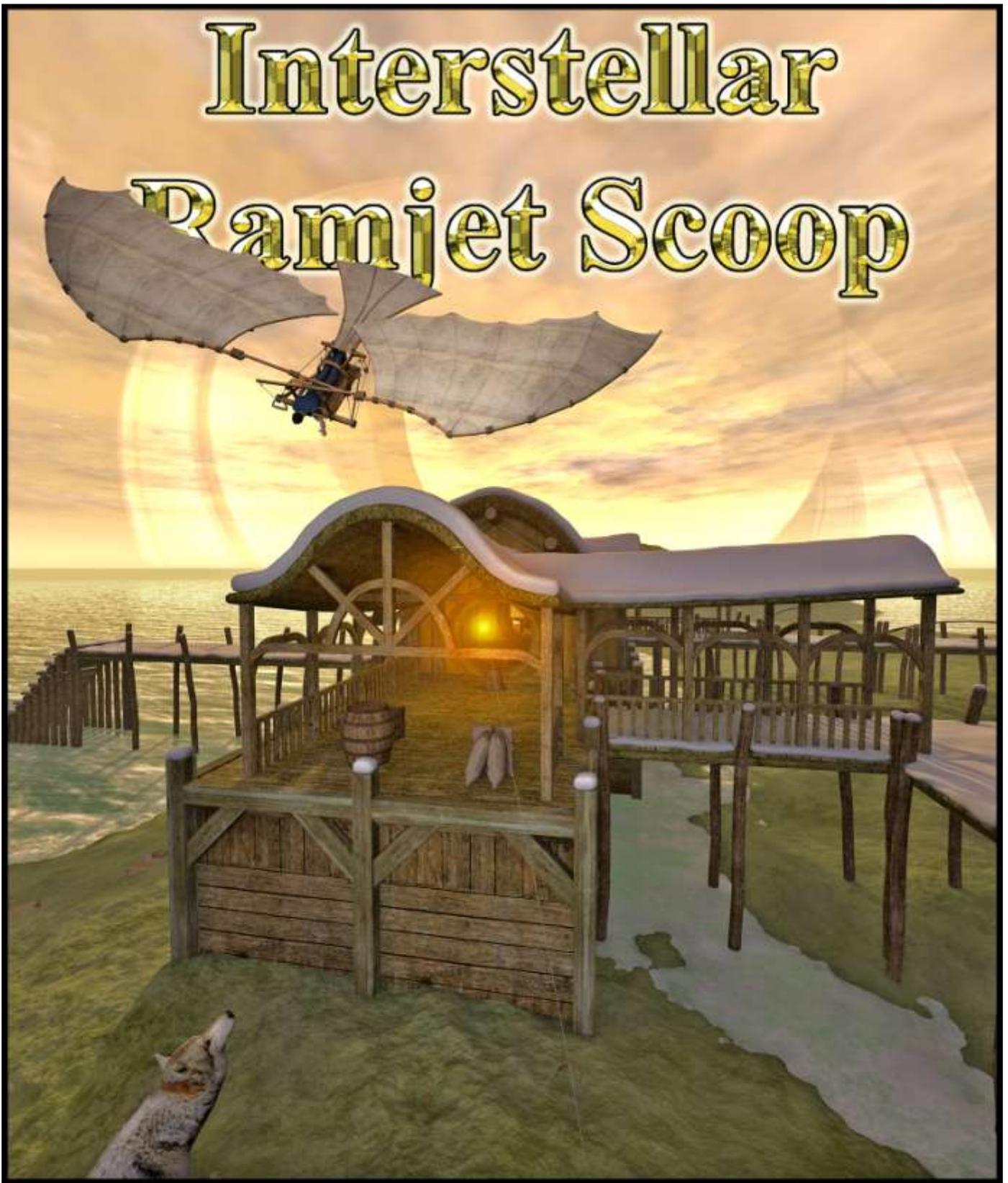


# Interstellar

# Ramjet Scoop



**DECEMBER 2013**

**PUBLISHED BY BILL WRIGHT**

**UNIT 4, 1 PARK STREET, ST. KILDA WEST, VICTORIA 3182**

**THE JOURNAL FOR INQUISITIVE READERS**



GRAPHICS BY DITMAR

INTERSTELLAR RAMJET SCOOP (THE JOURNAL FOR INQUISITIVE READERS)  
PUBLISHED BY BILL WRIGHT, 4/1 PARK STREET, ST. KILDA, VICTORIA 3182

December 2013

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Feedback encouraged

Please e-mail your letter of comment to: [bilw@iprimus.com.au](mailto:bilw@iprimus.com.au)

### ‘Big Five’ model for personality evaluation

Psychologists use what they call the **Five Factor Model** to identify personality traits. Their Big Five factors are **Openness, Conscientiousness, Extraversion, Agreeableness, and Neuroticism**, identified by the acronym OCEAN. (For additional Oceanic perspectives, please refer to *In Vita Mea* in this issue). Non-professionals have a different Big Five in mind for their list of desirable personality traits, being **Cleanliness, Elegance, Character, Style and Value**.

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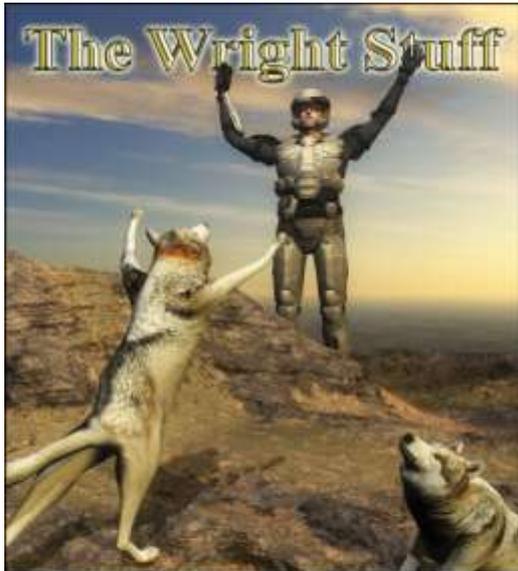
Front Cover:	Graphic by Ditmar
Page 2	Photos of Bill Wright and Ditmar Jenssen
Page 3	Fanzine covers – graphics by Ditmar
Page 5	Illustrtion by Ian Gunn
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Page 26	Photos of great sporting moments

## This issue's covers

### *The Duffer Returns*

Covers and notes by Dick Jenssen

Once again, there's not much of a back story to this issue's front cover – but what there is could be the following.



PUBLISHED FOR WOOF!  
at LoneStarCon 3 (71st Worldcon) Aug 29 to Sep 2, 2013  
by 2013 DUFF WINNER BILL WRIGHT  
Unit 4, 1 Park Street, St Kilda West, Victoria 3182, Australia  
bilw@iprimus.com.au

As **all** readers of *IRS* know, Bill Wright was the DUFF awardee of this year. But I imagine, because the yarn is rather old, only **few** readers may know of Jack Vance's short story *The Men Return*. This is one of my favourite SF tales. No, I'll rephrase that, I think it's one of the best SF stories I have read. In a few pages it develops a wonderfully surrealistic tangled tale, and asks questions, but not aggressively, about cause and effect, and logic, and just how our lives are so conflated with these concepts. Indeed, it questions whether these apprehensions are real or constructs of our minds, and also asks if life, any human life, would be or could be possible in the absence of these.

Which sounds rather boring as I have expressed it – but quite the reverse. There's no need to think about such 'philosophical' concepts when reading the story. Nor, indeed, even after having read it. As I say, it's a fabulous read.

Coming back to this issue's cover, the returning Duffer is on the glider, the wolf is a reminiscence of **Woof!** (see below). The Halfling House in the centre of the graphic is part of Bill's love of the fantastic, the ringed planet is part of Bill's love of SF.

Bill asked me to create a cover for the one-off 'zine he generated for **WOOF!**\* at the *Lone Star Con*. In fact I gave him two such covers, and he used them both – one as front cover and the other as a back cover.

\* WOOF is the acronym for the World Organisation of Faneds, and also the name of an apa to which fanzine editors present at Worldcons contribute. Apa\*\* is itself an acronym for Amateur Press Association.

\*\* Apas were not invented by, and are not unique to, science fiction fandom. But, until the Internet supervened, the activity flourished here as perhaps nowhere else. A few, distributed by post, still survive, with an "official editor" or mailing officer to whom each member sends a stated number of copies of his publication for distribution to members. They include the *Fantasy Amateur Press Association* (North America) and the *Australian and New Zealand Amateur Publishing Association*.

Oh, Bill's WOOFzine was titled *The Wright Stuff*, which could be braggadocio or a naughty pun. It is ten pages of wholesome fannish fun. Read it online at: <http://efanzines.com/IRS/TheWrightStuff-01.pdf>.

In *The Wright Stuff*, the Duffer on the front cover is basking in the homage of faneds at Worldcon. The returning Duffer on the back page is on the glider, the wolves being reminiscent of **Woof!** The ringed planet is part of Bill's love of science fiction.

