

Thursday

6:00 PM

Introduction to Cons/LJ Real-Life Meet

Sarah Parker, Danny Oz, John Parker

Oshanesii Thursday 6:00 PM

An introduction to cons and simultaneously a chance for LJers to meet each other for the first time IRL and get to know each other.

7:00 PM

Opening Ceremony

Anna Hepworth, Swancon 2008 Committee, Glenda Larke, Ken McLeod, Zara Baxter, Rob Shearman

Montana Thursday 7:00 PM

Welcome to the convention, and meet the guests.

8:00 PM

Top 10 Villains by audience vote

Tom Eitelhuber

Montana A Thursday 8:00 PM

At last year's SwanCon, Tom and his audience managed to determine the Top 10 Movies-Based-On-Comics of all time! This year his attention is on villains, so come along, cast your votes and help to determine the best of the bad guys!

Beautiful Nightmares: Alien vs Predator

Sonia Marcon, Grant Watson

Montana B Thursday 8:00 PM

In 1979 Ridley Scott's science fiction thriller Alien terrified audiences worldwide with its groundbreaking blend of serious science fiction and visceral horror. Eight years later John McTiernan's smash hit Predator combined classic mythic themes of the monster with 1980s American action cinema. After four sequels, not to mention a raft of novels, video games, comic books and merchandise, the two cinematic monsters went head to head in Alien vs Predator. What is the core appeal of these two SF movie franchises? What are their influences? Do they work together as a single fictional universe? A look into the explosive action and the nightmarish terror of Alien and Predator.

The practicalities of space travel

David Bent, Michael O'Brien, Andrew Williams

Oshanesii Thursday 8:00 PM

Space travel isn't just air travel but higher, and there will be all sorts of things that make it like nothing we have seen before. How do transfers work? Do the crew need to land planet side? Do you have cabin crew? Is it unionised? What OHS issues are there? What are the mental health issues?

9:00 PM

Swancon Q1

David Cake, Gina Goddard, Tom Eitelhuber, Matthew Bateman-Graham

Montana A Thursday 9:00 PM

The return of the totally unofficial rip off of the BBC quiz show.

A Rather Polite Apocalypse: British Representations of the End of the World

Cat Sparks, Rob Shearman, Ken McLeod

Montana B Thursday 9:00 PM

British fiction, and particularly film and TV, have often represented the end of the world, and often in an understated British fashion. The cozy catastrophe genre and its offshoots.

Sharing The Love: The World of Online Fanfic Fandom

Cathy Cuppitt, Ju Landéesse, Juliette Woods, Elaine Kemp

Oshanesii Thursday 9:00 PM

Fanfiction is a distinct, vibrant part of fandom. As it has migrated away from fanzines, fanfiction fandom has developed an online culture of its own, one that can mystify old school lit fans. It not only has different enthusiasms but a different language, including "OTW", "ship", "squee", and "**facepalm**".

Is this fannish culture an evolution of the old, or something new that is going in its own direction? As an internet based culture, what is its relationship to convention-going fandom? Is it a major new cultural force, or just another form of fanzine style fan writing? Whatever the answers, there is certainly one thing about fanfiction fandom that is very different to the old stereotypes of fandom — the gender balance is firmly female.

10:00 PM

The Future of Videogames

Grant Watson, Greg Tannahill, Kaneda Cruz

Montana A Thursday 10:00 PM

Video games are now established as a global medium with a largely adult audience. And it seems many video-game producers are striving to make games that transcend the established forms of the genre, and say something about games as art, through new subjects, new techniques, new ideas in gameplay, adding social techniques that redefine how we play together, and more. We've seen first person shooters that strive to make a statement about Ayn Rand's Objectivism, games that are just about petting dogs, and games that make us all rock stars. What is coming next?

Nigel Kneale: Beyond Quatermass

Damian Magee

Montana B Thursday 10:00 PM

The lesser known works of Nigel Kneale. Includes *The Stone Tape*, *The Road*, *Beasts* and *Kinvig*.

