



Goondiwindi Regional Council

LIBRARY BOOK LOVERS' GROUP



September 2021

September Theme:

River Stories

Featured Titles (Details further down)

- *Bila Yarrudhanggalangdhuray (River of Dreams)* by Anita Heiss
- *Rivers: the Lifeblood of Australia* by Ian Hoskins; fwd by Don Watson
- *Once Upon A River* by Diane Setterfield
- *Ghost River* by Tony Birch

Recommended Reading List

Available in the Library and Online

Featured Author

Lucinda Riley – The Seven Sisters Series

Recommendations From Other Readers

Available in the Library and Online

Viewpoint

Lakeland Downs Part 2

by David & Kathy Jensen

Mystery Box

- Tea & Me
- Brisbane Story Bridge Construction
- Map Highlights at the National Library Aust
- Chevrolet Anniversary

Quiz

How Well Do You Know the World's Rivers?
Answers Week 4.

Rural Libraries Id:

<https://qld.auroracloud.com.au/montage/>

State Library of Queensland:

<http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/>

Book Reviews:

- *The Ruin* by Dervla McTiernan
- *On Chapel Sounds* by Laura Cumming
- *Something in the Water* by Catherine Steadman
- *The Silent Patient* by Alex Michaelides
- *Sacred Hearts* by Sarah Dunant
- *Taking Tom Murray Home* by Tim Slee
- *Barrenjoey Road* by Neil Mercer & Ruby Jones
- *Honeybee* by Craig Silvey
- *The Labyrinth* by Amanda Lohrey
- *Tuscan Rose* by Belinda Alexander
- *Early Morning Riser* by Katherine Heiny
- *The Rose Daughter* by Maria Lewis
- *Scrublands* by Chris Hammer
- *Someone I Used to Know* by Paige Toon

NEXT MEETING 5th October

Theme: A picture Paints A Thousand Words

First Tuesday of the Month 11.00 am

Oak Tree Village for Seniors' Month!

Also On-line

www.grc.qld.gov.au/residents/libraries/programs-and-events

All Welcome. Phone 4671 7470

From the Group Today:

Billy / Col Stringer

Based around historical facts, this is a story set at the outbreak of World War I and deals with the life of a young part-Aboriginal - a top rider and crack shot - who, after a tragic accident, leaves his beloved Arnhem Land and rides off to join the Australian Light Horse.

***Captain Cook's Epic Voyage* / Geoffrey Blainey**

This book reveals the hardships, adventure and achievements of Cook's most important voyage which transformed the world map and the way Europeans viewed the South Pacific Ocean, its lands and peoples.

***A River With a City Problem* / Margaret Cook**

A compelling history of floods in the Brisbane River catchment, especially those in 1893, 1974 and 2011. Extensively researched, it highlights the force of nature, the vagaries of politics and the power of community.

***The Performance* / Claire Thomas**

A tightly woven examination of women's inner lives that is funny, profound and deeply human. One night, three women go to the theatre to see a play. While the performance unfolds on stage, so does the compelling trajectory that will bring these three women together, changing them all.

***Ordinary Grace* / William Kent Kreuger**

A brilliantly moving account of a boy standing at the door of his young manhood, trying to understand a world that seems to be falling apart around him. It is an unforgettable novel about discovering the terrible price of wisdom and the enduring grace of God.

***Twenties Girl* / Sophie Kinsella**

When the spirit of Lara's great-aunt Sadie—a feisty, demanding girl with firm ideas about fashion, love, and the right way to dance—mysteriously appears, she has one request: Lara must find a missing necklace that had been in Sadie's possession for more than seventy-five years, because Sadie cannot rest without it. Lara and Sadie make a hilarious sparring duo

***The Last Hours & The Turn of Midnight* / Minette Walters**

When the Black Death enters England through the port in Dorsetshire in June 1348, no one knows what manner of sickness it is—or how it spreads and kills so quickly.

As the year 1349 approaches, the Black Death continues its devastating course across England. In Dorsetshire, the quarantined people of Develish question whether they are the only survivors.

***Honeybee* / Craig Silvey**

A heartbreaking and beautiful book about a transgender teen living at the margins of society. A life-affirming novel that throws us headlong into a world of petty thefts, extortion plots, botched bank robberies, daring dog rescues and one spectacular drag show.

