

**Katharine Stubbs Judging Coordinator** 

# DUNGZILLA IS COMING!



Sally Tinker - the world's foremost inventor under the age of twelve - has a new invention rolling into a bookstore near you!



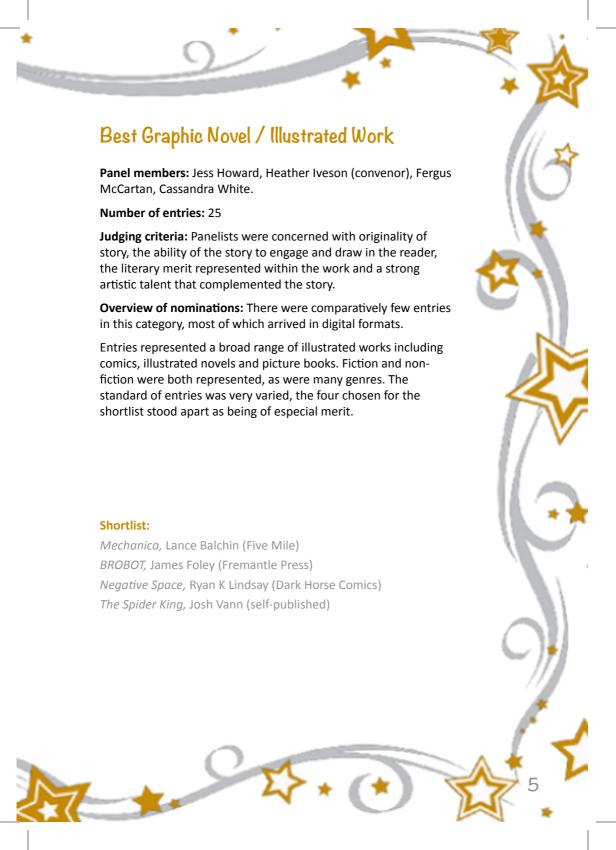






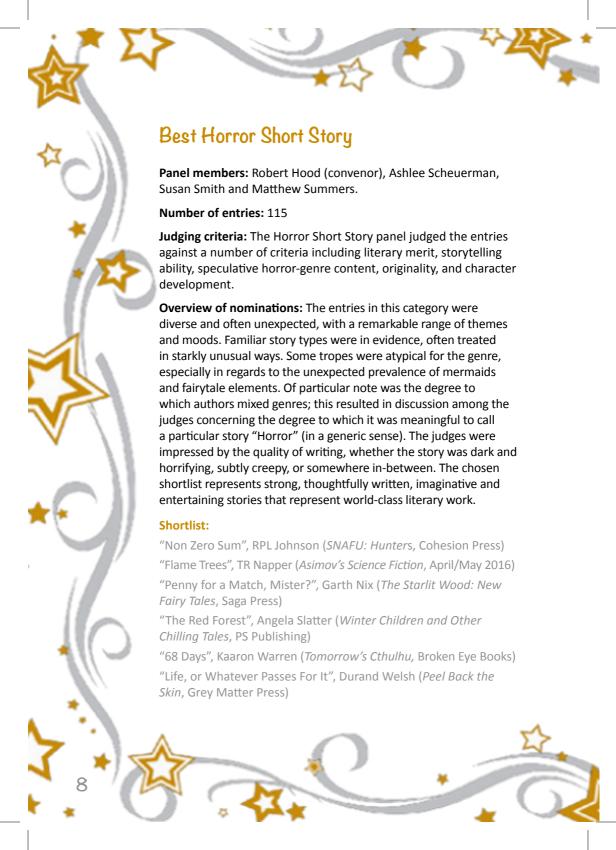


















**Panel members:** Astrid Edwards, Gene Melzack (convenor), Kristy Mika, Rob Riel.

Number of entries: 41

Judging criteria: The judges sought works that made good use of the novella length to produce a complex and layered story with nuanced characters and relationships, while keeping the narrative tight to retain excitement and intensity. Inventive settings were rewarded, as long as they weren't just examples of world-building for its own sake. Strong emotional engagement was prized, whether that meant challenging and unnerving the reader, fully immersing them in a visceral fantasy world, or branding the reader with lasting memories. Use of magic as a tool for critical reflection on the powerful societal and interpersonal forces that affect us all was also rewarded.

