

# SWANCON 2010



# CONTAGION

PROGRAMME GUIDE



THURSDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2010

1830 – 2100

MONTANA A & B

**COCKTAIL PARTY**

*Swancon Committee*

Some people only ever catch up at a Swancon. Come along and reminisce about what has happened in the past 31,536,000 seconds. The authors will also be available for a chat. The committee is paying for the nibbles and the bar will be open for those who wish to purchase a wee dram.

2100 – 2200

MONTANA A

**ROCKET BOYS AND ROCKET GIRLS – IS THE DREAM BEST TOLD ON FILM?**

*John Samuel*

Sputnik opened the space age in the age of film and television. In many ways this makes film and television the most appropriate medium to create and tell the myths and legends of the early space age. A discussion of some favourite presentations of the Dream on film, including the eponymous "October Sky" and the more recent "Rocket Girls".

MONTANA B

**GOOD, BAD AND FORGETTABLE – BUFFY REVIEW**

*Kitty Hemsley, Kat Griffiths, PRK*

It's been long enough that some members of fandom haven't watched this amazing show. As with most TV shows, not every episode is a masterpiece, so here is a definitive list of which episodes you must watch for plot reasons, which episodes to skip and which ones are fun!

COCKTAIL LOUNGE

**TICONDEROGA BOOK LAUNCH**

*Russell B Farr, Carol Ryles, Sonia Helbig, Alisa Krasnostein*

How far would you go to Belong? Unlike many of the stories in this anthology, you don't have to go very far at all. Come and join the editor and several of the book's 23 writers in an informal soiree to officially launch Ticonderoga Publication's latest anthology *Belong*, edited by Russell B. Farr. Come and be entertained, enjoy our hospitality, and if you're a fan of excellent short fiction, purchase a book. EFTPOS facilities will be available.

THURSDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2010



2200 – 2300

MONTANA A

**SEX AND EVOLUTION – THE EVOLUTION OF HUMAN SEXUALITY**

*Margaret Dunlop*

When it comes to sex, humans are weird. We have sex for recreation, in private and are always 'in heat'. Males as well as females look after their offspring and female fertility shuts down around 45, well before old age. This panel looks at why we are like this (from an evolutionary viewpoint) and how this may have evolved.

**This panel will refer to adult material, and as such should only be attended by adults.**

MONTANA B

**TRAILER PARK 2010**

*David Gunn*

An interactive guide to the coming year in science fiction, fantasy, horror and animated cinema. What are the films you should be watching, the ones you should be avoiding, and the ones you won't be able to tear your eyes from?

COCKTAIL LOUNGE

**VAMPIRES ARE JUST SOOOO DEAD**

*Richard Harland, Stephen Dedman, Sue Isle, Ian Irvine*

Whatever happened to vampires who loved the taste of human blood? The real red stuff, straight from a throbbing carotid artery! Who's doing the throbbing now? Where has the fear factor gone? Have all the scary vampires been loved into submission and domesticated into decency?

2300 – 0000

MONTANA A

**GEEK SING-A-LONG**

*Desiree Heald, Drhoz Heald*

Come join us for an hour of group singing involving songs and themes from your favourite TV shows, films and assorted geekery.



FRIDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL 2010

0930 - 1030

MONTANA B

**LEARN A FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHY**

*Wing Chung, Kaneda*

1030 – 1130

MONTANA A & B

**OPENING CEREMONY**

*Swancon 2010 Committee*

Shareholders are invited to join the Parasol Corporation Board for the official opening of Parasol's latest venture. What does the future hold for Parasol Corporation?

1130 – 1230

MONTANA A

**WELCOME TO YOUR FIRST CON**

*Sarah Parker, John Samuel*

Welcome to your first convention! Cons can be a magic space where awesome things happen, or you can end up hung over and/or dead on your feet. Come and find out where the toilets are, how to stave off starvation, and what to do when you have questions.

MONTANA B

**PARASITES: WHAT ARE YOU CARRYING?**

*Scott Sigler, Drhoz, Coreynn Tan*

What ghastly bloodsucking, skin-dissolving, genome corrupting, mind-controlling denizens of nightmare and hypochondria are you carrying **right now**?

COCKTAIL LOUNGE

**CHILDREN'S TV SHOWS: LIVE ACTION FROM THE 60s AND 70s**

*Damian Magee*

1968 – 1984 is the golden time for live action series for most of the children of the world. This panel discusses some of these shows with clips, including "Freewheelers", "Catweazle", "Ace of Wands", "Tomorrow People", "Andra" and many more. Come along and share your memories of those happy times.

FRIDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL 2010



1230 – 1330 - LUNCH

1330 – 1430

MONTANA A

**EXILED TO EARTH: DR WHO'S 7<sup>TH</sup> SEASON**

*Damian Magee, Heather Magee, Colin Sharp, David Gunn*

A look at Jon Pertwee's first season as the Doctor.

MONTANA B

**LARP PRESENTATION – AN INTRODUCTION**

*Mel & Sara*

Live Action Role Playing – what is it, and what does it involve? Come and see.

COCKTAIL LOUNGE

**ROBIN & SIDEKICKS IN COMICS**

*Stevo, Narrelle M Harris*

Robin, Speedy, Bucky – what is the deal with heroes and sidekicks?

1430 – 1530

MONTANA A & B

**SCOTT SIGLER – GUEST OF HONOUR SPEECH**

*Scott Sigler*

This years International Guest is let loose on an unsuspecting audience to show his first Australian convention what makes the man with the scissors tick

COCKTAIL LOUNGE

**DARK FANTASY**

*Ju Landeesse*

Examining an area of speculative fiction that has undergone substantial growth and popularity in recent times.



FRIDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL 2010

1530 – 1630

MONTANA A

**GETTING PUBLISHED**

*Ian Irvine*

Ian talks about the publishing marketplace, how it's changing, what publishers want and how to give it to them – and what happens once you get an offer.

MONTANA B

**AUSSIECON PROMOTION**

*Emma Hawkes, Karen Babcock*

Come and find out about the upcoming Worldcon being held in Melbourne later this year.

COCKTAIL LOUNGE

**THE FLEISCHER BROTHERS 'SUPERMAN'**

*David Medlen*

For most of the 1940's, Superman cartoons are just a distant childhood memory but in fact technically and cinematically they were groundbreaking and helped establish Superman as a multimedia franchise even becoming a propaganda tool for the allies.

1630 – 1730

MONTANA A

**SAFE SPACES**

*Ju Landeesse, Sarah Parker, Elaine Kemp*

Every one thinks of conventions as safe spaces where they can just hang out and be. This is not always true. Our panellists will talk about creating safe spaces, maintaining safe spaces, safe spaces at conventions and other public spaces, and the unspoken rules of safe spaces at cons. Includes discussions of the "Open Source Boob Project", room parties and conventions we've been to. There might be some amusing stories in there too, as well as some warnings and food for thought.

FRIDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL 2010



MONTANA B

**LOST? THE END IS NEAR.**

*Tom Eitelhuber, Graeme Watson, Tina Eitelhuber, Helen Balfour*

With the final season being well underway, Lost will soon be over! What have we learnt about the mysterious island since last year, and what revelations could remain in store? As with 2009's panel, we'll be encouraging open discussion of the series to date, as well as speculation on what might be in store for the show's final stretch. A must for all Lost fans!

COCKTAIL LOUNGE

**PERFECTLY PACKAGED: DESIGNING SCIENCE FICTION**

*Alisa Krasnostein, Amanda Rainey*

So the novel has been written and edited – but what governs how the final product will look? How do science fiction and fantasy books get covers, who determines their perfect audience, and how do publishers and distributors go about the task of selling as many copies as possible? What works, what doesn't, and what are the trends of the present and the future?

1730 – 1830

MONTANA A

**DISABILITY IN SCIENCE FICTION**

*Sophie MacFarland*

Monsters, mutants and mundanes: some of the common tropes and interesting possibilities around the portrayal of disability in science fiction.

MONTANA B

**THE FUTURE OF TELEVISION – DOES IT HAVE A FUTURE?**

*Damian Magee*

With everyone downloading or buying shows on DVD, has television lost its way, or has it made its run?

COCKTAIL LOUNGE

**GUEST READING**

*Narrelle M Harris*

Narrelle reads from her novel, "The Opposite of Life", a vampire novel based in contemporary Melbourne. Find out why Charlaine Harris (author of the Sookie Stackhouse novels) says, "If you can get this book, do."



FRIDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL 2010

1830 – 2000 – DINNER

2000 – 2100

MONTANA A

**AUCTION (2000 – 2300)**

*Anna Hepworth, Chris Creagh, Helen Creagh*

Come one, come all! The Swancon Auction will be the place to peruse and purchase the fabled fabric of fandom. Perhaps the presence of previously possessed paraphernalia will pry your purses of pennies? Or the phonics of fair Helen will facilitate the hammer-fall on a farrago of fashionable finds and fortune the ferrying of funds. ***If you have beautiful things that you wish to sell please register them in the reception area after 6:30pm on Thursday and before 6:30pm on Friday.***

MONTANA B

**MAKING THE MAGIC IN FANTASY NOVELS WORK**

*Sarah Parker, Sonia Helbig, Elaine Kemp, Carol Ryles, Richard Harland*

Our panellists have completed a number of works which feature magic in fantasy worlds. How do they balance the need for the magic to 'work' while within the creative writing structure? Have there ever been instances when the magic hasn't worked, and had to be fixed in a work in progress? How can you tell when it's not working? Are there times when the nature of the magic in the worlds hasn't worked in a creative or holistic way with the plot?

COCKTAIL LOUNGE

**3D PRINTERS**

*Caspian Maclean*



FRIDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL 2010



2100 – 2200

MONTANA B

**ANDY WARHOL AND FAN RE-MIXING**

*Cathy Cupitt, Emily Turner*

Two of the key ideas informing Warhol's art are repetition and transformation, particularly in regards to the icons of everyday culture. I became interested in this philosophy because these ideas also underpin the remixing undertaken by many fans when creating fanworks. In this session, discussion will take place on some early discoveries about Warhol's work and philosophy, and how they parallel the practices of current fan remixers and inform the wider practices of remix culture.

COCKTAIL LOUNGE

**SANDBOX Vs THEME PARK: MMO TYPES**

*Brendan Ragan, David Cake*

Some MMOs are like 'Theme Parks' in that there are attractions to play through and a fairly set path to progress. In others, progression is what you make of it. Which ones work best for what kind of person and why do we like them?

2200 – 2300

MONTANA B

**THE IRON BRAIN COMPETITION – ADULTS ONLY GEEK  
ENDURANCE**

*Coreynn Tan*

There are good stories, great novels, and truly awful writing. And then there is writing of that "special" sort that makes you giggle in horror. Can you last through the reading without cracking a grin? Bring your 'terrible texts' along (of any rating), and test your strength of will. Guest starring the infamous "Eye or Argon" by Jim Theis! ***This panel is an 18+ event and ID checks WILL be enforced.***

COCKTAIL LOUNGE

**SCARY KISSES ANTHOLOGY**

*Liz Grzyb*

This is a launch of the locally produced anthology *Scary Kisses*.



**SATURDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2010**

930 - 1030

MONTANA B  
**IMPROVISED DRAMA GAMES**  
*Sue Ackermann*

COCKTAIL ROOM  
**GUEST OF HONOUR READING**  
*Ian Irvine*

Ian will read a piece of prose of his choosing.

1030 – 1130

MONTANA B  
**NO, YOU CAN'T HAVE A FLYING CAR. YOU COULDN'T GET IT TO THE MARKET AND IT WOULDN'T SELL ANYWAY!**  
*Rohan Wallace, Nick Evans*

Making a scientific discovery or inventing something is only half the battle. How do you move from the discovery phase to actually making a practical – even commercial – application? What makes the difference between commercially viable science and an interesting novelty? A look into the science and technology of the future, how they come to the market, why they succeed – and the scientific discoveries guaranteed to fail.

COCKTAIL LOUNGE  
**HAVEN'T A THING TO WEAR...?**  
*Coreynn Tan*

The Masquerade Ball is tonight; are you dressing up? Have you got a costume, or is your costume giving you trouble? Come and get help fixing it, kludging one together for fun, or just finishing it off in good company. Bring your bits and pieces to add to ours. Supervised school aged children welcome, but please, no glitter!

**SATURDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2010**



1130 – 1230

MONTANA B  
**THE NEW WHO**

*Michael Cogan, Aaron Creaser, Narrelle M Harris, Damian Magee*

An in-depth look at the changes from the David Tennant era to the Matt Smith era. This will include a look at the cast and crew changes and the previous work of Matt Smith and Karen Gillian.

COCKTAIL LOUNGE  
**GYNAECON 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

*Gynaecon Collective*

Join in the celebration of Gynaecon's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, as we look back at what has been and where we are going. Find out about the Norma Hemming Award, to be presented for the first time at Aussiecon 4 in September. There will be cake!

