

# SPEC FIC AND FANTASY FESTIVAL - SATURDAY 7 MAY

\*All Saturday workshops will take place in the seminar room.

**8:30AM REGISTRATION OPENS (ATRIUM)**

**12-1PM LUNCH**

**9-9:10AM WELCOME**

## **9:10-10AM PANEL ONE: WHAT IS SPEC FICTION?**

Sean Williams and Jason Fischer

With an ever expanding list of genres and sub genres that fit under the umbrella of speculative fiction, how do you know where your writing sits? Our panel will discuss all things genre, why understanding your genre can help you find your audience and tips to help you talk about your work in progress.

## **10:10-11AM PANEL TWO: THINKING ABOUT YOUR YA AUDIENCE**

Gillian Rubinstein and Tony Shillitoe

The increasing interest in young adult fiction means writers are no longer only writing for teens – many adults read YA targeted books and many younger children are “reading up”. What are the rules around dealing with subject matter that challenges and interest your readers while still being considered suitable? Is there such a thing as age appropriate content? And how do you know what will and won't get past teachers and librarians?

## **11:10-12PM PANEL THREE: WRITING SHORTS VS WRITING WORLDS**

Tehani Wessely, Ben Chandler and Jason Fischer

Short speculative fiction is a growing area of interest for readers, writers and publishers. What are some of the differences, rules and challenges writers face when writing short speculative fiction pieces as opposed to building entire worlds that span out into series? And what are award judges and publishers looking for in creative short fiction?

## **1-1:50PM PANEL FOUR: MAKING IT UP**

Jo Spurrier, Lisa L Hannett and DM Cornish

Speculative fiction gives writers the ultimate opportunity to activate their imaginations by creating unique characters, worlds and parallel universes. But the best spec fiction also references the real world as a way to help readers to suspend their sense of disbelief. What are some of the tips and techniques for bringing your world and characters back down to earth?

## **2-2:50PM PANEL FIVE: BUILDING AUSTRALIAN WORLDS**

Tehani Wessely, Sean Williams and Gillian Rubinstein

From our gothic roots, Australian writers have been creating worlds that differ from those of our international counterparts for decades. This panel will discuss what makes Australian spec fiction unique, how it sits in an international market and what value using our landscape has as a setting.

## **3-3:50PM PANEL SIX: PATHWAYS TO PUBLICATION**

Tehani Wessely and Ben Chandler

As the global readership of speculative fiction continues to grow, publishing opportunities are becoming more unique and diverse. This panel will look at the ways you can get your work out there and into readers' hands give yourself the best chance of getting published. We'll also look at whether you should you pitch a series or a stand alone and some of the ways spec fiction writers are forging their careers.

## **4-4:45PM PANEL SEVEN: WHERE TO FROM HERE?**

Artlink Opportunity with Eve Sullivan, Final Q&A and wrap up

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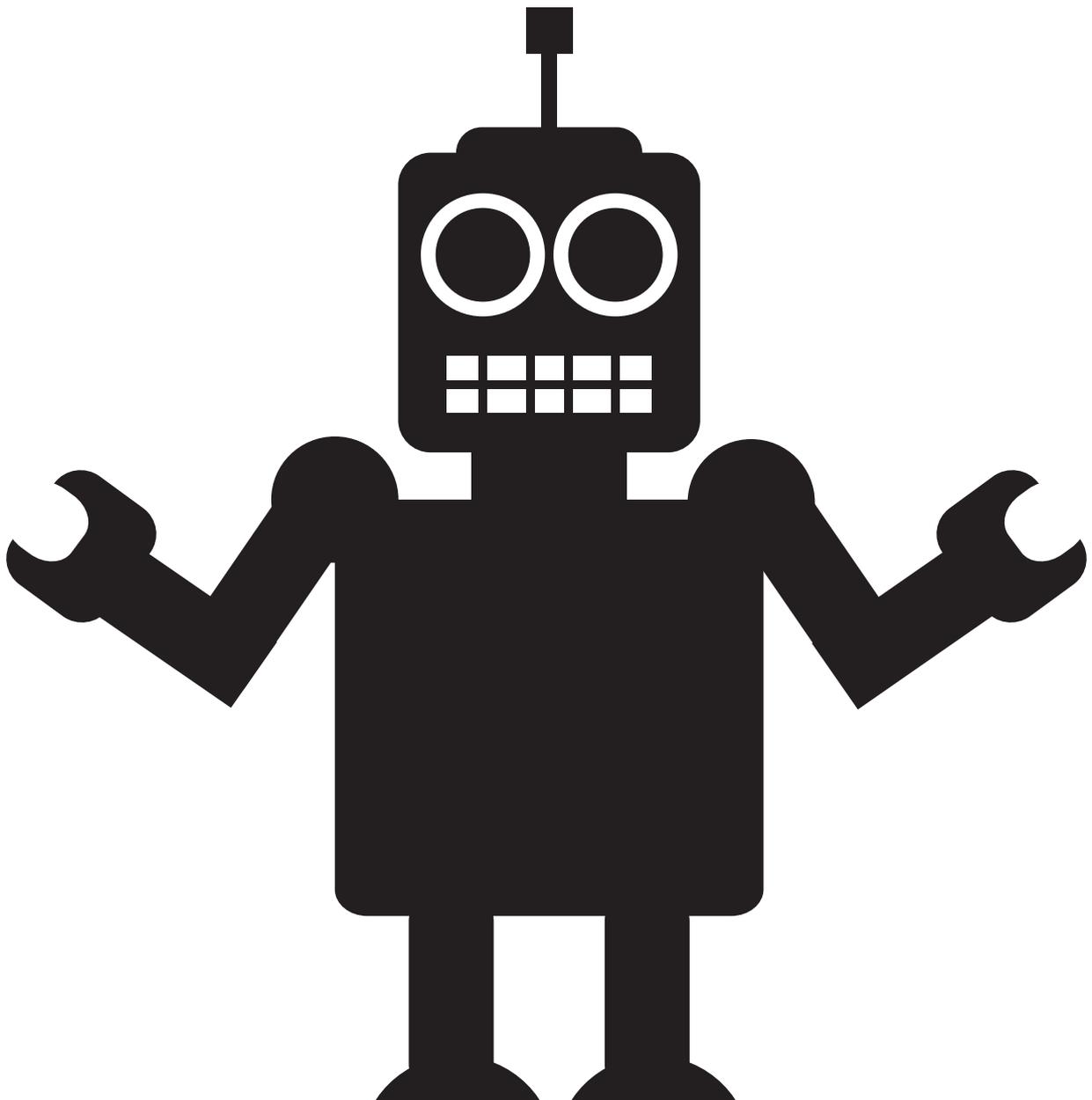
# **QUICK & DIRTY READING EVENT**