***Jasper Jones* / Craig Silvey**

Rebellious, mixed-race and solitary, Jasper is a distant figure of danger and intrigue for Charlie. So when Jasper begs for his help, Charlie eagerly steals into the night by his side, terribly afraid but desperate to impress. Jasper takes him to his secret glade in the bush, and it's here that Charlie bears witness to Jasper's horrible discovery.

***Duty Nobly Done* / Adam Holloway**

The extraordinary true story of 11 young Australian men from one extended family and their experiences in the great adventure that would change their lives - the Great War. Adam Holloway, a direct descendant, takes the reader into the lives of each of these men as they embark on a journey from which they are unlikely to return. These were young, confident men who revelled in the brash optimism of a young nation.

***Dinner With The Founding Fathers* / Everaldo Compton**

Few Australians have any awareness of how their nation was established on 1 January 1901 when six self-governing British colonies joined together as one nation. Above all, it was achieved without violence. This is a vivid account as Compton creates a dinner held ten years after Federation in which the founding fathers relive the great political and legal battles they fought and the huge parochial attitudes they overcame to create a nation.

***The Last Reunion* by Kayte Nunn**

Burma, 1945. Bea, Plum, Bubbles, Joy and Lucy: five young women in search of adventure, attached to the Fourteenth Army, fighting a forgotten war in the jungle. Assigned to run a mobile canteen, navigating treacherous roads and dodging hostile gunfire, they become embroiled in life-threatening battles of their own. Battles that will haunt the women for the rest of their lives. Inspired by the real heroic women who served in the 'forgotten war' in Burma.

The Matt Condon Trilogy:

- *All Fall down*
- *Three Crooked Kings*
- *Jacks and Jokers*

In-depth research and well-written exposition on the growth of corruption within the police and government of Queensland, Australia from the 1940s through the 1980s.

***The Coffin Confessor* / William Edgar**

Bill Edgar is the Coffin Confessor – a one-of-a-kind professional, a man on a mission to make good on these last requests on behalf of his soon-to-be-deceased clients. Bill has been many things in this life: son of one of Australia's most notorious gangsters, homeless street-kid, maximum-security prisoner, hard man, family man, car thief, professional punching bag, philosopher, inventor, private investigator, victim of horrific childhood sexual abuse and an activist fighting to bring down the institutions that let it happen. As a little boy, he learned the hard way that society is full of people who fall through the cracks – who die without their stories being told. Now his life's work is to make sure his clients' voices are heard, and their last wishes delivered.

***Always Another Country* / Sisonke Msimang**

Born in exile, in Zambia, to a guerrilla father and a working mother, Sisonke Msimang is constantly on the move. Brutally and uncompromisingly honest.

Sisonke interweaves her personal story with her political awakening in America and Africa, her euphoria at returning to the new South Africa, and her disillusionment with the new elites.

Dexter Kreuger

(13 January 1910 – 20 July 2021) was an Australian supercentenarian and author who was the oldest known living person in Australia and the oldest Australian man ever.

Kruger started writing books at the age of 86, following the death of his wife. In total, he has written more than 300 stories in 12 books, plus his autobiography, "The Life and Times of Dexter Kruger", published on 17 May 2021.

***Tamam Shud (The Somerton Man Mystery)* by Kerry Greenwood**

In 1948 a man was found dead on an Adelaide beach. Well-dressed and unmarked, he had a half-smoked cigarette by his side, but no identity documents. Six decades on we don't know who he was, how he got there or how he died. Somerton Man remains one of Australia's most mysterious cold cases.

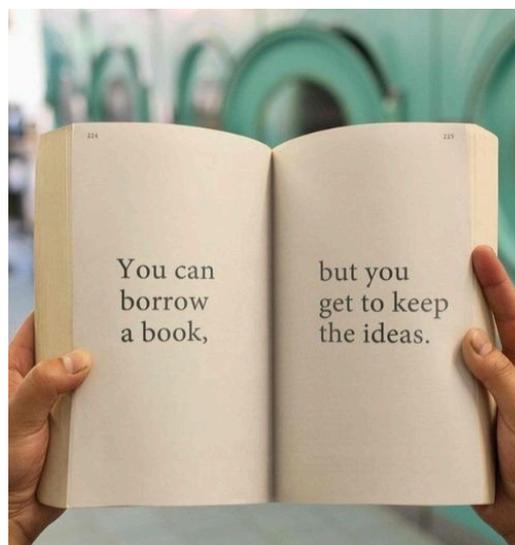
Stieg Larsson Series:

- THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO
- THE GIRL WHO PLAYED WITH FIRE
- THE GIRL WHO KICKED THE HORNET'S NEST

