

SWANCON THANKS ITS SPONSORS



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 Three



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CHAIR'S REPORT

Welcome, everyone, to Progress Report Three - the final progress report for **Contact: Swancon 2009**, Perth's premier speculative fiction conference.

April's approaching fast and your committee is now in over-drive, putting the final touches in place to make it a fantastic convention.

Before I talk about the upcoming events, I'd like to say a big thank you to everyone who's been to a movie screening, open programming meeting, the fundraising BBQ or dropped by our stall at **Wai-Con** and bought a raffle ticket or signed up to receive information about Swancon. Speaking of the raffle, congratulations to Ian Lackie who won a day membership to **Contact: Swancon 2009**.

Whilst I'm on the subject of memberships, the current pricing is valid until 31st March 2009, after which pre-convention sales will close. You can always purchase a



Notification for the

Western Australian Science Fiction Foundation Inc AGM

10am Sunday 12th April 2009, Contact: Swancon, The All Seasons Hotel

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Consideration of Minutes of the previous AGM
3. Matters arising from the previous AGM
4. Reports
 - 4.1 Chairman
 - 4.2 Treasurer
 - 4.3 Administrator
 - 4.4 Membership Co-ordinator
 - 4.5 Swancon 33 2008
 - 4.6 Swancon 34 2009
 - 4.7 Swancon 35 2010
5. Appointment of Auditor
6. Appointment of a Returning Officer
7. Election of Organising Committee of the Western Australian Science Fiction Convention (Swancon 36 2011)
8. Election of Members of the Board of WASFF (6 elected positions)
9. Motions on Notice
10. General Business

DRAFT PROGRAMME: MONDAY (CTD)

How come vampires are heroes now?

Bloodsucking creatures of the night. Check. Dead. Check. Kinda hot...?

Spike vs precipice

Will we hit an ecotastrophe before we hit an information explosion? Can we hold off the global warming "collapse" long enough to have the explosion of technologies that would come with the spike around to fix it?

The subtext of Harry Potter

How do we read the text in ways Rowling didn't intend? How and why do some of these become 'fanon'? How often does 'fanon' pre-empt the author?

Vidding 2009: transformative fanworks

Best short media of 2009 from the internet: Transformative fanworks

Vanity press

Self publishing: sneer-worthy, or a good way to get your work out there? Discuss!

Rock band

It rocked the house at GenghisCon and now Brendan will bring the Rock Band to Swancon!

Closing ceremony

Come and farewell Swancon 2009

My anti-hero can beat up your anti-hero

Why do we love them so much?

Sail punk

Imagine a world of computers powered by alchemy and astrology, of a Spanish armada sailing in orbit above Europe, of wooden automatons and hand-carved robots. The year is AD 1599. Welcome to the world of "sailpunk".

Google Earth and GPS

What is it, how does it work, what impact will it have in the future?

Writing fantasy: tips and techniques

Come and learn from published fantasy authors as they discuss the tips and techniques of the genre.

Friends' lists and public/private on line spaces

What are they, how do they work, what about the name? How do you judge what's popular in virtual terms? Is there such a thing as private space online? What happens when someone's "outed"?

Ongoing SF series

For example, the long running series by Edwin Charles Tubb

Mummy, where do Swancon programmes come from?

Come and find out how this year's programme was put together. Hear about the new technology, the formal project management, the decision-making, the laughter, the tears, and the fun. Let the committee know what worked and didn't work for you this year, and make a start on ideas for 2010.

Homosexuality in comics

Who are they and how did they get there? Were they openly homosexual or did they subvert the text? Tracing the path from the early days of the Comic Code Authority to the appearance of sex in comics followed by alternative lifestyles and homosexuality.

Classic SF films you'd like to remake

Which movies didn't quite work? Which completely got it wrong? How would you have done it differently?

membership at the door, but you may want to save yourself the hassle on the day by speaking to a friendly committee member or popping into one of our supporting stores or online and pre-purchasing your membership.

Also, if you're planning to stay overnight at the All Seasons Perth, you may want to book your room soon. Only 20 rooms remain, with previous years being a complete sell out.

Finally, I'd like to introduce you to three new committee members who have signed on to help make **Contact: Swancon 2009** the event of the year. Linda, our High Court Gatherer, is running the masquerade and awards night, Terry has a fantastic lineup of gaming events for the convention and Calum is our all round 'umm tech guy'!