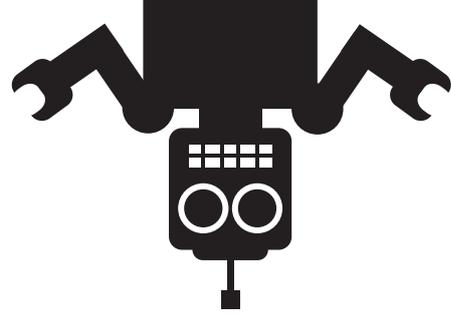
**THE PRODUCERS HOTEL**

**5-7PM**

**Weird Tales, Amazing Stories and Fantastic Fiction**  
Featuring Sean Williams, Gillian Rubinstein, Tony Shillitoe, Dean  
Mayes, Jason Fischer, Lisa L Hannett, Ben Chandler and DM  
Cornish.

This is a one time only chance to hear some of the best voices  
in Australian Spec Fiction as they share their favourite work or a  
never before heard piece of their writing.





# SPEC FIC AND FANTASY FESTIVAL - SUNDAY 8 MAY

**9:30AM REGISTRATION OPENS (ATRIUM)**

## **10-1PM WORKSHOP ONE: SPECULATIVE STORYTELLING**

**Gillian Rubinstein (Lian Hearn)**

Building a rich and imaginative fictional world for your readers to immerse themselves in can be challenging. Keeping your reader engaged past the first instalment even more so. How can you place your reader in your unique environment without bogging them down in excess explanation? With more than 30 years of writing experience, Gillian Rubinstein will share tips and expertise around employing structure, pace and character development to captivate your reader. As a bonus, she'll discuss ways to employ real world research to give your fictional worlds more depth without losing your storyline.

## **10-1PM WORKSHOP TWO: WORLD BUILDING**

**Jason Fischer**

Do you dream of creating your own universe where all the rules are made by you? Or are you imagining a world of dragons, or a space station where aliens meet and trade? Jason Fischer will guide you through the steps needed to create your own world and setting, either for your own stories and comics, or just for fun. The natural laws when creating fantastical settings will be explored with a specific "hands on" focus that will involve drawing maps, sculpting creatures out of play dough or Lego.

**1-2PM LUNCH**

## **2-5PM WORKSHOP THREE: COLLABORATIONS IN SPEC FIC**

**Sean Williams**

Collaborations between writers are becoming more and more popular in the world of sci fi and speculative fiction. This can produce a set of challenges when working with multiple writers and stories. Experienced collaborator, Sean Williams, will share everything he has learnt about successful collaborations to inspire your own writing partnerships and create masterful works of writing.

## **2-5PM WORKSHOP FOUR: GET PITCH READY**

**Tahani Wessely**

Understanding the inner workings of small presses and publications, how they run and what they are looking for can give you "the edge" when it comes to submitting your work for publication. In this workshop, publisher and experienced writing award judge, Tahani Wessely will share with you ways to prepare your work for submission and how you can vastly improve your chances of success.

