

ART SHOW: REACHING OUT, REACHING IN

Swancon is a celebration of creativity in all its different forms. We'd like to reach out and encourage people to enter the Swancon Art Show. Everyone has the capacity to create something interesting; everyone is an artist. Except maybe that person responsible for 'Dogs Playing Poker'.

The Art Show covers just about every medium you can imagine: pencil, paint, leather, lace, plaster, CG, paper and steel. You'll have the option of displaying your work as 'not for sale' or offering it for purchase in a silent auction. Judges' and People's Choice prizes are awarded.

Swancon also features other competitions and display opportunities for the under-12s, comic artists, fanvidders, short fiction writers, cosplayers, costumers, model makers, toy makers, and hobbyists.

If you already consider yourself an artist, why not try an entirely new medium? Even if you hesitate to call yourself creative, why not take up the challenge to enter something in the show? Reach within yourself and find something new.

Submission guidelines will be published at: www.swancon.com

Swancon 2009 is an official project of the Western Australian Science Fiction Foundation Inc. (WASFF) and runs under its directives. WASFF is a non-profit, incorporated organisation. Their website is <http://wasff.sf.org.au>



Progress Report One

WELCOME



Welcome, everyone to this first update for **Contact: Swancon 2009**, Perth's premier speculative fiction conference.

As committee chair, I get the privilege of pilfering the best part of all the other reports, presenting them first and making it appear that they're all copying me. It's good to be the chair.

Stealing the thunder from my vice chair, I'm pleased to announce that we've confirmed the venue for **Contact: Swancon 2009** as the All Seasons Hotel in Northbridge. More detailed information on the hotel, including facilities and accommodation rates are included in this progress report.



Turning to our fantastic guests, I was thrilled to learn that our International Guest of Honour, **Richard Morgan**, was recently awarded the Arthur C. Clarke Award, for his book *Black Man*. This is the UK's most prestigious award for science fiction in Britain, presented annually for the best science fiction novel of the year.

Closer to home, our National Guest of Honour, **Trudi Canavan**, has completed *The Magician's Apprentice*, her prequel to the *Black Magician Trilogy*. It's currently scheduled for a worldwide release in February 2009, so bring a copy or buy one at Swancon to get signed!

With the movie season ramping up, we've had several popular screenings at Belmont Reading Cinemas, including Iron Man and the new Indiana Jones movie. We'll continue to run screenings, with several more blockbusters to come, including the new Batman movie Dark Knight. Come along and enjoy one of the screenings at a discount price, with a group of like-minded people!

For more information about **Contact: Swancon 2009** and upcoming events, check our website: www.swancon.com

See you soon,

PRK

Chair, Contact: Swancon 2009.

WHAT IS SWANCON?

Swancon is the premier festival event in Western Australia celebrating pop culture, science fiction, fantasy and horror. It occurs annually and has been running for over thirty years in Perth, usually spanning 3-4 days over a long weekend. The name of the event comes from the Swan River, and the abbreviation of the word 'convention' to 'con'. People come from all over the state, interstate and even internationally to attend the event.

What is a convention?

A convention is an assembly of people meeting for a common purpose. It is partly a conference, and partly a festival. There is an official program of scheduled events set out, but this is largely a framework to hang a larger experience on.

Often there are guests invited, these can be international, national or local. In the past **Swancon** has entertained international authors such as Charles de Lint, Ken McLeod and Mercedes Lackey, and artists like Eddie Campbell and Larry Dixon. The event is also a strong supporter of Australian authors such as Sean Williams, Trudi Canavan, Marianne de Pierres and Jennifer Fallon.

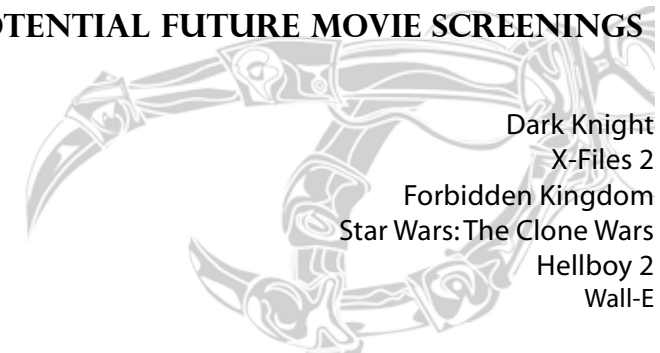
What is on the program?