**Overview of nominations:** The judges were very impressed with the quality of the novella nominations and felt this was a particularly strong field. Entries were published in a variety of media: print, web, and podcast. Some were published as standalone, others within magazines, anthologies, or collections. There was a mixture of fantasy fiction represented, including fairytale retellings, ghost stories, paranormal romances, pulpy action adventure, and inventive original fantasy.

### **Shortlist:**

"Raven's First Flight", Alan Baxter (SNAFU: Black Ops, Cohesion Press)

"By the Laws of Crab and Woman", Jason Fischer (Review of Australian Fiction)

"Forfeit", Andrea K Höst (The Towers, the Moon, self-published)

The Bonobo's Dream, Rose Mulready (Seizure Press)

"Burnt Sugar", Kirstyn McDermott (*Dreaming in the Dark*, PS Publishing)

"Finnegan's Field", Angela Slatter (Tor.com)









Panel members: Michelle Goldsmith, Chris Lampard, Ion

Newcombe, Cathie Tasker (convenor).

Number of entries: 21

**Judging criteria:** Panellists were looking for anthologies that had literary merit and presented a cohesive collection of high-quality stories, without being overly repetitive. Production values were also very important. The ordering of stories and overall flow of the anthology was also taken into consideration.

Individual stories were considered for their adherence to the aims of the anthology, sophistication in writing and story development, resonance, and the degree to which they engaged in immersive world-building and convincing characterisation.

**Overview of nominations:** A reasonable number of submissions were received this year, which included tightly themed anthologies, "year's best" anthologies, writing group anthologies and unthemed anthologies across a wide range of speculative genres. The overall quality of submissions was variable, with a handful of standout works. The shortlisted anthologies presented a coherent range of strong and engaging stories, containing consistently well-edited and produced work.

### **Shortlist:**

Dreaming in the Dark, Jack Dann (ed.) (PS Publishing Australia)

Defying Doomsday, Tsana Dolichva and Holly Kench (eds.) (Twelfth Planet Press)

Year's Best YA Speculative Fiction 2015, Julia Rios and Alisa Krasnostein (eds.) (Twelfth Planet Press)

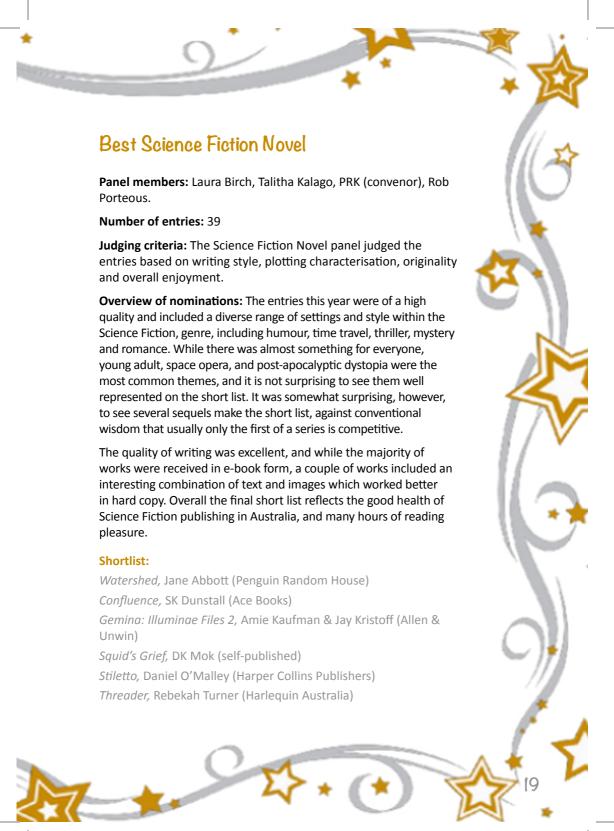
Best Science Fiction and Fantasy of the Year: Volume 10, Jonathan Strahan (ed.) (Solaris)