**1230 – 1330 – LUNCH**

1330 – 1430

MONTANA B  
**WHAT'S NEW AND NOTABLE IN CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT SCI  
FI AND FANTASY**

*Gina Goddard*

Looking for some good reads for kids and teenagers? Gina will review recent and upcoming releases in the field and unearth some gems you might not have heard of yet. Spend some time in the prison of *Incarceron*, fly with a *Mockingjay*, take a ride on *Leviathan* or find out what happens *When You Reach Me*.



**SATURDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2010**

COCKTAIL LOUNGE

**NASA's BUDGET PROPOSAL**

*John Parker, Paul Talbot, Andrew Williams*

NASA has just announced dramatic changes in the future of space exploration after a White House committee found that NASA's current plans were largely unachievable without massive funding increases. The new budget cancels essentially all NASA human space programs, largely outsources human space exploration to private companies, and allows NASA to focus on basic R&D and robotic exploration. These changes generated huge controversy, and the panel will cover the budget, and the issues, in detail.

1430 – 1530

MONTANA B

**IAN IRVINE – GUEST OF HONOUR SPEECH**

*Ian Irvine*

Come and see our Australian Guest of Honour impart his knowledge and insight.

COCKTAIL LOUNGE

**MODERNISING CLASSIC HORROR**

*Andrew Sharp, John Parker, Mike Sharp, Kendra Swaine*

1530 – 1630

MONTANA B

**XENA – A RETROSPECTIVE VIEW**

*Nancy Lorenz*

Xena: Warrior Princess was a huge phenomenon, bigger even than the original show Hercules: The Legendary Journeys that spawned it. What caused people to sit up and take notice, where are the stars now, and what messages and themes were important in such a culturally fascinating TV series?

**SATURDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2010**



COCKTAIL LOUNGE

**DUST, FROGS, AND THE SQUARE KILOMETRE ARRAY - WHAT'S GOING ON NOW ON-SITE IN THE MURCHISON REGION**

*Andrew Williams*

Southern Africa and Australia are still competing to host the proposed 'Square Kilometre Array' (SKA), a radio telescope that will be more powerful than every other radio telescope in the world combined. The site decision won't be made until 2012, but smaller telescopes are being built at both of the proposed sites already. Dr Williams has been working on one of them - the 'Murchison Widefield Array' (MWA) telescope project - since 2007, and will talk about the MWA, other radio telescopes being built at the Australian site, and what it's actually like to work at the Australian SKA site.

1630 – 1730

MONTANA B

**THE BLOCKBUSTERS OF SHAME**

*Gina Goddard, Stephanie Bateman-Graham*

Who are the writers of science fiction and fantasy we don't embrace? Some of the world's best selling authors write SF, fantasy or speculative literature and yet we, in fandom, don't include them as part of the tribe. On the other hand, who are the writers who we wish would come into the fold but reject our loving embraces? How do once popular writers become unfashionable? Your panellists will look at the shame and snobbery surrounding science fiction and fantasy publishing and fannish enthusiasms.

COCKTAIL LOUNGE

**COMICS YOU SHOULD BE READING**

*Tom Eitelhuber, Damian Magee*

Our panel of avid comics readers will give you a guided tour of some of their favourite current titles. If you're looking for recommendations then look no further!



**SATURDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2010**

1730 – 1830

MONTANA B

**RUMBLE IN THE PROSE**

*Kaneda, Wing Chung, Stephen Dedman, Scott Sigler*

Pit your writing skills with professional authors in an interactive panel that tests your skills in writing exciting, evocative and entertaining fight scenes. Kaneda and Wing will provide short fight vignettes as the inspiration and basis for volunteers to write a fight scene. The professional authors and audience volunteers will then have 5 minutes to come up with a piece of prose as though it were a pivotal fight scene in a novel, short story or epic poem. The audience is the referee and decides the winner. Will it be you? There is also time to discuss what makes it easy or hard to write fight scenes and our professional authors can provide hints and tips as well. So bring your pens, pencils, pads, notebooks, netbooks, iPads and imagination and show us that you can be a literary warrior.

COCKTAIL LOUNGE

**LARP MAKEUP PRESENTATION**

*Mel, Sara*

Learn how makeup can improve your LARPing experience.

**1830 – 2000 - DINNER**

2000 – 2100

MONTANA A & B (2000 – 2300)

**MASQUERADE**

And down in the depths of the darkness you will find... *THE MONSTER MASH!*  
Come along and shake your groove "THING...S".

**SATURDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2010**



COCKTAIL LOUNGE

**AN INTRODUCTION TO VLAD TALTOS**

*Stevo, John Samuel*

Steve Brust has written 12 novels starring Vlad Taltos. Come along and learn of Vlad and the world of Dragaera, a world in which the human Vlad lives amongst the elves and the trouble this gets him in.

