



SWANCON 2013

PROGRESS REPORT

ONE

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Welcome to the first Progress Report for Swancon 2013. It was a busy year for all of us, and this year looks to be continuing the trend.

We're very pleased to announce that, due to the great response we've had so far, we're able to reintroduce our discount pricing for first time members to Swancon 2013.

We're also very excited to be putting together all the ideas you've so far provided for our program and we're looking forward to hearing more.

Fe Waters has once again agreed to oversee Swancon's family programming stream and is currently developing program items and activities.

With so much happening over the next few months and at the con itself, we're putting out a call for volunteers to help us out. We'll need helpers from time to time in the lead up, and more when Swancon is in full swing. Email volunteers-2013@swancon.com.au to let us know if you're interested in helping out.

Over the last few months we've been delighted to welcome two new members to our committee in two very key roles:

Jennifer Gladwell has joined us as our Guest Liaison and has played a key part in some of the wonderful things we have planned for the con.

We are also welcoming Helen Creagh of Dark Nouveau to committee as our Dealer's Liaison. Many of you are already familiar with Helen from Swancon's marketplace in years past, trading in beautiful jewelry, Victoriana, Steampunk, and Gothic artifacts.

CONVENTION

GUESTS

2012 was a big year for all of our guests. Highlights include:

John Birmingham continued his fine work writing the *Blunt Instrument* column for the Sydney Morning Herald, released the novella *Stalin's Hammer: Rome*, and his 2011 novel *Angels of Vengeance* was released in the USA to strong reviews.

Lucy Sussex's collection *Matilda Told Such Dreadful Lies*, from major convention sponsor Ticonderoga Publications, was nominated for the prestigious Sir Julius Vogel Award for Best Collected Work.

Comics writer **Gail Simone** had a tumultuous December, as she was suddenly and unexpectedly dismissed from her critically acclaimed Batgirl run, only to be reinstated shortly after the ensuing fan outcry. The editorial backflip was proof positive of Simone's huge following and the power of online protest. Simone also had success with her Kickstarter project *Leaving Megalopolis*, a comic co-created with Jim Calafiore, in which the world's caped heroes inexplicably turn into homicidal lunatics. The project received a huge response and eclipsed its funding target in September.

Charles Stross released *The Apocalypse Codex*, and also co-authored a novel with fan-favourite Cory Doctorow, entitled *The Rapture of the Nerds*. They have published the ebook under a Creative Commons license, and you can go to Stross' website at www.antipope.org/charlie/ to read the whole thing for free.

We are very excited to have these great and talented people attending Swancon 2013 and look forward to seeing them engage with their fans throughout the convention.

Swancon 2013 will be held at the Ibis Styles Hotel (formerly the All Seasons Hotel), located at 15 Robinson Ave, Northbridge.

Between 2006 and 2010 the Ibis Styles hosted five excellent Swancons and the 2013 committee is thrilled to be returning to this venue. The hotel boasts five function rooms and a number of additional spaces which will be used for programme items, events, gaming, family-friendly activities and more.

The hotel bar and restaurant will be open throughout the long weekend for meals, snacks and drinks, including the popular buffet breakfast.

VENUE



To make a booking, please contact the hotel on **9328 0000**. Make sure you mention Swancon to take advantage of our discounted rates:

Standard Room

w/ Continental Breakfast: **\$119**

w/ Full Buffet Breakfast: **\$139**

Superior Room

w/ Continental Breakfast: **\$159**

w/ Full Buffet Breakfast: **\$179**



If you require a quieter, more family friendly booking, please advise the hotel of this and ask to be on the second floor.

TICKETS

Tickets for Swancon 2013 can be obtained through our online store. Click the "Store" tab at swancon.com.au and you can purchase a ticket using Paypal or direct deposit. You'll need to register with the site before you can place your order.

Standard: \$210

Concession: \$155

(Get in now before prices rise!)



First Time Attendee Special Offer!

If you've never attended a full Swancon before then you can purchase a "first time member" ticket for just \$150 (or \$95 concession). This is a great saving off the usual cost and may not be repeated in future years.

We'd love for our returning members to bring their friends and family. Get them to buy a first time member ticket and contact memberships-2013@swancon.com.au to give us your name as a referer. We'll give you a \$10 discount on any con-related purchase, such as merchandise and movie screening tickets.

For many con-goers, the Saturday Night Masquerade Ball is the peak of the Swancon experience: a night of cosplay, music, revelry and great company. We want to give you one of the best Masquerades ever.

One of the highlights of the Masquerade evening is the Cosplay Competition, and we're excited to announce that the costume theme for this year shall be:

“Remix”

It's time to get creative. Think of a character, any character. Or think of two and mix them together. Reimagine them. Genderswap them. Take them to a different time, culture or genre. Give them a new look or a new personality. Do whatever you want! There are no requirements except for this:

Take something recognisable and change it.