In Your Face, Tehani Wessely (ed.) (Fablecroft Publishing)

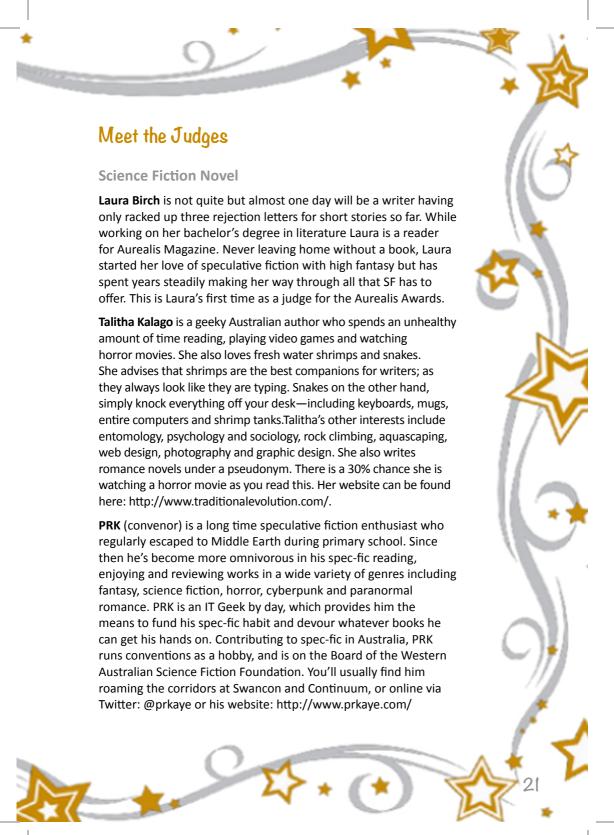












Rob Porteous writes science fiction and fantasy stories. His short stories have been published in ASIM and overseas. In 2013, he coedited Next, a collection of Australian spec-fic short stories with Simon Petrie. He is currently working on a debut fantasy novel.

Science Fiction Short Story / Novella

Mark Fazackerley is a executive in the IT industry in his 50s who has been a sci-fi and fantasy fan since bedridden with pneumonia as a kid for two winters in his native New Zealand. Starship Troopers was a great introduction to the genre and subsequently Mark has had a life-long love of sci-fi and quality writing. Now a resident of Sydney, Mark reads may genres voraciously with a stated primary goal of reading good quality writing, but with a high tolerance level for B grade sci-fi. A past artisan and now frustrated writer himself he has the ubiquitous novel-in-progress that will likely have to wait until retirement—meanwhile he gets his writing fix as a popular amateur food and travel writer. A long-time martial arts exponent with yoga, mountain biking and cooking his main interests, he is an undying slave to his two Maine Coon cats and his wife (in that order!) Mark has been a reader for *Aurealis* magazine since 2014.

Rose Hartley attended the Clarion Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers' Workshop in San Diego in 2015, where she studied short fiction under the guidance of some of her favourite authors. She is the joint recipient of the South Australian Hachette Mentorship Program and is currently editing her novel with the help of her mentor at Hachette. She has had residencies at Varuna, the SA Writers Centre and Manning Clark House. When she's not reading short fiction, she's fondly watching her chickens, rabbit and cat destroy her garden in the Adelaide Hills or taking her vintage caravan out on a road trip.

**Ben Payne** has been an Aurealis Award judge since he was a small baby, and a fox discovered him on the woods beneath a daffodil tree. It delivered him to the convenors who reared him as their own son, on a strict diet of nettles and ambiance. He has edited and written