2100 – 2200

COCKTAIL LOUNGE

**DATING THE UNDEAD**

*Narrelle M Harris*

With all this paranormal romance around, isn't it time we examined the whole dating the undead phenomenon in detail? What are the pitfalls of dating someone who has already shuffled off this mortal coil? Do vampires, zombies, or mummies make the best partners?



**SUNDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2010**

930 - 1030

**MONTANA B**

**YOGA**

*Satima Flavell*

Writers spend a lot of time in front of a screen and often forget to exercise. What's more, many envision a yoga class as being a cross between a boot camp and a contortionist's convention, so they don't even try it. In this gentle class we shall explore ways of using walls, desks and chairs as props and supports to get you moving, even if you are, like me, unfit, overweight, and overstressed and over 40.

**COCKTAIL LOUNGE**

**GUEST OF HONOUR READING**

*Scott Sigler*

Scott will read a piece of prose of his choosing.

**FAN LOUNGE**

**GIRL GENIUS**

*John Parker*

Phil and Kaja Folio's *Girl Genius* is a popular physical AND web comic based in a "Gaslight Fantasy" universe filled with monsters, steam powered robots and mad scientists. Come and hear the panellists try and predict the future of the series, as well as compare the current tangled skein of plots.



SUNDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2010



1030 – 1130

MONTANA A

**FUTURE WAR – VISION OF NEUROMANCER**

*Wing Chung*

We live in a highly connected world as a result of the internet. Computing and telecommunications are a ubiquitous part of our lives that impact our social networks, financial systems, critical infrastructure such as power, water and telecommunications. Technology has improved to the extent that we have small wireless computers, commercially available neural interfaces (Project Epoc Headsets from Emotive Systems) and Motion control (Wii) devices. Moreover, private enterprise (eg Commonwealth Bank) is seeking to reduce its total cost of ownership for its computing and telecommunications by buying it as a service via cloud computing (eg Google, Microsoft). The UK Government is setting up its own internal cloud computing service for government agencies with an anticipated saving of £3.2 billion annually. There are those that will seek to take advantage of the ubiquity and concentration of technology to carry out their criminal, political and economic agendas. We have seen large scale cyber attacks to governments in Georgia and Estonia via botnets, floods etc and governments have seen that there are credible threats to cyberspace and their national security and have set up internal groups in their military to carry out and defend against cyberattacks, funded cross boundary exercises (Cyberstorm I, II and III), established national flora (IMPACT) to address these threats.

This panel discusses from an Australian context whether the SF visions of cyber war, espionage and terrorism are becoming a reality. What are the targets and could current practises/technologies stop them or at least limit the damage? What impact would it have on society and would we notice anything different?

MONTANA B

**2009 IN FILM**

*Tom Eitelhuber, Tina Eitelhuber*

Reboots of classic franchises, adaptations of old fan favourites, reimaginings of 80s cartoon classics, fantastical imaginary worlds, thrilling horror, eye-popping animation, sequels galore and some tall blue aliens that made James Cameron (even more) exceedingly wealthy. We present the films which defined geek cinema for the year 2009, and try to separate the hits from the misses.



**SUNDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2010**

COCKTAIL LOUNGE

**HOW DID THEY DO THAT?**

*Coreynn Tan*

We've seen some spectacular costumes over the years, many memorable for beauty, shock or sheer niftiness. Ever wondered how they got those wings to stick, or how they made that cool beeping noise? Find out our secrets and revisit costumes you may have never seen!

FAN LOUNGE

**EDITING... HOW IT WORKS**

*Anna Hepworth, Gina Goddard, Narrelle M Harris*

Some times all a book needs to be great – is a good edit!

1130 – 1230

MONTANA A

**AVATAR – WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?**

*Richard Harland, Ian Irvine*

Is James Cameron's visual spectacular the sign of things to come? Will all SF and fantasy movies end up being made in 3D? Does AVATAR represent the logical conclusion of our craving for 'wonder'? But what does this mean for story? And, er, what about the characters?

MONTANA B

**THE SPEED OF SCIENCE**

*Anna Hepworth*

COCKTAIL LOUNGE

**LOOKING BACK AT CLASSIC CHILDREN SCI FI / FANTASY LITERATURE**

*Damian Magee, Heather Magee*

Looking back on classic children's Sci Fi/Fantasy; such as the Tripods series, The Neverending Story, books by Madeleine L'Engle, C.S. Lewis, Edith Nasbit, Andre Norton, Terry Pratchett, Patricia Wrightson and many, many more. Bring your own memories of what you read.

**SUNDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2010**



FAN LOUNGE

**ROCK STAR**

*Trevor Phillips*

Want to be a Rock Star, but don't have the time or talent? Looking for alternate ways to get your Real Band heard? A look at music console games, and how they can affect the appreciation, acceptance, promotion, and training of today's music and tomorrow's musicians.

**1230 – 1330 - LUNCH**

1330 – 1430

MONTANA A & B (1330 – 1530)

**REBEL EMPIRE LIGHTSABER WORKSHOP: STAGE COMBAT WITH A TWIST**

*Kaneda*

Learn basic tricks and techniques used by Jedi and Sith. Learn basic Fight Choreography techniques used by the pros. All the fun and drama you've watched in the movies for years. Dress up and put yourself in the world of Star Wars! Those who wish to bring their own lightsabres are encouraged. Places are limited and registration at the front desk is required prior to the workshop.

COCKTAIL LOUNGE

**WORLD WAR II AND ALTERNATIVE HISTORIES**

*Andrew Sharp, John Parker, Mike Sharp*

FAN LOUNGE

**TORCHWOOD: EXPOSED!**

*Cathy Cupitt, Emily Turner*

An examination of the Doctor who spin-off.



**SUNDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2010**

1430 – 1530

COCKTAIL LOUNGE

**SUE & GINA'S EXCELLENT ... ADVENTURE**

*Susan Ackermann, Gina Goddard*

Party on with tales from Sue and Gina!

FAN LOUNGE

**THE BEST & WORST OF ANIME**

*Lionel, Ross*

Like any genre, anime has its highs and lows. Come discuss them here.

1530 – 1630

MONTANA A

**PROMOTING YOUR BOOK**

*Ian Irvine, Narrelle M Harris*

Books don't sell themselves, and often publishers don't try hard to sell them either. Ian tells you what you need to know to make your book a success – and all the things he's done that have failed!

MONTANA B

**STEAMPUNK: THE WORD ON EVERYONE'S LIPS**

*Richard Harland*

Why has the Steam Age come back into our collective imagination? What's the appeal? Why now? Where does it come from? And where is it steaming to? Is it a passing fad or a real challenge to the established set-up of spec fic genres? Is it mostly a style of fiction or mostly a style of dress? Could it be a whole way of life?

SUNDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2010



COCKTAIL LOUNGE

**ASTROBOY: NEW CENTURY, NEW VISIONS**

*Andrew Phillips, Colin Sharpe*

In 2009, Osamu Tezuka's Astroboy (aka Testuwan Atom) was adapted as both an American-funded CGI motion picture and as an eight-volume manga, Pluto, by Naoki Urasawa. What is the continuing appeal of the Astroboy character, what new angles did the film and the manga discover, and how effectively did they contribute to the legacy of anime's most beloved character?

FAN LOUNGE

**FICTION OF ANTHROPOMORPHIC ANIMALS**

*Anna Hepworth, Desiree Heald*

Come on a journey with Anna and Desiree into the use of anthropomorphic animals in fiction.

1630 – 1730

MONTANA A

**HOW ABOUT HEINLEIN?**

*Gina Goddard, John Samuel, Emma Hawkes*

Robert Heinlein's reputation has taken a few hits since his heyday, but the influence of his works, particularly his juvenile novels, cannot be understated. Three readers take a look at how Heinlein's juveniles stand up today and consider what they have to offer the 21<sup>st</sup> century reader.

MONTANA B

**LONE GENIUS**

*Anna Hepworth, Sophie MacFarland*

COCKTAIL LOUNGE

**GEEK AWAY**

*Desiree Heald, Owen Wylde*

Come on a journey with Desiree and Owen as they explore Geek Japan. Godzilla and Otaku and Totoro – oh my!



**SUNDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2010**

FAN LOUNGE

**INSIDE THE SCI FI B-MOVIE**

*Peter Kelly*

Whether solid pulp or a guilty pleasure, the B-movie has been a staple of science fiction, fantasy and horror cinema since the 1950s. What makes a good B-movie? Where is the line that divides the cool and the culty from the bad or the unwatchable? From the famous B-movies of the 1950s to the direct-to-DVD flicks of today, we present a special guide to the filmmakers, the trends and the individual films that every B-fan should be watching.