Inquisitive *IRS* readers who pine for an iconic image of an Australian Drover's Dog can find one on page 9 of *The Wright Stuff*.

By the way, no one except Melbourne fan Elaine Cochrane got the joke of the **Woof!** Covers. They are not dogs depicted here, but wolves. And wolves don't woof – they **Howl**.

### Technical Notes

The usual stuff: the graphic was created in *E-on's Vue Complete 11*, the resulting image was then tweaked, and text added, using *Adobe's PhotoShop CS6*.



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## In Vita Mea

**Dateline:** December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013

All is quiet on the home front until the New Year. On the investment front, every single one of Australia's pre-Christmas stock market floats has crashed. Even my major outlay on 30,000 shares in NEXTDC (ASX code NXT) tanked; and that after announcing a deal telecommunications infrastructure giant Telstra to warehouse their government and business clients' data at NEXTDC's state-of-the-art data centres in Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney and Perth, utilising Telstra's Next IP® connectivity software.

That's a game changing deal that allows users of any size from small-to-medium-sized businesses to global conglomerates to complement their Telstra Cloud infrastructure with co-location in state-of-the-art managed data centre region where there are wired-up workstations with user-friendly office facilities.

I checked with the NEXTDC's chief financial officer yesterday. He said that Telstra will take care of training and opined that NEXTDC might become cash flow positive in the second half of 2014, with rapid recovery of establishment costs since 2010 and a swift path to dividends maybe as early as 2015-16.

My other large investment plays, viz. 104,600 Dyelol (DYE), 114,000 Lynas (LYC), and 14,984 Nanosonics (NAN) shares have also plummeted. Is Australia is the only country in the world where non-dividend-paying start-ups are severely punished by the stock market, no matter how sound their prospective paths to dividends are?

So I won't be having a very merry Xmas; but hey! I'm alive, in reasonable health, not too fussed at being unable to remember as much or do as much as I used to, happily pottering around St Kilda, and looking forward to visiting friends in Thailand in July next year (health permitting). Hopefully, my shares will have recovered enough to cash some in and travel on the proceeds.

### Worldcon, anyone?

It's a big ask, but I might even be forward enough financially to join about 700 Australians (most of whom I know) to London for the 73<sup>rd</sup> World Science Fiction Convention at Docklands on 14-18 August 2014. If any one of my 'penny dreadfuls' goes bonanza, I could travel there in an ocean liner.

### Big Coal is Doomed.

U.N Secretary General Ban Ki-moon opines that a rise in ocean temperatures of the order of just 0.86 per cent, predicted by scientists to occur in the near future, will result in violent climate change evidenced by wild extremes in global weather patterns. He warns that public reaction could be so severe as to collapse the coal mining industry, particularly if increasing carbonic acidification of the Sea starts an irreversible process resulting in the death of fish..

### So, what's in it for me?

When Big Coal goes down the gurgler and massive wealth transfers occur, my 104,600 Dyesol Limited shares (pioneer third generation solar cells technology) will most likely make me an instant multi-millionaire. The downside is that atmospheric and oceanic conditions might be so unsafe as to render international travel too hazardous to essay – except via Space, if engineers can work out how to manage the launching and landing of Orbiters under hurricane conditions.



The above speculations presuppose the Gulf Stream will still exist in August 2014 and that London is still habitable. My New Year's resolution is to eat more fish while they are still around.

Season's Greetings from

**Bill Wright**

## Clerihew corner

from the cabinet of Dennis Callegari



*Clerihews were the invention of Edmund Clerihew Bentley (1875-1956). During his lifetime, Bentley published several volumes of clerihews, where each verse was accompanied by a drawing that illustrated the verse. They are humorous biographical four-line verses about a contemporary or historical figure, where the rhyming scheme is AABB and the name of the figure must form part of the first rhyme.*

*A selection of my best clerihews with historical asides and apposite quotations may be found on the website <http://clerihews.wordpress.com/>.*

----

Dory Previn (née Dorothy Langan), lyricist, singer-songwriter and poet, was born on 22 October 1925 and died on 14 February 1912. During the late 1950s and 1960s, she was a lyricist on songs intended for motion pictures and, with her then husband, André Previn, received several Academy Award nominations. After their divorce in the 1970s, she released six albums of original songs and an acclaimed live album.

Previn's lyrics from this period are characterized by their originality, irony and honesty in dealing with her troubled personal life as well as more generally about relationships, sexuality, religion and psychology.

One reason given for the direction her post-divorce career was André Previn's affair with (and subsequent marriage to) the young actress Mia Farrow. The latter's seduction of her adored husband provided the theme for her song 'Beware of Young Girls'. It also provides the rationale for the following clerihew.

*Dory Previn*

*Hopes the door to Heaven*

*Might prove far too narrow*

*For Mia Farrow.*

Most fans of her work agree that 'Twenty Mile Zone' ("*Screaming alone in the twenty mile zone*") is Dory Previn's masterpiece, but there are plenty of other great songs as well.

-----

Edgar Rice Burroughs (1875 – 1950) was an American writer who was best known for his creations of the jungle hero Tarzan and the heroic Mars adventurer John Carter, although he produced works in many genres. I recently allowed myself the guilty pleasure of re-reading some of Burroughs' Mars novels, most of which bear titles such as:

A Princess of Mars (1912)

The Gods of Mars (1914)

The Warlord of Mars (1918)

Thuvia, Maid of Mars (1920)

The Chessmen of Mars (1922)

The Master Mind of Mars (1928)

A Fighting Man of Mars (1931)

*There are several others.*

Most of the Mars novels centre on an Earthman, John Carter. In the first book (*Princess of Mars*) he is mystically transported from Earth to Mars (AKA Barsoom). The planet is inhabited by various species of people; in particular, by the six-limbed green Martians, and generally humanoid red Martians. Dejah Thoris, a princess of the red Martian city of Helium is described by Wikipedia as "*courageous, resolute, and frequently in mortal danger or under threat of dishonor by the lustful designs of a succession of villains*".

Needless to say, John Carter frequently makes it his business to save the princess from death and dishonour. Ultimately he wins the hand of Dejah Thoris in marriage, becomes Prince of Helium and lives happily ever after ... at least until the next book. Burroughs never got round to writing what would have been the capstone of the series...

*The Egalitarians of Mars*

*Would a loud approving chorus*

*Applaud the princess Dejah Thoris*

*For acting without imprimatur*

*Of her other half, John Carter?*

**François-Marie Arouet**, also known as Voltaire, was born on 21 November 1694.



Voltaire was one of the Enlightenment's leading defenders of free thought and religious tolerance. According to Wikipedia, the name "Voltaire" is an anagram of 'AROVET LI' ('Arouet le jeune' i.e. 'Arouet the younger'), and is also meant to suggest agility and volatility. From 1726 to 1728 he lived at Covent Garden, England, during which time he attended the funeral of Sir Isaac Newton.

In France, Voltaire lived with Gabrielle Émilie Le Tonnelier de Breteuil, marquise du Châtelet from 1734 until her death in 1740. Émilie du Châtelet was a mathematician, physicist, and author. Her crowning achievement is considered to be her translation and commentary on Isaac Newton's *Principia Mathematica*. The translation, published posthumously in 1759, is still considered the standard French translation.

In fact, you could say that:

*When François-Marie Arouet Voltaire  
Embarked upon his grande affaire  
He was delighted to discover  
That he was Lady Châtelet's lover.*

*"I have never made but one prayer to God, a very short one: 'O Lord, make my enemies ridiculous.' And God granted it." — Voltaire*

*Dennis Callegari*

### **Editorial postscript**

Dennis Callegari's encyclopedic mind has vast cultural reach, in verification thereof he drew the attention of his friends to the following Internet post: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-25106956>.

It's an archeological reference about the use of modern technology to read 'destroyed' scrolls from Herculaneum, and contains a priceless anecdote about Lucius Calpurnius Piso Caesoninus, a politician in ancient Rome who was the father-in-law of Julius Caesar.

In Herculaneum, Piso built a seaside villa on a palatial scale. The width of its beach frontage alone exceeds 220m (721ft). When it was excavated in the middle of the 18th Century, it was found to hold more than 80 bronze and marble statues of the highest quality, including one of Pan having sex with a goat.

Piso's grand villa, which has come to be known as the Villa of the Papyri, also contains the only library to have survived from the classical world. It is a relatively small collection, some 2,000 scrolls, which the eruption nearly destroyed and yet preserved at the same time. A blast of furnace-like gas from the volcano at 400C (752F) carbonised the papyrus scrolls, before the town was buried in a fine volcanic ash which later cooled and solidified into rock.

When excavators and treasure hunters set about exploring the villa in the 18th Century, they mistook the scrolls for lumps of charcoal and burnt logs. Some were used as torches or thrown on to the fire. But once it was realised what they were, the challenge was to find a way to open them. A conservator from the Vatican, one Father Antonio Piaggio (1713-1796), devised a machine to delicately open the scrolls

Centuries later, when John Paul Getty came to plan his own exercise in cultural showing off, he chose to copy Piso's villa for his Getty museum in Malibu, California.

