



Event & Steampunk FAQ

Answers provided by Christian Reynolds

What is Steampunk? How long have you been involved in it?

Steampunk started as a new genre of fiction that revolved around telling Sci-fi stories in times past (mainly Victorian). However steampunk has evolved into a cultural and aesthetic movement that can on the surface be seen to be just an excuse to wear goggles, corset and top hats*. But underneath this veneer it is more than this, steampunk is (in brief):

- Trying to live and adventure in a time that never was- but one that we wish to be in,
- Taking modern technology and adding Victorian sensibilities and aesthetics,
- Trying to escape the homogenous beige plastic prefabricated modern world, back to a world where everything is beautiful, individual and unique,

The main thing about steampunk is that there is no 'right' or 'wrong' way to 'do' the steampunk aesthetic, originality and self creation are however two of the watchwords of this movement.

** Though to be frank, goggles, corsets and top hats are pretty neat and many people get into Steampunk simply due this fact.*

I have been into steampunk since my late teens. I began to notice it through novels and movies, and the dress and aesthetic elements really appeal to me. To live life in a unique way that is not just a cardboard copy of everybody else.

And in particular...Steampunk - what is the local Adelaide scene like?

The local Adelaide scene is very healthy, over 400 members and meet ups once every month or two. In fact in terms of socialness I would say we are the best in Australia –though Melbourne beats SA in terms 'night life' due to its steampunk nightclub.

We get together for a number of reasons, to make costumes, to watch movies, to take photos or just hang out.

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I think we are all very imaginative and full of creativity though to be frank we are all really engrossed in pop culture- most of us are fans of Star Wars, Star trek, Firefly etc and this helped us bond and connect when we were all did not know each other so well.

The next big event that Adelaide Steampunk has planned is our 2011 Adelaide Fringe event: Olympia ~ A Steampunk Spectacular, which will be on the 11-13th of March 2011.

This event is fully immersive and takes participants on a journey back to a 1901 that never happened upon a steamship to the moon. Fantastical and hugely fun the 2010 fringe event sold out and received great reviews from the press and participants.

When was Steampunk first set up here in Adelaide?

The Steampunk movement in SA first really got together and organised social things in about 2007, Before that it was just smaller groups of friends all with passions for costuming, technology, science fiction getting together and dressing up of different events. But in 2007/8 we started to get organised and by 2010 we had put on a fringe show along with having numerous social gathering, costuming workshops and photo shoots.

Who set it up and why?

The group was set up in a very organic (kind of sporadic way sometimes called Steampunk SA sometimes Adelaide Steampunk) regardless of name it was set up here to be a way for people who are passionate about Victoriana, Science Fiction, costuming and tinkering to meet up, exchange ideas and hang out. Oh and some times to drink tea...

How regularly do you meet up (and where?)

During the summer months there is a lot of catch ups/socials with one every month or so. However over winter it's really 'build time' to work on new costumes for events such as popular culture conventions eg AV Con, Armageddon, SuperNova etc. That's not to say we don't meet up, its just more indoors activities such as all going out for a meal or watching a movie.

Our big yearly event is our 2011 Adelaide Fringe Show: Olympia ~ A Steampunk Spectacular, which will be on the 11-13th of March 2011. This event is fully immersive and takes participants on a journey back to a 1901 that never happened upon a steamship to the moon. Fantastical and hugely fun the 2010 fringe event sold out and received great reviews from the press and participants.

What types of events do you hold?

We hold lots of different types of events. Costuming workshops, Picnics, Lectures on Victorian history, movie outings and of course our Fringe Show. People pencil that in the

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calendar months ahead of time with people from interstate coming over for the experience. Many of our members are members of the Australian Costumers Guild and go to many of their events. Most events are family friendly with only one or two being 16/18+. Actually a great event this year was the launch of a Steampunk pinup calendar (for 2011), the artist received a lot of support from the SA Steampunk community.

What does 2011 hold in store for Steampunks?

Well the big event is the Fringe. We are going to be in the Fringe Parade in late Feb followed by the Fringe event up at Carclew. After that we do a post fringe 'meet and greet' picnic for anybody to attend. We are also planning for Autumn to do a neo-Victorian scavenger hunt/walking guide to Adelaide. (dress in costume and walk around Adelaide (and North Adelaide) learning about the (real) forgotten history of the historic buildings of Adelaide... and about who the streets are all named after...

What does a typical Steampunk event entail?

They are all quite varied. Some are in costume some in casual clothing. Maybe Contact me to discuss this one more...

Can anyone join?

YES just drop us a line on Facebook or visit our website [Http://adelaidesteampunk.info](http://adelaidesteampunk.info) to get in contact with us.



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