

Saturday 24 June 2023

# SPECULATIVE FICTION FESTIVAL

## PATRICK WHITE ROOM

10AM  
—  
11AM

**In Conversation with Garth Nix**  
Bookseller, sales rep, publicist, senior editor, marketing consultant, literary agent, and now one of Australia's most successful authors; is there nothing Garth Nix hasn't done in publishing? Alan Baxter picks Garth's brains about his experiences to find out Garth's best tips for emerging and established writers alike.

11AM  
—  
12PM

**There Are Other Worlds Than These**  
Expanded Worldbuilding – lands and cultures in Sci-fi and Fantasy beyond the borders of what we've come to expect.

With Kristyn Maslog-Levis (Chair), Maria Lewis, TR Napper, and Scott Wilson.

12.15  
PM  
—  
12.45  
PM

## BREAK 12PM-12.15PM

### Kaffeeklatsches

Sign up on the day for an intimate chat with our knowledgeable guests and ask them your burning questions about writing practice, getting published, and the business of being a writer.  
With Maria Lewis, TR Napper, Garth Nix, Cat Sparks, Kaaron Warren, and Scott Wilson.

## LUNCH 12.45PM-1.45PM

1.45  
PM  
—  
2.45  
PM

**Editors, Agents and Publishers, Oh My!**  
Editors, agents and publishers will be interviewed by an author to discuss what they do, what they're looking for, and their major tips for submissions.

With TR Napper (Author), Rochelle Fernandez (Agent) Abigail Nathan (Editor), and Anna Valdinger (Publisher).

2.45  
PM  
—  
3.45  
PM

**Hopeful Futures in Times of Plague and Change**  
With ongoing threats of climate change, pandemics and political unrest, the panel will discuss the need for more positive escapism and emboldening calls to action through fiction.

With Joanne Anderton (Chair), Richard Harland, Cat Sparks, and Scott Wilson.

## BREAK 3.45PM-4PM

4PM  
—  
5PM

**Is the Future Hybrid?**  
Is hybrid authorship the best way forward? No more putting all your eggs in one basket. With all the options of the modern age and the reality of publishing success, or lack of it, the panel will discuss the many paths of publication open to authors these days.

With Alan Baxter (Chair), Mitchell Hogan, Abigail Nathan, Garth Nix, and Anna Valdinger.

## JUDITH WRIGHT ROOM

**Writing Across Media and Medium**  
Prose beyond the printed page. Publishing speculative fiction in other formats: screen, comics, interactive online, games and more.

With Ally Burnham (Chair), Andrew Frost, and Rik Lagarto.

Tweet the festival!  
[@writingNSW](https://twitter.com/writingNSW) [#SpecFic23](https://twitter.com/SpecFic23)

**Dark Fiction for Dark Times**  
Horror's great renaissance – is it because the world is so bad right now? How can horror be hopeful and inspiring, especially when life is hard?

With J Ashley-Smith (Chair), JS Breukelaar, Anthony O'Connor, and Kaaron Warren.

**Writing the Non-Human**  
Monsters and Aliens as well-developed characters, both antagonists and protagonists.

With Zachary Ashford, Maria Lewis, and Keith Stevenson (Chair).

NETWORKING DRINKS ON THE VERANDAH 5PM - 6PM



WRITING  
NSW





**Abigail Nathan:** Editor, mentor and book coach under *Bothersome Words* since 2004, Abigail has edited for all large Australian publishers, as well as UK and US publishers and small press. @BothersomeWords 🐦📧



**Ally Burnham:** AWGIE winning screenwriter, novelist, and lead writer for multi-media series *Metropius*. Best known for multi-award-nominated feature film *Unsound* (2020, Netflix). @AllyBurnham\_ 🐦 @alexandria\_burnham 📧



**Anna Valdinger:** Fiction Publisher for HarperCollins and Voyager who started as editor for a literary agency in London and now looks after some of Australia's best-selling authors. @annavaldinger 🐦📧



**Cat Sparks:** Multi-award-winning Australian author of *Lotus Blue*, 75 short stories and a collection. Ran Agog! Press and was fiction editor of *Cosmos Magazine* for five years. Holds a PhD in science fiction and climate fiction. @catsparx 🐦📧