The grandeur of the Villa of the Papyri, its emulation by one of the Titans of modern Capitalism, and implied scandalous goings on in both establishments, seemed to the editor to demand the construction of an epic poem in the style of Beowulf, perhaps with a wickedly sardonic Clerihew at the climax when Pan is having his way with a goat.

I offered the commission to Dennis, who politely declined. Instead, he vouchsafed his endorsement of this, the editor's more modest, and chaste, effort...

*The villa of John Paul Getty  
Is far from petty  
Being the length of a beach  
And, pricewise, beyond most people's reach.*

*Ed.*

## DUFF 2013 – preliminary report

December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013

This article is what it says – a preliminary report by Bill Wright, winner of the 2013 Down Under Fan fund campaign ending on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013. It covers preparations for his trip to North America to represent the Australian and New Zealand science fiction communities at LoneStarCon 3, the 71<sup>st</sup> World Science Fiction Convention in San Antonio, Texas, from August 29<sup>h</sup> to September 2, 2013.

### Synopsis

In February 2013, at age 75, having gained a new lease of life from injections of a South American lizard hormone called Byetta prescribed by my endocrinologist, and buoyed by two financial windfalls, I considered celebrating by stumping up the cash to go to America for Worldcon.

A month later, at the suggestion of Curt Phillips (gatekeeper for the Trufen e-mail list) I decided to stand for DUFF. My opponent in the ensuing ballot, which ran until June 10, 2013, was fellow MSFC member Claire McDonald- Sims. Her campaign constituency was convention fans in Australia and North America; mine being mainly lifetime friends in Australian fandom and four generations of fanzine fans in North America. Both of us campaigned vigorously. At a MSFC meeting a few days before the 2013 DUFF race ended, when asked to present our separate cases as to why we should be elected, neither of us had a clue as to who had the best chance. In the event, I won by only two votes.

### Chapter 1 - Preparing for the trip

The DUFF campaign ended on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2013. Well before then, irrespective of the result of the DUFF ballot, I had well and truly burnt my bridges by joining LoneStarCon 3, paying hotel accommodation costs and booking my transpacific flights with Virgin Australia.. I choosing Premium Economy over Cattle Class at nearly two and a half times the cost of the latter, prudently specifying wheelchair service because of the great walking distances at Los Angeles International Airport, and allowing time for flying visits to American cities before and after Worldcon,

All that was for my peace and comfort. Should I be fortunate enough to win, I resolved to tale from Australian DUFF funds only the \$1,800 notional cost of cattle class trans-Pacific flights and, from American DUFF funds, only half a thousand U.S. dollars representing incidental expenses likely to be incurred at Worldcon.

With the assistance of fandom's travel guru Robin Johnson, I conducted an e-mail blitz of North Americans for somewhere to stay in a whistle-stop tour of fannish centres all over the Continent. In May 2013 I posted my campaign zine on eFanzines at: <http://efanzines.com/IRS/AussieTranspacific-01.pdf>, and distributed a cut-down version as my campaign flyer at conventions. PDF versions were e-mailed to potential supporters. The following itinerary emerged...

#### Pre-Worldcon

All internal flights in North America were pre-booked on the Internet with Southwest Airlines, asking for wheelchair support on all flights. My pre-booked pre-Worldcon itinerary, involving visits to four U.S. regions. was...

- Arrive at **Los Angeles** International Airport (LAX) on Virgin Australia flight VA23 at 8:30 am on Saturday Aug 17, 2013, crossing the International Date Line against the rotation of the planet and so arriving three hours before departure on the same day.
- **Sat Aug 17:** Southwest Airlines flight 3148 depart LAX 1:35 PM arrive **San Jose** Airport 2:40 PM. Stay with Spike and Tom at Mountain View. Planned activities include attendance at a BASFA meeting with the 2013 TAFF laureate Jim Mowatt and an Australian High Tea with lamington cake at the mountain crag home of the sage of fandom Robert Lichtman and his spouse Carol Carr.
- **Thu Aug 22:** Southwest Airlines flight 2695 depart San Jose 9:30 AM arrive Burbank (LA) at 10:30 AM. Met by Marty Cantor who prints my APA-L zine and takes me to a LASFS meeting, then to overnight accommodation arranged by DUFF administrator John Hertz.
- **Fri Aug 23:** Southwest Airlines flight 338 depart Burbank (LA) 2:45 PM arrive Las Vegas 3:50 PM. John Hardin booked both me and TAFF laureate Jim Mowatt into the salubrious Palace Station casino hotel, where local fans will be sure to find us. Arnie and Joyce Katz are throwing one of their legendary Parties on Saturday Aug 24 to showcase the Fan Fund laureates in Aspect. We'll both be contributing zines to the Party-apa, and a good time will be had by all.

- **Wed Aug 28:** Southwest Airlines flight 654 departing Las Vegas 0:25 AM arriving San Antonio 2:00 PM. Check into the Marriott Riverside Hotel, stock up for Worldcon at the shopping centre opposite and mooch around the convention centre until chased away by busy committee persons. Then sleep the sleep of the unjust until Noon on Thursday Aug 29; when, like a giant refreshed, I will register and prepare myself for the opening ceremony, in which Jim and I play not undistinguished parts. No spoilers here. You'll have to read about it later in context.

### At Worldcon:

My e-mail and fanzine correspondents were told they could look for me at scheduled program items, or in John Purcell's Fanzine Lounge, or anywhere else where fans coalesce. My WOOFzine, named *The Wright Stuff*, was pre-prepared for printing at Worldcon. It comprises 10 pages in which I tried to encompass fandom as I have come to know it over a lifetime, as well as showcasing those dimensions of Australian and New Zealand fandom into which I have had inputs. It has cover graphics by Ditmar and can be downloaded or read on line at: <http://efanzines.com/IRS/>.

I also pre-prepared in Australia zines for printing in America. They were for distribution in San Francisco, APA-L at LASFS, Las Vegas, New Orleans, Seattle, Minneapolis/St Paul and Boston. Those zines, albeit with different covers, have the same contents, viz. biographical, bibliographical and anecdotal particulars of five of the great early pioneers of science fiction. All printed by fans or at print shops en-route.

Before my departure, the LoneStarCon 3 concom graciously made both TAFF laureate Jim Mowatt and DUFF laureate Bill Wright minor guests of the convention, paying for our membership & accommodation and allowing us hold a reception in its Hospitality Suite.

### Post-Worldcon

My pre-planned post-Worldcon itinerary, involving visits to four U.S. regions I'm visiting four cities was...

- **Tue Sep 3** Southwest Airlines flight 1171 departing San Antonio 1:40 PM arriving New Orleans 4:25 PM. Guy Lillian, who lives quite a distance away in Shreveport, said he would organise a gathering of Southern fandom in New Orleans to showcase the DUFF laureate and, if his schedule allowed, the TAFF laureate Jim Mowatt. Available times for such a gathering were the evening of Tue Sep 3 and the whole of Wed Sep 4 and Thu Sep 5. On Fri Sep 6, I fly out to Seattle. I relied on New Orleans fans to find me a bed on Tue, Wed and Thu nights.
- **Fri Sep 6** Southwest Airlines flights 56 and 164 (i.e. change planes en route) departing New Orleans 9:50 AM arriving Seattle/Tacoma 2:15 PM. Arrangements made to be met by Seattle fans and visit museums and other sites recommended by local fans. I am in touch with Randy Byers, Jerry Kaufman and John D Berry by e-mail. I have the evening of Fri Sep 6, the whole of Sat Sep 7 and Sun Sep 8 to enjoy the hospitality of the Seattle science fiction community in whatever can be arranged. Seattle fans will find me a bed on Fri, Sat, and Sun nights.
- **Mon Sep 9** Southwest Airlines flights 387/4571 (i.e. change planes en route) departing Seattle 6:00 AM arriving Minneapolis/St Paul Airport 1:20 PM. I'll have the evening of Mon Sep 9 and the whole of Tue Sep 10 to meet local fans. Accommodation has been arranged.
- **Wed Sep 11** Southwest Airlines flights 129/287 (i.e. change planes en route) departing Minneapolis/St Paul 10:55 AM arriving Boston Logan 4:40 PM. Geri Sullivan has arranged for me to attend, at 6:00 pm on Thursday Sep 12, [The 23rd First Annual Ig Nobel Prize ceremony](#) in Cambridge, MA. She has found me a seat in front of the projection box where she will be working on the night and will take me downstairs after the show to attend the 'afters' party with the IgNoble 'winners' and the star-studded cast. Definitely a trip highlight..

Boston fans have found me excellent four-star hotel accommodation at the Marriott Hotel in the university's Cambridge precinct (a suite with all mod cons) for less than \$100 a night for Wed, Thu, Fri and Sat nights. I am taking off for Los Angeles early on Sun Sep 15 to catch a night flight home with Virgin Australia.

