

# Conflux 16 “VISIONS OF TIME”

**With Special Guests John  
Birmingham, Helen Marshall  
and Artist in Residence  
Shauna O’Meara**



**Canberra’s annual  
speculative fiction  
convention.**

**Saturday 3 October to  
Monday 5 October  
2020**

**At the Rex Hotel  
Canberra, ACT**

**[www.conflux.org.au](http://www.conflux.org.au)**

**[www.facebook.com/  
confluxcanberra](https://www.facebook.com/confluxcanberra)**

**Registration:**

**[www.trybooking.com/590014](http://www.trybooking.com/590014)**

**Cover art: Thank you to  
Michael Beahan**

Another year on and we can report on the progress towards Conflux 16! We are looking forward to welcoming everyone to Canberra in the beautiful spring-time. A change of venue this year to the Rex Hotel, with great access to entertainment, bars and restaurants in the heart of Canberra.

We are also very pleased to announce our special guests for this year and also our MCs, Cat Sparks and Aaron Dries. Thank you all for supporting Conflux 16 this year!

Alistair Ott asks if you would like to contribute to the Conflux Program or propose a workshop? Please complete the survey at:

**<https://survey.sogosurvey.com/r/1AmX8r>**

## **NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING**

A proposal has been put forward for CONFLUX 2021 to bid for SF National Convention. A general meeting will be held to decide on this proposal and if accepted, elect a convention committee.

To be held at the REX Hotel Canberra, Saturday 7 March 2020 at 4pm. All Conflux members, past and present, are most welcome to attend.

## About our Special Guests

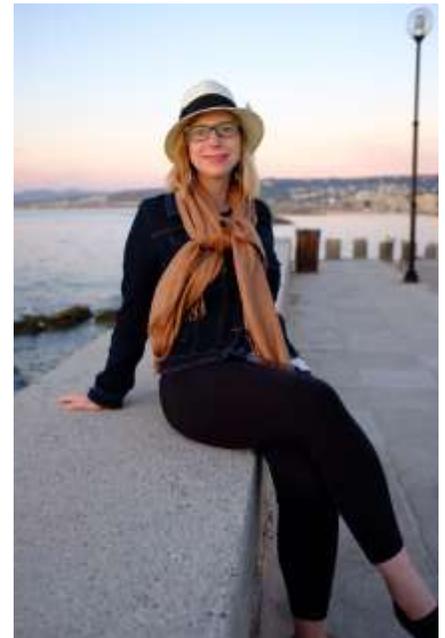


### John Birmingham

John Birmingham has published lots of books. So many that he sort of loses track of them. He wrote features for magazines for a decade before publishing *He Died With A Falafel In His Hand*, working for *Rolling Stone*, *Playboy* and the Long Bay Prison News amongst others. He won the National Award For Non-Fiction with *Leviathan: an unauthorised biography of Sydney*. He started writing airport novels because they were more fun. His most recent series of books that improve with altitude are the *Girl in Time* novels. He blogs at the [cheeseburgergothic.com](http://cheeseburgergothic.com) and can be found on Twitter as @JohnBirmingham

### Helen Marshall

Helen Marshall is a Senior Lecturer of Creative Writing at the University of Queensland. Her first collection of fiction, *Hair Side, Flesh Side*, takes its name from the two sides of a piece of parchment—animal skin scraped, stretched and prepared to hold writing. Her second collection, *Gifts for the One Who Comes After* addresses the shaping and persistence of memory in the wake of dangerous upheaval. Rather than taking the long view of history in my first collection, it negotiated very personal issues of legacy and tradition, creating myth-infused worlds where "love is as liable to cut as to cradle, childhood is a supernatural minefield, and death is 'the slow undoing of beautiful things'" (Quill & Quire, starred review). Collectively, her two books of short stories have won the World Fantasy Award, the British Fantasy Award, and the Shirley Jackson Award for outstanding achievement in the literature of psychological suspense, horror and the dark fantastic.



She is the editor of two anthologies, *Imaginarium 2015: The Year's Best Canadian Fiction and Poetry* and *The Year's Best Weird Fiction, Volume 4*.

Last year, her debut novel *The Migration* was released by Random House Canada, Titan in UK, and New South Books in Australia. It finds parallels between the emergence of the Black Death in the fourteenth century and the ecological crises of the twenty-first century—that is, periods when humanity has had to confront the possibility of widescale loss of life. What interests her about the topic is not its bleakness but on the possibility of a "beautiful apocalypse". It was one of *The Guardian's* top SF books of the year.

# Membership Prices

Ticket type	Cost	Entry to convention and all related areas	Progress reports, including post-con wrap-up	Con Handbook
Full membership (Adult or Concession*)	Adult: \$250 Concession: \$200	All three days	Yes	Yes
One-day ticket (Adult or concession)	\$110 for Saturday or Sunday, \$70 for Monday	One day	Yes	Yes
First Conflux special	\$125	All three days	Yes	Yes
Supporting Member	\$40		Yes	Yes
Youth Day Saturday (people age 12-25)**		Saturday only	Yes	Yes

\*Must show student, pension or senior card upon registration at the event

\*\*Only 30 tickets available

Dealers can also get a membership with a table in the dealer’s hall for \$300, or just the table for \$75.