a few works in the past but found it gave him allergies so he has returned to judging. He anxiously awaits his judging hat in the post. Rivga Rafael (convenor) is based in Sydney, where she works as a freelance science editor. The subject material often finds its way into the fiction she writes, sometimes in unexpected ways. Her short stories have been published in The Never Never Land, Hear Me Roar and Defying Doomsday. She is an avid reader of speculative fiction—mostly science fiction, but any subgenre will do as long as it's well-written. She has a degree in microbiology and a master's in professional writing. She can be found at rivga. net and on Twitter as @enoughsnark. **Fantasy Novel Lorraine Cormack** is an experienced book reviewer across all genres, but with a particular interest in speculative fiction. She is an avid reader across all genres and enjoys discovering good writers who are new to her, and highlighting good writing for other readers to enjoy. A founding member of the Canberra Speculative Fiction Guild, Lorraine lives with her family. Stephanie Gunn (convenor) is a Ditmar and Aurealis Award nominated writer of speculative fiction. In another life, she was a scientist, but now spends her time reading, reviewing, and writing. She has judged various panels of the Aurealis Awards since 2011. She is currently working on several contemporary fantasy novels, and lives in Perth with her husband, son and requisite cat. She can be found online at http://www.stephaniegunn.com. Voracious reader and online reviewer, **Belle McQuattie** has been devouring fantasy for almost as long as she's been reading. She will forever be thankful for high school English teachers that think Isobelle Carmody and Terry Pratchett are appropriate study texts, spending many years living a couple of blocks away from the library, and the shenanigans found in the HarperVoyager Purple Zone. One day, she plans to write again, but often finds she can't put books down for long enough to start. She can be

found on twitter @theresaninkspot, and blogging at http://thereareinkspotsonmypage.com.

By day he is a mild mannered HR manager at a busy public hospital but at night he becomes the superhero known as........ well not really. After a busy day at work **Shane Charles** likes nothing more than spending time with his wife and three kids before relaxing with a good book or three. An avid reader since starting reading comics as a four year old Shane has spent the last forty odd years spending the majority of his spare time venturing to other galaxies, battling invading aliens, saving Jimmy Olsen from trouble and all of the myriad other scenarios that the world of fiction can welcome you into. Shane has previously been a judge in the Sci-Fi category and this is his first foray into the worlds of Australian Fantasy.

### Fantasy Short Story / Novella

Astrid Edwards is Director of Strategy at Bad Producer Productions and Vice Chair of the Committee of Management at Writer's Victoria. She is also a slush pile reader for Aurealis Magazine. She has been addicted to fantasy and science fiction since she was a teenager, and reads anything and everything. Her latest favourites are Brandon Sanderson's Stormlight Archive and Patrick Rothfuss' Kingkiller Chronicles. Astrid spends a great deal of time reading and drinking coffee (preferably in a bookstore). You can see what she reads and where she wanders on Goodreads, Instagram and Twitter.

**Gene Melzack** (convenor) has is a short story reader by preference and long-time speculative fiction reader and fan. In the past he has reviewed for semi-prozines such as Strange Horizons and academic journals such as Foundation. He served as secretary of the Science Fiction Foundation from 2004-2005 and was features co-editor of Vector, the journal of the British Science Fiction Association from 2005-2006. He was sub-editor for review site Australian Speculative Fiction in Focus from 2008-2009. He has previously served as a judge for the British Science Fiction

Association's non-fiction award and for the Aurealis Awards in the Collection/Anthology category.