### The 'bricks and mortar' issue

I have a special interest in having a look at the LASFS (Los Angeles) and NESFA (Boston) club houses, as I have been the prime mover in establishing [Meteor Incorporated](#) to raise funds from tax deductible donations and bequests to acquire premises for a bricks and mortar science fiction institution and research library in Australia. The Meteor Fund's fund raising isn't crash hot. Los Angeles and Boston have done it. Why can't we?

- **Sun Sep 15** Southwest Airlines flights 3412/4293 (i.e. change planes en route) departing Boston Logan 11:25 AM arriving Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) 4:25 PM. Check in for Virgin Australia flight VA24 home to Melbourne, Australia, departing 11:40 PM.

<to be continued>

*Bill Wright*

## Information on Australian Fan Funds as at 5<sup>th</sup> June 2013

As at 10<sup>th</sup> January 2014, the (very late) publication date of this issue, following is the most current information IRS has on Fan Funds:

**DUFF 2014** Aus/NZ administrator: **Bill Wright** North American administrator: **John Hertz**

DUFF is the Down Under Fan Fund which transports SF fans from North America to Australasia, and vice versa.

The 2014 race will be a Southbound race, to transport a fan from North America to Continuum X (Carnival of Lost Souls), the 53<sup>rd</sup> Australian National Science Fiction Convention, to be held in Melbourne, Australia, from June 6-9, 2014. The winner may also wish to travel to other fan centres around Australia before and after the Natcon, as they are able. The winner will also be required to take over administration of the fund at the Australia/New Zealand end for the ensuing Northbound and Southbound races.

I understand that two North American candidates have emerged, each with the requisite three nominees from North America and two nominators from the Antipodes. The 2014 DUFF race will be under way when, in the near future, the Ballot Form is available for download from the Internet. It will end on March 31, 2014. The winner will be announced shortly afterwards and begin planning his or her trip with both the American and ANZ administrators.

Votes will be accepted until midnight March 31, 2014, and must be validated a donation of at least \$5 Australian, Canadian, United States, or \$7 New Zealand. Anyone active in fandom on or before 1 Jan 2014 may vote.

You may obtain a ballot form containing candidates' platforms...

a) by writing to, e-mailing or phoning one of the a DUFF administrators, either

**North America DUFF Administrator**

John Hertz  
236 S. Coronado St. #409  
Los Angeles, CA 90057 USA  
Phone: (213) 384 6622

**Australia-New Zealand DUFF Administrator**

Bill Wright  
Unit 5, 1 Park Street  
St Kilda West VIC 3182 Australia  
Phone: +62 (0)3 9534 0163  
E-mail: [bilw@diprimus.com.au](mailto:bilw@diprimus.com.au)

or b) by downloading the form from a choice of websites yet to be advised. (They will be listed on the ballot form when it is issued.

See the ballot form for voting and payment processes.

**GUFF 2014** Aus/NZ administrator: **Kylie Ding** European administrator: **Mihaela Marija Perković** (Croatia)

GUFF, the **Get Up-and-over Fan Fund** or the **Going Under Fan Fund**, depending on which direction it's running) was created in 1979 to provide funds to enable well-known fans from Australasia and Europe to visit each other's national (or other) conventions and to get to know each other's fandoms better.

Going Under Fan Fund (GUFF) laureate **Mihaela Marija Perković** represented European fans at Conflux 9 / Natcon 52 in Canberra on 25-28 April 2013. Her trip included attendance at Swancon, Conflux and fan centres in Adelaide, Sydney, Melbourne and New Zealand, where her enthusiastic, cheerful and chatty demeanour won her many friends..

Now a new GUFF race is under way, with voting ending Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2014 23:59 GMT. It will send an Australian to Loncon 3, the 72<sup>nd</sup> Worldcon, in London from 14 - 18 August 2014. Four Australians have been nominated for the Australia to Europe race, viz. **Alison Barton, Samara Morgan, Gillian Polack** and **Shay Telfer**.

Ballot forms in PDF format should have been available for download from the TAFF website site at: <http://taff.org.uk/ballots/guff2014.pdf>, but there is a glitch in the process that gives the enquirer the information in HTML which is not as user friendly. Nominators of any of the four candidates can pick up Australian administrator Kylie Ding's e-mail address from the HTML information and ask her to e-mail the PDF if you need it to print of ballot papers for campaign purposes. Hopefully, the glitch will be fixed soon.

Rumour has it that there will be over 700 Australian and New Zealand fans at Loncon 2. They will all be making a fuss over the GUFF laureate there. Whether or not you plan to join them, you can join in the fun and vote for the candidate of your choice, with at least the minimum donation.

## FFANZ 2013 Australian administrator: **Ewina Harvey** (NSW) NZ administrator: **Jan Butterworth**

FFANZ is the Fan Fund of Australia and New Zealand. It was set up to send Australians and New Zealanders to each other's top conventions in alternate years, but there have been no takers for some time, judging from the lack of any information on same on the FFANZ website: <http://www.sffanz.org.nz/Welcome.shtml> or the 'other conventions' FFANZ website: <http://sffanz.wordpress.com/category/other-conventions/>.

IRS is unaware of any plans for a of any plans for a FFANZ race to send a New Zealand fan to the Continuum X (Carnival of Lost Souls), the 53<sup>rd</sup> Australian National Science Fiction Convention, to be held in Melbourne, Australia, from June 6-9, 2014.

The current FFANZ administrators are **Edwina Harvey** (Australia) and **Jan Butterworth** (New Zealand). Last I heard, they were looking for New Zealand fans to enter a competition to represent their science fiction community at Conflux 9 / Aussie Natcon 52 in Canberra on 25-28 April 2013, but there no nominations were forthcoming.

If anyone is interested in nominating

- a) an Australian to attend Conclave 2, the 35th New Zealand National Science Fiction Convention  
at  
The Surrey Hotel, 465 Great North Road, Grey Lynn, Auckland  
on  
ANZAC Weekend (Thursday 24 April to Sunday 27 April) 2014  
Website: <http://conclave2.aucontraire.org.nz/index.php>

OR

- b) a New Zealander to attend Continuum X (Carnival of Lost Souls), the 53<sup>rd</sup> Aussie Natcon  
at  
InterContinental Melbourne The Rialto  
on  
6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> of June, 2014  
Website: [info@continuum.org.au/C10/](mailto:info@continuum.org.au/C10/)

please e-mail Australian FFANZ administrator Edwina Harvey at: [edwinafan@yahoo.com](mailto:edwinafan@yahoo.com).

## NAFF Current administrator: **Emma Kate**

The National Australian Fan Fund (NAFF) was founded in 2001 by Sue Ann Barber and Grant Watson, to assist fans to travel across Australia to attend the Australian National Convention (Natcon).

**Emma Kate** was the NAFF laureate at Conflux 9 / Natcon 52 in Canberra on 25-28 April 2013, representing the Western Australian science fiction community. Her brief was to meet people, make friends and have a good time, which, the editor can attest, she did in full measure.

As yet, IRS has no information on the 2014 NAFF race to send an Interstate fan to Continuum X (Carnival of Lost Souls), 53<sup>rd</sup> Australian National Science Fiction Convention, to be held in Melbourne, Australia, from June 6-9, 2014

## TAFF – the Trans Atlantic Fan Fund

TAFF is the original permanent Fan Fund. Visit its website at: <http://taff.org.uk/>

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### About fan funds generally

TAFF DUFF GUFF NAFF FFANZ

Their origin, what they're for, how they work and why you should support them.

It started in the 1950s when a group of American fans, spearheaded by fanzine editor Shelby Vick, thought of the idea of bringing Irish fan Walt Willis to TASFIC (aka Chicon 2), the 10<sup>th</sup> Worldcon in Chicago in 1952, and began fundraising. Walt was very appreciative and went out of his way to help the convention and represent his country to the best of his ability. On his return, he filled several fanzines with reports from the convention. Remember, this was well before the Internet so fanzines were the only way people got to hear about far away conventions. From this small beginning, the **Trans Atlantic Fan Fund** (TAFF) that sends a European representative to North America, and vice versa, in alternate years, was born.

The **Down Under Fan Fund** ( DUFF) alternately sending fans between the US and Australia was the next major fan fund, and this was followed by GUFF, which stands for either **Going Under Fan Fund** or **Get Up-and-over Fan Fund**, sending fans between Europe and Australia. The **Fan Fund of Australia and New Zealand** (FFANZ) sends delegates to each other's National SF Convention.

As well as international fan fund there are also intranational fan funds. Examples are the **Canadian Unity Fan Fund** (CUFF) and the **National Australia Fan Fund** (NAFF) that take fans from one region to a major convention in another region within the same country.

Other funds are "one offs" that raise money to bring a specific fan to a particular convention. For example, the **Tucker Bag Fund** brought Bob Tucker from the U.S.A. to Aussiecon in 1975, and the **Bring Bruce Bayside Fund** enabled Australian fanzine editor Bruce Gillespie to attend the Corflu and Potlatch conventions in California in 2005.