Now, onto some of the events planned for **Contact: Swancon 2009!**

As usual we'll have a wide range of panel discussions, presentations, workshops, child-friendly activities, participative activities, and demonstrations covering a vast series of topics, running for all five days. In addition there'll be an art show on Friday and Saturday where you can admire or bid on unique art works, a market day on Saturday to pick up that latest book, comic or toy, book signings by our famous guests on Friday and Sunday, an auction on Friday afternoon for that item you've just got to have, a masquerade ball on Saturday night, and a gala style awards night on the Sunday evening. If you're new to Swancon and not sure you want to attend the whole weekend, consider coming along on Friday, when **day memberships are only \$20!** You can find out more information about memberships on page 5.

If you're planning to attend the Masquerade (and why wouldn't you - it's a fantastic chance to hang out, dance if you like, or just admire all the costumes), you'll be interested to know that this year's theme is "Other Worlds" and there'll be some fantastic prizes for the best costume/s. For more information on the masquerade and costuming rules, please see our website.

Also on the website are the short story competition (open and young adult) details, art show information and registration form, and a nomination form for the 2009 Tin Duck Awards, the annual Western Australian Science Fiction Foundation (WASFF) Achievement Awards for WA writers and artists. Submissions for most of these are due by 20th March so check the site for details and get in fast!

For more information about upcoming events or the programme of events at the convention, check our website - <http://www.swancon.com/>

See you soon,

PRK

Chair, Contact - Swancon 2009



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, 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*, was published in August 2008.

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 has spent recent years working on both a prequel to the Black Magician Trilogy and a sequel trilogy. The prequel, titled *The Magicians' Apprentice* has just been released, and the first of the trilogy, titled *The Ambassador's Mission*, is also due for publication in 2009.

DRAFT PROGRAMME: SUNDAY (CTD)

Swancon 2010 launch

What's in store for next year?

Hayao Miyazaki

Director of Princess Mononoke, Spirited Away, Howl's Moving Castle, Ponyo on the Cliff by the Sea, and others. Love him? Hate him? Come and give your opinions.

Hayao Miyazaki screening

Screening of Howl's Moving Castle

Best and worst of anime

From the brilliant moments to the 'what were they thinking?' moment of disbelief.

Vampire porn

Paranormal romances. Vampires and Werewolves and Warlocks, Oh my.

Visions of computers in SF

From Orac to HAL to Skynet, come and discuss the various visions of computers in SF. Past, present and whatever they may hold in the future.

Three dimensional road rage

Traffic Control With Flying Cars

Public number crunching

What programs are there, in which everyday users can donate some processing towards large science projects? Pros, cons, what success have they had?

My favourite planet: real and fictional

Discuss!

Furry movies

A panel about furry movies (without any freaky stories about American Furs)

Taking advantage: funding options for artists and fans

A guide to the numerous government funding agencies, initiatives, opportunities and fan funds available.

Academic Stream

A selection of academic topics related to speculative fiction, presented by real academics. Bring an open mind (preferably yours) and soak up the knowledge.

Time travel

Who writes about it well? What are the theories? Why can't I kill my grandmother? What are the Trousers of Time?

Surveillance technologies

From bugs to webcams, from Big Brothers to Little Brothers watching back.

Be kind to your editor

From writing mechanics to formatting to knowing how to use word processor features, what you can do to make your editor's life easier, and to make the editing process as pain free as possible for both of you.

DRAFT PROGRAMME: MONDAY

Gaming

A variety of board, role playing and live action games, combined with demonstrations and sessions to learn various games. Come along and have some fun!

The future for men

A discussion lead by Michael O'Brien about what the future might hold for the male. What does it mean to be male and how do we define a male in the current age, and what could it mean to be male in the future?

Meta and fan works

How is meta influencing current stories; what are the must reads/watches and why; what are the current trends; what's controversial?

The 17th annual Dr Who panel

A team of panellists look back at Season 24 of Doctor Who: the key players, the audience reaction, and its four serials - "Time and the Rani", "Paradise Towers", "Delta and the Bannermen" and "Dragonfire".

Where is Ivan?

Lois McMaster Bujold freeform role-playing (2 hours)

Video quiz

How well do you know your film and TV?

Left behind the Bush

The Religious Right in fiction. See: Twilight, Heroes, Princess of Wands.

Shakespeare themes in SF

To be or not to be...?

