

Conflux 16 Program

Friday 30th September - 6.30pm - Opening get together in the Wellington Room and Bar w/canapes

Saturday 1st October

	Forest Room 1	Forest Room 2	Forest Room 3: Youth Stream	Barton Room	Exec Board 1	Exec Board 2	Wellington Room
9.00am	Opening Ceremony in the Forest Suite (Forest Room 1, 2, & 3)						Rego
9.30am	Re-Imagining Horror in a Pandemic: Sickness, isolation, and fear of community. How has the pandemic informed horror going forward? And what could be lurking next?	Rewriting History: Is rewriting a preferred or different version of history ethical, political or just being creative? Panellists explore the best and worst examples of rewriting history in spec-fic.	Middle Grade and YA Spec-Fic: These genres explore emerging hopes and fears, moral, ethical, and global dilemmas, as well interpersonal issues. Panellists discuss the most challenging fiction and how it responds to the concerns of younger readers.				Dealers and Rego Doctor Who Cluedo and other board games @ Rego!
10.30am	From paper to screen: Lets talk Australian novels adapted for screen, what makes them gold or fall flat?	Queering Fiction: Is it just dropping a few queer characters amongst the lot, or does queering fiction go above and beyond that? Panelists discuss queering power structures, landscapes, dynamics, & more!	Teens Today: Relatable and real teens in YA spec-fic, panellists discuss the best places to find inspiration for their YA protagonists.	Workshop	Workshop	Pitching	Dealers and Rego Doctor Who Cluedo and other board games @ Rego!
11.30am	Writing positive futures: Solarpunk envisions how the future might look if humanity succeeds in solving significant modern problems. Panelists discuss themes and plot elements required for writing positive near futures and real-world changes that emerge when ecotopian visions disrupt apocalyptic pessimism.	Publishing Outside of Australia: So you're writing in Australia but your editor and publisher are overseas. Authors discuss the nitty gritty: benefits, pitfalls, impacts on promotional opportunities and general frustrations.	Parenthood and Family Dynamics in Spec-Fic: From the nuclear family, single parents, found families to werewolf clans, polyamory, & alien hives; this panel will discuss the best (and worst) examples of all family structures in spec-fic.			Pitching	Dealers and Rego Doctor Who Cluedo and other board games @ Rego!
12.30pm	Guest of Honour in Forest Room 1 - Shelly Parker-Chan						Dealers and Rego
1.30pm	Poetry in Speculative Fiction or Spec-Fic Poetry: How does fantasy, sci-fi, and the supernatural inspire and invoke poetry and prose, or is it the other way around?	Writing Communities: What does curating and sustaining harmonious communal spaces for writers look like? Both off and online. And what would the ideal reader/author/publisher ecosystem look like?	Writing YA across time and space: Blasting our way through space, pirating across seas, or falling in love amongst gum trees. What makes for good settings for YA?	Workshop	Workshop	Pitching	Dealers and Rego Doctor Who Cluedo and other board games @ Rego!
2.30pm	Publishing during a pandemic: Writers who published work during 2020/2021 discuss the best and worst parts and share their tips and tricks to staying motivated.	Wicked, Mean, Unlikable Protagonists: Villians, antiheroes, and wrongdoers unite! Lets talk everything nefarious and shady.	Bits and Pieces: Writing, editing, and publishing short stories. How do we plot, draft, and stay within under 5-10k words?			Pitching	Dealers and Rego Doctor Who Cluedo and other board games @ Rego!
3.30pm	Afternoon + Book Launch in Wellington Room						Dealers and Rego
4.30pm	Guest of Honour in Forest Room 1 - John Birmingham						Dealers room closed
5.30pm	Ditmar Awards Ceremony in Forest Room 1						
7.00pm	Trivia with Ion Newcombe			Whiskey Con at 7pm, with host, Tim Napper. Bookings essential, book at Conflux registration			