Fan Fund laureates represent the best their country has to offer at the host country's top convention. They enrich fandom globally and **their** delegates are good company. That's why you should support them with your donation when the time comes to vote for the candidate of your choice

#### Current links to Internet sites with information and news about Fan Funds

General information about Fan Funds, including links to current information about each, is available at:

Irwin Hirsh's site at: <http://ozfanfunds.com/>

The Live Journal site at: <http://aust-sf-fan-fun.livejournal.com>

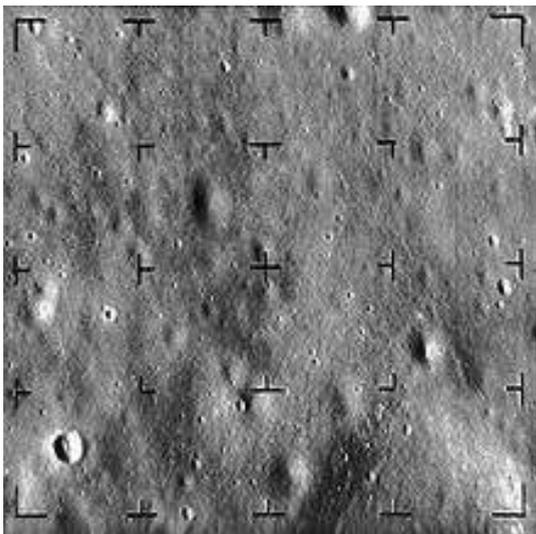
There are a couple of Facebook groups, GUFF and DUFF as well.

There is also a global Fan Funds site: [http://fanac.org/fan\\_funds/fan-funds.html](http://fanac.org/fan_funds/fan-funds.html) originally located at the LACon III website and now run by the Fan History Project of the World Science Fiction Society, Go there if you want a global perspective (and details) on Fan Funds, but the information on Australasian Fan funds may not always be current.

*Bill Wright*

## China Moon Landing

Not only is truth stranger than fiction, it's often more entertaining. Who would have guessed 20 years ago that China would have now joined the United States and Russia in exploring the Planets using remote controlled robotic rovers?



*Jade Rabbit* (called *Yutu* in Chinese), is a six-wheeled Lunar rover equipped with at least four cameras and two mechanical legs that can dig up soil samples to a depth of 30 meters. *Yutu* was delivered safely on to the surface of the Moon on December 14, 2013.

It isn't as if China hadn't earned its place in the sun.

It has been graduating engineers at an exponential rate for decades, and putting many of them to work reverse engineering the nuts and bolts of both the American and Russian space technologies. Now boasting more engineers than the rest of the world combined, it was only a matter of time before China caught up,

China's achievements at the clever end of the Space Race began with a controlled crash landing of its Lunar orbiter on March 2009, culminating in the launch of its *Chang'e-3* rocket on December 1<sup>st</sup> that delivered *Yutu* to a successful Lunar landing on December 14, 2013. It was the first soft Moon landing since Russia's in 1976.

It must have been a cruel irony for filmmaker Christopher Nolan, whose trailer for soon-to-be-released *Interstellar* was screened on the very day the Chinese Moon Landing made headlines.

The movie has nostalgic images of American aeronautic and space accomplishments, Mister Nolan will now need a different trailer for the China market.

China's first lunar rover and the lander took pictures of each other. Many Americans reacted with a shrug. But scientists around the world were captivated.



## Conventions on the horizon



# Arisia 2014

*New England's largest and most diverse science fiction and fantasy convention*

**January 17 - 20, 2014**

**Westin Boston Waterfront hotel**

**Author Guest of Honor: Tanya Huff**

**Artist Guest of Honor: Lubov**

**Fan Guest of Honor: James Nicoll**

## The 2014 theme is cross-culturalism

From and including the 1970s, we science fiction fans have ventured beyond the hearth fires of our subculture to embrace wondrous diversity in the human condition. But culture shock is very real.

So, before exploring the cross-cultural themes of Arisia 2014, it behoves us to return to our roots and anchor our souls, once again, in Doc Smith's Universe of the Lens.

**The reading list comprises the following authorised revised editions of:**

Triplantary (1948)	First Lensman (1950)	Galactic Patrol (1950)
Gray Lensman (1951)	Second Stage Lensmen (1953)	Children of the Lens (1954)

Let's get started, *Two thousand million or so years ago when two galaxies were colliding ...*

And so, as it was when we first learned of Arisia in *Astounding's* October 1939 through January 1940 issues, we ponder the Arisians' pivotal position in the vast and unknowable Scheme of Things.

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Alas, ten days before Arisia, the convention hotels are both sold out and it's highly likely that registrations have already hit the membership cap.

Visit the **Arisia** website at: <http://2014.arisia.org/> to suss out what you've missed out on.

The graphic at right suggests a cross-cultural conduit from mundane reality to *Alice in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll.

There are profound ideas in there, worth exploring



especially for furry animal fans

Conventions on the horizon (cont)



## Boskone 51

February 14-16, 2014

at

[Westin Boston Waterfront Hotel](#)

Boskone is brought to you by the [New England Science Fiction Association](#).

NESFA® has frequent meetings and maintains a clubhouse and library in Somerville. Stop by the [NESFA Web site](#) for more information—visitors encouraged!

<b>Guest of Honor</b>	<a href="#"><u>Seanan McGuire/Mira Grant</u></a>
<b>Official Artist</b>	<a href="#"><u>David Palumbo</u></a>
<b>Special Guest</b>	<a href="#"><u>Ginjer Buchanan</u></a>
<b>Featured Filker</b>	<a href="#"><u>Bill Roper</u></a>
<b>Hal Clement Science Speaker</b>	<a href="#"><u>Bill Higgins</u></a>
<b>NESFA Press Guest</b>	<a href="#"><u>Jane Yolen</u></a>

IF you love science fiction and fantasy, Join us at Boskone®, New England's regional science fiction convention. Meet well-known figures in the field, including writers, artists, editors, publishers, musicians, scientists, gamers, bloggers, conrunners, reenactors, and fanzine editors. Boskone attracts more than 1,000 fans and pros for a weekend of panels, readings, kids activities, demonstrations, small-group discussions, filksinging, videos, games and more!

For more information on NESFA and Boskone:

**E-mail us:** [info@boskone.org](mailto:info@boskone.org)

**Phone us:** 617-625-2311

**Fax us:** 617-776-3243

**Write us:** Boskone 51

PO Box 809

Framingham, MA 01701

Conventions on the horizon (cont)

## Swancon 39

‘Conjuration’

April 17-21, 2014

at

Ibis Styles Hotel, Perth, Western Australia

Welcome to **Swancon**, Western Australia’s annual Science Fiction and Fantasy (SF&F) Literary Convention. In 2014, our theme manifests the magical elements of **Conjuration**, to bedazzle and mystify the senses, and to summon forth the familiars and unfamiliars of the fantastical phantasms of fandom.

Catering to all types of fan; from lovers of Epic Fantasy to Hard Sci Fi, Comics and Supernatural to Horror and Anime, and Gaming to Cosplaying to General Geeking Out. **Swancon 39: Conjuration** promises to open up new worlds and possibilities!

**Swancon** is the premiere event (in that it’s the first regional convention to take place in calendar year 2014, for all fans of SF&F in Australia, and we are weaving you a wild web of wonder.

**Swancon 39: Conjuration** is proud to present our phenomenal Guests of Honour

International Guests

Australian Guest

Perth Fan Guest



**Anne Bishop**



**Tamora Pierce**



**Jim Butcher**



**Isabelle Carmody**



**Sally Beasley**

For more information, please visit our website at: <https://2014.swancon.com.au/>

Our exciting guests will be speaking about their lives, their works, participating in Panel discussions, Guest of Honour speeches, readings and autograph signings.

To buy tickets, first

- [Login](https://2014.swancon.com.au/users/sign_in) at: [https://2014.swancon.com.au/users/sign\\_in](https://2014.swancon.com.au/users/sign_in); or
- [Register](https://2014.swancon.com.au/users/sign_up) at: [https://2014.swancon.com.au/users/sign\\_up](https://2014.swancon.com.au/users/sign_up),

Then visit the [Store](https://2014.swancon.com.au/store): at: <https://2014.swancon.com.au/store>

Conventions on the horizon (cont)

# Conclave 2014

## 35th NZ National SF&F Convention

Welcome Back to the Conclave!

35th New Zealand National Science Fiction Convention

at

The Surrey Hotel, 465 Great North Road, Grey Lynn, Auckland

on

ANZAC Weekend (Thursday 24 April to Sunday 27 April) 2014

Website: <http://conclave2.aucontraire.org.nz/index.php>

or go direct to: <http://conclave2.aucontraire.org.nz/membership.php>

To join, or if you are already a member, log in to visit your membership account.