Friday

9:00 AM

Sing along to cartoon themes

Damian Magee

Montana A Friday 9:00 AM

Just as you think, and just as silly as it sounds.

10:00 AM

Flash Fiction

Lee Battersby, Zara Baxter, Martin Livings

Cocktail Lounge Friday 10:00 AM

When does it work? Why does it so often fail? Why is it so popular? Why do people have such strong feelings about it? Should it have its own awards? Is it a dumping ground for ideas that fail to develop? Or is it simply the perfect form of fiction for an era of multi-tasking and shot attention spans?

The Dark future that never was

David Cake, John Parker, Ken McLeod

Montana A Friday 10:00 AM

Cyberpunk was a speculation about the future when it happened, but now its an ahistoric vision of the early 21st century as seen from the 1980s, and the fiction seems less about our actual future, and more about a certain aesthetic of human interaction with technology. Is all near future fiction doomed to the same fate? Is it inevitable that technological speculation becomes outdated by real developments, and is this failure of futurism what encourages aesthetic retro-technological movements such as steampunk in fiction?

2007: The Films In Review

Ju Landéesse, Tom Eitelhuber, Stephen Griffiths

Montana B Friday 10:00 AM

2007 was a great year for quality film, and we look back at the science fiction, fantasy and horror films to hit the big screen over the past 12 months. What were the successes? The disappointments? What were the hits, the flops and the unexpected surprises?

11:00 AM

Fan fund travellers tales

Damien Warman, Juliette Woods, Steve Francis, Sue Francis, Ju Landéesse, David Cake
Cocktail Lounge Friday 11:00 AM

Fan fund delegates past and current recount their adventures, muse on the role of fan funds, and attempt to interest the audience in free or subsidised holidays. GUFF, NAFF, DUFF and FFANZ delegates speak about what happens when you win a fan fund race, and what happens after.

The Birth of Doctor Who: Origins

Damian Magee, Simon Oxwell, Danny Oz, Colin Sharpe, Grant Watson, Rob Shearman
Montana B Friday 11:00 AM

In 1963 the BBC's Head of Drama was tasked with creating a new television drama that would bridge the gap between Saturday afternoon sports coverage and the pop music of Jukebox Jury. Four decades later, Doctor Who is one of the longest-running and most overwhelmingly successful television programmes ever made. How did it start? What choices were made? Who is, when all is said and done, really the creator of Doctor Who?

12:00 PM

The Politics of Fandom

David Cake, Paul Raj Khangure, Robert Hoge, Rohan Wallace

Cocktail Lounge Friday 12:00 PM

Someone in fandom must be making the decisions that determine why conventions are run the way they are, and other fannish projects. Who makes the decisions? Why isn't it you? Should it be? Why are things run the way they are? Want to achieve your SMOF merit badge? Are the institutions of fandom evolved to be the way they are due to accidents of history, or because they are built on experience? Experienced fannish politicians explain the mysterious workings of fandom, and how you can become involved and get the con run just the way you want.

The Spike Versus The Precipice: Can Our Evolving Technical Mastery Actually Save Us From Itself?

Karl Schroeder, Ken McLeod, Dirk Flintheart

Montana A Friday 12:00 PM

As the dream of truly transforming human culture and environment through what is referred to as the Spike, or the Singularity, twinkles on the horizon, at the same time we face approaching crises in climate change and pollution, mass extinctions, overpopulation and other disasters that seem to be spiking in their own way. What are the relationships between the two trends, is the very existence of the positive dependent on the negative, in the perhaps delicate balance between the two, which way will the future fall?

The Birth of Doctor Who: Season One

Damian Magee, Simon Oxwell, Danny Oz, Colin Sharpe, Grant Watson, Rob Shearman

Montana B Friday 12:00 PM

Doctor Who premiered on BBC1 on 23 November 1963 - the culmination of months of frantic and often troubled development within the BBC Drama Department. Now that it was on the air, the only problem left was keeping it there. From the dawn of human history to distant alien worlds, from the clutches of the Daleks to the terrors of the French Revolution: Swancon's own team of fans and historians track the crucial first season of Doctor Who.