Alexander McCall Smith

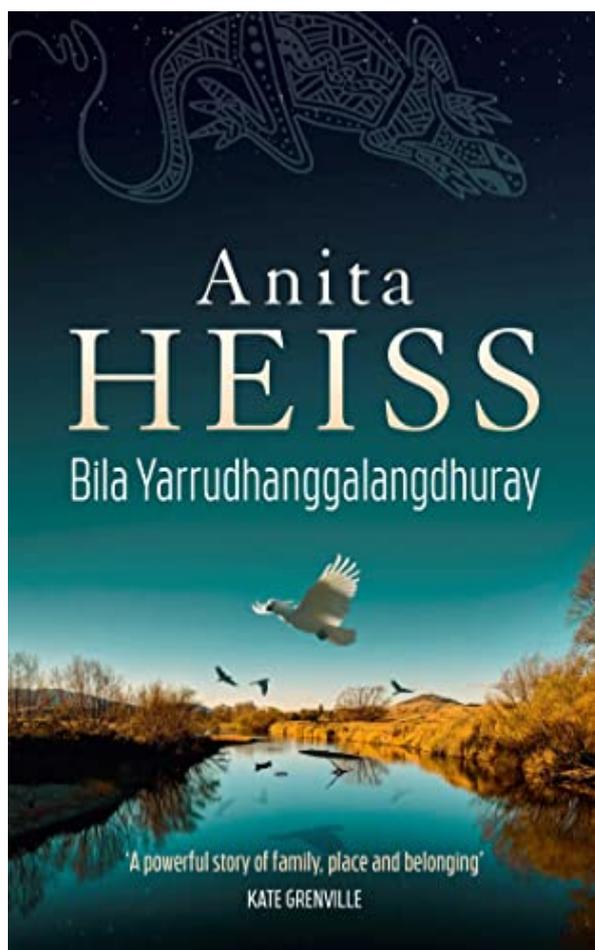
Find Happiness within the pages of an Alexander McCall Smith book.

'We all know the range and breath of Alexander's writing, not all of it comic but much of it SO comic it keeps us afloat through dark times.'



Bila Yarrudhanggalangdhuray (River of Dreams)

By Anita Heiss. (2021)



The powerful Murrumbidgee River surges through town leaving death and destruction in its wake. It is a stark reminder that while the river can give life, it can just as easily take it away.

Wagadhaany is one of the lucky ones. She survives. But is her life now better than the fate she escaped? Forced to move away from her miyagan, she walks through each day with no trace of dance in her step, her broken heart forever calling her back home to Gundagai.

When she meets Wiradyuri stockman Yindyamarra, Wagadhaany's heart slowly begins to heal. But still, she dreams of a better life, away from the degradation of being owned. She longs to set out along the river of her ancestors, in search of lost family and country. Can she find the courage to defy the White man's law? And if she does, will it bring hope ... or heartache?

Set on timeless Wiradyuri country, where the life-giving waters of the rivers can make or break dreams, and based on devastating true events, *Bila Yarrudhanggalangdhuray* is an epic story of love, loss and belonging.

Praise for *Bila Yarrudhanggalangdhuray* (River of Dreams)

'Engrossing and wonderful storytelling. I really loved these strong, brave Wiradyuri characters.' – Melissa Lucashenko, author of *Too Much Lip*

'A powerful story of family, place and belonging.' – Kate Grenville, author of *A Room Made of Leaves*

'A remarkable story of courage and a love of country ... Anita Heiss writes with heart and energy on every page.' – Tony Birch, author of *The White Girl*

'It is a love story, a story of loss, a hopeful story. The river is a guide, but you have to be open to its spiritual lessons.' – Terri Janke

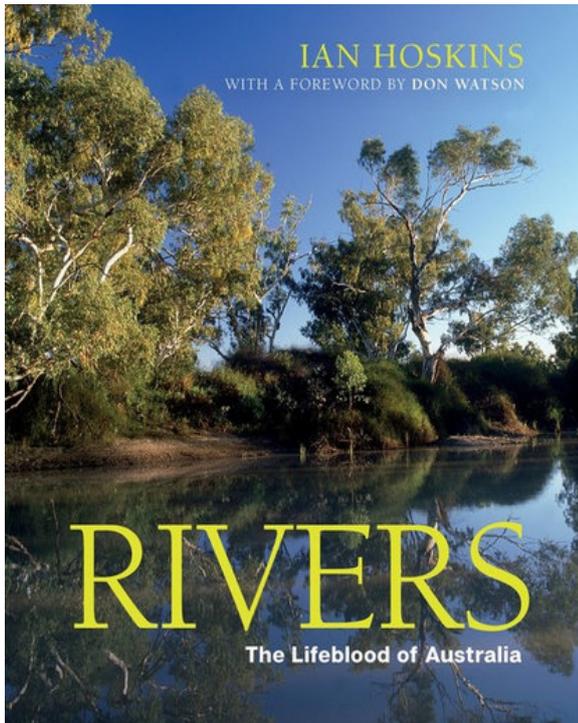
'Anita Heiss is at the height of her storytelling powers in this inspiring, heart-breaking, profound tale.' – Larissa Behrendt, filmmaker and author

