

# GE NEWS

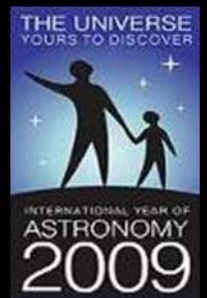
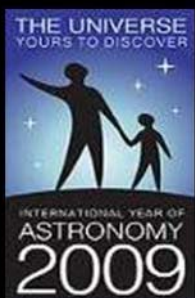
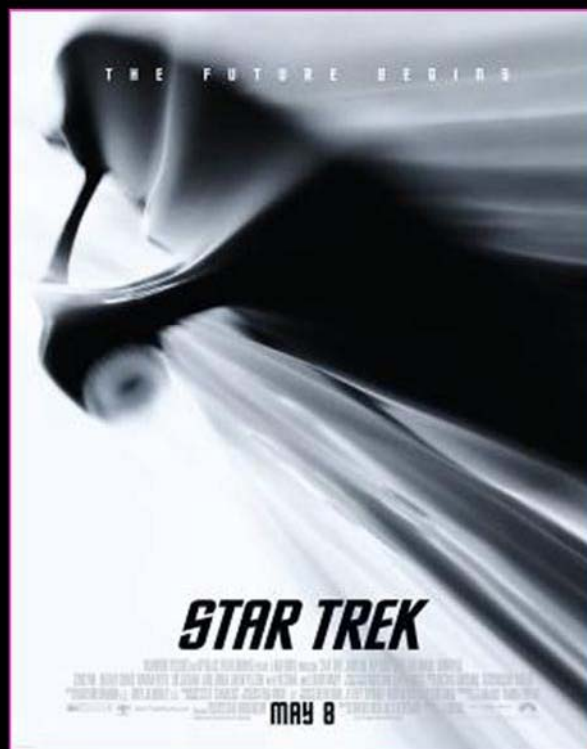
## WOMEN TALK SCI FI



GE News is going to the movies! Yes you guessed it!  
We are going to the World Premier of Star Trek

You can too!

See page 2 for a fantastic competition for Sydney Sci Fi Fans who are at  
the Opera House on the day of the Premiere!



In Australian Cinemas  
May 7th 2009



# *EXCLUSIVE TO FAN BASED MEDIA*

*WORLD PREMIERE OF STAR TREK @ SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE TUESDAY EVENING!*

*Star gaze on the red carpet and you could win tickets to be one of the first to see Star Trek*  
The celebrities will be out walking the red carpet for the World Premiere of the hot new Star Trek movie on Tuesday 7th April.

Sydneysiders will be able to be part of a very exciting event as Sydney Opera House hosts a Premiere in the iconic Concert Hall for the first time.

Celebrity spotters and movie memorabilia collectors alike should arrive from 4pm at Sydney Opera House forecourt on Tuesday 7th April. Paramount Pictures Australia is giving you the opportunity to win one of a limited number of double passes to the event on the night!

*Check the official Star Trek site for further details on how to win:*

<http://www.startrek.com.au/sohcompetition>

*Stars you could spot on the night include:*

*Director/Producer JJ Abrams (MISSION IMPOSSIBLE:III, LOST, ALIAS) ,  
Eric Bana,*

*Zachary Quinto (Sylar from HEROES),  
Chris Pine (SMOKIN' ACES)*

*Karl Urban (THE BOURNE SUPREMACY, LORD OF THE RINGS),  
Jon Cho (HAROLD AND KUMAR GO THE WHITE CASTLE, AMERICAN PIE)  
as well as local A-list celebrities.*

*What: Celeb-spotting and competitions at the World Premiere of Star Trek*

*Where: Sydney Opera House forecourt*

*When: Tuesday 7th April 2009*

*Competition commences at 4pm & closes at 6:15, red carpet arrivals from 5 – 6.30pm*

*More info: <http://www.startrek.com.au/sohcompetition>*

## **Next Issue Doctor Who Competition**

Culture Shock Events is giving GE News readers the chance to win a fantastic prize of a double autograph of a Doctor and Companion, look out for the competition details

Special thanks to Robbie from Culture Shock Events Sydney for the wonderful prize and don't forget to look out for their upcoming Sci Fi Conventions, click on link below!!!

[Culture Shock Events](#)



# Comments from the Publishers

We are very excited that we have reached our 1st anniversary. We, that is Gerri Donaldson and Eugenia Stopyra had a little dream of publishing our own Sci Fi E-zine and little did we think that when we started we would be here a year later.

