and roasted pepper tartar.

Vegetarian Main (Upon Request):

The Town Musicians of Bremen's Beautiful Vegetable Medley: Roasted medley of seasonal vegetables in butter pastry with sweet potato mash and poached asparagus.

Dessert:

Goose's Golden Egg Panacotta: Golden egg pannacotta with mint and spring berry broth.

The Nutcracker's Chocolate Opera Slice: Layers of almond biscuit, chocolate ganache and hazelnut cream, served with cinnamon anglaise.

To book for the banquet, go to:

www.trybooking.com/nirl

Scary Doll Competition



Riffing off the theme of Guest of Honour Ellen Datlow's 2015 anthology, *The Doll Collection*, we would like you to try and creep us right out by creating something horrible for our Conflux 13 Scary Doll competition.

Entry will be by gold coin donation. You'll be able to drop your creepy creations off in the art show room for display throughout the con. We'll reveal the winner (who will get a tacky trophy and maybe some chocolate) at the closing ceremony.

Looking forward to seeing the depths of nightmarishness you will plumb for this one.

Art Show

Artists are welcome to display their work at the Conflux Art Show. The winners will receive a surprise package of goodies and a certificate.

The show also features THE E. G. HARVEY AWARD FOR AUSTRALIAN SF ART, an annual award sponsored by the Harvey Australian Foundation. This award is for the best original visual art work in show, produced by an Australian artist in the previous 12 months. Judging will be made from works exhibited at the Conflux 10 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 (non-acquisitive).

For an art show entry form, please refer to the last page of this Progress Report.



The Venue

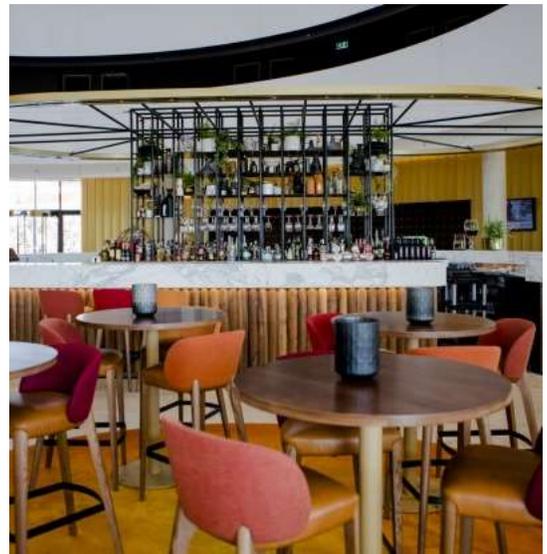
This year Conflux 13 will be trying out a new venue! We'll be heading out to the brand new hotel Vibe, located just next to the Canberra airport.

There is paid parking close by, with free parking available on Beltana Road in nearby Piallago if you don't mind a 5 minute walk. It's a 12 minute drive to the centre of Canberra.

Vibe are offering rooms for Conflux members at \$169 per night, room only, from Thursday 28 September through to Tuesday 3 October. You can book your rooms online: just visit this Hotel Vibe booking link:

Link: <https://gc.synxis.com/rez.aspx?hotel=65197&Chain=14687&locale=en-US&promo=TH9414956&arrive=09/28/2017>

and use the login code TH9414956.



The Dealers Room

A room has been dedicated for Dealers at Conflux 13. What con-going experience would be complete without a trip to the convention's Dealer's Room? Dealers offer a variety of items for sale, often you will find these wares difficult to obtain elsewhere.



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 (run by sub-committees of Conflux Inc.), or wish to make suggestions for them, you can do so by emailing: president.conflux@gmail.com.

Any current member of the annual Conflux convention is a member of Conflux Inc, and all are invited to the Conflux Incorporated Annual General Meeting held each year at the annual Convention. Policies for Conflux Inc. apply to each Conflux Convention and other Conflux hosted events and may be found on our website.

Election Results for the Conflux Incorporated 2016 AGM:

President Alistair Ott,

Vice-President Maddy Piggott,

Treasurer Cat Sheely

Secretary Karen Herkes

Public Officer Cat Sheely

Chairs for Conflux 13: Leife Shallcross and Karen Herkes.

