

Recommended Reading List: *Emigration*

<https://www.grc.qld.gov.au/homepage/108/library-lovers-book-group-online>

Fiction

***Once a Stranger* / Zoya Patel 2023**

Their mother was sick. Their mother was dying. Laila wanted her to come home. She wasn't sure which of the two truths was more frightening. Ayat hasn't seen or spoken to her sister, Laila, and mother, Khadija, for six years. She has been estranged from her family since she baulked against the arranged marriage of her sister and settled into a relationship deemed haram by Indian Muslim tradition. Living in Melbourne, with Harry, Ayat is a different person now, living a different life. She is not the woman her mother and sister once knew - so how can she go home? But how can she not? *Once a Stranger* weaves through the past and present to show the bonds and disconnects between sisters, and between a mother and daughter, as the three women grapple with the idea of where they feel most at home.

***Untethered* / Ayesha Inoon 2023**

Zia secretly longs to go to university but as a young woman in a traditional Muslim family, she does what is expected of her and agrees to an arranged marriage to Rashid, a man she barely knows. Cocooned by the wealth and customs of her family, Rashid's dark moods create only the smallest of ripples in their early life together. When growing political unrest spurs them to leave Sri Lanka and immigrate to Australia, Zia is torn between fear of leaving her beloved family and the possibility of new freedoms. While on paper their new country welcomes them with open arms, their visas come with many restrictions and for the first time Zia faces isolation, poverty and an increasingly unstable marriage that forms a cage stronger than any she's known before. Determined to carve a place for herself in this new country, Zia sets out on uncertain terrain and discovers friendship, devastating loss and hope for a different future. One that asks her to consider not just who she is, but who she might become. Partially drawn from her own experiences, debut author Ayesha Inoon's novel weaves the threads of family, culture and tradition together with the uncertainty and freedom of starting anew to create a complex tapestry of identity, resilience and hope.

***The Wind Knows My Name* / Isabel Allende ; translated from the Spanish by Frances Riddle 2023**

This powerful and moving novel weaves together past and present, tracing the ripple effects of war and immigration on one child in Europe in 1938 and another in the United States in 2019. Vienna, 1938. Samuel Adler was six years old when his father disappeared during Kristallnacht - the night their family lost everything. Samuel's mother secured a spot for him on the last Kindertransport train out of Nazi-occupied Austria to the United Kingdom, which he boarded alone, carrying nothing but a change of clothes and his violin. Arizona, 2019. Eight decades later, Anita Diaz, a blind seven-year-old girl, and her mother board another train, fleeing looming danger in El Salvador and seeking refuge in the United States. However, their arrival coincides with the new family separation policy, and Anita finds herself alone at a camp in Nogales. She escapes through her trips to Azabahr, a magical world of the imagination she created with her sister back home. Anita's case is assigned to Selena Duran, a young social worker who enlists the help of a promising lawyer from one of San Francisco's top law firms. Together they discover that Anita has another family member in the United States: Leticia Cordero, who is employed at the home of now eighty-six-year-old Samuel Adler, linking these two lives. Spanning time and place, *The Wind Knows My Name* is both a testament to the sacrifices that parents make and a love letter to the children who survive the most unfathomable dangers-and never stop dreaming.

***Peach Blossom Spring* / Melissa Fu 2022**

1938, China. With the Japanese army approaching, Meilin and her four year old son, Renshu, are forced to flee their home. Relying on little but their wits and a beautifully illustrated hand scroll, filled with ancient fables that offer solace and wisdom, they must travel through a ravaged country, seeking refuge. Years later, Renshu has settled in America as Henry Dao. Though his daughter is desperate to understand her heritage, he refuses to talk about his childhood. How can he keep his family safe in this new land when the weight of his history threatens to drag them down?

***Danged Black Thing* / Eugen Bacon 2021**

Danged Black Thing is an extraordinary collection of stories about love and migration, gender and class, patriarchy and womanhood, from a remarkable and original voice. Traversing the West and Africa, they celebrate the author's own hybridity with breathtaking sensuousness and lyricism.