1730 – 1830

MONTANA A & B

**SWANCON 2011 LAUNCH**

*Swancon 2011 Committee*

Come and see what surprises 2011 has in store for you...

**1830 – 2000 – DINNER**

2000 – 2100

MONTANA A

**AWARDS CEREMONY**

*Anna Hepworth, Ju Landeesse*

Wherein the winners of the Tin Ducks and other awards are announced.

MONTANA B

**TOP SF&F MOVIES OF THE DECADE: 2000 – 2009**

*Tom Eitelhuber*

The noughties are over! With the first decade of the new millenium behind us, the SwanCon community has voted to determine its 20 favourite films of 2000-09. Come along and see the results! If you haven't voted yet, it isn't too late - grab a form from the registration desk and cast your vote by 4pm, Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> April.

SUNDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2010



COCKTAIL LOUNGE

**LET'S GO FANGIRLING!**

*Desiree Heald, Helen Balfour*

In a companion panel to last year's 'Fine Fellows of (Spec) Fiction', Helen, Desiree and the audience will put favourite (and not so favourite) female characters from TV and film through the 'Shag/ Marry/ Cliff' game – now with new added category... BEER!

FAN LOUNGE

**RATS! FOILED AGAIN**

*Drhoz*

In honour of the convention's infectious theme, a simple introduction to the natural history, mythology and literature of rats, mice, and the many, many deadly diseases they're infecting you with.

2100 – 2200

MONTANA A

**VIDEO QUIZ**

*Damian Magee*

For the fourth year, come and join in the fun and test your powers of observation by watching snippet clips from film & TV, and try to answer those questions.

MONTANA B

**ANIME ARCHETYPES**

*John Samuel*

John discusses the many character archetypes that can be found amongst anime.

COCKTAIL LOUNGE

**STAR TREK: CHAT TIME**

*Stephanie Bateman-Graham, Matthew Bateman-Graham*

Join us to passionately (but politely) discuss how well the latest Star Trek movie lived up to its source material, and what it means for the future of the franchise. Bring your pointy ears!



**SUNDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2010**

FAN LOUNGE

**PROJECT RUNWAY: SWANCON**

*Liz Grzyb, Kate Williams*

Hoses and fins and heels... oh my! A look at non biodegradable fashion, present and future.

2200 – 2300

MONTANA A

**SING STAR IDOL**

*Desiree Heald, Drhoz*

Swancon's own karaoke competition! Prizes for best score and audience's choice. Signup sheet at registration desk.

**MONDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**

0930 - 1030

MONTANA A

**AMERICAN SPACEFLIGHT: WHERE TO NEXT?**

*Michael Cogan, Ryan Burley*

A look at recent decisions that leaves uncertainty surrounding the direction that American space flight will take.

MONTANA B (0930 – 1230)

**WASFF AGM**

*WASFF Committee*

Come have your say at the Annual General Meeting, and vote for the 2012 and your future WASFF board members.

COCKTAIL ROOM

**BOOK READING**

*Narrelle M Harris*

Narrelle will read a piece of prose of her choosing.



MONDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2010



FAN LOUNGE

**SO YOUNG AND HOT! WHAT LIES BEHIND THE UPSURGE IN  
YOUNG ADULT SPECULATIVE FICTION?**

*Richard Harland, Ian Nichols*

Once upon a time, YA SF and fantasy was just a derivative, watered-down version of adult SF and fantasy. Now everyone wants to write it, and it's the source of all the hottest new ideas. Think Philip Pullman, Garth Nix, Jonathan Stroud, Phillip Reeve and many more. Our panellists discuss the whys and wherefores.

1030 – 1130

MONTANA A

**LOOKING BACK AT THE X-FILES**

*Damian Magee*

What went wrong during the later series that made it unwatchable? This panel looks back on the best of the series and the worst. Is it a series to look at again, or just a series for it's time?

COCKTAIL LOUNGE

**TITLE: WORLD WITHOUT END: AN EXAMINATION OF  
IMMORTALITY IN SPECULATIVE FICTION.**

*Ian Nichols*

Aging is not simply the accumulation of years; it is also the accumulation of experience. It is something of a homily to insist that those who are older differ from those who are younger in ways which are not only physical, but it seems an inevitable conclusion of observation. As people live longer, healthier lives, is this difference exacerbated? What if people's lives were enormously extended, even indefinitely extended?

Join Ian to discuss the concept of extended lifespan and immortality in the modern speculative fiction genre.



MONDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2010

FAN LOUNGE

**ANYONE CAN WRITE A THOUSAND-PAGE NOVEL, IT'S WRITING SHORT STORIES THAT'S DIFFICULT!**

*Richard Harland, Stephen Dedman, Sue Isle, Ian Irvine*

Some writers say it's easy to write a short story that you can think up in a single stroke of inspiration and knock off in an afternoon. Others say it's easy to write a baggy fantasy epic where you can ramble off into whatever takes your fancy for as long as you please. But what about all the tightening, sharpening and revising when every word has to count in a short story? On the other hand, what about all the baggy monsters that flounder and sag and never get finished because the writer can't keep a complex plot under control? Are there two types of author? What ferocious injuries will they inflict on each other when you put them all on a panel together?

1130 – 1230

MONTANA A

**THE ART OF TELLING A STORY IN SPECULATIVE FICTION**

*Richard Harland*

Fantasy, Science Fiction and Horror not only demand more imagination than other genres, but a very high level of narrative technique. When there's no real world to fall back on, everything has to work perfectly and plausibly to keep disbelief suspended and carry the reader along. Richard talks of some of the basics: story-arcs and character-arcs; 'defining' a mystery; building to a climax; sequencing (the right events in the best order); maintaining momentum and writing effective action scenes.

COCKTAIL LOUNGE

**SAINTS & GRIEFERS: GAMER PSYCHOLOGY**

*Trevor Phillips*

MMO addicts, Halo fanboys, Bejewelled slaves - what makes us games enthusiasts? Is it a sad addiction, or moulding a better tomorrow? A look at the differences and similarities between game genres and those who play them, the evolutionary trends of gaming, and how to build a community around gaming.

FAN LOUNGE

**SAFE LARP COMBAT**

*Mel and Sara*

What makes for safe LARPing? Come and find out.

MONDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2010



**1230 – 1330 - LUNCH**

1330 – 1430

MONTANA A

**MAKING SCIENCE WORK IN YOUR SF NOVEL**

*Stephanie Bateman-Graham, Carol Ryles, Scott Sigler, Stephen Dedman*

Science fiction is a strange beast in that it has a relationship to both real and imaginary worlds. The relationship can be tenuous at best, but it has to be there. Our panellists will discuss the science in their works, how they make it work and what's important when trying to balance the science and story in a novel.

MONTANA B

**TOUCH OF STRANGE: THEODORE STURGEON**

*Drhoz*

The neglected giant of the Golden Age, renowned for his work in SF horror, westerns, Star Trek, and more. A writer of such lyrical talent that fans still rave about his work 70 years after some of them were written, but equally notorious for his years of writer's block and his private life.

COCKTAIL LOUNGE

**WORDS OF WOMEN**

*Gina Goddard, Sarah Parker, Helen Merrick*

Join our panellists in recommending works of female science fiction and fantasy writers. What gems have you been missing? All recommendations welcome.

FAN LOUNGE

**WHAT'S ON TELEVISION THIS YEAR?**

*Jenny Owens, Graeme Watson*

A look into the new and upcoming television shows of 2010: what are the ones to look out for, which ones should be avoided – and what predictions for 2009 did Jenny and Graeme get right?



**MONDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2010**

1430 – 1530

MONTANA A

**SFF AND ROMANCE**

*Sarah Parker, Juliet Marillier, Elaine Kemp, Samara Morgan*

A discussion of romance within science fiction and fantasy.

MONTANA B

**SWANCON 2011 HOMEWORK**

*Andrew Williams, Liz Grzyb*

Hear more about the 2011 Swancon guests and their work, and get some reading suggestions from the 2011 committee to prepare for next year's Swancon.

COCKTAIL LOUNGE

**10 REASONS WHY WE SHOULD LEGALISE HUMAN CLONING**

*John Green, Linda Deegan, Richard Harland*

The debate rages on whether human cloning should be legalised or not with controversy surrounding issues such as stem cell research. Should human cloning be legalised? What reasons would be acceptable? What if we want the power to take over the world?

FAN LOUNGE

**STEPHEN KING FILM ADAPTATIONS**

*Scott Sigler*

Join Scott as he takes a look at Stephen King's filmography, comparing some of the movies to the books that spawned them. He'll discuss which ones are (in his opinion) the successes, poke the "failures" to analyse what might have saved them, and considers which books he'd love to see make it to the big screen.

1530 – 1630

MONTANA A & B

**CLOSING CEREMONY**

*Swancon Committee*

And now the end is near... we face the final curtain. The fun has been had, the baton has been passed.