Volunteers needed.

Conflux is created by volunteers, fans and writers, people like you who love the genre so much that they want to share the fun with everyone. There are many volunteer jobs – committee members, panelists, minders for guests, art show, dealer's room and registration.

Volunteers are always very welcome, contact chair@conflux.org.au for more information.

Conflux is actively seeking new committee members to help make Conflux 14 happen.





LETO'S STORY

ALISTAIR OTT

There was a certain stillness surrounding the rickety farmstead. Where a grand manor once sat, now lay a rotting wreck. Once it stood tall and proud, made from cut stone and dark wood, but for decades it prevailed under the scorching sun and held itself against dry winds. Now the stone was chipped and cracked, the wood discoloured. Its foundation clung to the parched red soil surrounding it.

It had only been a few hours since Leto, his mother and his brother had driven onto the beaten path and found themselves in front of that dilapidated building. His normally silent mother had muttered to herself the entire trip, for years she had ignored its existence, ever since Leto's grandfather had left it to her in his will. She had no need for it, she had a man who truly loved her. But now that it was only the three of them for the first time in Leto's life, the property would have to be called their new home.

His mother had soon busied herself with hobbling around the house, cleaning until her muscles ached and bones creaked. Like a lost, wailing spirit she would drift through the dusty house. Leto found himself wandering around the grounds, he couldn't attach himself to his mother like his anxious little brother. His brother couldn't stand being alone, but Leto couldn't bear the idea that he was being a nuisance if he did the same.

His adventures had been somewhat fruitless so far, there was just dirt road and farmland as far as the eye could see. No others in sight besides his own shattered family, Leto felt as though if he shouted across the plains his voice would reach no others. But behind the main structure he found a smaller shed, a giant gumtree and an old clothes line. Bone white sheets hung on the line, they spun and danced in the gentle breeze. Like bodies wrapped in cotton. And there, flowing through them like he was the wind itself, was a boy. With skin matching the red brown soil under his feet and hair like the night sky. Leto sat there in a trance, watching the hypnotising movements of the boy.

It wasn't until the boy noticed him that Leto shook himself out of his stupor. They both stood staring at each other, the only sound was the wind whipping around them and Leto's shallow breathing. Something wasn't right, the closet farm or village was miles away. Where did this boy come from...? Leto stepped forward hesitantly, questioning words stuck like a lump in his throat. But as he moved the boy leapt away behind the sheets and as the linen swept along with the wind it revealed that he was gone.

Dusk spread over the sky as the day came to an end. Leto had searched for hours, trying to find the mystery boy. But it was a futile effort. He had found his mother sitting on a tiny bed in one of the upstairs bedrooms, staring out in a daze, through the broken window into the night sky. His brother sat on the floor beside her, clinging to her leg. Leto pulled them both out of the room and down to the living-room where they had set up temporary sleeping arrangements. He wrapped his mother up into her blankets, she smiled up warily at him, her cheeks stained with tears. Leto kissed her forehead gently, as if she could shatter into pieces.

"Dear Lord, thank you for the rising and setting of the sun, thank you for watching over us, please protect my family in this house and my family above with you"

The prayer no longer had any meaning, rather it became a mantra Leto would repeat night after night. A cry of hope into the darkness, as if it was a spell with power hidden in its words.

Leto had almost drifted off in his own bed when a clang from the kitchen echoed through the room. He sat up shocked, his breathing shallow as he strained his ears in hopes there wouldn't be another sound. His mother and brother still lay fast asleep as the stairs beside the kitchen creaked under an unknown weight. Leto forced himself to get up and chase after the footsteps, no matter how much he wanted to hide under his quilt.

Leto reluctantly followed the noises up the stairs, somehow becoming more brave as he got closer. It wasn't until he reached the top of the stairs and came face to face with a shadowy figure that he decided that he had been too reckless.

"Who, ah, what are you?" He mumbled, his voice coming out more like a squeak than the shout he wanted. He tried to push the figure away but found that his hands didn't meet a solid force. With a hitched gasp, Leto pulled his hands back close to his body and stumbled back further down the hallway. His bare foot got caught on one of the loose floorboards and he suddenly found himself falling back first onto the cold wood ground.