Buy my stuff

Niche marketing to the geek demographic

Digital art

Holograms, online archives, mashups; how does it compare to traditional art practices?

How to create an online comic

It's not just about stick figures, except when it totally is.

Norma K Hemming Award

Discussing the forthcoming Norma K. Hemming Award to mark excellence in the exploration of race, gender, class and sexuality in Australian science fiction, fantasy or art work.

Radio plays

Lost art? What was good? What's still out there? The Goon Show, War of the Worlds.

Anthropomorphic fantasy

Stories about small furry animals

Writing in an Aussie voice

Who does it well? Who does it badly? Tips and tricks

Octavia Butler

Come and discuss the works of first contact trilogy Lilith's Brood (formerly Xenogenesis trilogy) by Octavia Butler.

Books signings

Come and get your books signed by the attending authors.

User generated content

The ethics, the problems, the pluses. What impact have different platforms had? Free-code movement vs fanworks. What impact will it have on traditional IP products?

Readings

Author readings (to be finalised)

Trudi Canavan Guest of Honour Speech

Come and see Trudi Canavan, our National Guest of Honour, talk about her writing career, works, and amusing anecdotes.

Books you read as a child that you still enjoy today

What is it about these books? Is there something quantifiable or is it just our memories providing that sensation of the comfort and 'innocence' of childhood?

Gynaecoon

Feminist guerrilla programming

Walt Disney: animation's magic kingdom

Liked, loved, loathed: no company has had a more profound effect on movie animation worldwide. In one celebratory panel, we track the history, development, effect and legacy of Walt Disney feature animation.

Molecular Gastronomy

What happens when we cross cooking with science...?

Plagues: culture versus culture

Disease outbreaks are a handy source of drama for individual characters or whole galaxies. Find out why plagues, pandemics and panic make great stories in history, in science, and in fiction

Awards ceremony

Come and find out the winners of our competitions

Blade Attraction 4.0

Martial arts demonstrations, with kick-arse moves

HarperCollins, 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 HarperCollins 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.

FAN GUESTS - ALICIA SMITH AND ROB MASTERS

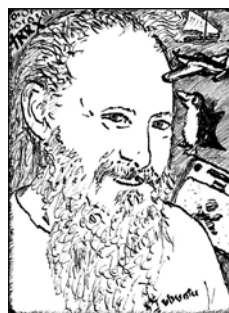
(A Marriage of Bwahahaha!)

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!



HOTEL AND VENUE

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. Rooms are going fast, with only 20 left at the time of printing. Book now to ensure you get one.

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

If you're seeking alternate accommodation, nearby options are:

Governor Robinson Backpackers

7 Robinson Avenue

<http://www.govrobinsons.com.au/>

08 9328 3200

Hotel Northbridge

210 Lake Street

<http://www.hotelnorthbridge.com.au/>

(08) 9328 5254

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

My name is Alistair McKie and I'm the volunteer coordinator for **Contact: Swancon 2009**. I was previously the volunteer coordinator for Swancon 2005 and have been helping out with various other Swancons as a volunteer.

My focus this year is to ensure that Swancon runs smoothly and delivers the con experience you have all come to expect. To do this I need you. More specifically, I need you to volunteer to help prepare for and make Swancon happen. You can volunteer to help with things like setting up the con, putting together events or with the pre-con run around. That's just the tip of the iceberg though and there are plenty of things that need doing that would suit your skills and abilities, as well as your time constraints (even 15 minutes of your time helps!)

As the con draws closer we are now looking for people to help set up the con in the week before Swancon and help set up events during the con. Drop me an email at volunteers@swancon.com if you feel you can contribute to making Swancon fun and enjoyable for everyone.

Alistair McKie

DRAFT PROGRAMME: SATURDAY (CTD)

Draw your own anime character

Drawing workshop where a comic artist walks you through drawing your own anime character.

Women characters in comics

Start with Modesty Blaise; go via Black Orchid, Ghost, Xena, Buffy, Batgirl and finish on Girl Genius

The year – 1969

Events: 40 years of the moon landing, TV, films...

Preparing for the apocalypse: green energy

What sort of renewable energies could help stave off the end of the world? What could help us after?

Writing SF: tips and techniques

Come and learn from published science fiction authors as they discuss the tips and techniques of the genre.

Readings

Author readings (to be finalised)

Trailer Park: anime version

What's coming up in the world of anime?

Masquerade

Dance, hang out, admire the costumes and join in with your own.