***The Cake Maker's Wish* / Josephine Moon 2020**

Life in the village isn't always sweet and simple... When single mum Olivia uproots her young son Darcy from their life in Tasmania for a new start in the English Cotswolds, she isn't exactly expecting a bed of roses – but nor is she prepared for the challenges that life in the picturesque village throws her way. The Renaissance Project hopes to bring the dwindling community back to life – to welcome migrants from around the world and to boost the failing economy – but not everyone is so pleased about the initiative. For cake maker Olivia, it's a chance for Darcy to finally meet his Norwegian father, and for her to trace the last blurry lines on what remains of her family tree. It's also an opportunity to move on from the traumatic event that tore her loved ones apart. After seven years on her own, she has all but given up on romance, until life dishes up some delicious new options she didn't even know she was craving. An uplifting and heart-warming story about the moments that change your life forever, human kindness and being true to yourself.

***The Trespassers* / Meg Mundell 2019**

Fleeing their pandemic-stricken homelands, a shipload of migrant workers departs the UK, dreaming of a fresh start in prosperous Australia. For nine-year-old Cleary Sullivan, deaf for three years, the journey promises adventure and new friendships; for Glaswegian songstress Billie Galloway, it's a chance to put a shameful mistake firmly behind her; while impoverished English schoolteacher Tom Garnett hopes to set his future on a brighter path. But when a crew member is found murdered and passengers start falling gravely ill, the *Steadfast* is plunged into chaos. Thrown together by chance, and each guarding their own secrets, Cleary, Billie and Tom join forces to survive the journey and its aftermath. *The Trespassers* is a beguiling novel that explores the consequences of greed, the experience of exile, and the unlikely ways strangers can become the people we hold dear.

***A State of Freedom* / Neel Mukherjee 2017**

What happens when we attempt to exchange the life we are given for something better? Five people, in very different circumstances, from a domestic cook in Mumbai, to a vagrant and his dancing bear, and a girl who escapes terror in her home village for a new life in the city, find out the meanings of dislocation, and the desire for more. Set in contemporary India and moving between the reality of this world and the shadow of another, this novel delivers a devastating and haunting exploration of the unquenchable human urge to strive for a different life.

***Lost Children Archive : a novel* / Valeria Luiselli 2020**

This novel tells the story of a family's summer road trip across America - a journey that, with profound humanity, probes the nature of justice and equality in America today.

Non Fiction

***White Russians, Red Peril : a Cold War history of migration to Australia / Sheila Fitzpatrick* 2021**

Over 20,000 ethnic Russians migrated to Australia after World War II -- yet we know very little about their experiences. Some came via China, others from refugee camps in Europe. Many preferred to keep a low profile in Australia, and some attempted to 'pass' as Polish, West Ukrainian or Yugoslavian. They had good reason to do so: to the Soviet Union, Australia's resettling of Russians amounted to the theft of its citizens, and undercover agents were deployed to persuade them to repatriate. Australia regarded the newcomers with wary suspicion, even as it sought to build its population by opening its door to more immigrants. Making extensive use of newly discovered Russian-language archives and drawing on a lifetime's study of Soviet history and politics, award-winning author Sheila Fitzpatrick examines the early years of a diverse and disunited Russian-Australian community and how Australian and Soviet intelligence agencies attempted to track and influence them. While anti-Communist 'White' Russians dreamed a war of liberation would overthrow the Soviet regime, a dissident minority admired its achievements and thought of returning home.

***Ellis Island : a people's history / Małgorzata Szejnert* 2020**

A dramatic, multi-vocal account of the personal agonies and ecstasies that played out within the walls of Ellis Island, as told by Poland's greatest living journalist. Translated from the Polish.

***How to be Australian : an outsider's view on life & love Down Under / Ashley Kalagian Blunt* 2020**

When Ashley persuades her new husband Steve to leave snowy Canada and join her for a year Down Under, she looks forward to an easy transition. After all, Australia's just Canada with more sunshine and strange animals, right? But they soon discover things aren't so simple. Steve struggles to settle and Ashley fears he will come to regret both the move and the marriage – especially after she loses her wedding rings on Bondi Beach. Baffled, homesick and increasingly anxious (in a land renowned for 'no worries'), she is preparing to return to Canada when Steve shockingly announces that he wants to stay in Australia. Forever. For the sake of her marriage and her happiness, Ashley must find an Australia she can belong to: she decides to travel the country, learn its history, decode its cultural quirks and connect with as many residents as she can meet. *How to Be Australian* is a remarkable memoir, at once familiar and faraway, that shines a fresh, funny and fascinating light onto the country we think we know.

