



Goondiwindi Regional Council

LIBRARY BOOK LOVERS' GROUP

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February 2024

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

February Theme: *Emigration*



Featured Titles (Details available in library)

- *How To Be Australian* / Ashley Kalagian Blunt (Non Fiction 2020)
- *The Trespassers* / Meg Mundell (Fiction 2019)
- *The Kerry Girls* / Kay Moloney Caball (Non Fiction 2014)
- *Once a Stranger* / Zoya Patel (Fiction 2023)

Recommended Reading List

List attached. Printed copies in the library.

Featured Author

Trent Dalton

Recommendations From Other Readers

List attached. Printed copies in the library.

Book Reviews:

- *The Drowning* / Bryan Brown
- *A Woman of Courage* / Tania Blanchard

From Both Groups This Month

Thorn Birds / Colleen McCullough F 1978

Colleen McCullough's sweeping family saga of dreams, titanic struggles, dark passions, and forbidden love in the Australian Outback.

(Thanks Hanh!)

Atomic Habits / James Clear

People think that when you want to change your life, you need to think big. But (there is another way). Real change comes from the compound effect of hundreds of small decisions: doing two push-ups a day, waking up five minutes early, or holding a single short phone call.

Minnie: the remarkable story of a trailblazer who found freedom and adventure in the outback / Marianne van Velzen NF 2023

Only a slip of a girl, Minnie could match any man in stamina, perseverance and strength. She arrived in Coober Pedy when camels still brought in essential supplies, and water was so scarce that no-one washed. Together with the other miners, she braved the heat, the flies and the dust. Every day she waited for that special sound the pick made when it cracked opal. The first woman to dig her own shafts in the Australian opal fields, Minnie began her working life as a typist in London. But she and her younger brother, Victor, sought freedom and adventure in the 1920s and found plenty of it in the outback.

NEXT MEETING

5th March

Goondiwindi 10.00 a.m.

19th March

Inglewood 10.00 a.m.

***Treasure & Dirt* / Chris Hammer F 2021**

Murder mystery of an opal miner in an isolated outback Australian town.

***My Father the Murderer* / Nina Young & Denise Young Non Fiction 2021**

We move from Sydney to the old Fremantle Prison, where Nina's parents met; then to the suburbs of Perth, where they raised her in those early years; back to Sydney, where Denise put their past behind them and gave Nina and her siblings a new lease on life; and finally back to Western Australia, to the scene of the original crime: the remote outback town of Norseman, where Allan killed a woman late one night in the bush in 1977.

***Frontier Lands & Pioneer Legends* / Pamela Watson Non Fiction 1998**

An examination of (Aboriginal/European) contact history in western Queensland, Australia. It turns out that accounts written about the same areas and times but by different people can present different narratives; that how we observe the times we live in can be swayed by gender or circumstance.

***Stranger Country* / Monica Tan NF 2019**

In mid-2016, Monica left Sydney, unsure of her place in Australia. As a Chinese Australian city slicker. For six months Monica drove and camped her way through some of Australia's most beautiful and remote landscapes.

***The Crossing* / Sophie Matterson NF 2023**

In 2020, at the age of thirty-one, Sophie Matterson set out to walk her five camels from Shark Bay in Western Australia to Byron Bay on the east coast.

***I Woke Up in the Future* / Naomi Jacobs Non Fiction 2015**

Naomi Jacobs went to sleep one night in 2008 as a 32-year-old mother, and woke up the next morning believing she was a fifteen-year-old school girl. She did not recognise the house she woke up in, though it was hers, nor her ten-year-old son, Leo.

***Home To Biloela* / Priya Nadesalingam with Rebekah Holt and Niromi De Soyza Non Fiction 2023**

The dramatic inside story of the Tamil refugee family which became a cause célèbre all around Australia, and the epic fight by a small rural community to set them free.

***After the Tampa : from Afghanistan to New Zealand* / Abbas Nazari Non Fiction 2021**

The heart-rending story of a child 'Tampa' refugee who grew up to become a Fulbright scholar, highlighting the plight and potential of refugees everywhere.