'The novel flows like the great Murrumbidgee River itself, with powerful undercurrents that sweep the reader along - I feel it's a book that all Australians should read, to try and understand why our colonial past still causes so much pain and grievance.' – Kate Forsyth, author of *The Blue Rose*

<https://bit.ly/2SdY1xf>

Rivers : the Lifeblood of Australia / Ian Hoskins

with a foreword by Don Watson.



Givers of life and subjects of anguish, Australian rivers have shaped the nation from the moment the first Australians arrived tens of thousands of years ago. Offering the vital ingredient for life, they are also guardians of culture, a means of transportation, sites for play and leisure, and sources of power—deeply entrenched in almost every aspect of human life and an irreplaceable part of the global ecosystem.

Australia's vast inland seas of some 50 million years ago have disappeared, leaving a continent that is mostly desert. Of the waters and wetlands that remain, most of which are connected to rivers, 65 are listed as Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance. They are also of incredible—sometimes painful—local importance, as reminders of the dispossession suffered by those first peoples and their descendants and evidence of the devastation wrought by drought

and dying waterways.

The damming of Western Australia's Ord River during the 1960s and 1970s captured monsoonal rains within a catchment of over 55,000 square kilometres, creating the largest artificial lake on mainland Australia while destroying sites of cultural significance to the Miriwoong people and changing the ecosystem irrevocably. Barely ten years after the completion of the Ord project, the success of the Save the Franklin campaign in Tasmania is a testament to evolving understanding of the precious nature of waterways. Yet even this triumph was fraught: environmentalists' argument for preservation of Tasmania's 'wilderness' contained the implication that the land was without people, despite Indigenous habitation for at least 30,000 years.

In this broad-ranging survey of some of Australia's most well-known, loved, engineered and fought over rivers, from Melbourne's Yarra to the Alligator rivers of Kakadu, award-winning author Ian Hoskins presents a history of our complex connections to water.

The National Library of Australia Exhibition:

Rivers: Lifeblood of Australia

<https://www.nla.gov.au/exhibitions/rivers-lifeblood-of-australia>

Book Reviews

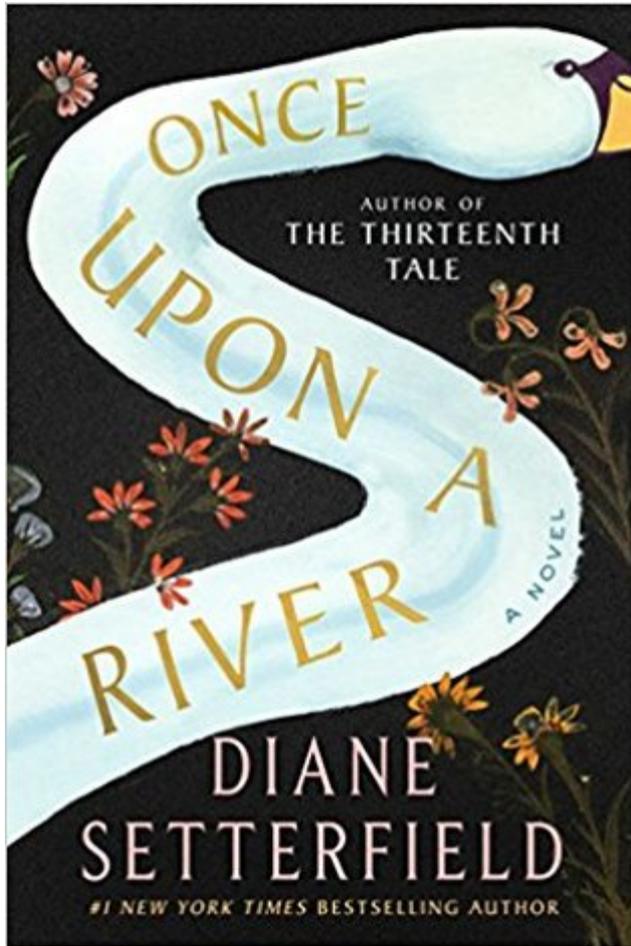
ANZ LitLovers: <https://bit.ly/3imdrKp>

Cass Moriarty (Author): <https://bit.ly/2ShINaz>

Book & Author Review: The Zine <https://bit.ly/3cnkLBG>

Once Upon A River

By Diane Setterfield



On a dark midwinter's night in an ancient inn on the river Thames, an extraordinary event takes place. The regulars are telling stories to while away the dark hours, when the door bursts open on a grievously wounded stranger. In his arms is the lifeless body of a small child. Hours later, the girl stirs, takes a breath and returns to life. Is it a miracle? Is it magic? Or can science provide an explanation? These questions have many answers, some of them quite dark indeed.

Those who dwell on the river bank apply all their ingenuity to solving the puzzle of the girl who died and lived again, yet as the days pass the mystery only deepens. The child herself is mute and unable to answer the essential questions: Who is she? Where did she come from? And to whom does she belong? But answers proliferate nonetheless.

Three families are keen to claim her. A wealthy young mother knows the girl is her kidnapped daughter, missing for two years.

A farming family reeling from the discovery of their son's secret liaison, stand ready to welcome their granddaughter. The parson's housekeeper, humble and isolated, sees in the child the image of her younger sister. But the return of a lost child is not without complications and no matter how heartbreaking the past losses, no matter how precious the child herself, this girl cannot be everyone's. Each family has mysteries of its own, and many secrets must be revealed before the girl's identity can be known.

Once Upon a River is a glorious tapestry of a book that combines folklore and science, magic and myth. Suspenseful, romantic, and richly atmospheric, the beginning of this novel will sweep you away on a powerful current of storytelling, transporting you through worlds both real and imagined, to the triumphant conclusion whose depths will continue to give up their treasures long after the last page is turned.

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Book Reviews

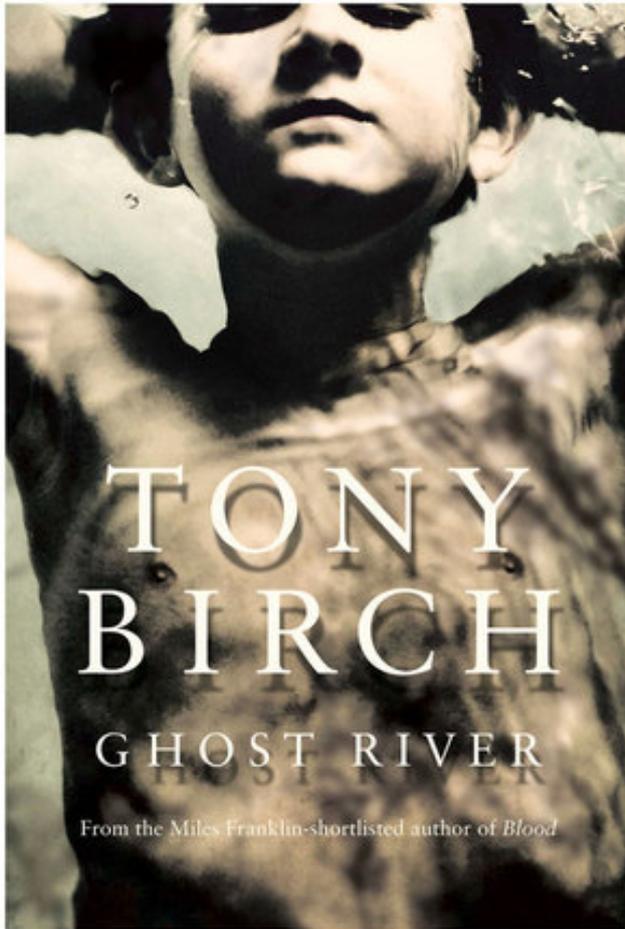
The Guardian: <https://bit.ly/2TNlICv>

Chicago Review of Books: <https://bit.ly/3v13PaC>

The Literary Hub: <https://bit.ly/34ThrKv>

Ghost River

By Tony Birch



'You find yourself down at the bottom of the river, for some it's time to give into her. But other times, young fellas like you two, you got to fight your way back. Show the river you got courage and is ready to live.'