Molecular Gastronomy hour

Karen McKenna

Suite Friday 12:00 PM

When weird science meets haute cuisine, you get the trend that's been attracting huge attention in the ranks of the world's most influential restaurants. The end result often comes across as very science fictional. Come see explanations of food science and live demonstrations.

Introduction to Satellite Remote Sensing

Rebecca Handcock

Suite Friday 12:00 PM

Science fiction abounds with images of planets from space, however it is only in the last few years that media such as *Battlestar Galactica* and feature films have gotten planetary observation right as the technology of earth and planetary observation improves. Where do these satellite images come from and how did they actually work? Why are the remote satellite images of earth and the solar system our eyes into other worlds including our own? This presentation is an introduction to the science behind satellite remote sensing, with real-life examples from archeology to Mars and the NASA photograph archive that allowed the artistic jump from Blake-7's colour filters to realistic-looking imaginary planets.

2:00 PM

Science Fiction And The Future Of American Television

Damian Magee, Graeme Watson

Cocktail Lounge Friday 2:00 PM

In the past decade, American television drama has become more creatively and commercially successful than ever. Television shows with unprecedented levels of quality in script, direction, acting and production have raised the bar higher than ever before. But among shows like *Deadwood*, *Rome*, *Six Feet Under*, *24*, *Damages*, *The Shield* and *The West Wing*, what place is there for science fiction? An examination of the realities of television broadcasting, the difficulties in launching new science fiction TV drama - and the possibilities and niches in which to do so.

“Who many Singularities was that, then?” - Ken McLeod speaks

Ken McLeod

Montana Friday 2:00 PM

Our international guest of honour Ken MacLeod discusses his novels and counts the ways humanity has dealt with the posthuman in them.

Magic: The Gathering — Time Spiral Draft

Evan Beasley, Thomas Castiglione, Lionel Pryce

Suite Friday 2:00 PM

The evolving and current play formats for the first of the great fantasy collectible card games.

3:00 PM

Post No Bills: SF Graffiti

Colin Sharpe, Kate Sharpe

Cocktail Lounge Friday 3:00 PM

It's not just tagging, graffiti artists all over the world are incorporating science fiction themes into their work. Who are they, and what are they producing, come along and find out.

A Case of Consciousness

Karl Schroeder, David Cake, Ken McLeod

Montana A Friday 3:00 PM

The idea that human consciousness is just software for a powerful computer, and so can be copied, freely duplicated, moved around, and edited, as such, is well established in modern SF, and used by authors from Frederick Pohl to Charles Stross. But is it likely to happen, or are the practical and philosophical issues raised more serious than some might think? How would you feel about dying so a copy of you might live? Would the process really capture you, or just a superficial version of you?

Girl Meets Boy: Romance In Fantasy

Juliet Marillier, Satima Flavell Neist, Ju Landéesse, Glenda Larke

Montana B Friday 3:00 PM

Why do readers still crave romance of fantasy? What lifts a love story above the trite, mushy and predictable? Why do these two genres work so well together, is there something unique about the two genres that makes the combination work?

4:00 PM

Convention Running: Are We Doing It Wrong?

Ju Landéesse, Grant Watson, David Cake, Tom Eitelhuber

Cocktail Lounge Friday 4:00 PM

Other SF conventions and expo style events are attracting larger numbers. Supanova will soon be offering its own, very successful and different, style of event to Perth. Swancon is failing to grow its numbers. Fandom overall is graying, and fracturing. Big areas of fandom don't see Swancon as the event for them. Is the way we run conventions becoming inappropriate for fandom? Are we doing some things wrong, could we change without losing what makes Swancon the event we like?