### Guests of Honour

Guest of Honour: **Dave Freer**

Fan Guest of Honour: **Paul Scoones**



Dave Freer is an ex-South African Ichthyologist turned author because he'd heard the spelling requirements were simpler. They lied. He now lives on Flinders Island in the Bass Strait (between Tasmania and Australia) with his wife and chief proof reader, Barbara, two dogs and three cats. He blames his history of extraordinary spelling on an Old

English Sheepdog nose, or the cat/s on his lap.

He's has written some 15 novels for Baen Books, co-authoring some with Eric Flint and Mercedes Lackey, some of which ended up on best-seller lists. He's also written two YA novels for Pyr Books. He's also published a slew of shorter fiction. He was also the artistic director for JBU.

Besides working as a Fisheries Scientist for the Western Cape shark fishery, running a couple of fish farms, he has worked as a dad, commercial diver, and as a relief chef at several luxury game lodges. Yes: he can both cook and change nappies. He spent two years as conscripted soldier along the way, so he can iron too. His interests are self-sufficiency, rock climbing, cray diving, fishing, wine tasting and the preparation of food, especially by traditional means.



Paul Scoones works on the BBC's *Doctor Who* DVDs, documenting behind-the-scenes information for the production subtitles features. Paul's work appears as on *The Awakening*, *Frontios*, *Planet of Fire*, *Dragonfire*, *Scream of the Shalka*, and the 'special edition' reissues of *Resurrection of the Daleks*, *The Caves of Androzani* and *Vengeance on Varos*.

As well as researching the television series, Paul has also made a detailed study of the early history of *Doctor Who* in comic strips. He has written a book on the subject, *The Comic Strip Companion: 1964-1979*, released in 2012 by Telos Publishing. A second volume is currently in preparation. He has had articles published in *Doctor Who Magazine*, *In-Vision*, *The Handbook*, *Talkback*, *Shooty Dog Thing*, and *Behind the Sofa*.

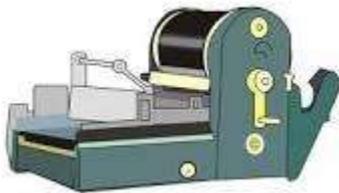
As a fan, Paul established and edited the internationally acclaimed and award-winning *Doctor Who* fanzine *Time Space Visualiser*, producing most of the title's 76 issues and various additional specials.

Paul lives in Auckland, New Zealand, with his wife Rochelle and their three cats. He can be found online at [www.paulscoones.com](http://www.paulscoones.com).

Conventions on the horizon (cont)



Corflu is a small, annual convention of science fiction fanzine fans. Other conventions with a strong fanzine aspect are held across the US, Australia, and the UK, but Corflu is now the only one which keeps fanzines as its primary focus. Corflu typically moves its venue from year to year. The name "Corflu" is derived from CORrection FLUId, a substance that allowed typing errors in mimeograph stencils to be corrected, which was in much demand during the low-tech, pre-computer days of fanzine publishing.



Nic Farey and Ken Forman are co-chairs of Corflu 31

at

DoubleTree Hotel & Conference Center, Richmond, Virginia..

Membership: \$80 full, \$25 supporting (£50/15 UK).

Contact: [corflu31@gmail.com](mailto:corflu31@gmail.com)

[Progress Report #0 \(July 2013\)](#)   [Progress Report #1 \(December 2013\)](#)

Visit last year's [Corflu XXX Archive Site](#)

Visit last year's [2013 FAAn Awards Voting Analysis](#)

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## WisCon 38

at

The Concourse Hotel  
1 West Dayton Street  
Madison, Wisconsin  
on  
May 23-26, 2014

James Tiptree Jr. (Alice B. Sheldon)



Guests of Honor:   [Hiromi Goto](#)  
and  
[N. K. Jemisin](#)

### About Wiscon

**WisCon** is the world's leading, feminist science fiction convention. It was first held in Madison, Wisconsin in February 1977, after a group of fans attending the 1976 34th World Science Fiction Convention in Kansas City were inspired to organize a convention like WorldCon but with feminism as the dominant theme. Nowadays, the convention is held annually in May, during the four-day weekend of Memorial Day. WisCon gathers together women, men, and people of other genders: fans, writers, editors, publishers, scholars and artists from around the world to discuss science fiction and fantasy, with emphasis on issues of feminism, gender, race, and class. Writers' workshops are held on the Friday morning of the convention.

The **James Tiptree, Jr. Award** was established in the early 1990s as an annual literary prize for science fiction or fantasy that expands or explores our understanding of gender. In reaction to an earlier observation to the effect that all of the science fiction awards until then were named after men, the Tiptree was named for a man who was actually a woman. James Tiptree, Jr., was the pen name of Alice B. Sheldon. The Tiptree Ceremony has been held at other conventions, but is usually held at WisCon.

Conventions on the horizon (cont)

# CONTINUUM X

## *Carnival of Lost Souls*

53<sup>rd</sup> Australian National Science Fiction Convention  
at  
InterContinental Melbourne The Rialto  
on  
6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> of June, 2014

Continuum is an annual Melbourne speculative fiction and pop culture convention celebrating creativity across genre and media. From hard-edge science fiction to high-flown fantasy, comic books to film noir, high culture to sub-culture... we sink our teeth into it all! The Continuum conventions are supported by the Continuum Foundation and we are grateful for their support.

### Our Venue



Located at 495 Collins St, or the New York end of Collins St, and just over a block away from Southern Cross transport terminal, the InterContinental is a Five Star hotel housed in one of the finest examples of neo gothic architecture in Melbourne. Encompassing both the Rialto and Winfield buildings it was originally built in 1891 as a wheat and wool store. The hotel is separated by a stunning atrium over what was once the laneway horse carts used to transport stock to the wharves.

But don't let the historic nature of the building fool you. The interior is the ultimate in modern facilities and elegance. The convention space itself is all on one level, accessible by multiple lifts as well as stairs, and there is *free Wi-Fi!*

The hotel has not one but *two* bars, and what would a Continuum venue be without a Haigh's next door! Haigh's fine chocolates are an Australia-wide franchise and dispense a quality product. On arrival, purchase a Haigh's giant chocolate frog that's deliciously smooth and full of creamy flavor. It won't last the day, of course, but you can always pop in again between convention sessions to buy another one.

For those wishing to stay at the InterContinental Melbourne *The Rialto*, there will be a special convention accommodation rate of \$265 per night. Yes, it's expensive but good value and well worth it for the experience.

Look for a booking portal on the Continuum website's Venue page at: <http://continuum.org.au/c10/venue/>

### Contact us

For more information, please visit our website at: [info@continuum.org.au/C10/](mailto:info@continuum.org.au/C10/)

To contact the convention committee, please email [info@continuum.org.au](mailto:info@continuum.org.au).

We'll make sure your query gets to the right person!

#### *Continuum X Committee*

<b>Chair &amp; Guest Liason</b>	Julia Svaganovic	<b>Sponsorship</b>	<b>Louise</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	Tole	<b>Publications</b>	Lizbt
<b>Treasurer</b>	PRK	<b>Maskobalo</b>	Rachel
<b>Programming Co-ordinator</b>	Hespa	<b>Publications &amp; Maskobalo</b>	Mitch
<b>Dealer Liaison</b>	Brendan	<b>Assistant</b>	Fran
<b>Awards, Venue/Tech Liaison,</b>		<b>Committee Member</b>	Craig
<b>Fan Fund Auction Coordinator</b>	Amanda	<b>Committee Member</b>	Lisa
<b>Memberships z</b>	Liz	<b>Committee Member</b>	Meredith
<b>Website</b>	David	<b>Committee Member</b>	

Conventions on the horizon (cont)

# Swecon 2014

The Swedish National Science Fiction Convention

June 27 – 29, 2014

at

The Swedish Railway Museum in Gävle

For more details, please visit: <http://steampunkfestival.se/gaster/?lang=en>

This is where:

- Sweden's national science fiction convention meets a broader steampunk culture...

Science fiction conventions are meeting points for people who like speculative fiction, especially for those who read and write it themselves. We want to place fantastic literature in a festival that also celebrates many other creative forms of expression. This science fiction convention about steampunk stands for both analysis and critique, and offers space for imagination.

- Steampunk meets the Railway Museum's resources...

It is our goal to to make this festival a special, perhaps unique, opportunity to combine technology, history, DIY and handicraft culture, and fantasy's possibilities to stretch the borders of what we are accustomed to. But first and foremost, we want it to be a meeting place for our shared passions and for such interests that might not overlap, but that can serve as a sounding board for each other.

- The Railway Museum meets Literature...

The Steampunk Festival will be arranged by the Upsala-Gefle Steampunk Society in cooperation with the Swedish Railway Museum in Gävle. The giant steam engines are mostly silent, but the museum holds its tales from a time when railroads symbolized Future and Progress. But tales can also be found in literature, which contains depictions from both a time when steam was master of the world, and from a time which could have been if everything had been different. History and histories may cross-fertilise.