The river is a place of history and secrets. For Ren and Sonny, two unlikely friends, it's a place of freedom and adventure. For a group of storytelling vagrants, it's a refuge. And for the isolated daughter of a cult reverend, it's an escape.

Each time they visit, another secret slips into its ancient waters. But change and trouble are coming – to the river and to the lives of those who love it.

Who will have the courage to fight and survive and what will be the cost?

From the prominent Indigenous Australian author, Tony Birch, *Ghost River* is largely a *novel of place* - essentially Melbourne's Yarra River - weaving stories(goodreads).

Reviews

Tony Birch is atreasure. He writes about a lost Melbourne - the working class inner suburbs of the 1960s and 70s - like nobody else.....The two young central characters are charming and feel real, and the claustrophobic neighbourhood is beautifully drawn. Ren is obsessed with photographing birds, which endeared him to me immediately and allowed Birch to draw out the partly lost beauty of the inner-city Yarra.

Michael

Tony Birch is an inspired author and once again with this moving story of the friendship between two young boys, Sonny and Ren, he doesn't disappoint. Set in Melbourne sometime in the late 60's, it will resonate with many who are familiar with inner Melbourne. The backdrop to the story is the Yarra River so much an integral part of Melbourne even today. This "Ghost" river will be a place of refuge for the boys and for others and the river knows. There is a lot of raw emotion in Birch's writing and there is also something spiritual here. One cannot help but be moved by the story and by these two young boys and their loyalty to one another. I finished this book and wanted to take a walk down by my little part of

the Yarra, that meanders through my home town. After reading this I will revere this historic river even more and feel privileged that I live so close to it. Elaine

Birch writes a poignant, easy-to-read Australian tale that is daringly honest, yet gripping. I could not put it down.

Jodie

At certain points as I read this novel, I kept coming across characteristics of people and places I recalled as a child. That sense of what the city of Melbourne was like was all too familiar. Though our experiences are different, the place, the character of people, their values were all so vividly real. The sensation too of being young and separate from adults was captured well in this book. The treatment of outsiders like the river men, warm and engaging, looks from 2020, like a vanished part of the local character. We've become unlike the people we were in Australia. Connection to people, not just our family seemed stronger, more open. Perhaps it was, or was in the location of the novel. still, I'm left with that haunting sensation that something was lost, not childhood innocence, but something we miss, but can't seem to locate. It's bonds and relationships to landscape and place, really. We who are now so wonderfully international and chic, so committed to the perpetual elsewhere we can hide behind, that digitised non real we want so desperately to be real and we hide behind it so we don't have to face anything else. Yes, I had the sensation as I read this that the tangible, the real is something we can turn our back on, allow it to vanish. That is the river, turned into a freeway, bulldozed, like who we once were. Loyalty, believing in justice when all around is corrupt, these are valuable, like the places we treasure because we call them ours. Who can call a river 'ours' now? We can't seem to protect anything from harm. Though the river is trashed, contaminated, a danger, the boys, Sonny and Ren form an intimacy with it. Harm is something different, they can't see it until there's a plan to destroy it. That harms them. Not the contaminants, the 'film' that covers the skin after swimming in it. Imagine if we could save a river from a freeway today? Could we, would we? Did progress improve us, or harm us?

Nick

About the Author

Tony Birch (born 1957) is an Indigenous Australian author, academic and activist. He regularly appears on ABC local radio and Radio National shows and at writers' festivals. He was head of the Honours programme for creative writing at the University of Melbourne before becoming the first recipient of the Dr Bruce McGuinness Indigenous Research Fellowship at Victoria University in Melbourne in June 2015.

In 2017 he became the first Indigenous writer to win the Patrick White Award.

*Tony Birch is the author of three novels: the bestselling *The White Girl*; *Ghost River*, which won the Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Indigenous Writing; and *Blood*, which was shortlisted for the Miles Franklin Award. He is also the author of *Shadowboxing* and three short story collections, *Father's Day*, *The Promise* and *Common People*. In 2017 he was awarded the Patrick White Literary Award. In 2021 he will publish two new books; *Whisper Songs*, a poetry collection, and *Dark As Last Night*, a book of short stories, both with University of Queensland Press. Tony is a frequent contributor to ABC local and national radio, a regular guest at writers' festivals, and a climate justice campaigner. In 2021 Tony will publish two new books; a poetry collection, *Whisper Songs*, and a new book of short stories, *Dark As Last Night* (both with UQP).*

<https://www.tony-birch.com/>