Kristy Mika is a hoarder of words, cats, comics, TCGs, musical

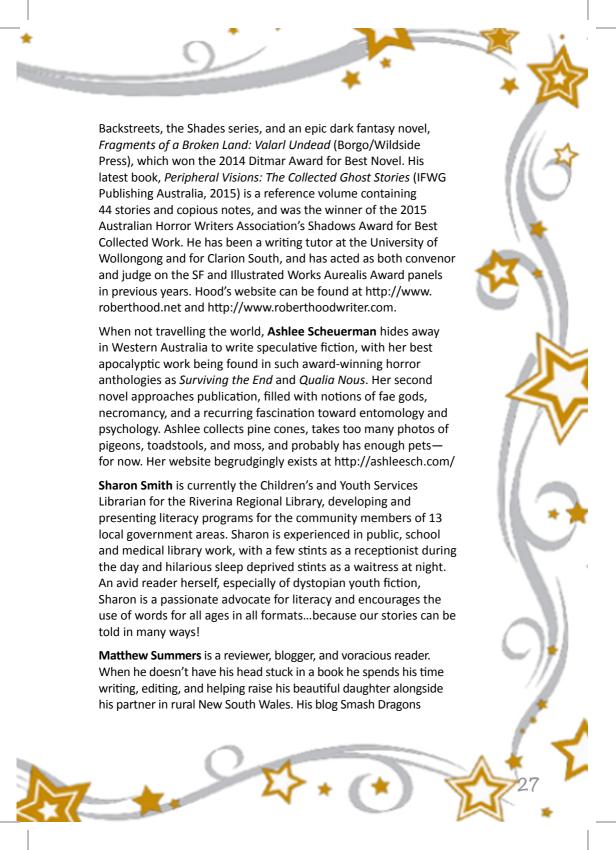
Kristy Mika is a hoarder of words, cats, comics, TCGs, musical instruments and bacon (not necessarily in that order of importance). She blames all of her eccentric behaviours (too many to list) on growing up beside the beach where Mad Max was filmed. After years of scientifically delving into people's brains and recording the strangeness they produce, she decided immersing herself in fantasy fiction was the safer route to staying grounded in reality. Now, after some time pushing about words like Hippogryph, instead of Hippocampus, she may believe Cybernetic Unicorns are real—but at least she's still sane. Mostly. She makes weird squawkings about books, and creates bookish art @ Book Frivolity, and stumbles about Twitter & Instagram @ bookfrivolity.

**Rob Riel** has earned a crust as a sailor, metallurgical engineer, university lecturer, electron microscopist, poetry publisher (Picaro Press), disability services coordinator... and a fair bit else. He has published on the order of 100 stories, poems, and prose poems. For the last decade he's worked part time mentoring students in HSC English. He lives in Cardiff, NSW, with his beloved partner Judy, who is a successful poet and novelist.

### **Horror Novel**

Matthew R Davis is an author and musician based in Adelaide. A member of the AHWA, he has racked up over two dozen dark fiction and poetry publications around the world, and is currently editing two novels for beta reading and submission. When not slaving over a hot laptop to produce fiction, he plays bass and sings in alternative/progressive rock and metal bands such as Blood Red Renaissance (on hiatus) and icecocoon. He dabbles in short film and band videos from time to time as composer, editor, writer, producer, director and actor, and also turns his hand to graphic design for posters and album sleeves. You can find out more about his activities at matthewrdavisfiction.wordpress.com.





(smashdragons.blogspot.com.au) has featured everything from news and reviews right through to interviews and opinion pieces. Matthew is passionate about local speculative fiction, and is forever hunting to unearth new writers to read. He is also partial to whiskey, coffee, and all things gaming. This is Matthew's first time as a judge for the Aurealis Awards, and he is over the moon to be involved. **Young Adult** Lyn Battersby is a Western Australian author with over 20 publishing credits to her name, including appearances in *Electric* Velocipede, ASIM, Borderlands and several Australian anthologies. She has worked as an editor/slush reader for ASIM and Ticonderoga and has acted as an Aurealis Awards judge and panel co-ordinator several times in the past. She is happily married to author Lee Battersby and his Lego collection. Miffy Farguharson (convenor) has been working in libraries for 25 years across the primary, secondary and tertiary education sectors. She was the CBCA Vic Branch Book of the Year judge in 2008-2009, WAPBA judge in 2011-2012 and has four previous stints as an Aurealis judge and panel convenor. Miffy has a particular interest in speculative fiction and books for young people in general, and is looking forward to reading entries in the 2016 awards. **Elizabeth Fitzgerald** is a freelance editor and owner of Earl Grey Editing. She runs a book blog (www.earlgreyediting.com.au/ blog) and is serving out her fourth term as the Secretary of the Canberra Speculative Fiction Guild. An unabashed roleplayer and reader of fanfiction, her weaknesses are books, loose-leaf tea and silly dogs. She tweets @elizabeth fitz Kirsten Reim was a library monitor in Year 6, and it was then that she decided to become a librarian. She never really deviated from that path except when she wanted to become a ballerina. For the last 20 (ish) years she has worked as a teacher librarian and librarian in schools of all sizes and in all sectors, with her main goal of sharing her passion for books—especially those for young

adults. In 2008-2009 she was the CBCA NSW Branch Book of the Year judge, and this further ignited her love of children's literature, so much so that she went on to study creative writing for a brief period. She has now decided she is a much better reader than writer and is excited to be a judge for the Aurealis Awards.