What do we love about childrens SF

Zara Baxter

Montana A Friday 4:00 PM

A presentation on the results of the survey of children's SF, which yielded fascinating results, such as differences between male and female readers in what qualities they look for in science fiction, which authors and books most influence political and religious views, favourite authors of SF for kids, and more!

Applied SF: using SF in the real world

Karl Schroeder

Montana B Friday 4:00 PM

When he's not writing SF, Karl Schroeder often works as a "foresight analyst" — almost the same as a futurist, but with important differences. In this talk, Karl will introduce Foresight and show how it's different from the traditional futurism of self-styled prophets such as Alvin Toffler. He'll also describe some of the methods and processes that foresight analysts use.

From an Idea to a Publishable Book: Avoiding Beginner's Mistakes

Glenda Larke

Suite Friday 4:00 PM

A workshop for prospective authors, discussing all the things happen in between that creative urge and holding a book in your hand, including the ones that no one might have told you about before.

5:00 PM

The Futures So Bright

Rob Masters, Steve Gunnell

Cocktail Lounge Friday 5:00 PM

Sometimes, science fiction sneaks up on us unaware, and is reality before we know it. Hear about the technologies on the horizon that could be reality by next Swancon.

Post-Cyberpunk

Darren Jorgenson, David Cake, Ken McLeod

Montana A Friday 5:00 PM

A lot of science fiction we read now is "post-cyberpunk", and its a very important part of modern SF. Only, no one can agree on what that actually means -- come, watch the panellists violently disagree.

Fan Ownership

Damian Magee, Rob Shearman

Montana B Friday 5:00 PM

Why do fans sometimes feel they own a show or series, and feel they have rights that the author should respect? Is it just a sense of entitlement, or do fans sometimes have a point? Do fans sometimes bring more insight than the authors?

What happens when fans are given real control over something, and then what happens when its taken away, as has happened with Doctor Who?

7:00 PM

Auction

Justin Ackroyd, John Robertson

Montana B Friday 7:00 PM

The traditional auction. Pick up a bargain or grab that obscure fannish special item. Sell your old stuff, and help raise money for fannish causes like the fan funds.

8:00 PM

Ticonderoga Launch

Russell B. Farr, Sean Williams

Montana A Friday 8:00 PM

Ticonderoga Press launches a new Sean Williams collection.

9:00 PM

The Anxious Penguin Hour

Stephanie Bateman-Graham, Matthew Bateman-Graham, John Parker, Sophie Ambrose, Gina Goddard

Montana A Friday 9:00 PM

Join Steph and Matt for 5 whole minutes of laughs, spills, thrills, interrogation and entertainment, and if that doesn't work, a quiz show of some sort. Almost entirely cat-free. Really. Promise. An S&M BGs Production, with special guests John Parker, Gina Goddard and Dr Sophie Ambrose.

Saturday

10:00 AM

Virtual Gold, Real Farmers, and True Crime

Paul Chamberlain, Grant Watson, David Cake

Acacia Saturday 10:00 AM

Online game economies are growing larger and more complex, and worth more, and beginning to relate to the real world in strange ways. Find out about why Chinese Warcraft gold farmers are making our economy seem like a fantasy world, why Eve Online has a professional economist, and about Second Life virtual real estate speculation, about online gaming related gang fights, and why a stolen World of Warcraft account is worth more than a stolen credit card.

11:00 AM

Last Realm launch

Sean Williams, Pat McNamara

Acacia Saturday 11:00 AM

From Angel Phoenix Publishing comes the visually rich and cinematically paced Fantasy series - THE LAST REALM. 'DRAGONSCARPE', the first 320 page, coffee-table-sized, hardback volume of this groundbreaking epic features more than one hundred and fifty stunning, full color illustrations by Illustrator and Master Pin-Up Artist, Michal Dutkiewicz (Wolverine & Lost in Space). Written by rising author Pat McNamara (Co-Creator of The Unknown Soldier), from a story by conceptualist Gary Turner, it is a 'must-have' for the lover of breathtaking art and fantastic storytelling. All are welcome to join us at the unveiling. www.thelastrealm.com

Trailer Park

Simon Oxwell, David Gunn

Montana B Saturday 11:00 AM

A look at the upcoming genre films for 2008: the films we're looking forward to, and the ones we're fearing. Predictions will be made. Theatrical trailers will be shown.

