MARK BLACKHAM is a writer of speculative fiction and horror. He has published his work in anthologies, including At the Edge (Paper Road Press). He’s also written a comic book for the Commando series called The Mortar Boys.

In the 1990s he and his wife, Sola, made a trip to Micronesia, which inspired A Sky of Wretched Shells. Mark is a co-owner of a public communications agency, which involved him editing NIWA’s magazine, Water and Atmosphere. He lives in Eastbourne with his family.

On an atoll not far from now, nor far from here, we meet a young man named Mala, who is eager to discover the secrets of his island home. Woleai is strangely unaffected by changes wreaking havoc across the rest of the planet – and Mala needs to know why.

The importance of his observations is brought to the forefront when scientists from afar arrive on the island. A Sky of Wretched Shells is a provocative story in the face of climate change, a merging of ancient and modern learning and an answer to the question of our place in the stars.

‘Mark Blackham artfully melds the natural and supernatural worlds in his irresistible novella.’
– Andrew Niccol, writer & director (Gattaca, The Truman Show)

The horizon was where the red lights lived. And there they were again, burning fiercely …