***To The Lake: A Balkan journey of war and peace* / Kapka Kassabova Non Fiction 2020**

A portrait of an ancient but little-understood corner of Balkans, and a personal reckoning with the past.

***Remember Me* / Charity Norman F 2022**

A close-knit community is ripped apart by disturbing revelations that cast new light on a young woman's disappearance twenty-five years ago. After years of living overseas, Emily returns to New Zealand to care for her father who has dementia. As his memory fades and his guard slips, she begins to understand him for the first time - and to glimpse shattering truths about his past.

***Catching the Linville train : a journey through history* / Everaldo Compton NF 2022**

A fascinating story of a boy from the bush who had no money, nor a university degree, but was able to find a challenging place in the huge world far beyond (his home in)Linville.

***My Father and Other Animals : how I took on the family farm* / Sam Vincent NF 2022**

When Sam returns to the family farm to help out, his life takes a new and unexpected direction. Affecting, hilarious and utterly surprising, this memoir melds humour and fierce honesty.

***Steak For Breakfast* / Elizabeth O'Connor
Non Fiction 1958**

This is a light-hearted account of how a young mother copes with life on a cattle station in the Gulf Country, and of the people she met and the things that happened there.

***Spirit Man* Elizabeth O'Connor F 1980**

The story of the aboriginal, Jacko Cobbett, whom civilisation has never managed to tame, and the Archer family, whose tranquil, ordered life is abruptly shattered by the sudden appearance of Jacko on their property one stormy night.

***The No. One Ladies Detective Agency Series* / Alexander McCall Smith Fiction**

The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency is a series of novels set in Botswana and featuring the character Mma Precious Ramotswe. The series is named after the first novel, published in 1998. Twenty-three novels have been published in the series from 1998 - 2022.

***I Catch Killers* / Gary Jubelin, Dan Box
Non Fiction 2020** Jubelin was Australia's most celebrated homicide detective. This is his story.

***The Bootmaker of Berlin* / Debbie Terranova
Fiction 2023**

A deathbed promise launches Kathy Giuliano on a quest for the truth about her family during World War II.

***The House of Doors* / Tan Twan Eng
Fiction 2023**

It is 1921 at Cassowary House in the Straits Settlements of Penang. An intriguing and imaginative walk through history.

***Never* / Ken Follett Fiction 2021**

In the diplomatic arena everyone will have a different way of dealing with threat. When those in charge disagree and refuse to back down, it can kick off an international chain reaction with potentially catastrophic consequences: a world edging closer to war. In a game of brinkmanship can the inevitable ever be stopped?

***Love, Clancy : a dog's letters home* / Richard Glover Non Fiction 2020**

Richard Glover has collated the letters sent by Clancy to his parents in the bush. They are full of the young dog's musings about the oddities of human behaviour, life in the big city and his own attempts to fit in.

***The Trout Opera* / Matthew Condon F 2007**

Opening with a Christmas pageant on the banks of the Snowy River in 1906 and ending with the opening ceremony of the Sydney Olympics in 2000, it is the story of simple rabbitier and farmhand Wilfred Lampe who, at the end of his long life, is unwittingly swept up into an international spectacle.

***Black Sheep* / Judy Nunn Fiction 2023**

A sweeping historical novel of a prosperous sheep-farming family and the enigmatic young man with a dark past they let into their lives.

***The Pathfinders* / Will Iredale NF 2022**

The untold story of the elite force that spearheaded almost every British bombing raid over Nazi Germany.

***All Aboard! : Tales of Australian Railways*
Jim Haynes, Russell Hannah NF 2004**

Over eighty evocative black and white photographs peppered throughout the text. Includes stories by Robert Louis Stevenson, Mark Twain, D.H. Lawrence, Henry Handel Richardson and Henry Lawson, as well as rhymed verse and accounts of major incidents and historical characters.

***Sanctuary* / Judy Nunn Fiction 2017**

On a barren island off the coast of Western Australia, a rickety wooden dinghy runs aground. Aboard are nine people who have no idea where they are. Strangers before the violent storm that tore their vessel apart, the instinct to survive has seen them bond during their days adrift on a vast and merciless ocean.