

PROGRESS REPORT 2022/2

# CONFLUX 16

## VISIONS OF TIME

SPECULATIVE FICTION CONVENTION  
30 SEPTEMBER - 3 OCTOBER 2022  
RYDGES HOTEL CAPITAL HILL CANBERRA  
CONFLUX.ORG.AU



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

**At Rydges Capital Hill  
Canberra, ACT**

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

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

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

### **SAVE THE DATES!**

Full details on each of these items can be found within this progress report.

**NEW CLOSING DATE** for the CSFG  
/Conflux Short Story Competition

**Midnight Monday September 19 2022!**

#### **Other Closing dates:**

- Rydges Capital Hill Accommodation discount Monday 29 August 2022.
- Welcome event and Banquet bookings Midnight Friday 23 September 2022
- Art Show entry bookings Sunday 25 September 2022
- Art show entries by post Monday 26 September 2022
- Art show entries delivered to show by 10am Friday 30 September 2022.

## SPECIAL GUESTS

Conflux is pleased to welcome our special guests: Authors John Birmingham, Shelley Parker-Chan, Daniel O'Malley, and Artist in residence Tom Buckland.

Our Masters of Ceremonies will be Aaron Dries and Cat Sparks. Stay tuned for more information as we get this show on the road!

Further information about these guests and others to be announced can be found at [conflux.org.au/guests/](http://conflux.org.au/guests/)

**John Birmingham** is a prolific author whose series include Axis of Time, (aka World War 2.0), A Girl in Time, The Disappearance and The Cruel Stars. He has written magazine features for Rolling Stone, Playboy and the Long Bay Prison News amongst others and won the National Award For Non-Fiction with Leviathan: an unauthorised biography of Sydney.

**Shelley Parker-Chan** is an Asian-Australian former diplomat who worked on human rights, gender equality and LGBT rights in Southeast Asia. Their debut historical fantasy novel She Who Became the Sun was shortlisted for the Hugo, Lambda, Locus, Aurealis, and British Book Awards, and was BookPage's #1 SFF book of 2021.

Born and raised in Canberra, **Daniel O'Malley** graduated from Michigan State University and earned a Master's Degree in medieval history from Ohio State University. He then returned to his childhood home. He is the author of the Checquy novels The Rook and Stiletto (and those yet to come). The Rook was the winner of the 2013 Aurealis Award for Best Science Fiction Novel and was released in 2019 as a mini-series on STAN.

**Tom Buckland** is a visual artist who deals in a correspondence of imaginary worlds. With sculpture, performance, and video he creates work heavily influenced by his own fascination with science fiction and fantasy, topped off with a refined joyful absurdism. He enjoys playing with audience interaction, taking much enjoyment in transporting his audience to other worlds across space and time. Tom graduated from the Australian National University School of Art with a Bachelor of Visual Arts with Honours in 2015. In 2021 Tom was a recipient of the Sculpture by the Sea Clitheroe foundation emerging artist mentor program award.

## PROGRAM

An exciting program has been finalised with guest speakers, panels, workshops, Friday night welcome event, Sunday night Banquet, pitching, auction, kaffeeklatches, creative and socialising spaces! To view the program (as at 20/8/2022) please go to our home page at [www.conflux.org.au](http://www.conflux.org.au)

For the Panels at Conflux 16, we are seeking wonderful panellists from far and wide, and

want to hear from you!

Conflux's program has always been community sourced and peer driven by volunteers. Our amazing community of readers, writers, editors, publishers, & creatives build and shape the panellist crew every year.

Each panel is made up of 3-4 panellists with a moderator. The moderator will guide the discussion on the topic, giving each panellist time to talk on the topic and answer their questions. There is (usually) time for Q&A from audience members at the end.

If you are selected to be on any panels our programmer Alistair will be in touch to confirm your position and answer any questions you may have. Before the convention you will meet the others in your panel to explore points of discussion and get to know each other.

If you would like to express your interest in volunteering as a panellist, please go to:

<https://survey.sogolytics.com/survey1.aspx?k=SsQUXUPRsTsPsPsP&lang=0>

*Thank you*

## WORKSHOPS

Thank you to everyone who submitted an expression of interest in conducting a workshop at this year's Conflux. You will be contacted soon about your proposal / requesting further information. If you do not hear from us soon, please contact us at [chair@conflux.org.au](mailto:chair@conflux.org.au)

## DITMAR AWARDS CEREMONY

The DITMAR Award ceremony will be held at 5.30pm on Saturday night at Conflux. Other awards may be included, to enquire please contact Alistair Ott [chair@conflux.org.au](mailto:chair@conflux.org.au)

## Kaffeeklatsch / Literary Beer

Wondering what a Kaffeeklatsch. or Literary Beer is about? Kaffeeklatschs or Literary Beers are opportunities to meet with an author (or artist, film maker, editor etc.) in a small group to have a discussion over a BYO coffee or a beer at the Hotel Café or bar. To participate you sign up for the group at Conflux registration – but get in early because numbers are limited.