**J Ashley-Smith:** British-Australian author of dark fiction including the Shirley Jackson Award-winning book *The Attic Tragedy*. Other stories have won the Ditmar, Australian Shadows and Aurealis awards. @spooktapes 🐦📧



**Joanne Anderton:** Award-winning writer of science fiction, fantasy and horror, as well as kids' books and creative non-fiction. Her recent collections are *Inanimates: Tales of Everyday Fear* and *The Art of Broken Things*. @joanneanderton 🐦📧



**Keith Stevenson:** Author of the SF thriller *Horizon* and forthcoming *Traitor's Run*, publisher with coeur de lion, past editor of *Aurealis* and *Dimension6*, and host of the *Terra Incognita Speculative Fiction* podcast. @stevenson\_keith 🐦



**Maria Lewis:** AWGIE award-winning screenwriter, bestselling author, and pop culture etymologist. Writer of the *Supernatural Sisters* series, and screenwriter of Netflix, AMC, DC Comics, Ubisoft, SBS, ABC, Stan and more. @MovieMazz 🐦 @Maria\_\_\_Lewis 📧



**Richard Harland:** Author of 17 spec fic novels published in Australia and overseas, and the forthcoming *Ferren and the Angel*. Has won six Aurealis Awards, the A Bertram Chandler Award and the Tam Tam Je Bouquine Award.



**Rochelle Fernandez:** An editor by trade, now an agent at Alex Adsett Literary. Was a publisher for Voyager, HarperCollins's speculative fiction imprint from 2013-17. @roch\_town 🐦 @fernie683 📧



**Zachary Ashford:** Educator, speaker, and the author of the Aurealis-nominated post-apocalyptic novella *When the Cicadas Stop Singing* and forthcoming debut novel *Polyphemus*. @ashford\_zachary 🐦 @zac\_ashford 📧



**Alan Baxter:** Multi-award-winning author of horror, supernatural thrillers, and dark fantasy, dubbed 'Australia's master of literary darkness' by *This Is Horror* podcast. @AlanBaxter 🐦 @warrior\_scribe 📧



**Andrew Frost:** Author of *End of Days*, the forthcoming *Among Friends*, and short fiction and creative non-fiction stories in *Iceberg Journal*, *Zoetrope Anthology* and more. @sci\_fictional 🐦 @tezby 📧



**Anthony O'Connor:** Australian author of post-apocalyptic *Straya* and YA ghost yarn *Emma After*. Screenplay writer of *Angst* and *Redd Inc.* (aka *Inhuman Resources* in the US/UK). @clawtalk 🐦 @antknee242 📧



**Garth Nix:** NY Times-bestselling author of many books and short stories, and winner of the Aurealis Award, Ditmar, Mythopoeic and others. Has been published in 42 languages across more than six million copies. @garthnix 🐦



**JS Breukelaar:** American-Australian author, Shirley Jackson Award finalist, and Aurealis and Ditmar winner. Published in *The Dark*, *Black Static*, *Fantasy*, *Tiny Nightmares*, *Several Years Bests* and more. @jsbreukelaar 🐦📧



**Kaaron Warren:** Multi-award-winning writer of five novels and seven short story collections. Has sold over 200 short stories to publications around the world and was guest of honour at World Fantasy, Stokercon, and Geyscon. @KaaronWarren 🐦 @Kaaron\_Warren 📧



**Kristyn Maslog-Levis:** Author of the bestselling YA Engkantasia series published by Anvil Publishing, and currently undertaking a PhD with UTS for Creative Writing, focusing on cultural diversity in children's literature. @k.m.levis 📧



**Mitchell Hogan:** Author of *A Crucible of Souls*, winner of the 2013 Aurealis Award for Best Fantasy Novel. Has since published 12 novels across multiple series. @HoganMitchell 🐦



**Rik (Richard) Lagarto:** Game designer, game writer and narrative lead who has worked on the Total War series, *Star Wars: Republic Heroes*, *Bioshock2*, and *Yonder and Yonder*. @riklagarto 🐦



**Scott Wilson:** Gooniyandi and Gajerrong man and co-creator/writer of The Indigiverse comic series about the oldest living cultures inspiring the newest living superheroes. @Scottlewiswilson 📧



**TR Napper:** Multi-award-winning science fiction author, including the Aurealis twice. Doctor of Cyberpunk. Dungeon Master for a local charity, running campaigns for young people with autism. @TheEscherMan 🐦 @trnapper 📧