Geek sing-along

Geek song/TV & movie themed sing-along.

Karaoke

Come and compete in the Singstar karaoke competition.

Necromancy panel

"Getting your hands dirty."

Gaming

A variety of board, role playing and live action games, combined with demonstrations and sessions to learn various games. Come along and have some fun!

What if the dinosaurs had lived?

Reimagining our world

The library of Alexandria

Mourning ancient, lost libraries.

Hack your hardware (v2.0b)

Flashing your firmware, bashing your box - Welcome to the wonderful world of modding. We look at simple hacks for your phone, camera and game console.

We should microchip everyone!

From pets to people, there will be no escape! What would this mean for the way we live?

How to write and/or beta fanfiction

What are some of the pitfalls that writers (and betas) fall into when editing fanfiction? What are some of the do's and don'ts?

Lost

Share your theories and your take on how the series will end.

Ten Books panel

Be one of ten people to speak for four minutes about their favourite book, or come along and add to your 'to read' pile...

Apollo 11 turns forty - but did it happen at all?

A presentation on the various claims that the mission was a hoax and explaining why they're all completely batshit.

Spy Spoofs – more sci-fi than spies.

IPods that take down firewalls? Phone shoes? Come and discuss the ridiculous and the hilarious.

DRAFT PROGRAMME: SUNDAY

Wikis: how they work

What's involved in setting one up, what are the maintenance issues?

Geocaching

18 What is it? How do you play?

DRAFT PROGRAMME: FRIDAY (CTD)

Magic Hat of Mystery III

It has a III at the end. Presumably there have been two so far, and they've been great. Come along and experience the third...

Safe space at cons

Everyone thinks of conventions as safe spaces, where they can just hang out and be. This is not always true. Panellists will talk about creating safe spaces, maintaining safe spaces and the unspoken rules of safe spaces at conventions.

What's hot?

Discussion of male characters in SF.

Nemesis, Nemesi? Nemesesis? Gah!

What are you looking for in a Nemesis? Build a hero with the help of the panel, and design their nemesis. What would your nemesis be?

The ultimate fight

Panellists will show, tell and discuss a series of standout fight scenes.

DRAFT PROGRAMME: SATURDAY

Gaming

A variety of board, role playing and live action games, combined with demonstrations and sessions to learn various games. Come along and have some fun!

Market Day

Browse our vendors' wares and pick up books, toys, comics, and other delightful finds. Please ensure you pay for them after picking them up!

Laughter Club

The first rule of Laughter Club is that nobody talks about Laughter Club, everybody laughs about Laughter Club. If it's your first laughter club, you have to laugh.

Art Show and Art Auction

Come along and view art exhibits by local artists. Vote for your favourite piece or put a bid down for the silent auction. The auction for highly contended art work will be held at the end of the show.

Quidditch

Beat back the bludgers, score points with the quaffle, and keep out of the way of the seekers!

Build a better unicorn

Interactive art workshop where people workshop with a volunteer artist to develop better monsters

2008 in film

Take a look back at the past year of SF, Fantasy, Horror and speculative fiction films.

Zombie apocalypse survival: defending the hotel

The zombies are approaching! Use your brain before it gets eaten. What's at hand, and how would you defend the hotel?

Kiddie Combat

<strike>Ten kiddies enter, one kiddie leaves</strike> A child friendly martial arts workshop run by Kaneda.

TV pilots

What's coming up? What looks good? What looks terrible, but we're going to watch anyway?

New Ceres Nights Book Launch

Twelfth Planet Press is proud to launch New Ceres Nights, featuring Australian writers and artists.

Book Club

The first rule of book club is you talk about books.

Military SF

What is Military Sci-Fi? Why is it popular/not popular? Is there some sort of stigma attached to it? Why?

MEMBERSHIPS

Swancon memberships are \$160 (full) and \$140 (concession: student, health care card, or between the ages of 12-18) until 31st March 2009. After the 31st, memberships will only be available from the door. Children under 12 are free but must be accompanied by an adult member at all times. These memberships grant full access to the convention. Day memberships vary by day and are:

Thursday: \$25 Saturday: \$50 Monday: \$25
Friday special: \$20 Sunday: \$50

Memberships can be obtained from committee members and at fundraising events. Full memberships are also available for purchase online at <http://www.indiebooksonline.com> and the **Contact: Swancon 2009** committee would like to sincerely thank the Indie Books Online team for offering this service.