Principal Guests of Honour are **Corey Doctorow**, **Mike Perschon**, **Miriam Rosenberg Roček**, and **Chris Wooding**.



**Cory Doctorow**, [author](#) is a science fiction author, activist, journalist and blogger — the co-editor of [Boing Boing](#) and the author of young adult novels like *Homeland*, *Pirate Cinema*, and *Little Brother*, and novels for adults like *Rapture of the Nerds* and *Makers*. He is the former European director of the Electronic Frontier Foundation and co-founded the UK Open Rights Group. Born in Toronto, Canada, he now lives in London.



**Mike Perschon**, [Steampunk Scholar](#) is not only a PhD in steampunk literature but is furthermore a creatively-hyperactive person who has engaged in almost everything: tabletop RPGs, music, art, and writing. He blogs about books & film, mainly steampunk. He teaches English at Grant MacEwan university back home in Edmonton, Canada, but sometimes you may catch a glimpse of him wearing his goggles at various conventions and festivals.



**Miriam Rosenberg Roček** studied creative writing but has also worked as a cook and on the high seas on sailing ships. Furthermore, she is known for her commitment to the Occupy movement, and has acted as a revived steampunk version of anarchist and activist Emma Goldman (1869 – 1940). She blogs about activists and occurrences of the 19th and early 20th centuries.



**Chris Wooding**, [Author](#) got his first contract at the age of 19 and has written a great number of books, but he is presumably best known for his series about the airship *Ketty Jay* and her crew. He also writes for film and TV, and likes to travel. According to his website, Chris Wooding's family descends from John Milton, the author of *Paradise Lost*, which is probably of no practical significance, but it is cool nevertheless.

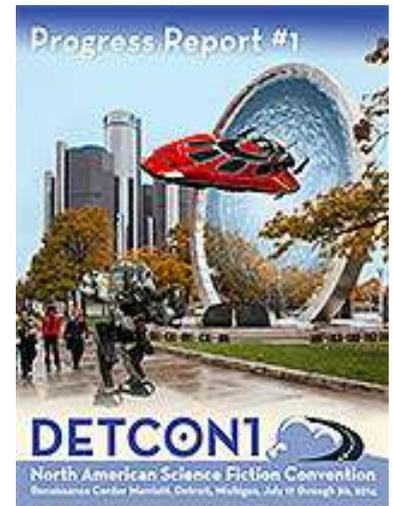
Conventions on the horizon (cont)

## Detcon 1 – the 2014 NASFiC\*

North American Science Fiction Convention  
at  
Renaissance Centre Marriott  
**Detroit, Michigan**  
on  
July 17 through 20, 2014

**The first Detcon1 Progress Report is out now!**

Visit: <http://detcon1.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/Detcon1PR1.pdf>



\* NASFiCs are held in years when the Worldcon is held outside of North America.

In 2014, London, England, hosts the Worldcon in mid-August. This year, the NASFiC is a month earlier in Detroit, Michigan.

**Membership rates** until March 31, 2014, are

Attending Adult:	\$65.00
Young Adult (13-24):	\$50.00
Child (5-12):	\$25.99
Child (0-4):	Free
Supporting:	\$35.00
Currency:	US Dollars

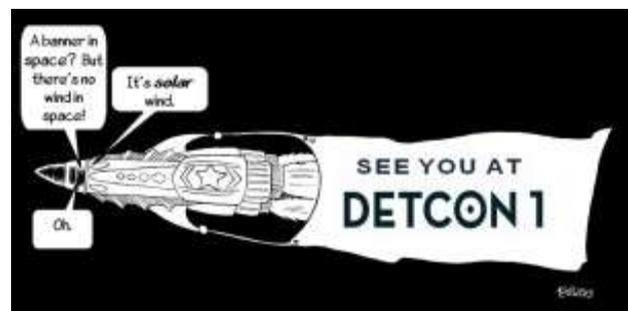
Our vision is to create a convention that

- Is inclusive and welcoming to all fans
- Embraces many different genre expressions and fandoms, while providing a strong core focus on written science fiction
- Celebrates our past and envisions our future
- Provides an opportunity for fans, authors, artists and other professionals to connect with each other
- Showcases Detroit, a city in the middle of reinventing itself



### The Venue

Detcon 1 will be at the Detroit Marriott at Renaissance Center. The Marriott is the signature tower of the Detroit skyline, and, at 72 stories, is the tallest hotel in North America. Visit the hollow hulk of Detroit's once mighty railway station. That symbol of decay is offset by impressive evidence of the city's re-birth. Watch it happen!



Detroit is where it's at in the reinvention of modern America

Conventions on the horizon (cont)



## LONCON 3

The 72<sup>nd</sup> World Science Fiction Convention  
at  
International Conference Centre, ExCeL, London Docklands  
on  
Thursday 14 to Monday 18 August 2014

Join Loncon 3 at: <http://www.loncon3.org/>

Up to 30 September 2013 Membership rates are:

Adult	£105.00	US\$170.00
Young Adult	£65.00	US\$110.00
Child	£30.00	US\$50.00
Infant	£2.00	US\$3.00
Family	£245.00	US\$405.00
Supporting	£25.00	US\$40.00



Guests of Honour:

**Iain M Banks** came to widespread and controversial public notice with the publication of his first novel, *The Wasp Factory*, in 1984. His first science fiction novel, *Consider Phlebas*, was published in 1987. He has continued to write both mainstream fiction (as Iain Banks) and science fiction,

**John Clute** has won awards (including Hugo Awards) for individual books. He was associate editor of the first edition of the *Encyclopedia of Science Fiction* (general editor Peter Nicholls), co-edited the second edition with Nicholls, and is co-editing the third edition with David Langford.

**Chris Foss**, whose ground-breaking science fiction art revolutionised paperback covers from the early 1970s, raising the bar for realism and invention. His battle-weary spacecraft, alien landscapes and crumbling brutalist architecture irrevocably changed the aesthetic of science fiction art and cinema.

**Malcolm Edwards** is a science fiction editor and critic who joined fandom in 1970, when he was initially confused with a pseudonym invented by Peter Weston. He has worked for Victor Gollancz, Grafton and HarperCollins and is currently deputy CEO and publisher at the Orion Publishing Group. He launched the SF Masterworks series in 1999 and was the instigator of the SF Gateway for eBooks.

**Jeanne Gomoll** discovered fandom in the want ads of a Madison University (Wisconsin) newspaper in 1974 and soon began contributing art, articles and fiction as well as co-editing the fanzine *Janus*. She has been nominated for Hugo Awards as a fan editor and fan artist. After joining the women's APA, she began planning the first Wiscon, the world's leading feminist science fiction convention.

**Robin Hobb** is the author of the *Rain Wilds Chronicles*, *The Farseer Trilogy*, *The Liveship Traders Trilogy*, *The Tawny Man Trilogy*, and *The Soldier Son Trilogy*. Her books under the pseudonym Megan Lindholm include *Wizard of the Pigeons*, *The Windsingers*, and *Cloven Hooves*.

**Bryan Talbot** has won many comic awards, including an Eisner award, the Prix SNCF and several Eagles. He has produced underground and alternative comics, notably *Brainstorm!*, science fiction and superhero stories such as *Judge Dredd*, *Nemesis the Warlock*, *Teknophage*, *The Nazz* and *Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight*. After a career spanning thirty years he is now published in over twenty countries.

Conventions on the horizon (cont)



## Conflux 10

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> to Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2014

at

Rydges Capital Hill, Barton  
Australian Capital Territory

<http://conflux.or.au>

Chaired by: **Karen Herkes**

Theme: **Walkabout – Journeys of Discovery and Self-Discovery**

Guests of Honour: **to be announced**

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## SF Contrario 5

a regional science fiction convention

from November 14 -16, 2014

at

the Ramada Plaza Hotel

300 Jarvis Street

Toronto, Ontario

CANADA

For more details, please visit: <http://sfcontario.ca/>

[con2014@sfcontario](mailto:con2014@sfcontario)



Sponsored by the Science Fiction and Fantasy Society of Upper Canada  
whose spokesman, **Murray Moore**, is the Doyen of Canadian SF fans.

Conventions on the horizon (cont)



## WORLD FANTASY CONVENTION 2013

1914 ~ 2014 Three Centennials

### The Year

1914 was a time of transition, and the 40th World Fantasy Convention will focus on this with our commemoration of the births of the artist **Virgil Finlay**\* and the author **Robert Aickman**, as well as the beginning of World War I. We welcome you to join us in exploring the many facets, both light and dark, of these forces that shaped the future.

\* *Virgil Finlay (July 23, 1914 – January 18, 1971) was an American pulp, fantasy, science fiction and horror illustrator. He was famous for detailed pen-and-ink drawings accomplished with abundant stippling, cross-hatching, and scratchboard techniques. Despite the labor-intensive and time-consuming nature of his specialty, Finlay's prodigious output included more than 2600 works of graphic art in his 35-year career. The Science Fiction Hall of Fame in Seattle, Washington (founded in 2004) inducted him in 2012.*

*At right is a Virgil Finlay graphic from Amazing Stories.*



### The Honorees

Principal Guests of Honour are **Les Edwards** (also painting as **Edward Miller**), **Guy Gavriel Kay**, and **Stuart David Schiff**, along with Toastmaster **Jane Yolen**, and Special Guest **Lail Finlay**, daughter of Virgil Finlay.