We thoroughly enjoy doing GE News and in publishing it we have been able to take on other opportunities that have expanded our enjoyment of Sci Fi, Fantasy, Supernatural and Horror genres.

We now write for Trekkie Central ,a Trek Fan Film Magazine, we read the news for Sci FI Vertigo Radio Net Show and are in the process of launching our own podcast site [Women Talk Sci Fi!](#)

So not only will you be able to read what we think but you will be able to hear us as well! We have great fun making the podcasts and have roped in some of our other Sci Fi loving friends to get involved as well! So watch out we may ask you to come and talk with us as well!!

We plan to be here for the long term so not only keep your eye out for our e-zine but also keep your ear out for our podcast as well!

So for this issue we wanted to celebrate our readers and let them tell you their stories. We hope you enjoy this issue as much as we do!

Gerri Donaldson and Eugenia Stopyra  
G & E





## Sharon

Funny how things turn out sometimes, I remember being over the moon at the prospect of the Doctor Who TV series being revived. It was the early days of checking on the internet and the best speed my friend could get was 4kb/s, it took nearly a month to for them to get the episode "Rose" and lending me the copy. I had just finished watching it when ABC, Australia started airing the series.

LOVED the first three episodes, then one morning having breakfast in front of the tellie before going to work I was watching the news from England, it was reported Christopher Eccleston has quit.

That was it I watched the rest of the season with a heavy heart thinking it would probably be the one and only series.

I couldn't have imagined how much I would love David Tennant's portrayal of the Doctor and how far the development of the series would come with lots of new side kicks.

I am trying not to judge the new actor (Matt Smith) at this stage, I'm not sure about him, but am willing to wait and see.

Watching the first series again is far more enjoyable this time around, that is for sure.



## Sarah

### Con-fessions of a Con-virgin

I did it! Finally, in November 2008, the closet sci-fi geek that I have been for the last 30+ years bloomed into the fullest expression of its geekhood with my very first attendance at a convention. Along with sundry cohorts (who forever will remain veritable goddesses in my sight) I packed my bags, booked my ticket and wended my way to Armageddon 2008 in Melbourne. Why, you may ask, did I choose then and there to finally reveal myself as the geek I am? The answer is simple, or rather, genius – Dr Meredith Rodney McKay. Not just a sci-fi geek, but a fangirl too? Yes, I must admit to it. Rodney McKay (aka David Hewlett) is my idol. Arrogant, petty, bad-with-people McKay, with blue eyes that are only rivalled by Elijah Wood's, and shoulders that...but I digress \*sigh\*.

So, given that my idol was going to be less than an hour's flight away from me, what was going to stop me from attending? Not to mention I was also to have the joy of meeting Kavan Smith (Major Lorne) and Gary Jones (Walter Harriman) both actors in my favourite fandom.

On the Saturday morning, I arrived bright and early, armed with my ATM card and a fair amount of cash (for photos and autographs, of course – and possibly lunch, if I remembered to have it). Nervous and well, a little bit shy, I shadowed (read: hid behind) the aforementioned goddesses. How then did I manage to be first in line for David Hewlett autographs that morning? How? How? I could barely speak and when I walked away with my autographed photos clutched to my heart, I quickly had to find somewhere to sit down. To say I was overwhelmed would be an understatement.

Indeed, the entire convention experience was quite overwhelming. A word of advice to other con-virgins; if you finally decide to go, go with people who know what they're about – seriously. I would not have coped so well on my own. As it was, it was a wonderful weekend and by the time Monday rolled around, I flopped, happily exhausted, into my plane seat, utterly broke and vowing never to wash my face again after having been kissed on the cheek by Kavan Smith.

And now, four months later, every so often my eyes will glaze over, and the words 'Daaaavid Heeeeewlet' will come sighing from my mouth. But I'm not obsessed. Really. Really. For obvious reasons, the author would like her name withheld. She doesn't think it will happen, but she'd like it just the same.



# CONFESSIONS OF A FAN

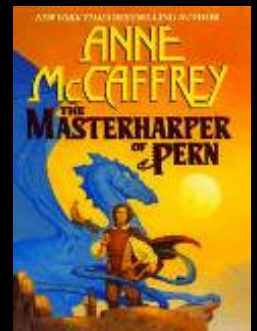
If you would like an ideal intro to science fiction fandom, how's this? In my first year of high school, a series of books called 'Out of this World', containing a collection of varied, good quality short science fiction short stories came to my attention in the otherwise daggy school library. Every story presented a doorway into exciting new possibilities.



