



Better known in the US than he is here ... Nedlands science-fiction writer Hal Colebatch with copies of his two new books, released on the same day.

New Colebatch epic set on Rotto

Nedlands author Hal Colebatch has had two new science-fiction novels published on the same day by international publisher and filmmaker Imaginites.

Mr Colebatch practises as a lawyer in Nedlands but is widely known in the US as a science-fiction writer.

Counterstrike is a story set largely on a fictionalised Rottneest and islands off the WA coast.

The action, Mr Colebatch says, takes place at three levels: the adventures of members of a table-top war-gaming club, the hunt for a missing Australian warship mysteriously lost in World War II, and looming international disaster.

"I wanted it," he said, "to be a bright, sunny book, recapturing sailing on summer holidays, but with an undertone of something more serious that gradually comes to the fore."

Time Machine Troopers is based on H. G. Wells's 1904 classic, The Time Machine, and tells of the Time Traveller's second journey into the distant future.

With some surprising help, he tries to rescue the decadent races of the Eloi and Morlocks from cannibalism and degeneration, just as waves of extra-savage Morlocks come pouring into England through tunnels under the Channel.

Mr Colebatch has previously had 14 stories published by US science-fiction major Baen Books

in the series The Man-Kzin Wars, including several full-length novels, and seven volumes of poetry (the last, The Light River, won the Premier's literary prize for poetry).

He has also written several biographies, including one of his father, WA politician Sir Hal Colebatch. And he has co-authored a legal textbook on traffic law in WA.

He has been described by Peter Alexander, professor of English at the University of New South Wales, as among Australia's best writers.

He also has a biography of Australian federal politician Bert Kelly under way, a collection of short stories accepted for publication and an eighth collection of poetry nearly completed.