If you are an author (or artist, film maker, editor etc) and would like to host a kaffeeklatsch or ;literary beer, let us know when and where, and we will create a sign-up sheet at registration for you. These will be advertised at registration on the Conflux weekend.



Conflux 16 has a limited number of book launch slots available for convention members. Please send expressions of interest to [chair@conflux.org.au](mailto:chair@conflux.org.au)

### **NARRATIVES LIBRARY**

The Narratives Library provides a permanent, online resource for community radio stations, educational institutions, book clubs, writers and readers – anyone who is interested in books, stories and writing. They will be at Conflux making recordings of authors reading their own work. Check out their link:

<https://www.narrativeslibrary.com/>

### **WHISKY CON**

WhiskyCon is now in its sixth year, run by indefatigable souse, T. R. (Tim) Napper. Hail, earthquakes, apocalyptic bushfires, and pandemics cannot stop this celebration of the

single malt, party of the peat, this barley bacchanalia (all in moderation, of course). Join us. If you like a wee dram, you are automatically welcome. Venue TBA. John Birmingham will be our special guest. Expressions of interest should be sent to Tim here: [tim\\_napper@hotmail.com](mailto:tim_napper@hotmail.com)

## FRIDAY EVENING WELCOME EVENT

Everyone is welcome to join us for the Conflux opening event! This event will be catered with platters of delicious treats to suit all tastes! Drinks are not provided, but the bar will be open. Bookings are essential (no cost) for catering purposes – please go to [www.trybooking.com/BKNCG](http://www.trybooking.com/BKNCG).

## BANQUET

The Conflux three course (plated alternative service) banquet will be held Sunday evening 7pm to 10pm. The cost is now #80 and they have been some seasonal changes from that last advertised. Tickets are available from now until Friday 23 September 2022 through [www.trybooking.com/BKNCG](http://www.trybooking.com/BKNCG)

### Entrée

Poached prawns, heirloom tomato, Salmon Roe, garlic aioli, Avocado & Fine Herb (GF)  
Slow Roasted Beetroot, Pressed Strawberry, Hazelnuts, Whipped Crème Fraiche,  
Bottarga & Elk -- Gluten Free and Vegan

### Mains

Grilled 1/2 Free Range Chicken, Garlic Yoghurt, Green Goddess Dressing, Pomegranate  
& Mint Herb Salad – Gluten Free  
Grilled Goldband Snapper, Salsa Rosa, Basil & Bronze Fennel -- Gluten free

### Dessert

Classic Sticky Date Pudding, Salted Caramel Butterscotch Sauce, Vanilla Ice Cream &  
Crumble  
Passionfruit pavlova, seasonal stewed fruits, vanilla cream - Gluten free

There will be alternatives for special dietary requirements as advised. Please let us know at [chair@conflux.org.au](mailto:chair@conflux.org.au) if you have special dietary needs for catering.

## 2022 CONFLUX SHORT STORY COMPETITION

Conflux 16, the Australian Speculative Fiction Natcon, 2022, invites you to submit stories of 4000 words or less, in any speculative fiction genre, on this year's theme, which is "Visions of Time".



The short story competition is open to all Australian residents and current members of Conflux. Entries can be sent to <chair@conflux.org.au>. The original submission date has been extended and submissions now close at midnight Monday September 19 2022.

Entry is \$5, unless you are a member of Conflux or you are aged 16 or under, in which case it is free! (The entry fee can be paid at [www.trybooking.com/BKNCG](http://www.trybooking.com/BKNCG))

### Prizes

First prize is \$200 and a Conflux 2023 membership. Second prize is \$50 and a discounted Conflux 2023 membership, and third prize is \$25 and a discounted Conflux 2023 membership.

### Guidelines

Stories should be written in English, suitable for a general audience (i.e., no gratuitous violence or erotica), and, of course, your own original, unpublished work.

Please submit them in the following format: RTF or MS-Word DOCX, double spaced, with the story title in the top right header.

Make the first page of your document a cover sheet that includes your name, contact details and story title (we will remove this before we give it to the judges). YOUR NAME MUST NOT APPEAR ON ANY OF THE OTHER PAGES OF THE STORY.