### Children's Fiction

When **Amelia Birve** is reading you might have to call her name twice, or three times to get her attention, or maybe just come back later. She loves stories, especially magical ones, and so is incredibly grateful to be working in a public library. Here you will find her selecting books, storytelling to preschoolers, leading writers' groups, and organising book clubs. She studied Education and Arts at university, completing Honours in English (creative writing), with her thesis focused on the Gothic in children's literature. When Amelia's not working at the library you might find her inventing her own magical stories. She is judging for the Aurealis Awards for the first time this year and is looking forward to getting lost in some wonderful children's fiction.

**Caitlin Chisholm** has been an avid reader of anything she can get her hands on since she's been able to read. She is currently living in Darwin where she studies pharmacy. When not trying to memorise every drug in existence, she enjoys hiking and talking about whatever book she is currently reading.

Like all of us **Nicole Murphy** (convenor) fell in love with children's literature as a child, although a career as a primary teacher enabled her to indulge the passion well into adulthood. Nicole is a multiple published author of science fiction, fantasy and romance. She has been an editor, publisher and writing teacher. She currently works as a professional conference organiser. Nicole was the Aurealis Awards convenor in 2013-2014.

**Lily Stojcevski** is an eighteen-year old reader and writer from Tasmania. She was a judge for the 2013 Inky Awards and a test reader for Jennifer Kloester's novel *The Cinderella Moment*.

In 2014, she won the Senior section of the Tasmanian Young Writers Prize for her speculative fiction "Mountain, Predator, Shell," which was published in *Forty Degrees South* and *Award Winning Australian Writing 2015*. Lily has a long-standing interest in children's and young adult fiction and wrote a guest blog for Meanjin's "What I'm Reading" about the importance of young adult fiction. In 2015 she was a panellist at the Tasmanian Readers and Writers Festival on the youth panel, "Tasmania: a Land of Dregs, Bogans, and Third Generation Morons." Her story "She's Everywhere," featured in the "Lost Voices of Old Hobart Town" event at the 2015 Festival of Voices in Hobart. Lily is currently writing an urban fantasy novel about witchcraft.

### **Graphic Novel / Illustrated Work**

Heather Iveson (convenor) discovered Star Wars and David Eddings' Belgariad at the age of ten and has been a voracious reader of science fiction and fantasy ever since. She discovered graphic novels ten years later when a friend introduced her to Kouta Hirano's Hellsing and she found her local library's well-stocked graphic novel section. In her professional life Heather is a librarian and loves to share her enthusiasm for great stories and encourage others to try new things. She can be found on Twitter as @TripleThreatLib where she talks libraries, books, and life.

Jess Howard decided to be a writer at age 7 after reading Roald Dahl's *The Witches* and *Mathilda* because she wanted to make stories that could be both horrifying and triumphant. It took a university internship at a magazine for her to take her 7-year-old self seriously. She studied writing and editing at RMIT and now works in educational publishing writing a copy by day and fiction by night and reading whenever she can.

**Fergus McCartan** is a reviewer, blogger and interviewer, and when his head isn't stuck in a book he likes to entertain the delusion of finishing his first novel (hopefully within his own lifetime) and pretending his skill in playing the guitar is more like Hendrix and less like Dave Lister (that's a Red Dwarf joke in case you

were wondering). As an Irish man in Queensland he frequently wishes for the cooler climate of Hoth, but some dreams probably won't come true. Fergus operates his own blog http://thequietfantasybookblog.wordpress.com containing a menagerie of topics from reviews, interviews, flash fan fiction and fantasy based games. This is his second year as a judge and he is very excited to get started, last year was a blast.