Members are welcome to create a costume that does not fit the theme, but they will be ruled ineligible for prizes in the competition. We look forward to seeing what imaginative costumes our attendees can conceive!

MARKETPLACE

The ever-popular Swancon marketplace is a great spot to buy books, DVDs, toys, comics and other hard-to-find geeky wares. The marketplace will be operating on:

Saturday 30th and Sunday 31st March
10:00 AM to 6:00 PM



If you'd like to have a stall in the marketplace, please contact dealers-2013@swancon.com.au to book your table. Prices are as follows:

Fan tables

Single table: \$50

Double table: \$100

Professional tables

Single table: \$100

Double table: \$200

If you're not sure which category you fit or have other queries regarding the marketplace, don't hesitate to get in touch and we'll answer your questions. Space is limited and allocated on a first-come first-served basis, so don't delay.

The Swancon Art Show will be held at the convention on
Saturday 30th and Sunday 31st March

The theme for this year's art show is:

**Perception, Discovery, Emergence:
Experiences with the new and imminent**

Pieces not fitting the theme are also welcome.

Entries will be eligible for prizes in a number of categories, including:

- Judges' Choice
- Popular Choice
- Under 12's

Works for sale will be sold via auction slip with a starting bid to be specified by the artist. "Not for sale" works are also welcome.

Each entry will incur a registration fee of \$2 except for "Under 12's" which are free of charge. This fee can be paid on the day of registration at the convention.

Please email artshow-2013@swancon.com.au to reserve space for your pieces. The email should include the title of your work, approximate size, display requirements (e.g. mounting) and whether the work will be for sale.

Check out the "Art Show" tab at swancon.com.au for more details!

PROGRAMME

The Swancon Programme is in the early stages of development and we're looking to make a big push for content in the New Year. The success of the programme depends on the contributions of convention members, so we'd love your help.

- **Submit an idea** - it could be a panel, presentation, workshop, demonstration, activity or anything else you can think of.
- **Volunteer to be a panelist** - we're always in need of panelists to make the programme items a success. If you don't think you're qualified or prepared, don't stress. Just get in touch and we'll see if there's somewhere we can fit you in. Being on panels is great fun and a good way to interact with other con-goers.
- **Become a moderator** - do you think you can keep a discussion under control for 45 minutes, making sure everyone has their say? We need your help!

If you have an idea to submit, go to swancon.com.au and click the "Programme" tab for submission guidelines, or email programming-2013@swancon.com.au to contact the programmer directly.

The other way to help is to attend an Open Programming Meeting, where members can brainstorm and workshop their ideas. The next meeting will be:

Saturday 19th January, 2:30 PM
Queens Park Gardens, East Perth

Please contact programming-2013@swancon.com.au if you have any other programming queries.

The Family Programme will be running again in 2013 thanks to the generous efforts of Fe Waters. It will be running every day between 10 AM and 6 PM with a variety of kid-friendly items – which is not to say only for kids!

Swancon Family Programme Guidelines

- The family programme is not child minding. A parent or designated guardian must be in attendance at all times.
- All children in the room must be wearing a Swancon 2013 name tag with contact mobile phone and Family Programme sticker.
- Please pre-register all children under 12, to allow you to collect their nametags at the start of the convention.
- There must always be a designated responsible adult in the room with the child.
- Each parent/guardian may be responsible for no more than double the number of children for whom they are usually responsible – as long as there are at least two adults in the room.
- Please assist us in keeping the room presentable. Children need to pack up as they finish each activity. (They will obviously need reminders!)
- Craft materials and books are always available.
- All members of the convention are welcome to join us at any time, however if there are limits on numbers for any activity, first preference is given to children (and the parents who need to be there).

To pre-register children under 12, simply email Fe on familyprogram-2013@swancon.com.au with their name, the name of their designated guardian and a contact number for that guardian. If you could also provide their age, and an idea of when they are likely to attend, that would be a great help with fine-tuning the programme.

FAMILY

VOLUNTEERS

Running a convention is a lot of work! If you'd like to lend a hand there's a number of ways you can help out:

- Registration desk
- Room setup and takedown
- Art-show supervision
- Equipment collection
- Pre-con preparations
- AV setup
- About a thousand other things

Volunteering is good karma and makes you feel all fuzzy! Please contact volunteers-2013@swancon.com.au if you'd like to help us before, during or after the con in any way.

Join our online community!



swancon.com.au



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Science Fiction, Fantasy, Horror convention

International Guest of Honour
Nalo Hopkinson

International Editor Guest of Honour

Marc Gascoigne

Fan Guest of Honour
Rose Mitchell

Australian Guest of Honour
Karen Miller

Special Guest
Kaaron Warren

Rudges Capital Hill, Barton ACT, April 25-28, 2013

www.conflox.org.au



We'd like to give our special thanks to the following for their generous support of Swancon:

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