12:00 PM

Examining the Alien: Race and the Other in speculative fiction

Sophie Ambrose, Kandace Horton, Stephanie Cooke

Acacia Saturday 12:00 PM

The "Other" is a central trope of speculative fiction, from Klingons to Elves to the Jafar. Depictions of fictional "aliens" deliberately or subconsciously draw on attitudes towards other human cultures and ethnicities, while race or ethnicity is used as an "other" or as stereotype for narrative purposes. We will discuss the use of race-as-tool in speculative fiction, in texts such as *Angel*, *Anansi Boys*, *Stargate* and *Firefly*.

Rob Shearman Book Launch and Q&A

Rob Shearman, Ian Mond

Montana A Saturday 12:00 PM

Rob launches his latest book, answers questions, and entertains.

2:00 PM

The Metagame game

Michael O'Brien, Grant Watson, Greg Tannahill, Simon Oxwell

Acacia Saturday 2:00 PM

A game show about arguing about video games. Is *Starcraft* more cultural than *Virtua Fighter*? Is *Guitar Hero* more intellectual than *Katamari Damacy*? Is *Civilization* sexier than *World of Warcraft*?

The New Space Opera

Jonathon Strahan, Sean Williams, Robin Pen, Ken McLeod, Karl Schroeder

Montana B Saturday 2:00 PM

Once Space Opera was denigrated, but now its become one of the most popular, original, thriving and dynamic of genres. Why is it so successful now, what is new about it, where is going and where did it come from?

3:00 PM

Theatre Sports

Gina Goddard

Acacia Saturday 3:00 PM

Competitive improvisational theatre

Not if you were the last short story on earth

Alex Pierce, Alisa Krasnostein, Jonathon Strahan, Ben Payne

Montana B Saturday 3:00 PM

A few brave souls signed up to read every single SF/F short story published in 2007. Hear some of these veterans report on the state of the field, and see their battle scars. And find out what made the effort worthwhile.

4:00 PM

Video Quiz

Damian Magee

Acacia Saturday 4:00 PM

Damians popular video quiz. This year the theme is classic British SF.

A Point Of Difference: Standing Out In Fantasy Fiction

Juliet Marillier, Glenda Larke, Karen Miller, Bevan McGuinness

Montana B Saturday 4:00 PM

With bookstore shelves now overflowing with thick, popular fantasy novels, and with new titles arriving every month, how difficult is it to make an impact in the genre? Looking at matters of content, mythology, style and form, a panel of fantasy fiction professionals explain what it is that they do to stand out from the crowd and get noticed.

5:00 PM

What you should have been watching - 1988

Damian Magee, Tom Eitelhuber, Robin Pen

Acacia Saturday 5:00 PM

A discussion of what the upcoming movies to be excited about were 20 years ago. What was big? What was hyped? What were the sleeper films, not promoted at the time but remembered now?

Harper Collins Launch

Grant Watson, Sean Williams, Karen Miller

Montana A Saturday 5:00 PM

A book launch for books by Sean Williams and Karen Miller

Online SF

Sophie Ambrose, Zara Baxter

Montana B Saturday 5:00 PM

There are webcomics, ebooks, webzines, and online story repositories full of SF and fantasy. A treasure trove of online SF for your reading pleasure is there, if you only knew where to find it. Let our guides show you where.

8:00 PM

Heroes and Villains Ball

Montana Saturday 8:00 PM

The traditional Swancon Masquerade ball, this year with a Heroes and Villains theme.

Out of the Unknown

David Medlen, Damian Magee

Oshanesii Saturday 8:00 PM

Produced by the BBC from 1965 to 1971, Out of the Unknown was the premier British science fiction/ fantasy anthology series. A brief history of the series will be given and clips from the surviving episodes will be shown.