Cassandra White is a Melbourne-based writer, who made her first comics at 7, which was, in hindsight, mostly Labyrinth fan fiction. She has a Master of Creative Writing, Publishing, and Editing from the University of Melbourne. She avoids plagiarism these days by writing about graphic narratives as well as writing young adult fiction.

### **Anthologies & Collections**

Michelle Goldsmith is a Melbourne-based speculative fiction author and professional editor/tech writer. Her short fiction has appeared in various publications within Australia and overseas. Her 2015 weird fiction short story, The Jellyfish Collector, was shortlisted for an Aurealis Award. She was shortlisted for a Ditmar award for Best New Talent in 2014 and 2015. She is currently working on a science fiction novel and many short stories. She has a BSc (majoring in Zoology/Evolutionary Biology) and a Masters in Publishing and Communications. Her thesis explores the author-reader relationship within the contemporary speculative fiction field and various articles based on her original research are being published. Ask her about it if you like graphs and have a spare six hours or so.

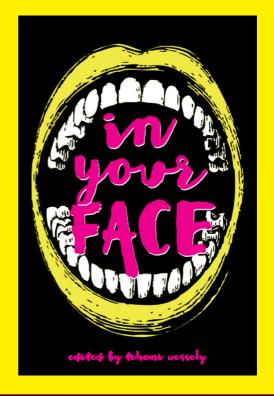
**Chris Lampard** has been reading science fiction and fantasy for many years. He used to work in the chemical industry, but more recently has been wandering NZ and Australia as a nomadic gardener. He's now settled near Perth, where he's growing vegetables and Western Australian native plants.

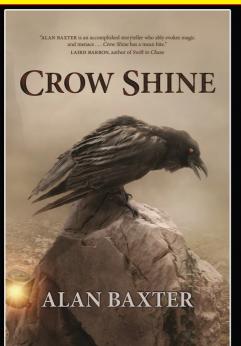
**Ion Newcombe** is the editor and publisher of *AntipodeanSF*, Australia's longest running online speculative fiction magazine, regularly issued since January 1998. He has been a zealous reader



FableCroft Publishing
congratulates the
contributors of

Best Anthology finalist
In Your Face
and the Best Short Story
nominees from the book
Shauna O'Meara
(Young Adult)
Thoraiya Dyer
(Fantasy)
Claire McKenna
(Science Fiction)





Ticonderoga Publications would like to congratulate

### ALAN BAXTER

Nominee, Best Collection SwanCon 42 Guest of Honour

Good luck Alan, and good luck to all of this year's nominees!

**CONGRATULATIONS!** 

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# PS Australia MD, Jack Dann, and the whole PS team

DEBORAH BIANCOTTI

send hearty congratulations on being nominated. Fingers are crossed—and thanks for gracing us with such wonderful work.

## BEST YOUNG ADULT SHORT STORY

"A Right Pretty Mate", Lisa L Hannett
(Dreaming in the Dark)
"The Red Forest", Angela Slatter
(Winter Children & Other Chilling Tales)



"Served Cold", Alan Baxter (Dreaming in the Dark)

"Waking in Winter", Deborah Biancotti

WYLLY
THE REAL CHILDREN
SHER CHILDREN
ANGELA SLATTER
ANGELA SLATTER

"Burnt Sugar", Kirstyn McDermott (Dreaming in the Dark)

### **BEST FANTASY NOVELLA**

"Burnt Sugar", Kirstyn McDermott (Dreaming in the Dark)

### **BEST SCIENCE FICTION SHORT STORY**

"Trainspotting in Winesburg", Jack Dann (Concentration)

### **BEST SCIENCE FICTION NOVELLA**

Waking in Winter, Deborah Biancotti

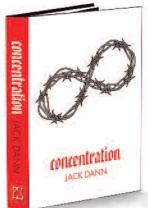
### **BEST COLLECTION**

Winter Children, Angela Slatter, Concentration, Jack Dann



### **BEST ANTHOLOGY**

Dreaming in the Dark Jack Dann (ed.)



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