Winners will be announced during the convention weekend at the Ditmar Awards ceremony.

More information about Conflux 16 is online here: <<https://conflux.org.au>

## CONFLUX ART SHOW

Artists are welcome to display their work at the Conflux Art Show. Refer to the Conflux website to download an entry form.

Competition entry cost is \$10 (free for concession card holders) per item (can be paid through [www.trybooking.com/BKNCG](http://www.trybooking.com/BKNCG)):

Bookings for art show closes Friday 25 September, your entries must be delivered to the curator

by 8.30am.Saturday1 October2022 at Conflux, or mailed to Conflux Art,13 McAuliffe CT Nicholls ACT 2913,to arrive no later than 25 September 2022.

There are prizes for Art Show Competition - "Best in show" Winners.in the following categories:

- Amateur 2D Two-dimensional work (painting, drawing or other)
- Professional 2D Two-dimensional work (painting, drawing or other)
- Amateur 3D Three-dimensional work (models, sculpture, jewellery, textiles etc.)
- Professional 3D Three-dimensional work (models, sculpture, jewellery, textiles etc.)
- Amateur Digital Artwork
- Professional 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)

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 artwork in show, produced by an Australian artist in the previous 12 months. Judging will be made from works exhibited at the Conflux Art Show by a panel of non-participating artists or special guests. 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).

## VENUE AND ACCOMMODATION

This year's Conflux will be held at the Rydges Hotel, Capital Hill, Canberra (Cnr Canberra Avenue & National Circuit, Forrest ACT 2603).

For the next week (until 30 August) Rydges has provided a discount for Conflux members wishing to stay at the venue. To book please go to <http://www.rydges.com/private-page/annual-canberra-speculative-fiction-conference-2022/> Rydges have advised that if the link is not working, then please book directly through Sales Manager Sonya Miah, [Sonya\\_miah@evt.com](mailto:Sonya_miah@evt.com). If you had already booked into the hotel, and would like the discount applied to your room, please contact Sonya also. Please note: this is only if you have already booked into Rydges Capital Hill.

Free wi-fi is available at the hotel:

Username: Rydges Guest

Password: RCanberra

Free parking at the front of the hotel is limited, but you can pre-purchase parking in the hotel car park. Please contact [chair@conflux.org.au](mailto:chair@conflux.org.au) if you would like more details.



## EATING OUT

Rydges George Grill restaurant (17 Canberra Avenue) is open for Breakfast: 7am – 10am and dinner 5pm - 9.30pm.

The George bar at Rydges is open 4.30pm to 9.30pm every day.

Many cafes, restaurants and take-aways, including a supermarket and McDonald's available at Manuka. 800 metres from the Hotel down Canberra Avenue.

Queen's Terrace Café in Parliament House is open 9am to 4.30pm every day. (1.8km from Rydges).

Chifley's Bar and Grill at the Kurrajong Hotel (8 National Circuit) is open 7–10am, 12–2pm, 5:30–9:30pm every day. (1.2km from Rydges).

## DEALERS

There will be a dedicated market / dealer's room at Conflux. If you had booked a table for Conflux last year, and wish to confirm for this year's event, please contact us as soon as possible at [chair@conflux.org.au](mailto:chair@conflux.org.au).

If you would like to book a dealer's table, please go to [www.trybooking.com/BKNCG](http://www.trybooking.com/BKNCG)

## PITCHING

Conflux is back, and so is pitching!! We have Alex Adsett Literary, Shooting Star Press, Odyssey Books and more kindly contributing their time to hear about YOUR books! Pitching will take place on Saturday and Sunday, either in person or via Zoom depending on the publisher or agent. The format will also be dependent as well, but we recommend preparing a pitch of no more than five minutes. Make sure it's for a finished work as well. While we encourage writers at all stages, it's hard to get a full manuscript request without a full manuscript.

Times are TBC, however places will be limited – if you have a have a novel ready to go, let us know and we'll put your name on the waiting list ([chair@conflux.org.au](mailto:chair@conflux.org.au)). If you can only



pitch on a particular day, or have a desire to pitch to a particular publisher/agent, let us know and we'll allocate ASAP.

Once time slots are released, we'll email out to all on the list and let you know which slots are yet to be allocated.

This is a fantastic opportunity to skip the slush pile and get speak directly to the industry specialists – good luck, and get pitching!

## FUTHER QUESTIONS?

Please refer to our website and social media for the latest updates or further information:

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

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

Or contact [chair@conflux.org.au](mailto:chair@conflux.org.au)

*Copyright © 2021 Conflux Speculative Fiction Convention, All rights reserved.*

---