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

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

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

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

SWANCON 2009 COMMITTEE

Chair - PRK

Puppet Master - Jaunita Landéesse

Treasurer - Elaine Kemp

Secretary - Jess Bridges

Programme Coordinator - Maia Bobrowicz

Academic Programme Coordinator - Stephen Dedman

Design & Publishing - Kathryn Linge

Queen of Arts - Stephanie Bateman-Graham

Webmaster & Data Wrangler - Christopher Phillips

Volunteers Wrangler - Alistair McKie

Gaming Coordinator - Terry Chilvers

High Court Gatherer - Linda Deegan

Tech Guy - Calum Watson

EVENTS

MOVIE SCREENINGS

The last movie screening for **Contact: Swancon 2009** was the *Watchmen* which screened on 5th March 2009. Thanks to everyone who came and supported the screenings and **Contact: Swancon 2009**. I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank both **Belmont Reading Cinemas**, and **Genghiscon 2009** for their partnership over the year. We've enjoyed a great deal of success over the ten screenings held.

GUEST OF HONOUR DINNER

There will be a Guest of Honour Dinner event, to be held on Wednesday 8th April before the convention.

Details are still being finalised for this event, but if you'd like any information, please call or email Ju on; 0439 354 992 or transcending@yahoo.com.au respectively. Please let us know if you have dietary considerations we should be aware of.

SOCIAL BBQ

The November 30th BBQ was a great success, with between 30-40 people turning up (including children) to relax in the sunshine and enjoy good company. Our programmer Maia spent a considerable amount of time discussing programme progress with everyone who turned up.

Elaine excelled herself in the food preparation department, serving Mondo's sausages, as well as a variety of salads and chickpea and sweet potato patties. Many thanks to everyone who made these family-friendly social events a success!

SWAN AID - VICTORIAN BUSHFIRE APPEAL FUNDRAISER

Whilst not an official Swancon event, this fundraiser was organised by Jaunita and Maia as members of the community. The BBQ was organised with the support of WASFF as a way of drawing the community together, and allowing us as a collective group to reach out to those affected by the bushfire disaster and show that we care. The event also marked the launch of the multi issue fundraising fanzine 'Hope', edited by Grant Watson. There were over 30 people who turned up to spend time in some wonderful company as well as donate generously to the appeal.

DRAFT PROGRAMME: FRIDAY (CTD)

Nanotechnology

What's achievable versus what's in the books?

Gynaecon

Feminist guerrilla programming.

Good SFF Anime for casual viewers

Anime covers a huge range of sub genres, which can be daunting to the casual viewer. Come and find out about some of the great science fiction and fantasy anime.

Hard SF with the soft sciences

Retro viruses acting like giant evolutionary computers, languages which allow you to see through time and the strange psychology of the immortal. We discuss the wonderful places science fiction can go when it remembers that there's more to science than physics and computers.

Darker side of cycling

Cycling isn't all fluffy bunnies as you may have been led to believe. Come and join us (or die!) as we discuss the darker side of cycling.

The top ten jobs of 2050

It's the year 2050. Your personal job agent calls you with the top ten job descriptions for 2050. What do they look like? Come and write them now, so they're ready by 2050.

Writing horror: tips and techniques

Come and learn from published horror authors as they discuss the tips and techniques of the genre.

Trailer Park

The tornado of upcoming movies is bearing down upon you. What will be left after the critics have wrought their destruction?

Channel Flicking

flick A presentation *flick* of some of the strangest *flick* film, TV and animation clips *flick* you're ever likely to see. *flick* An eclectic late night presentation *flick* by Grant Watson *flick* and David Gunn. *flick*

Richard Morgan Guest of Honour Speech

Come and see Richard Morgan, our International Guest of Honour, talk about his writing career, works, and amusing anecdotes.

Holy respectability, Batman!

From the Dark Night to Watchmen, it's time to take a look at comic book film adaptations – the past, the future and the current state of play.

Book signings

Come and get your books signed by the attending authors.

Tattoo you

What do body art fans like to 'wear'? How do you decide and what should you be thinking about before you decorate your body with something permanent? What does a tattoo say about you?

How to run a Swancon

Ever wondered how a Swancon comes together, what's involved and how you can participate if you're interested? Come along and speak with past, present and future Swancon committee members about the joy of running a Swancon.

Auction

Going once. Going twice. Sold to the geek in the black shirt. Come along and pick up that piece of SF history.