The program can include anything from workshops, discussion groups, and art exhibitions to games and keynote speeches by guests. Discussions led by guests are often popular, as is playing live action Quiddich, and workshops in the past have included a 'Jedi Bootcamp'. Swancon strives for a balance between the informative and the entertaining – with the emphasis on fun.

Where can I get more information?

More information is available through the Swancon website (www.swancon.com). You can also contact the Western Australian Science Fiction Foundation (WASFF) which is the parent organisation under which Swancon operates under (www.wasff.sf.org.au). Both websites contain contact information and up to date information on Swancon and other WASFF projects. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or suggestions via email: swancon@swancon.com.

POTENTIAL FUTURE MOVIE SCREENINGS



Dark Knight
X-Files 2
Forbidden Kingdom
Star Wars: The Clone Wars
Hellboy 2
Wall-E

EVENTS



MOVIE SCREENINGS

Swancon has held several well attended social events so far this year including several \$10 movie screenings and a BBQ in Kings Park. In partnership with **Belmont Reading Cinemas** and local Perth event **Genghiscon** we have hosted social screenings for:

The Spiderwick Chronicles: Over 70 people gathered to enjoy this children's story turned feature film and comments afterward were positive – if skeptical on the aerodynamics of the flying griffins!

Iron Man: This comic book adaption had been awaited with both excitement and trepidation! Almost 130 people turned up to see Robert Downey Jr zoom about the screen as Tony Stark. Enthusiastic comments were received both from those who were comic book aficionados and those who just like a good action movie.

Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull: Over 140 people attended to see Harrison Ford reprise the role of Indy. Most went into the movie with very little expectation – cheesy action, the 'right amount' of cobwebs and a weird archaeological storyline. There was all of that and more!

The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian: An intimate group of around 42 people gathered to watch the next film installment of C.S Lewis' classic series the Chronicles of Narnia. "Prince Caspian" was an epic film that once again breathed life into beloved characters.

SOCIAL BBQ

In April Swancon hosted an Autumn BBQ in Kings Park. Around 50 people turned up to partake of delicious food, lounging in the sun, relaxing conversation and, for those who were more energetic, the playing of Frisbee and croquet. This BBQ also provided an opportunity for community consultation on the initial planning of the program of events for **Contact: Swancon 2009**.

Swancon will be hosting a second BBQ in Spring. There will be a small cost per head and we'll do all the catering for you. The promised feast will include sausages from Mondo's, fresh bread and several fresh and exciting salads. Those who attended last time will know how amazing the food was and that there was something for everyone. This is a family friendly social and fundraising event for Swancon.

HOTEL AND VENUE

Announcing the Swancon 2009 venue: The All Seasons Perth Hotel.

The All Seasons Perth is a boutique hotel situated in Northbridge. Accommodation is comfortable, good value for money and the hotel boasts an inviting restaurant with a fully licensed bar.

Accommodation is available at the hotel at special Swancon rates. Standard (internal) rooms are \$115 per room, per night (up to 2 people), while Superior rooms are \$135 per room, per night (up to 2 people). Breakfast is an additional \$12.50 per person, per night.

Bookings are requested no later than March 16th and bookings made after this date will be charged at the hotel's standard rates. Please mention Swancon when you are booking your accommodation.

Address: 15 Robinson Avenue, Northbridge (just off William Street)

Website: <http://www.accorhotels.com.au/allseasons-perth>

Telephone: (08) 9328 0000

Fax: (08) 9328 0100

MEMBERSHIPS

Swancon memberships will be \$140 (full) and \$125 (concession: student, health care card, or between the ages of 12-18) until 31st December 2008. Children under 12 are free. These memberships grant full access to the convention. Day memberships will be available closer to the event. Memberships can be obtained from committee members and at fundraising events like movie screenings and BBQs.

Please note that children remain their parent/guardian's responsibility at all times, and all children under twelve will require constant supervision while at Swancon.

