

| TIME | CARLTON (Includes Art Exhibition) | GROSVENOR | AINSLIE |
|---------------------------|--|---|---|
| FRIDAY 4 OCTOBER | | | |
| 6:30pm | Meet and greet in Olim's Bar | | |
| SATURDAY 5 OCTOBER | | | |
| 9:00am | Art Exhibition opens | | |
| 10:00am | Opening Ceremony | | |
| 10:30am | Guest of Honour Aaron Dries Interviewed by T.R. Napper | | |
| 12:00pm BREAK | Book Launch: <i>Calvaria Fell</i> Cat Sparks & Kaaron Warren | | Workshop Longhand, Typing, Dictation, or all Three? Bridging The Creative Divide with Leanbh Pearson |
| | Book launch: <i>The Strange Taste of Metal & The Possession of Metal</i> Karlee Burgess | | |
| 12:30pm | Panel: Indie Publishing in Australia An exploration of the independent publishing scene. Cat Sparks (M) , M.A. Batten, Penny Macoun, Adrian Collins | KAFFEKLATSCHES Sign up sheets available at registration | Participants should bring a pen, notebook, phone, laptop or tablet. |
| 1:30pm | BOOK LAUNCH: <i>The Medusa Situation</i> Gabiann Marin | | |
| 1:45pm | Panel: Strong vs Powerful — can women in speculative fiction create change? The cry used to be for strong, female characters, capable of standing on their own. In millennial pop culture, women have proved themselves capable of everything from outfighting Ares to giving birth without making a sound. But the moment they gain control, of the kingdom, the rebellion, even of Hell, strange things tend to happen. Madness, corruption, and history repeating itself — a tragic arc or a failure of the imagination? Our panellists discuss with reference to recent media, and their own works. Kyla Ward (M) Cat Sparks, Kaaron Warren, Gabiann Marin, Tabby Knight | Panel: The Joy of Being Upset When fiction challenges your way of thinking, or ethics, or moral code. When it's good to be offended, challenged. How do you be brave as a writer (and a reader)? Aaron Dries (M) Angel Hellyer, T.R. Napper, Pamela Jeffs, J.J. Carpenter | |

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| 2:45pm | 15 minute break | | |
| 3:00pm | <p>Panel: Apocalypse Meh</p> <p>SF is an inherently hopeful genre, presuming some form of inhabitable tomorrow will exist. So what's with all the apocalyses?</p> <p>Cat Sparks (M) Keith Stevenson, David McDonald, Zachary Ashford</p> | <p>Interactive Fiction: choose-your-own-narrative</p> <p>From choose-your-own-adventure novels to text based rpgs; branching narratives are a complex and fascinating way of giving the reader a part to play in the story being written. Explore how this enormous and engaging fiction is written, how to balance audience choice with narrative integrity as well as tips and tricks for creating engaging stories where the reader feels anything could happen.</p> <p>Lyss Wickramasinghe (M) Phillip Berrie, Rik Lagarto</p> | <p>The Found Object Speed Dating Workshop</p> <p>Every object tells a story, past, present, and future. Join Kaaron Warren and a table full of objects both strange and ordinary, and we'll try to find those stories.</p> |
| 4:00pm | 15 minute break | | |
| 4:15pm | <p>Panel: Prophecies, Destinies and Other Foretellings</p> <p>From ancient myth to modern table-top gaming, nothing sets the stage like a prediction. They come in all kinds, from heroic to tragic, well-used to over-used, rhyming or riddles. Uncover your significant birthmark and come face your fate with our panel of seers and sages.</p> <p>Davinia Evans (M) Leabh Pearson, Leife Shallcross</p> | <p>Panel: Animal Attack Horror</p> <p>While cosmic horror deals with the fact that you are insignificant to make you feel meaningless, this genre takes us back to our primitive roots and explores the fear of being consumed by a predatory beast that sees you as nothing but food.</p> <p>Zachary Ashford (M) Aaron Dries, Matt R. Davis, Claire Fitzpatrick, David McDonald</p> | |
| 5:15pm | 15 minute break | | |
| 5:30pm | <p>Panel: On the shoulders of giants</p> <p>The multi-genre writers who made us readers and what of that influence lives on in our writing (more about inspiration and credit to prior generations etc).</p> <p>Carleton Chinner, Matthew R. Davis, Paul Voermans, Zachary Ashford</p> | <p>Panel: Changing the Myths</p> <p>Why revisionist myth in fantasy needs to go beyond changing perspectives for true social justice</p> <p>Emilie Morscheck (M) Gabiann Marin, Angel Hellyer, Leife Shallcross</p> | |