9:00 PM

Work-life balance: now and in the future

Ju Landéesse, Juliette Woods

Oshanesii Saturday 9:00 PM

Is it possible now? If not, why not; if so, how? What is hardest now about the expectation of 'wanting and having it all?' What will women in 50, 100 and 200 years say about the lives we led as women, the freedom, power and opportunities we had? What could most help improve work-life balance in the future? What has helped most in the past?

Sunday

10:00 AM

Live Action Quidditch

Fern Clarke

Montana Sunday 10:00 AM

All the action and adventure of the Wizarding Worlds greatest sport!

Come prepared to participate in a physical sporting event with a difference.

WASFF Meeting

Rohan Wallace

Oshanesii Sunday 10:00 AM

The 2010 Swancon bid is selected, the WASFF board is elected for the next year, and other business concerning WA Fandom may be presented, in WASFFs 15th Year.

11:00 AM

The Big Stage: Space Opera and setting

Sean Williams, Marianne De Pierres, Ken McLeod, Karl Schroeder

Acacia Sunday 11:00 AM

A characteristic of the Space Opera genre is its love of settings on a huge scale, from the planetary to the intergalactic. How do you choose a setting, how does a sense of time and space change the nature of the story? What about the truly innovative settings, from ringworlds up to far more esoteric settings?

Jedi Bootcamp

Kaneda Cruz

Montana Sunday 11:00 AM

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 lightsabers, are encouraged. Places are limited and registration at the front desk is required prior to the workshop.

12:00 PM

Horror: The State of the Art

Stephen Dedman, Lee Battersby, Shane Jiraiya Cummings

Oshanesii Sunday 12:00 PM

Where exactly is the Australian horror scene today? Some commentators have pointed to a recent resurgence in the field - is this the sign of more growth to come, or a momentary swell of interest before audiences return to reading other genres? What is it that Australian horror has to offer that other nations can't? An incisive look into one of Australia's most promising - and oftentimes most neglected - genres.

2:00 PM

The Future Of Star Wars

Sean Williams, Grant Watson, Karen Miller

Montana A Sunday 2:00 PM

More than 30 years later, and even without any upcoming movies, there is plenty of life in the Star Wars universe yet. There are upcoming cartoons, games, books, a live-action TV show, and more.

Painting the Future Green

Margaret Dunlop, Zara Baxter, Karl Schroeder

Montana B Sunday 2:00 PM

Concerns about energy efficiency, carbon emissions, and sustainability are changing the direction of technological development. When we think about the aesthetics of future technology, how will the green trend affect SF and our visions of the future?

Fandom cultural exchange

Damien Warman, Steve Francis, Sue Francis

Oshanesii Sunday 2:00 PM

The differences between UK, USA and Australian fandom from the perspectives of natives and visitors. What do fans do differently in other places? What things are the same everywhere? Are fans elsewhere just like us?

3:00 PM

Dalek: Live Audio Commentary with Rob Shearman

Rob Shearman, Ian Mond

Montana Sunday 3:00 PM

It captivated fans worldwide, relaunched Doctor Who's most terrifying foe for a new century, and was nominated for a 2006 Hugo Award. Interviewed by Ian Mond, Rob Shearman discusses his acclaimed Doctor Who episode "Dalek" live on stage. You may have heard them on DVD, but you haven't experienced an audio commentary until you've heard it live.

Australia in 2010 Worldcon Presentation

Perry Middlemiss

Oshanesii Sunday 3:00 PM

A presentation about the ongoing bid for Australia to host the world science fiction convention in 2010. Learn about Worldcons, learn about the Australian bid, and find out how you can help with the bid and the convention.

4:00 PM

Writing Fantasy and Living the Fantastic - Glenda Larke Speech

Glenda Larke

Montana Sunday 4:00 PM

Glenda Larke talks about the overlap between her life, the tropical rainforest, culture shock and writing.