Extra events, such as the banquet dinner or WhiskeyCon, will be at an additional cost.

## CONFLUX 16 Theme: Visions of Time

Wikipedia: Time is the indefinite continued progress of existence and events that occur in an apparently irreversible succession from the past, through the present, into the future. Ah, but does it? Come and explore visions of time with us in 2020!

## CONFLUX 16 Committee

- Cat Sparks and Aaron Dries (MCs)
- Llewellyn Dobbs:Chair
- Alistair Ott: Programming
- Andrew Old: Treasurer
- Llewellyn Dobbs: Art Show
- Cat Sparks: Guest Liaison and Website
- Nathan Phillips: Pitching Sessions Coordinator
- Chris Andrews:Dealers’ room coordinator
- Karen Herkes: Registrar
- Angel Hellyer:Publicity manager
- Ion Newcombe: Magazine editor and short story wrangler
- Rik Lagarto : Venue liaison:and Social media
- Tim Napper: WhiskyCon

## The Program

An interesting range of program items is in planning and we would love to hear your ideas and suggestions.. The program will include presentations with our special guests, workshops, drama, pitching sessions, panel discussions, special events, book launches, games, and other great activities.

Conflux 16 is working towards bringing you pitching sessions at the convention. Stay tuned to future Progress Reports and also the website for more details.

## Workshops

Workshops on a variety of creative topics will be held during Conflux 16. There will be both membership inclusive and separate entry fee workshops. Registration will be available when presenters and details are finalised.



## Kaffeeklatsch or Literary Beers

There will be times available at Conflux 16 for Kaffeeklatschs or Literary Beers. These are small group meetings in the café or bar with a writer, editor or artist. You need to purchase the beverage of your choice, but no other cost is involved. You can ask the writer, editor or artist 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!



## Book Launches

Conflux Inc. has a special interest in book launches and welcomes your enquiries. Please contact [chair@conflux.org.au](mailto:chair@conflux.org.au) for further discussion.

## The Banquet

This year's banquet will be a delicious 2 or 3 course dinner. Tickets at \$80 per person for the three course option (or \$65 for two courses) available at [www.trybooking.com/590014](http://www.trybooking.com/590014)





## The Venue

Conflux 16 will be held at the Rex Hotel this year. Located on Northbourne Avenue, with easy access to local shops, restaurants and bars.

The hotel has offered Conflux attendees a 10 per cent discount on room rates during the convention weekend. Please quote the promotional code FLUX when booking directly through the hotel's inhouse reservations team.

LOCATION: 150 Northbourne Avenue Canberra City, ACT 2612

PHONE: 02 6248 5311

RESERVATION: [reservations@canberrarexhotel.com.au](mailto:reservations@canberrarexhotel.com.au)

## CONFLUX 15 POST CONVENTION REPORT

Special Thanks to our Guests of Honour Thoraiya Dyer and John Scalzi, and artist-in-residence Les Petersen - your support and kindness is greatly appreciated.

### Short Story Competition Results

First: Louise Pieper for "Under the Skin"

Second: Eileen Haley for "Convict Witch"

Third: Carleton Chinner for "The Messenger"

Special mentions to: C Winspear for "A Complaint Against The Youth" and L J Kendall for "Beneath the Gathering Dark"

Thank you to Ion Newcombe, Joanne Herkes, and Rob-Roy Herzog our Story Competition judges.

### Art Show Results

Michael Beahan - E.G. Harvey Award 2019 Award for an original Speculative Fiction work by an Australian Artist

## 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: [chair@conflux.org.au](mailto:chair@conflux.org.au). Any member of a Conflux convention can become a member of Conflux Inc. just by asking to be so. The current president is Alistair Ott and vice-president is Nathan Phillips. Policies for Conflux Inc. apply to each Conflux Convention and other Conflux hosted events and may be found on our website.

## Things To Do And Visit In Canberra

Within metres of the Hotel is a great range of clubs, pubs, restaurants and shops in Canberra's Civic Centre.

Further afield, New and Old Parliament Houses, the National Archives, The National Gallery, Questacon: The National Science and Technology Centre, The National Library, the Australian War Memorial, the CSIRO Discovery Centre and the Space Tracking Station at Tidbinbilla are all well worth a visit.

The annual Floriade festival is open over the Conflux 16 weekend. The website for this event notes: "Floriade is Australia's biggest celebration of spring. This iconic Canberra event runs for 30 days over the months of September and October. It showcases one million flowers in bloom throughout Canberra's Commonwealth Park and entry is free.

For these attractions and many more see [www.visitcanberra.com.au/](http://www.visitcanberra.com.au/)

## 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. Volunteers are always very welcome, contact [chair@conflux.org.au](mailto:chair@conflux.org.au) for more information.