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| 6:30pm | Dinner break | | Taste the Rainbow (TEA PARTY) |
| <p>Have you ever wondered about the difference between black tea and green tea? Or what exactly is an oolong? And whether we're just making things up when we talk about yellow tea? In this workshop, tea practitioner Adeline Teoh will explain the six (yes, six) categories of tea and how each of them are processed. We will brew an example of each category so you can open your palate and taste the rainbow to gain an understanding of the main characteristics of different teas.</p> <p>\$5 per person, sign up at Try Booking or Registration (bookings limited). Workshop includes tea tasting, snacks and notes. Please note all teas contain caffeine.</p> | | | |
| SUNDAY 6 OCTOBER 2024 (Daylight saving—advance one hour) | | | |
| 9:00am | Art Exhibition Open | Conflux community consultation meeting | |
| 9:15am | <p>Panel: Poetry roundtable</p> <p>Poets share readings from their published works.</p> <p>P.S. Cottier, Silvia Canton Rondoni</p> | <p>Panel: Writing alternative histories</p> <p>In alternate history fiction, authors isolate one element of history is changed, and this alters events creating a new «alternative world».</p> <p>G. Lucian Lax (M) Leanbh Pearson, Daniel O'Malley, David McDonald, Richard Harland</p> | <p>Workshop</p> <p>7 Steps to a killer competent story...in just an hour...or thereabouts...</p> <p>with Zachary Ashford</p> |
| 10:15am | 15 minute break | | |
| 10:30am | <p>Panel: The Grey Zone</p> <p>When villains are heroes and heroes are villains. When characters aren't cut and dry. Nuance and embracing ambiguity.</p> <p>Leanbh Pearson (M) Richard Harland, Adrian Collins, Stephen K. Stanford, Kell Woods</p> | <p>Panel: Book vs Movie</p> <p>When is the movie better than the book & vice versa, adaptation clusterfucks, Wtf Movies based on good books, etc.</p> <p>Aaron Dries (M) Daniel O'Malley, David McDonald, Dee Evans</p> | |
| 11:45am | 15 minute break | | |
| 12:00pm | <p>Book Launch: <i>Demoniacs</i></p> <p>Dr Craig Cormick</p> | | |

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| 12:30pm | Guest of Honour Maddy March Interviewed by Alistair Ott | | Workshop Writing the Best Scene Ever! With Dr Rob Learn how to write scenes for powerful story telling. We'll cover how to choose which scenes to include in your story, how to tell them effectively and how to make them work really hard for you! Bring writing materials and some scenes you've written recently. |
| 1:45pm | Guest of Honour T.R. Napper Interviewed by Aaron Dries | | |
| 2:45pm | Triple Book Launch <i>Aliens: Bishop, Ghost of the Neon God, and The Escher Man</i> T.R. Napper | | |
| 3:15pm | 15 minute break | | |
| 3:30pm | Short Spec Fic Film Time Aaron Dries and film maker Joshua Koske screen and discuss a selection of Aussie short films | | |
| 4:30pm | 15 minute break | | |
| 4:45pm | Panel: Ancestry as Source: Voices from Beyond Speculative fiction, dark fiction, and poetry are potent ways to give voice to those in our ancestry who may have been silenced and to perpetuate the wisdom we've found that needs to be shared. Kaaron Warren (M) Pamela Jeffs, Matt Tighe, J.S. Breukelaar | Finding the Misfit in YA: The Role of Disability in Fairy Tale Retellings. Thesis presentation by Emilie Morscheck What are the essential ingredients for a YA fantasy protagonist? This presentation explores how the genre of fairy tale retellings, alongside the push for diverse representation, has shaped these characters. Drawing from Emilie's doctoral research, we will delve into the expanding roles of characters with disabilities in YA and discuss how retellings of classic tales provide powerful opportunities for inclusion. | |
| 5:45pm | Room closed for Banquet set up | Panel: Editing Anthologies Rob Porteous (M) Carleton Chinner, Leanbh Pearson, Adrian Collins | |
| 7:00pm | Banquet | | |