Memberships are also available from the following venues:

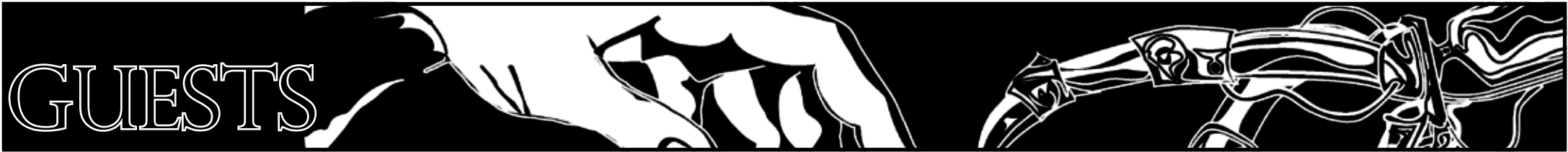
Fantastic Planet: *Science fiction, fantasy and horror bookshop*
8 Shafto Lane
Perth CBD
Phone: (08) 9481 8393

Planet Books: *Contemporary and alternative bookshop*
636 Beaufort Street
Mount Lawley
Phone (08) 9227 9731

Tactics: *War and fantasy gaming supplies store*
Basement of London Court, near St Georges Terrace
Phone: (08) 9325 7081

White Dwarf: *Science fiction, fantasy and horror bookshop*
Shop 48, Carillon Arcade (1st Floor opposite Games Workshop in the Mall)
207 Murray Street
Phone: (08) 9481 3468

GUESTS



INTERNATIONAL GUEST - RICHARD MORGAN



Born in 1965, Richard Morgan's desire to be a writer was nearly exorcised, when in sixth form English he was subjected to Dickens' *David Copperfield*. Overcoming that temporary obstacle, Richard continued his education and graduated from University with his desire to write intact and an added desire to travel the world.

Joining the English Language Teaching industry to facilitate travelling, Richard taught in London, Istanbul, Madrid and Glasgow. Writing on and off whilst teaching, Richard honed his writing skills through various mediums including short stories, articles, a screenplay and a novel, as well as many articles expressing fury over various editorials, none of which were ever published.

With the successful publication of his first futuristic SF thriller, *Altered Carbon* in 2002, Richard left his teaching position at Strathclyde University to become a full time writer. Since then, Richard has published several more SF novels and two *Black Widow* graphic novels. His latest work, a foray into fantasy called *The Steel Remains*, is due for publication in August 2008.

PROFESSIONAL GUEST - THERESA ANNS

Harper Collins, WA

Once upon a time, a little girl asked her parents to switch the TV station over from the historical televised moon landing so she could watch *Superman* (the cartoon version). That little girl was Theresa and, although her parents thankfully didn't grant her wish, it was that day that Theresa's love of all things science fiction began.

Unfortunately, Theresa lost her way when she became part of the demanding world of retail management. Years later she finally came to her senses and sought alternative employment, joining the publishing house of Harper Collins in 1992. Theresa was in heaven - books, books, so many books.

Theresa was reintroduced to the SF community in 1995 when she was asked to escort an author to something called Swancon. Theresa agreed but with trepidation, wondering what on earth a Swancon was.

Her apprehension turned to delight when she was reacquainted with old friends thought lost and her passion for all things SF was reignited. With that one fateful weekend Theresa's grand adventures began, with conventions both local and interstate.



NATIONAL GUEST - TRUDI CANAVAN



Trudi Canavan lives in Melbourne, Australia. She has been making up stories about people and places that don't exist for as long as she can remember.

Her first short story, *Whispers of the Mist Children*, received an Aurealis Award for Best Fantasy Short Story in 1999. When she recovered from the surprise, she went on to finish the fantasy novel-that-became-three, the bestselling *Black Magician Trilogy: The Magicians' Guild, The Novice and The High Lord*, which brought her international prominence. Trudi's second trilogy, *Age of the Five*, has also enjoyed bestselling success.

Trudi is currently working on both a prequel to the *Black Magician Trilogy* and a sequel trilogy. The prequel, titled *The Magicians' Apprentice*, and the first of the trilogy, titled *The Ambassador's Mission*, are both due for publication in 2009.

FAN GUESTS - ALICIA SMITH AND ROB MASTERS

(A Marriage of Bwahahaha!)

Rob and Alicia (Leece, please!) are usually found in the gaming room of most WA conventions, accompanied by The Ark of the Covenant - er, their big box of games.

Over the years Leece and Rob have organised game tournaments, "My Word" style write offs, quizzes, and introduced many people to the world of card and board games.



In 2008, Rob and Leece were recipients of the Marge Hughes 'MumFan' award - recognition for their many years of sustained support of Swancon and welcoming people to the convention.

Contact: Swancon 2009 will be Rob and Leece's 20th full Swancon. They are very much looking forward to emerging, blinking, from the gaming room and helping make Swancon 2009 one to remember!