70 Years of BBC SF

Damian Magee

Oshanesii Sunday 4:00 PM

Classic BBC science fiction and fantasy over the last 70 years.

5:00 PM

Swancon 2009 launch

Ju Landéesse, Paul Raj Khangure, Stephanie Bateman-Graham

Montana Sunday 5:00 PM

Discover what next year's con committee have in store for us!

Critiquing: how much feedback is too much?

Juliet Marillier, Satima Flavell Neist, Lee Battersby, Robert Hoge, Cat Sparks

Oshanesii Sunday 5:00 PM

Writers' groups (face to face and online), manuscript assessment services, mentoring – will they help you write better? Or will they hurt your confidence, or waste your time?

8:00 PM

Gotham Central

David Medlen

Montana Sunday 8:00 PM

Imagine being an ordinary cop in a world of superheroes and villains.

Greg Rucka and Ed Brubaker's award winning take on the DC Comics universe will surprise and confront you.

Awards Ceremony

Ju Landéesse, Rohan Wallace

Montana Sunday 8:00 PM

The Ditmar Awards, The Tin Ducks, the Marg Hughes Award, and more. To be followed by cocktails in celebration of WASFFs 15th Anniversary.

10:00 PM

Magical Hat of Mystery 2: The Time Wasters

Grant Watson, Danny Oz, John Robertson

Montana Sunday 10:00 PM

Caffeine, exhaustion, stand- up comedy and a magical hat. Last year, two men decided to pull audience suggestions out of a hat and improvise some random ranting. This year, they'll do it again, but joined by the mighty power of Mr Danny Oz (but sadly without his formerly scrumptious beard).

Come on down, pop a topic in the hat and watch as three men use all their energy to produce well... something. It'll be like a Dr Who episode, but nobody's a doctor, or a time lord, or Billie Piper. God, I love her.

Monday

10:00 AM

Natcon Business Meeting

David Cake

Cocktail Lounge Monday 10:00 AM

Business related to the Australian National Science Fiction Convention (which is Swancon this year) is discussed, including the Natcon for 2010, the Ditmars, a progress report from the 2009 Natcon, and any business anyone may wish to bring to the meeting. David Cake will be Chairing the meeting this year.

Making stuff is cool again

David Bent, John Parker

Montana A Monday 10:00 AM

Hardware hackers and handicrafts are both on the rise, and magazines like Make and Craft, and endless internet sites are generating enthusiasm for geeks making physical stuff with their hands. Who is making what, how can you start making stuff, why is it suddenly that the culture rewards craftiness?

You Gotta Make Way For The Homo Superior

Lee Battersby, Lyn Battersby, Tom Eitelhuber

Montana B Monday 10:00 AM

David Bowie's name is synonymous with many trends: Rock, Art, Androgyny, the reinvention of the self. And of course, science fiction. This panel will look at ways in which Bowie's music has influenced the culture of the 20/21st Centuries. Which writers have been inspired by his lyrics? Who inspired him first?

Crisis On Infinite Publishers!

Greg Tannahill, Grant Watson

Oshanesii Monday 10:00 AM

In the world of American comic books the "big two" - Marvel and DC - are undergoing something of a creative crisis. Fans are responding to current storylines more and more negatively, and it's beginning to look as if neither publisher can put a foot right. What has led to the current situation in the American superhero comic industry? What's currently working, what isn't, and why? What is the potential future for the genre? A critical appraisal of two fictional universes in crisis.

11:00 AM

Doctor Who and the Big Finish

Lee Battersby, Ian Mond, Stephen Dedman, Rob Shearman

Montana A Monday 11:00 AM

Big Finish are a notable producer of Doctor Who audio plays and other media. What is like working with them? How have things changed with the new series? How does fandom feel about their take on Doctor Who? What about their work based on other cult SF properties?

Is Democracy Inevitable?

Ken McLeod, Glenda Larke, Paul Kidd

Montana B Monday 11:00 AM

Is the seeming slow convergence of history towards social democracy inevitable, or an illusion of history? Are some political systems really more advanced, or is there association with more technologically advanced societies coincidental? Is there a reason why we won't have the feudal galactic empires of so much space opera?