Then, in 1967 work in Sydney beckoned, along with commuting by train to the family home over two hours away on the weekends. At the newsstand on Central Station, Analog magazine, with the very first of McCaffrey's 'Dragonriders of Pern' stories announced itself as a pleasant way of passing time on the journey home.

The Dragonrider series was enjoyed and (I thought) forgotten, until, years later, I came across them extended and put into paperback form. There they were, tucked away in the back of the upper storey of the Third World Bookshop on Hindley Street, Adelaide. From that moment on, each new McCaffrey book has been like a holiday, a red letter day, and Anne, bless her, has obliged with the regular publication of new stories.

Horrible thought - right through the period that Star Trek Original Series was broadcast, I did NOT have access to a television! First, I was living in a radically non-television group house in Sydney, and then in an outback town far from the TV networks of the time. Deprived? Perhaps. But what was not brought to my attention didn't bother me at all!



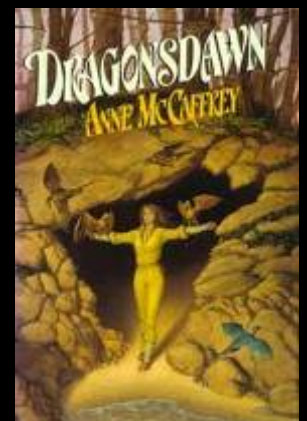
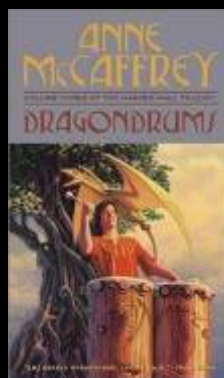
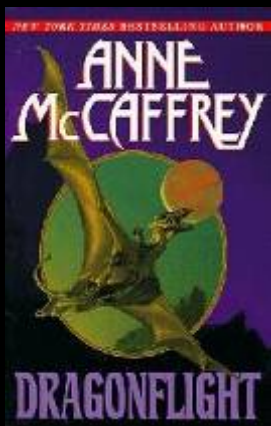
The ankle-biters grew up and moved on. Hubby and I retired, and moved into the comfort of the Adelaide suburbs. A short time later, 'Star Trek: Next Generation' began, and video allowed me to enjoy the original series as well. I still miss the regular broadcasting of new episodes of Star Trek, in all its incarnations.

Quark and his family (from Deep Space 9) were particular favourites. I am short statured myself, and gradually came to identify strongly with what the writers and actors said through these characters about 'heightism' and racism.

Vision problems make reading a chore these days, so I recently contacted the GE group about passing my McCaffrey collection on to a loving home. As a delightful surprise, I was offered audio books in return, including all the Dragonrider series, and two books written by Armin Shimmerman about the Quark character he played in DS9.

Life has its challenges, but, for this fan, it just keeps getting better and better.

## Pam



# From Stargate Fan to Stargate Author



GE News recently had a wonderful opportunity to interview Suzanne Wood and Stargate fan who is now a published Stargate Author. Suzanne is from Melbourne Australia and was a committed Fanfic writer before being picked up by Fandemonium Books.

## How did you get involved in writing?

My first experience of writing was with fanfic, mostly on Stargate. I met up with a few girls who were already writing incredibly good stories and they encouraged me. I tried out. I got some really good feedback which encouraged me to keep doing it. The Publishing Company bought the licence from MGM for the Stargate books. I then put in a submission a few years back. Sent in a proposal along with everyone else and they accepted mine.

## So did you have any ambitions to be a writer?

It's something I always wanted to do but never quite got that impedance to try or work out how I could do it but once I got into a writing group with the other fanfic writers they really encouraged me and it all sort of flow from there.

## Are you employed in the publishing world?

I've been in the book industry pretty much all my life.

## You have always been attracted to it.

Yes, I am always coming up with stories, reading them and telling them.

## So this is your first novel?

Yes

## This is Stargate SG-1 Barque of Heaven. Is there another book coming out? Is it the first of a series?

I am thinking of an original novel at the moment. But I would like to do another Stargate book they are such fun characters to write.

## Is the original novel you're thinking about in Science Fiction?

No, I'm thinking of doing a crime book actually, I'm tossing up, as I have a good plot in progress for a fantasy novel as well.

## Is Stargate your first love or has other Science Fiction been part of your growing up?

I was really into Star Trek to begin with. I just loved all the books. I have all the classic trek books and just read them and read them and read them. Always wanted to do one for them but had no clue how to get around to doing it. That might be one thing to consider in the future.