Grass-cast gaming podcast

Come and join John Robertson, Paul Turner, Chris Haywood, Mike Browner and special guest Greg Tannahill as they discuss video gaming in all its form and guises.

Liaden/Korval universe

Ridiculously entertaining space opera. Meet the characters, explore the world.

Writing Slash: tips and techniques

Come and learn from published slash authors as they discuss the tips and techniques of the genre.

DRAFT PROGRAMME: THURSDAY (CTD)

Comics for the 51%

What does the future hold for comics aimed at a female audience? What's being published that women are reading? From manga to super heroes to "women in refrigerators" – a look at audience, gender and content in comic books and graphic novels.

Celebrating bad movies

"That movie was awful. Let's go watch it again!" Why are some movies so bad that they become good? Is it just because they are so easy to love?

Fanwork show and tell

"I'll show you mine if you show me yours." Bring new fan works and share for the first time; or share the work of a favourite author / vidder.

Gaming

A variety of board, role playing and live action games, combined with demonstrations and sessions to learn various games. Come along and have some fun!

Art Show set up

Drop off your pre-booked artwork to prepare it for exhibition.

DRAFT PROGRAMME: FRIDAY

Remember: Friday memberships are only \$20!

Gaming

A variety of board, role playing and live action games, combined with demonstrations and sessions to learn various games. Come along and have some fun!

Academic Stream

A selection of academic topics related to speculative fiction, presented by real academics. Bring an open mind (preferably yours) and soak up the knowledge.

Reading: The King of the Copper Mountains

"Told in a style similar to The Arabian Nights it concerns the failing health of an elderly king who is kept alive by stories told by visiting animals. The book received widespread acclaim in Europe, won the Dutch literary prize for children's literature, and is now considered a classic." (Wikipedia)

Books that haven't yet been made into films, but might be

Which books really should be filmed? Why haven't they been? Who would best star in them? Discuss.

Banned Books

Come along and discuss The *** of the *****, Kill the *****, or Harry Potter and the ***** of *****. Are some books so subversive or dangerous that they should be banned?

Tintin

Looking at the history of the character through books cartoons and films.

Web Pilots

More and more media is being released via the Web. Battlestar Galactica, Dr Horrible, Sanctuary, New Who Tardisodes and Eureka. Discuss this new method of gaining or keeping fan interest!

Art Show

Come along and view art exhibits by local artists. Vote for your favourite piece or put a bid down for the silent auction.

Dance, dance revolution

Start the morning with some computer guided calisthenics. We suggest saving breakfast for after this event.

History and development of cyber punk

Where did it come from? Where is going? Is it over used? Come along for this discussion of cyber punk.

COMPETITIONS

ART SHOW

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. Prizes are awarded in Under-12 and Open categories by judges and People's Choice.

Registration details may be submitted by e-mail, post, or through the Swancon website, and must arrive by 1st April 2009. Entry fees are payable at the beginning of the show.

To enter, please complete the online form at:

http://2009.swancon.com.au/register_art

or provide the following information in an email to:

artshow-2009@swancon.com

About you

Your name, email address, contact phone number, and postal address
Were you under 12 on 1st April 2009?
Are you a resident of Western Australia?

About the Work

Title, description, size and media
Is the work for sale? Yes (\$5 fee)/ No (\$3 fee). Please provide a minimum bid if it is for sale.
Display requirements (hang by wall hook/displayed on table/specified other)
Is this the first time that the work has been displayed?
Do you give permission for the work to be photographed for non-commercial purposes?

Rules and conditions are available at: <http://www.swancon.com/artshow>

Questions or comments to: artshow-2009@swancon.com

MASQUERADE: OTHER WORLDS



Contact: Swancon 2009 is pleased to announce this year's Masquerade will be held on Saturday 11th April from 7.30pm. With a theme of **Other Worlds**, we are looking forward to seeing the costumes that arise from the mists of the minds. Dust off that old Star Trek uniform, grab that long multi-coloured scarf from the broom cupboard, polish up that battle armour, or start working on your **Other Worlds** costume. Thrill, dazzle or horrify with the mystery, the magic and the fear of the unknown, that which exists beyond the earthly realms, that which is from the **Other Worlds**. Entry is free to all full members and Saturday day members, while entry to the Masquerade only is \$25.