Survival in changing times

Sarah Parker, Zara Baxter, Elaine Kemp

Oshanesii Monday 11:00 AM

I'm not a housewife, I'm just in training for the apocalypse. Self-sufficiency and a return of domestic skills as a survival strategy for climate change, social collapse.

12:00 PM

How Far is Too Far: Sheri S. Tepper and Eco-Evangelism

Anna Hepworth, Glenda Larke

Montana A Monday 12:00 PM

Sheri S. Tepper is a writer with an obsession with ecology and ecosystems, or so her writing would have us believe. She often presents us with dire predictions as to what the future might look like if we don't change the destructive nature of our interactions with nature, and possibly if we don't change some of the aspects that people might consider to be fundamentally human. Discussion will focus on environment and ecosystems, and their presentation with Tepper's works, as well as in other genre fiction.

The Homework panel

Paul Raj Khangure, Damien Warman, John Parker

Montana B Monday 12:00 PM

The committee from the next Swancon, the next Natcon, and other upcoming cons, set homework for the next con — books to read by their guests, films to see, masquerade theme for costume planning, planned activities, etc.

Fandom of the Living Dead

Damian Magee, Fern Clarke

Oshanesii Monday 12:00 PM

Some shows, such as Blake's 7 or Due South or the Persuaders, have a fandom that carries on long after the show is dead, or sometimes even is largely created after the shows demise. What is it like being in a fandom where the source material has ceased, but the fandom continues?

2:00 PM

Harry Potter: The Final Analysis

Sophie Ambrose

Montana A Monday 2:00 PM

The seventh and final book has been published, and the back cover closed on one of the biggest fiction phenomenons of all time. So what, in the final analysis, does Harry Potter represent? A look at its effect and influence on children's fiction, fantasy fiction, Internet fandom and the book publishing industry.

The different faces of Charles Stross

David Cake, Ken McLeod

Montana B Monday 2:00 PM

A general introduction to his work. Charles Stross is known as a leading post-cyberpunk and exponent of singularity fiction, but who also writes far future social commentary, space opera, fantasy and Lovecraft/espionage cross-over with a side order of bureaucratic satire. Learn more about this varied and complex author.

Marketing 10101

Russell B. Farr

Oshanesii Monday 2:00 PM

Professional marketer and editor of the independent publishing house Ticonderoga Publications, Russell B. Farr, presents the basics of marketing and promotion for individuals and small groups. The difference between professional and amateur doesn't have to be large.

3:00 PM

Transformation and Fanworks

Cathy Cuppitt, Maia Bobrowicz, Ju Landéesse

Montana A Monday 3:00 PM

Fan fiction has been at the centre of debates over fair use, copyright and plagiarism since it became part of fan culture in the 70s. We invite you to participate in an interactive panel that gives some insight into ways in which fan fiction enriches and transforms the source material that inspires it. We look at what aspects of fan works are transformative, and what the newly established Organization for Transformative Works (OTW) is doing to demonstrate the legitimacy of fan works.

Writing For Television: A Guide For New Writers

Graeme Watson, Rob Shearman

Montana B Monday 3:00 PM

Getting into some real nitty-gritty stuff about plotting TV scripts, writing series bibles, the reality of what you should and shouldn't bother writing in Australia, and so on.

Gary Gygax - the man who built gaming

David Cake, Paul Kidd

Oshanesii Monday 3:00 PM

The recent death of Gary Gygax provides an opportunity to look back on the enormous influence his game Dungeons and Dragons has influenced gaming and popular culture, his hits and misses, and his life in gaming.

4:00 PM

Closing Ceremony

Anna Hepworth, Swancon 2008 Committee

Montana Monday 4:00 PM

So long, farewell, auf wiederschen and goodbye from Swancon for another year. Awards, wrap ups, thanks to everybody, and a last chance to see our guests.