**\*Once registered, attendees will be sent an online form to select their preferred sequence of workshops on the Sunday. Places will be allocated based on order of completion.**

## ABOUT THE PRESENTERS

**GILLIAN RUBINSTEIN**'s books have been delighting and entertaining children and young adults from all over the globe for 30 years. Her first book, *Space Demons*, was published in 1986 and since then she has created over 40 works, including plays and puppet shows. Her awards include two CBC Book of the Year Awards, four CBC Honour Book Awards, a New South Wales Premier's Award and a YABBA Children's Choice Award. In 2002, under the pseudonym, Lian Hearn, Rubinstein published *Across the Nightingale Floor*, the first of the best-selling five book historical fantasy: *Tales of the Otori*. The series is set in a fictional island nation resembling medieval Japan and is published in forty countries, in both adult and young adult editions. Two historical novels followed, and a new fantasy series, set in the same world as the Otori, *The Tale of Shikanoko*, will appear in 2016 in Australia in two parts: *Emperor of the Eight Islands* and *Lord of the Darkwood*, and in the US in four parts.

**SEAN WILLIAMS** is the bestselling author of over forty novels and one hundred stories, including some set in the Star Wars and Doctor Who universes. His latest include *Twinmaker: Fall* and *Troubletwisters: Missing, Presumed Evil*, the latter co-written with Garth Nix. He lives just up the road from the best chocolate factory in Australia with his family and a pet plastic fish.

**TEHANI WESSELY** operates FableCroft Publishing, a boutique press dedicated to the future of speculative fiction in Australia. She has edited several anthologies and original novels, and has a charter to promote emerging and established authors and artists in the speculative fiction field. Tehani has judged for several national literary awards, including the WA Premier's Book Awards and the Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Year Awards, has coordinated the Aurealis Awards, and in her spare time, works full time as a teacher librarian and enjoys time with her four children.

**BEN CHANDLER** started writing at 16. Now, he holds a PhD in Creative Writing (his thesis was on heroes in fantasy) and gets to read comic books, watch cartoons, play video games, and call it work. He has published two YA fantasy novels, *Quillblade* and *Beast Child*, about an airship full of heroes protecting their world from Demons. In 2010 he was awarded the Colin Thiele Creative Writing Scholarship from Carclew Youth Arts and in 2011 was awarded a grant from Arts SA to work on a YA urban fantasy set in Adelaide.

**DM CORNISH** is a fantasy author and illustrator. His first book is *Foundling*, the first part of the *Monster Blood Tattoo* trilogy. Cornish studied illustration at the University of South Australia, where in 1993 he began to compile a series of notebooks: over the next ten years he filled 23 journals with his pictures, definitions, ideas and histories of his world, the "Half-Continent". It was not until 2003 that a chance encounter with a children's publisher gave him an opportunity to develop these ideas further, which led to his first publication.

**LISA L. HANNETT** has had over 60 short stories appear in venues including *Clarkesworld*, *Fantasy*, *Weird Tales*, *Apex*, *The Year's Best Australian Fantasy and Horror* (2010, 2011 & 2012), and *Imaginarium: Best Canadian Speculative Writing* (2012 & 2013). She has won four Aurealis Awards, including Best Collection for her first book, *Bluegrass Symphony*, which was also nominated for a World Fantasy Award. Her first novel, *Lament for the Afterlife*, is being published by CZP in 2015.

**JASON FISCHER** is the author of dozens of short stories, and his first collection *Everything is a Graveyard* is now available from Ticonderoga Publications. He has won an Aurealis Award and the Writers of the Future Contest, and he has been shortlisted for the Ditmars and the Australian Shadows Awards. His YA zombie apocalypse novel *Quiver* is now available from Black House Comics. Jason has a passion for god-awful puns, and is known to sing karaoke until the small hours.

**TONY SHILLITOE** is an Australian-based author of fantasy, speculative, teenage and crime detective fiction. His first fantasy series, the *Andrakis* trilogy, was published by Pan Macmillan in 1992-3 and HarperCollins subsequently published two more fantasy series - the *Ashuak Chronicles* and *Amber Legacy*. *The Last Wizard* (1995) was shortlisted for the inaugural Aurealis Awards, as was *Blood* in 2002. *Caught in the Headlights* was listed as a notable read for older readers by the Childrens Book Council in 2003. Most recently, *In My Father's Shadow*, a young adult novel, was published through Amazon Kindle (2015).

**JO SPURRIER** was born in 1980 and has a Bachelor of Science, but turned to writing because people tend to get upset when scientists make things up. Her hobbies include knitting, spinning, cooking and research and she is the author of *Winter Be My Shield* and the *Children of the Black Sun* series. She lives in Adelaide with her husband and spends a lot of time daydreaming about snow.