***One Bright Moon / Andrew Kwong* 2020**

Andrew Kwong was only seven when he witnessed his first execution. The grim scene left him sleepless, anxious and doubtful about his fervour as a revolutionary in Mao's New China. Yet he knew if he devoted himself to the Party and its Chairman he would be saved. That's what his teacher told him. Months later, it was his own father on trial. This time the sentence was banishment to a re-education camp, not death. It left the family tainted, despised, and with few means of survival during the terrible years of persecution and famine known as the Great Leap Forward. Even after his father returned, things remained desperate. Escape seemed the only solution, and it would be twelve-year-old Andrew who undertook the perilous journey first. This is the poignant, resonant story of a young boy's awakening - to survival, education, fulfilment, and eventually to a new life of freedom.

***The 100 Year Journey : Ireland, Australia, England, India, Africa, Australia / R Murray Tomlinson* 2019**

This is the amazing story of seven generations of a family that started with David Thompson Seymour, the first Commissioner of Police in Queensland, Australia, through Lt-General Sir Charles Hamilton Des Voeux in battle in the Northwest Frontier, India, then Robin Proudlock Chief Executive Officer of India Railways at Partition in 1947, then Lt Colonel Basil Tomlinson of the 4th POW Gurkhas, and lastly his son Robin Tomlinson who became a full Inspector in the Zambia Police, Africa, before emigrating from England to Western Australia. At the end of the journey, four Tomlinson children, who are Australians! Includes original diary entries from siege of Caligarhi, NW Frontier, and irreplaceable photos of travel in Africa and Europe in the early 1960s.

***They Cannot Take the Sky : stories from detention / editors, Michael Green and André Dao* 2017**

They Cannot Take The Sky is an oral history project documenting the stories of men, women and children who have experienced Australian mandatory detention over the past 23 years. It seeks to bring a new perspective to the public understanding of mandatory detention by sharing the reality of the people who have lived it...Through in depth interviews with current and ex-detainees, it captures narrators' histories, experiences of seeking protection in Australia and the detailed reality of mandatory detention...Working with narrators, these interviews are then edited into first person narratives that take the form of literary short stories.

***The Kerry Girls : emigration and the Earl Grey scheme / Kay Moloney Caball* 2014**

As part of the controversial Earl Grey Scheme, this is the true story of the Kerry girls who were shipped to Australia from the four Kerry Workhouses of Dingle, Kenmare, Killarney and Listowel in 1849 and 1850. Leaving behind scenes of destitution and misery, the girls, some of whom spoke only Irish, set off to the other side of the world without any idea of what lay ahead. This book tells of their 'selection' and their transportation to New South Wales and Adelaide, their subsequent apprenticeship, and finally of their marriage and attempts to rebuild a life far from home.

***Three Trunks and a Cardboard Case / Maria Bianco* 2014**

With hope in his step and a tear in his eye, Salvatore sets off from his native Sicily to carve a new life on the other side of the world. Together with Nunzia and the children, Vito and Maria, he embraces the hardships and isolation of the Far North Queensland sugar cane fields in the 1950s. But his dreams of success are not to be. And only time reveals the degree of success he does achieve. More than a family story, this creative non-fiction memoir emerges from an era on the verge of sugar mechanisation. Set in the context of world, national and local historical events, it depicts a vanished way of life, in an area now prized for its tranquillity and tropical beauty.

***Addio Italia - Hello Australia Stanthorpe Italian pioneers* 2008**

A comprehensive account of the Stanthorpe Italian Pioneers - life stories retracing the political and social events both in Italy and Australia during the depression and war years. Set in the first half of the twentieth century, migrants from that era and their families provide a vivid exposé of their lifestyles in Italy and their boat voyages to Australia. In the face of many trials and tribulations a steady influx of Italian migrants began to settle in the Stanthorpe Shire of southern Queensland. A compelling, must-read book for anyone with an appreciation of Italian migration to Australia.

***Family Journeys : stories in the National Archives of Australia / [Kelly Abbott]* 2008**

This book traces the histories of nine Australian families through records in the National Archives collection.