### The Venue

The convention will take place at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City in Arlington, Virginia, and will culminate in a banquet where the World Fantasy Awards will be announced.

### *Readers and writers of speculative fiction*



If you are serious about your speculative fiction writing career, or just enjoy reading in the genre, then you really cannot afford to miss this.

Circle the dates November 5–9, 2014, in your diary now!

## Stefan zone

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### WHO SAYS AUSSIE RULES FOOTBALLERS AREN'T SMART?

I owe a lot to my parents, especially my mother and father.'

**(Shane Wakelin).**

'Nobody in football should be called a genius. A genius is a guy like Norman Einstein.'

**(Mick Malthouse).**

'I'm going to graduate on time, no matter how long it takes.'

**(Peter Bell - Fremantle - on his Uni Law studies).**

'You guys line up alphabetically by height.' and

'You guys pair up in groups of three, then line up in a circle.'

**(Barry Hall, Sydney captain at training).**

On whether he had visited the Pyramids during his visit to Egypt:

'I can't really remember the names of the clubs we went to.'

**(Brock Maclean (Melbourne)).**

'He's a guy who gets up at six o'clock in the morning regardless of what time it is.'

**(Kevin Sheedy on James Hird).**

On night Grand Finals v. Day Games: 'It's basically the same, just darker.'

**(Jonathan Brown).**

I told him, 'Son, what is it with you. Is it ignorance or apathy?'

He said, 'Barass, I don't know and I don't care.'

**(Ron Barassi talking about Gary Cowton).**

When asked about the upcoming season:

'I want to kick 70 or 80 goals this season, whichever comes first.'

**(Barry Hall, Sydney).**

'Luke Hodge - the 21 year old, who turned 22 a few weeks ago'

**(Dermott Brereton).**

'Chad had done a bit of mental arithmetic with a calculator.'

**(Mark Williams, in <possibly> an iromic aside).**

'We actually got the winning goal three minutes from the end, but then they scored.'

**(Ben Cousins, West Coast Eagles).**

'I've never had major knee surgery on any other part of my body.'

**(Luke Darcy).**

'That kick was absolutely unique, except for the one before it, which was identical.'

**(Dermott Brereton).**

'Sure there have been injuries and deaths in football - but none of them serious.'

**(Adrian Anderson).**

'If history repeats itself, I should think we can expect the same thing again.'

**(Andrew Demetriou).**

'I would not say he (Chris Judd) is the best centreman in the AFL but there are none better.'

**(Dermott Brereton).**

'I never comment on umpires and I'm not going to break the habit of a Lifetime for that prat.'

**(Terry Wallace).**

'Have you ever thought of writing your autobiography?'

**(Garry Lyon).**

'On what?'

**(David Swartz).**

'Well, either side could win it, or it could be a draw.'

**(Dermott Brereton).**

And my favourites, from the mouth of North Melbourne's **Wayne Carey**:

*"Tell me, Wayne, did you get your nickname, The Duck, because of your gait?"*

*"No, it's because of the way I walk."*

When Wayne was telling teammates about the house he had just bought, he was particularly proud that the kitchen featured a lot of timber in the way of cupboards and benches.

Said a teammate: "Is it in Baltic pine?"

"No, in Keilor," *(Keilor is a suburb of Melbourne for Interstate and overseas readers)*

## MELBOURNE PUBLIC TRANSPORT WOES WORKS



Work continued this week on renewing tram tracks in Elizabeth Street in Melbourne. The works involve four tram stops being replaced with three Super stops.

*"Yes, it's all part of our Reduction policy" said a spokesperson. "A reduction in stops equals a reduction in public expectations equals a reduction in passengers equals a reduction in services. This will allow us to achieve our ultimate goal of having trams across the entire network running on time by 2015."*

*"We've already deleted over 50 stops across the network in recent years and the public have accepted it without protest. This reduction policy will accelerate rapidly (unlike our trams) in 2014 to 50 stops eliminated each month. The elimination of these stops will see the introduction of Super Duper Stops every 10 kilometres or so."*

*"Our research has shown that the 50 stops eliminated so far have led to a 2 second improvement in travel times. With another 600 being eliminated in 2014, we could save another 24 seconds which goes a long way towards reducing the average 5 minutes 33 seconds lateness we currently suffer."*

*"We're not only focusing our attention on stops. We've studied Metro trains and like the way they have been*

*eliminating seats from their trains to pack more people on. Starting next year, we'll be taking one seat out a week from all our trams. We can then sell these seats to some other tram company overseas and rake in enough money to cover next year's bonuses."*

*"Another advantage of reducing stops is we get a kickback from Active Victoria for making people walk further. If you're disabled, sick or old and can't walk to the new stop ten kilometre away, well, you're likely the people taking longer boarding the trams AND wanting a seat so it's a win-win-win situation for us."*

*"We're also in discussions with the Taxi industry negotiating a kickback for sending more business their way. We're just waiting on whether they end up charging a flat \$10 or \$20 for short trips."*

*"The ultimate plan is by the end of 2015 to have one stop at the end of each tram route and one Simply Super Duper Stop in Melbourne. Each route will only run one tram per day and to really make this the quickest service in the world, we won't be taking passengers. Only then can we hope to achieve on-time trams."*

It may be time we all started practising our walking skills

**Stefan**

**Stefan zone exit**



## More Beasts for Worse Children

**Hilaire Belloc (1870 – 1953)** was an Anglo-French historian who became a British subject in 1902.

Belloc was one of the most prolific writers in England during the early twentieth century, becoming well known as an author, orator, poet, sailor, satirist, man of letters, soldier and political activist. He is most notable for his Catholic faith, which had a strong impact on his works, and his writing collaborations with G. K. Chesterton. He was President of the Oxford Union and later MP for Salford from 1906 to 1910.

He was a noted disputant, engaging in a number of long-running feuds, but also widely regarded as a humane and sympathetic man. His most lasting legacy is his poetry, encompassing comic verses for children and religious poetry. The best-remembered poems are from his humorous *Cautionary Tales for Children*, including this fragment...

The parents of the learned child  
(His father and his mother)  
Were utterly aghast to note  
The facts he would at random quote  
On creatures curious, rare, and wild;  
And wondering, ask each other:  
"An idle little child like this,  
How is it that he knows  
What years of close analysis  
Are powerless to disclose?

Our brains are trained, our books are big,  
And yet we always fail  
To answer why the Guinea-pig  
Is born without a tail  
Or why the Wanderoo should rant  
In wild, unmeaning rhymes,  
Whereas the Indian Elephant  
Will only read The Times.

Perhaps he found a way to slip  
Unnoticed to the Zoo,  
And gave the Pachyderm a tip,  
Or pumped the Wanderoo.  
Or even by an artful plan  
Deceived our watchful eyes,  
And interviewed the Pelican,  
Who is extremely wise."  
"Oh! no," said he, in humble tone,  
With shy but conscious look,  
"Such facts I never could have known  
But for this little book."

Clever as he was, Belloc did enormous social damage by penning a whimsical homophobic verse that appealed to heterosexual bigots who, for decades, had no scruples in using it to torment male homosexuals facing criminal sanctions for their sexual orientation. It ran...

The world is full of pretty girls  
With laughing eyes and dancing curls.  
This being so, there's no excuse  
For sodomy and self abuse.

He was, after all, a Catholic, believing as an Article of Faith reinforced by Criminal Law that homosexuality is a moral disorder. We now know that one's sexual orientation is a genetically programmed existential condition.

## Memorable sporting moments

Fashions on the Field

Spring racing carnival in Melbourne, Australia

November 2013



### Battle of the Sexes in the Seventies with Bobby Riggs and Billie Jean King

**Battle of the Sexes** is a title given to three notable tennis matches between a male and a female player.

The first match, in May 1973 was between Bobby Riggs and Margaret Court, over the best of three sets.

The second, in September 1973, was a nationally televised match between Riggs and Billie Jean King, over the best of five sets. The Riggs v King match was officially dubbed **The Battle of the Sexes**.

After winning his match against long retired and much older Margaret Court, Riggs taunted all female tennis players, prompting King to accept a lucrative financial offer to play Riggs in a nationally televised match that the promoters dubbed **The Battle of the Sexes**. The match was held in Houston, Texas on September 20, 1973. Bobby Riggs did a famous interview for the American television program *60 Minutes*, in a buildup to the event.

King defeated Riggs by playing his own defensive game, becoming at once a sporting heroine and an inspiration for the burgeoning feminist movement.

The final match, in September 1992, was between Jimmy Connors and Martina Navratilova, over the best of three sets and hybrid rules favoring the female player. It was dubbed **The Battle of Champions**.