Please note that normal rules of decency apply ("no costume" is *not* a costume). A themed costume is not compulsory for entry to the event, but it adds to the atmosphere if every one dresses up a bit. Weapons included as part of costumes must be peace bonded. Judging will take place within the first two hours, with a formal parade and a quieter area for presentation and photography for those not wanting to do the full parade. You must make yourself known to the judges in one of the above two ways for your costume to be included in the judging.

Judging guidelines for the Masquerade can be found at: <http://2009.swancon.com.au/masquerade>

SHORT STORY COMPETITION

Andromeda Spaceways Inflight Magazine (ASIM) in cooperation with **Contact: Swancon 2009**, is proud to announce the 2009 ASIM/Swancon Short Story Competition.

With our fine selection of judges: Ian Nichols, Mark Farrugia and Felicity Dowker, your speculative fiction entry of 10,000 words or less will do battle against the best spec fic the universe has to offer! Thrills! Excitement! Over stimulated young children on a caffeine high!

And of course, like all good competitions, there are prizes to the winners. First place receives one hundred earth dollars as well as a year's subscription to ASIM. Second place will receive the awesome (though slightly less prestigious) prize of seventy five dollars and six months of ASIM, and third place will be gifted with fifty dollars, and two copies of ASIM.

PLANNED GAMING EVENTS

An Invitation to Game – two days of gaming with dedicated volunteers teaching you to play some of today's best boardgames.

Wings of War Record Attempt – let's see if we can set an Australian record for the number of planes in this simple game of WWI dogfighting.

Workshop: Gaming With Kids – a hands-on session for parents (and kids!), play games and talk about what games work with your children.

Workshop: Making a 'Print-and-Play' Game - discover the world of DIY boardgaming.

Panel : Mikey's Mechanics - An audiovisual presentation exploring the characteristics of modern games

Panel: Gender Gap in Gaming - Gaming is often seen as a guy thing, but is this really true?

Monster Game Nights – a time to play those games that take three hours or more.



Please note this is a draft programme: all panels are subject to change. To vote for or against panels, or to suggest panels or panellists, please visit: <http://2009.swancon.com.au/panels>

DRAFT PROGRAMME: THURSDAY

Killer Game kick-off

Come along, discover the rules, and learn how to subtly or not, take out your competitors throughout the convention.

Origami

Meet people and make your own origami Yoda.

Opening ceremony

Meet the guests, meet the committee, come along and officially welcome in the start of Contact: Swancon 2009!

Being MacGyver

You're trapped in the locked cargo hold of a sinking ship. You have a pen knife, tooth pick, roll of duct tape and a carrier pigeon. What do you do?

Plagiarism

"Both on and offline: the definition, examples, and how plagiarism connects with copyright" (Cupitt, C. 2009).

I am the night: A History of the Caped Crusader

The Batman is one of the most iconic and effective pop culture heroes of the past century. Why is the character so effective? What is the core appeal?

A physicist's guide to the afterlife

What does science have to say about Heaven and Hell?

DNA and Back

What do you get when you combine mutant genes with solar flares?

PROGRAMMING



GAMING

Hi, I'm Terry, and I'm looking after gaming this year. I've been attending Swancon for twenty-plus years, and one part of the program that keeps me coming back is the gaming stream. I'm aiming to make the stream accessible and welcoming. I want to introduce newcomers to the hobby and to make sure that everyone – from casual to hard-core gamer – has the opportunity to enjoy some gaming. I'd also like to be able to explore and discuss aspects of the hobby that don't involve actual gameplay.

With some assistance from the **West Australian Boardgaming Association**, we will make available an enjoyable menu of games – new and old – beyond the 'usual suspects' and supply the volunteers to teach you to play.

While boardgame-centric (I am a boardgame evangelist), there is also space in the program for roleplaying and miniature gamers to highlight their favourite gaming forms. Assistance is keenly sought from anyone with an interest in adding roleplaying or miniature gaming events to the program. If you are interested, please email me at gaming-2009@swancon.com

Terry Chilvers

ACADEMIC STREAM: CALL FOR PAPERS

The Academic Stream at Swancon 2008 was an outstanding success, and there are still a few slots available in the **Contact: Swancon 2009** academic stream for papers on any subjects of interest to sf and fantasy writers, students, and fans. Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- Studies of sf/fantasy in any media
- Future trends (technological, social/political, linguistic, environmental, etc.)
- Comparisons of fantasy and history
- Alternative or parallel history
- Astronomy, exobiology and space sciences
- Forensic sciences
- Psychology or sociology of fandom
- Fan fiction, slash, filk, zines, vids, cosplay, and other forms of fan creativity

Proposals should be emailed to sd@stephendedman.com They should include a 500-word abstract, current/working contact information (snailmail and email addresses), and details of any audio-visual equipment your presentation requires.