Sunday 2nd October							
	Forest Room 1	Forest Room 2	Forest Room 3	Barton Room	Exec Board 1	Exec Board 2	Wellington Room
9.30am	Including Disability in Fiction: Are we finally getting good disability representation in spec-fic? What still needs to be done? Panelists discuss the dos and donts.	Sentient Flora and Fauna in Spec Fic: Writing non-humaniod protagonists and characters.	Mentorship magic: A writing mentor can help you with advice and guidance on all aspects of the craft. Mentors & mentorees examine and discuss their experiences.	Workshop	Workshop	Pitching	Dealers and Rego
10.30am	My biggest F-Up: Authors share their biggest 'mistakes' in their writing. Or perhaps actually blessings in disguise?	Writing Aliens: Little grey men, beautiful humaniods, and slimy monsters - how do we write aliens in spec fic?	Writing the first draft: It can feel like a HUGE undertaking, but how do we get through and past the first draft quickly?			Pitching	Dealers and Rego Doctor Who Cluedo and other board games @ Rego!
11.30am	Guest of Honour - Dan O'Malley						Dealers and Rego
12.30pm	Lunch + booklaunch			Australian National Science Fiction Convention Committee Meeting			Dealers and Rego
1.30pm	Fiction set in Australia: Bush, Billabong, Bonza! How do we write the outback, suburban life or city living in fictional Aus?	Let The Cat In: A podcast special with Kaaron Warren, Aaron Dries, and J. Ashley-Smith	Making writing work: How can we balance day jobs and writing? Writers with jobs (of all shapes and sizes), describe how they fit in everything?	Workshop	Workshop	Pitching	Dealers and Rego Doctor Who Cluedo and other board games @ Rego!
2.30pm	Genderqueering characters: Transgender & nonbinary characters have too long been the aliens, monsters, and ghouls. But what does it look like to write a genderqueer hero and who is doing it right?	Finding your Voice: Story, characters, and plot are important, but what often defines a book is the feel of the prose. So, what defines voice? From stylistic choices like dialect and punctuation to narrative choices like POV, this panel will discuss how to find the authorial voice that best fits you.	Tech Tools for Writers: Which software is the best for a writer? Are there specialty programs and apps that can help with the different aspects of writing? How do you keep track of chapters, characters, story arcs and the like? Our tech-savvy panelists share their experience.			Pitching	Dealers and Rego Doctor Who Cluedo and other board games @ Rego!
3.30pm	Afternoon + booklaunch						Dealers Room Closed
4.00pm	Artist in Residence - Tom Buckland						
6.30pm	Banquet - Forest Suite		Drinks and Tabletop - register at rego Join a band of misfits and mavericks on a queer pirating adventure across the galaxy. B(uy)YO drinks at bar.				

Monday 3rd October							
	Forest Room 1	Forest Room 2	Forest Room 3	Barton Room	Exec Board 1	Exec Board 2	Wellington Room
9.30am	Write what you know: What does that even mean for SpecFic? Bringing lived experience into our writing.	Dark Poetry: Sorrow, grief, fear. Panelists discuss the intricacies and inspiration for dark poetry in spec-fic.	Historical research: By evoking realistic worlds via research, authors draw readers into their stories. But how much research is too much?			Pitching	Dealers and Rego
10.30am	Writing and mental health: Panelists share their experiences balancing their mental health and keeping the creative juices flowing.	Interactive Narrative: Video games, tabletop roleplay, and choose your own adventure. What can interactive fiction look like and how can it reimagine fiction?	The next thousand years: Space travel, dystopia, or underground civilisations, imagining where Humanity will end up far into the future!			Pitching	Dealers and Rego Doctor Who Cluedo and other board games @ Rego!
11.30am	Meeting at the intersections: Investigating and reimagining time, space and metaphysical parameters at the intersections of creative / academic / fantastical / scientific knowledge and the world.	Decolonising Speculative Fiction: Colonialism has had an impact on everything in our world-including our stories, which too often repeat colonial fallacies and stereotypes. What does it mean to decolonise speculative fiction?	Lets Talk Self-Publishing - all you need to know! Editing, publishing, and marketing; how do we go about it on our own and what are best tricks or biggest blunders when self publishing.				Dealers and Rego Doctor Who Cluedo and other board games @ Rego!
12.30pm	Lunch + booklaunch			Conflux Inc Commitee Meeting			Dealers and Rego
1.30pm	Hungry Ghosts: The scariest horrors may not be the things that make us scream, but the quiet ideas that lurk in our brains and don't seep out until the lights are off and everyone else has left the building. Where do those ideas come from?	Climate Change, Past and future: Australian spec-fic has offered everything from Utopian visions of a fertile inland sea to dystopian warnings of post-apocalyptic climate disasters. Panelists will explore how these visions change over time, and their impact on attitudes and policy.	Alternate history, different visions of time: Spec-fic plays with what might have been. This panel will examine how alternate histories work, and what they tell us about both past and future.			Pitching	Dealers and Rego Doctor Who Cluedo and other board games @ Rego!
2.30pm	Body Horror: The gruesome, gorey and bloody, how do we bring such visuals to the page? Panellists discuss their inspiration and when its gone right (or wrong)!	Space and time in spec-fic: What aspects of manipulating time, or space time, are believable and what is pushing it that little bit too far?	Reimagining folklore and fairytales: Fairy tales are the original horror stories, mostly not originally intended for children. Feminist and Queer authors reclaim and rethink these myths and tales, engaging in lively debate with their tropes, rearranging and recontextualising the characters.			Pitching	Dealers and Rego Doctor Who Cluedo and other board games @ Rego!
3.30pm	Afternoon + booklaunch						Dealers room closed
4.00pm	Closing Ceremony - Announcing Conflux Short Story and Art Awards.						
5:00pm	Dead Dog Party at the Bar						