

Online news

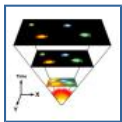
Sunday, 15 July 2007

**Colourful birds hardest hit at Chernobyl**



Brightly coloured birds have been some of the hardest hit by radioactive fallout from the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, say ecologists. [read more](#)

**Universe's dark ages get even shorter**



Astronomers have spotted galaxies which were formed just 500 million years after the Big Bang, some 250 million years earlier than the oldest observed so far. [read more](#)

**Other News**

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- ❖ [Maths proves the silliness of 'silly walks'](#)
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- ❖ [New Mars lander will dig below surface](#)
- ❖ [South Korea to clone sniffer dogs](#)

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Online features

**Lost in space**



by [Dauna Coulter](#) | Two robots hang suspended in space, nose to nose. One reaches out an arm and attends to the other. Fuel is exchanged, a battery replaced; servicing complete, they silently drift apart. This isn't fiction, the robots are orbiting Earth now. [read more](#)

**Cicada invasion overwhelms predators**



by [Christina Zdanowicz](#) | A remarkable plague of cicadas has been unleashed on Chicago. The insects emerge briefly once every 17 years and can reach densities of 1.5 million an acre. [read more](#)

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Selected COSMOS magazine features

**Marijuana: What science has to say**

EXCLUSIVE online fiction



**A new serialised novel by Damien Broderick & Barbara Lamar, published daily.**

This original novel is an exciting blend of thriller and science fiction, with a poignant love story at its heart.

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Selected COSMOS magazine fiction

**Not Alone**



by [Elizabeth Finkel](#) | It's a drug that divides people: some see it as unfairly demonised, others as a medical catastrophe in the making. But what does the science say? [read more](#)

### Smartasaurus

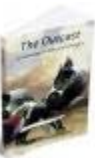


by [Jeff Hecht](#) | If they hadn't been wiped out in a global catastrophe 65 million years ago, could dinosaurs have evolved intelligence? [read more](#)

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## Reviews

### The Outcast: An Anthology of Exiles and Strangers



Editor Nicole Murphy tells us in her introduction that the theme for The Outcast was suggested by well-known Australian author Maxine McArthur, whose then-unpublished manuscript Time Future won the George Turner Prize in 1999. [read more](#)

### Australian Backyard Astronomy



I'd have killed for this book when I was ten. Children's books about astronomy were thin on the ground back then, and books about the skies of the Southern Hemisphere, written for Australians, were rarer still. [read more](#)

[Read more reviews](#)



by [Pamela Sargent](#) | I'd been waking in the middle of the night, paralysed with terror, wondering if anybody could be sure of anything at all, thinking that maybe there was nothing else except us and the world and the rest of space, that there was no meaning to any of it. [read more](#)

### Street of the Dead



by [Cat Sparks](#) | A bright flare of silver dazzled Maree: a small shack entirely covered in silver discs. [read more](#)

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## Gadgets

### Mobile office



Nokia has made a reputation as an innovator in mobile telephony through its experimentation with a wide variety of unique designs. This innovation extends into its business range of phones, with devices such as the E series. [read more](#)

### Green with envy



Apple and Creative have a chequered past. Lawsuits fly between these two technology giants as fast as neutrinos between nuclear furnaces, and they battle it out with competing audio players as well as in the courts. [read more](#)

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