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| MONDAY 7 OCTOBER | | | |
| 9:30am | Panel: Writing Short Stories that Sell | Panel: Gothic Horror: What is the Gothic? | Workshop Using myths and fairytales in writing with Gabiann Marin |
| | T.R. Napper (M) Pamela Jeffs, Sam Murray, Adrian Collins | Leanbh Pearson, Zachary Ashford, Stephen Herczeg, Matthew R Davis, Claire Fitzpatrick | |
| 10:30am | 15 minute break | | |
| 10:45am | Panel: Exploring the monster | Panel: Traditional Publishing | |
| | Why we like them and why monsters are sometimes good. | Getting an agent, getting published, navigating the minefield | |
| | Carlton Chinner (M) Aaron Dries, Richard Harland, Tabby Knight, J.J. Carpenter, Matt Batten | T.R. Napper (M) Daniel O'Malley, Kaaron Warren, JS Breukelaar, Kell Woods | |
| 11:45am | 15 minute break | | |
| 12:00pm | Panel: In Space, no-one can hear you laugh: Humour in SF | Five Minute Fiction | |
| | From genocidal sorcerers to civilisation ending threats, Speculative Fiction can often be grimly serious, but humour has long been an important part of SF. This Panel will discuss humour in spec fic, how they bring it into their stories, and how to get humorous work in front of readers. The final section of the panel will discuss classic humour in spec fic, from Adams to Pratchett and from Buffy to Firefly. | Share a five minute reading of your own work. Beginners welcome. Hosted by Kaaron Warren | |
| | Scott Steensma (M) CH Pearce, Gabiann Marin, Americo Alvarenga, C.Z. Tacks | | |

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| 1:15pm | 15 minute break | | |
| 1:30pm | <p>Panel: Artificial Intelligence: the search for meaning</p> <p>AI in fiction, how to write a god-like intelligence, the impacts on society etc.</p> <p>Nicholas Hartland (M) Stephen K Stanford, Paul Voermans, Americo Alvarenga</p> | <p>Panel: Mission Possible?</p> <p>Writing Challenges Time-based artistic challenges like NaNoWriMo and others can provide motivation, but can also be stressful. Our panelists will discuss their experiences with creativity challenges and how it impacted them.</p> <p>Emilie Morscheck (M) Stephen Herczeg, Matthew R. Davis</p> | <p>Be Gay Do Crimes</p> <p>TTRPG</p> <p>Join DM Alistair Ott for a high stakes heist with queer highjinks and shenanigans sure to be had.</p> |
| 2:30pm | 15 minute break | | |
| 2:45pm | <p>Panel: Worldbuilding</p> <p>World building is great because it's not just fantasy/sci-fi—all grounded and effective genre work requires foundational work for characters to live love and die in, whether it's a world or just a single room.</p> <p>Richard Harland (M) T.R. Napper, J.J. Carpenter, Rob Porteous, Daniel O'Malley</p> | <p>Panel: Fairy Tales and Ecological Anxiety</p> <p>As well as communicating social codes and mores, fairy tales highlight the power in nature, reminding us that the world does not exist to serve human desires. Can they help us create universal climate literacy and find united agendas?</p> <p>Leife Shallcross (M) Angie Rega, Gabiann Marin, Cat Sparks, Emilie Morscheck</p> | |
| 3:45pm | 15 minute break | | |
| 4:00pm | DITMAR Awards & Australian Shadows Awards | | |
| 5:00pm | Closing Ceremony | | |
| 5:20pm | <i>Dead Dog Party in Olim's Bar</i> | | |