"Dunno... who are you?" The boy's voice was deeper than expected, he kneeled and now that he was closer Leto could tell he was the same boy as before. A much more hulking shape than Leto had realised, older than he first appeared. He held out his hand for Leto to take, and for the first time since Leto felt alone, he wondering if he could reach out.

~

The sun rose, casting an orange glow onto the farmstead. The light almost made the building seem alive, it could breathe once again. The two boys sat beside each other in the shade of the old gumtree. Leto drew indistinctive shapes into the rich copper soil with his hands, coating his fingertips with a rusty fine powder. The boy peered over as Leto continued to try and ignore his presence.

"Have ya figured out what I am yet?" The boy chuckled, through the corner of his eye Leto could see the boy grinning.

"No... I don't believe I ever will. At least not for the time being. But I suppose that doesn't mean you'll disappear?" Leto admitted, looking downcast. But much like the building a light had sparked inside himself, it didn't seem all that lonely here anymore.

"Hah! Not if ya wished it" The boy leaned back, looking all too lordly for his own good.

"That'll be alright with me, for now." Leto crooked his head to meet the boy's eyes, a wavering smile briefly passed his lips.





CONFLUX 12 POST CONVENTION REPORT

Special Thanks to our Guests of Honour

Alan Baxter, David Farland and Meri Amber;
your support and kindness is greatly appreciated.

CSFG and Conflux Short Story Competition Results

First Prize Pia Van Ravestein for "The Repairer"
Second Prize David Versace for "The Nature of Monkey"
Third Prize Pamela Jeffs for "Tattoo"

Art Awards

Winner for best in show 2D Professional Category: Keely Van Order for "Grief Hole: Paradise Falls"
Winner for best in show 2D Amateur Category: Ian Nichols for "Tears in the Rain"
Winner for best in show 3D Amateur Category: Alistair Ott for "Steampunk bracelet"

E.G. Harvey Award 2016

For an original Speculative Fiction work by an Australian Artist
Russell Kightley for "Quala's Jungle"

Thanks also to:

All committee members and volunteers, David McDonald for again steering the awesome App schedule, Shauna O'Meara for fabulous artwork, Sean Williams for being our Master of Ceremonies and all of our members!

CONFLUX 13

29 September to 2 October 2017

Conflux Art Show Entry Form

Artist's Name	
Address	
Telephone	
Email	

Entry Cost: \$10 hanging fee / display fee per item.

- Professional or Amateur
- 2D Two dimensional work (painting, drawing or other)
- 3D Three dimensional work (models, sculpture, jewelry, textiles etc.)
- Digital Artwork
- The E.G. Harvey Award (for original artwork, of any type, by an Australian artist) (You can select this option in conjunction with one of the above categories)

Only original works may be entered. You are welcome to provide prints for sale by Conflux. Conflux Inc. charges a 10% commission on all sales. Sale of Art Show entries (if desired) will be by member bids (bid cards are provided at the show) and bids will be finalised at the close of the Art Show on Monday 2 October 2017.

Prizes: The E.G. Harvey Award for Original Australian SF Artwork \$500.
"Best in Show" Awards for each category (Certificate and Gift Pack).

Any special display requirements? _____

Delivery method of art

- Agent _____ (name) will deliver on Friday 29 September 2017.
- Artist will deliver on Friday 29 September 2017.
- Art will be mailed to Conflux Art, 7 Ahern Place Monash ACT 2904, by 22 September 2017.

Reservations for Art Show entries must be received by the Curator by 22 September 2017. All panel or table space for entries is reserved on a first-come-first-served basis. Please email this form to chair@conflux.org.au. Every entry must be labelled with title, minimum price for bids if item is for sale, and the artist's name. Art sales do NOT include reproduction rights. The artist and buyer must negotiate separately as per current copyright laws. We will provide security and TLC for all artwork, Conflux will take every reasonable precaution for the safety of art show entries, but the ultimate responsibility for the art work remains with the artist/agent. No cameras will be permitted at the Art Show.