Stephen Dedman

Additionally, all placed entries will go into the ASIM Slushpool for a second round of battle and a chance of being published.

All entries should follow the guidelines set out at <http://www.andromeda-spaceways.com/guide.htm> and be emailed to asimshortstory@gmail.com

Entry is free to members of Swancon, and open to external submissions at \$10 per entry. There is a limit of 5 entries per person. The entry fee is payable to the Swancon committee via cheque. Cheques should be made payable to "Swancon", and should be accompanied

YOUNG ADULT SHORT STORY COMPETITION

Shiny and **Contact: Swancon 2009** are proud to announce the 2009 Shiny Swancon Young Adult Short Story Competition.

Judging the competition will be Alisa Krasnostein, Tehani Wessely and Anna Hepworth. Eligible stories should be both speculative fiction and young adult in nature, with a word limit of 3000 words.

Entry is free and open to those 16 and under. Participation certificates will be provided for all entrants.

Submissions for the competition are due by 20th March, 10pm WST time.

Please submit your entries electronically to: shinystories@gmail.com with the subject heading 'Swancon Young Adult Short Story Competition'.

by the author's name and title(s) of any stories submitted. Cheques can be posted to: Swancon 2009, PO Box 276, Bayswater, 6933, Western Australia

Entries (and submission fees for non-members) are to be submitted by 5pm 20th March 2009. Judges' decision is final; any questions can be emailed to Chris Bobridge at:

maelkann@gmail.com



... Australia's Pulpiest SF Magazine

The winner will receive \$25, the Shiny 2009 series and back issues. Two runners up will receive the Shiny 2009 series and back issues.

All judges' decisions are final. Winners will be notified by email and announced at the Swancon Awards Ceremony on Sunday April 12th 2009.





TIN DUCK AWARDS NOMINATION FORM

Nominations are now open for the **2009 Tin Duck Awards**, the annual Western Australian Science Fiction Foundation (WASFF) Achievement Awards for WA writers and artists. The awards will be presented at **Contact: Swancon 2009** to be held in Perth from April 9th - 13th. Information about the convention can be found here: <http://2009.swancon.com.au/>

Works eligible to be nominated must have been "published" (be it written work, art or any form of performing art or convention running) in the 2008 calendar year, and must not have been voted upon in any previous Tin Duck Award. Works will be validated by the Tin Duck Awards Committee, and may be moved to a different category than nominated for if deemed necessary. Any works nominated without a category may be deemed invalid by the Awards Committee. Categories with large numbers of nominations will be shortlisted.

Multiple nominations may be submitted for any category. Nominations must be received no later than midnight **20th March 2009**, and can be submitted online at <http://2009.swancon.com.au/tinducks>, by emailing tinducks-2009@swancon.com or mailing this form to: Tin Ducks Awards Committee, PO Box 276, Bayswater WA 6933.

Best WA Professional Long Written Work

Nominee:_____	Work:_____
Nominee:_____	Work:_____
Nominee:_____	Work:_____
Nominee:_____	Work:_____

Best WA Professional Short Written Work

Nominee:_____	Work:_____
Nominee:_____	Work:_____
Nominee:_____	Work:_____
Nominee:_____	Work:_____

Best WA Professional Art Work

Nominee:_____	Work:_____
Nominee:_____	Work:_____
Nominee:_____	Work:_____
Nominee:_____	Work:_____

Best WA Professional Production (any medium)

Nominee:_____	Work:_____
Nominee:_____	Work:_____
Nominee:_____	Work:_____
Nominee:_____	Work:_____

Best WA Unpaid or Fan Written Work

Nominee:_____	Work:_____
Nominee:_____	Work:_____
Nominee:_____	Work:_____
Nominee:_____	Work:_____

Best WA Unpaid or Fan Art Work

Nominee:_____	Work:_____
Nominee:_____	Work:_____
Nominee:_____	Work:_____
Nominee:_____	Work:_____

Best WA Unpaid or Fan Production (any medium)

Nominee:_____	Work:_____
Nominee:_____	Work:_____
Nominee:_____	Work:_____
Nominee:_____	Work:_____