## Do you have strict guidelines you have to follow about what you can introduce in books in relation to Stargate characters and Stargate settings?

Yes, you have to stay within the canon of the show. You can't kill anyone off. You can put them through whatever you want really as long you don't move too far beyond the guidelines of what's already been in the show.

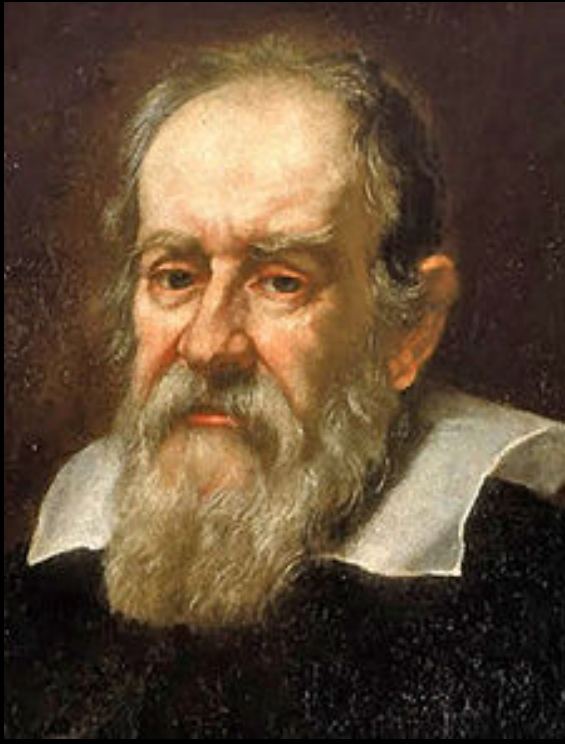
## Part Two in our next issue!





# International Year of Astronomy

## Galileo Galilei



Galileo was born in 1564 and died in 1642. He was a Tuscan physicist, mathematician, astronomer and philosopher. He has been called the 'father of modern observational astronomy' due to his observation of the skies when he developed the telescope.

The actual invention of the telescope was not Galileo's, he based his invention on the work of Hans Lippershey and Zacharias Janssen, who were spectacle makers in Middelburg, The Netherlands. He had heard rumours about their work on a device that could make objects far away seem closer. The Dutch pair had a request for a patent but had not been granted when Galileo further developed their ideas as the 'spyglass' was being kept secret since it would have great military value.

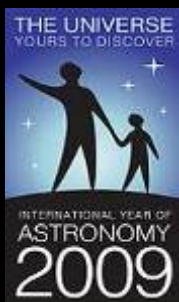
Based on the rumour and his instinct Galileo spent 24 hours of experimentation constructing his own 'spyglass' and came up with a 3-power telescope. Pretty amazing considering he never laid eyes on the original invention. On August 25 1609, he

demonstrated a 10-power telescope to Venetian lawmakers. His telescope became a profitable sideline with merchants because they found it useful in their shipping businesses. With his invention the Universe became Galileo's playground. He was the first to see the lunar mountains and craters on the Moon. In 1610 he discovered four of Jupiter's largest moons and also observed the planet Saturn.

Galileo's list of firsts just goes on and on. According to Stephen Hawking, 'Galileo probably bears more of the responsibility for the birth of modern science than anybody else.'



*This year is a great opportunity to indulge a little more in our passion as we continue to reach and live among the stars.*



Images taken from  
[www.astronomy2009.org](http://www.astronomy2009.org)

And

[www.hubblesite.org](http://www.hubblesite.org)

More interesting astronomy sites

<http://www.astronomy2009.org.au/>

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Have a look at our MySpace site. If you want to know what is happening in the world of Sci Fi, Fantasy and Horror check out our friends on My Space.

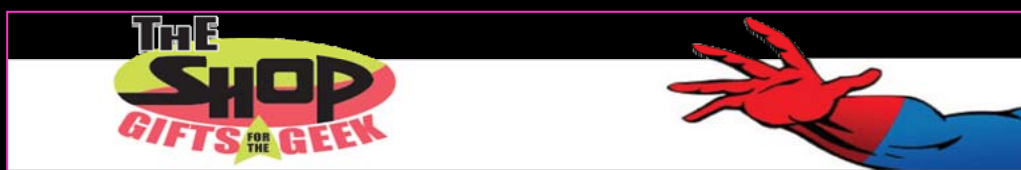
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