

Australian gospel : a family saga

Lech Blaine | 920.71 BLAI
GRC | Non Fiction book | 1st

Michael and Mary Shelley are Christian fanatics who loathe their fellow Australians - especially their 'reckless indulgence of alcohol and obsession with idiotic ball sports'. Lenore and Tom Blaine are working-class Queensland publicans raising a large family in a raucous, loving, sports-obsessed home. There's just one problem. Lenore and Tom are foster parents to three of Michael and Mary's children, who were removed from the Shelleys as infants. And the Shelleys are prepared to do anything to get them back. Australian Gospel is the true story of Lech Blaine's family.



NOTE: Rural Libraries Queensland (RLQ) loan statistics from 1/1/2025 to 30/4/2026 are noted below the author. Hardcopy loans only.

The four winds

Kristin Hannah
GRC | Adult Fiction book | 5th

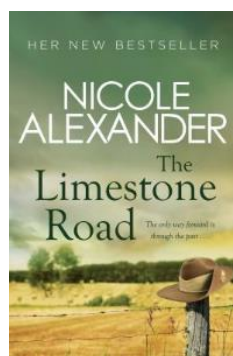
Texas, 1934. Elsa Martinelli had finally found the life she'd yearned for. A family, a home and a livelihood on a farm on the Great Plains. But when drought threatens all she and her community hold dear, Elsa's world is shattered to the winds. Fearful of the future, when Elsa wakes to find her husband has fled, she is forced to make the most agonizing decision of her life. Fight for the land she loves or take her beloved children, Loreda and Ant, west to California in search of a better life.



The Limestone Road

Nicole Alexander
GRC | Adult fiction book | 1st

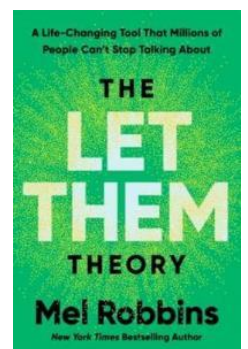
In the summer of 1944 returning soldiers Canning Christie and his father Michael arrive in South Australia from the desert sands of North Africa. Canning carries the trauma of war and a fractured memory of a terrible event, while charismatic Michael resumes his womanising ways, intent on concealing his own secret wound. Inexplicably drawn to a vineyard on their land, Canning dreams of producing his own wine. And a chance meeting with Grace Huntley, daughter of the local landowner, offers him hope for that future. But dormant memories keep rising up: his childhood with his mother, the years traversing the interior with his father and his time at the front. Soon, viniculture becomes an obsession - one he suspects lies in a hazy recollection of a night in battle. To move forward Canning must reconcile the past, even if that means working with Italian POWs and accepting help from an immigrant German... And ultimately taking a stand against his own father, whose increasingly reckless behaviour is threatening to destroy their new life.



The let them theory : a life-changing tool that millions of people can't stop talking about

Mel Robbins | 158.1 ROBB
RLQ | Non Fiction book | 1st

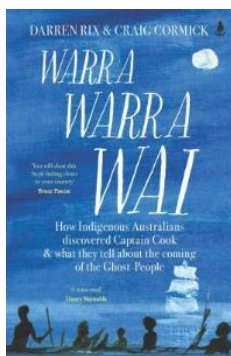
If you've ever felt stuck, overwhelmed, or frustrated with where you are, the problem isn't you. The problem is the power you give to other people. Two simple words--Let Them--will set you free. Free from the opinions, drama, and judgments of others. Free from the exhausting cycle of trying to manage everything and everyone around you. The Let Them Theory puts the power to create a life you love back in your hands--and this book will show you exactly how to do it. Robbins teaches you how to stop wasting energy on what you can't control and start focusing on what truly matters: YOU. Your happiness. Your goals. Your life.



Warra Warra Wai : how Indigenous Australians discovered Captain Cook, and what they tell about the coming of the Ghost People

Darren Rix and Craig Cormick | 994.01 RIX
Australian History Prize 2025 | Winner

We know the European story from diaries, journals and letters. For the first time, this is the other side. Who were the people watching the Endeavour sail by? How did they understand their world and what sense did they make of this strange vision? And what was the impact of these first encounters with Europeans? The answers lie in tales passed down from 1770 and in truth-telling of the often more brutal engagements that followed. Darren Rix (a Gunditjmarra-GunaiKurnai man, radio reporter and Archie Roach's nephew) and his co-author Craig Cormick travelled to all the places on the east coast that were renamed by Cook, and listened to people's stories.



The immigrants : fabula mirabilis, or, a wonderful story

Moreno Giovannoni
Christina Stead Prize for Fiction 2026 | Winner

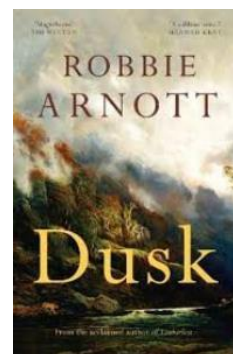
In the Victorian town of Mitrefò, tobacco is grown, an Italian cinema and cafe open, and people travel back and forth from Italy. A boy fishes, wanders the countryside and watches a community form, with its joys, scandals and shared understandings. Interspersed are the 'grotesques' - indelible and terrible events that sit alongside the better future they all seek. In *The Immigrants*, Moreno Giovannoni depicts a family as they build a new life in a strange land. Through love and exile, industry and tragedy, their unspoken dreams and fears unfold in this astonishing and moving book.



Dusk

Robbie Arnott
ARA Historical Novel Prize 2025 | Co-Winner

In the distant highlands, a puma named Dusk is killing shepherds. Down in the lowlands, twins Iris and Floyd are out of work, money and friends. When they hear that a bounty has been placed on Dusk, they reluctantly decide to join the hunt. As they journey up into this wild, haunted country, they discover there's far more to the land and people of the highlands than they imagined. And as they close in on their prey, they're forced to reckon with conflicts both ancient and deeply personal.



I am Nannertgarrook

Tasma Walton
ARA Historical Novel Prize 2025 | Co-Winner

Based on the true story of Tasma Walton's ancestor, a powerful, heart-wrenching novel about maternal love that endures against pitiless odds. Kidnapped by sealers and enslaved far from her homeland, Nannertgarrook has a spirit that refuses to bow... From her idyllic life in sea country in Nerrm (Port Phillip Bay, Victoria), Nannertgarrook is abducted and taken to a slave market, leaving behind a husband, daughter and son. Pregnant when seized, she soon gives birth to another son, whom she raises with the children of her fellow captives. Nannertgarrook is separated not only from her Boonwurrung family, but from her birthright the ceremonies she once was so joyously part of, the majestic whales who are her totem, the land and sky and sea country and its creatures. All these things she loves as deeply as she does her blood kin. But now, as her reality becomes profoundly different, she must keep that family and her old life alive in her mind. Their rich, pulsating elements sing to us through her beautiful voice, even while Nannertgarrook herself is subjected to the worst of humanity.

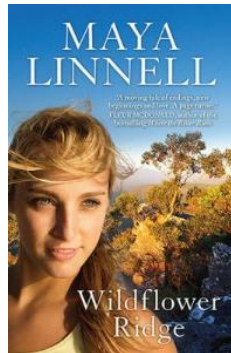


Wildflower Ridge

Maya Linnell

GRC | Adult Fiction | 2nd

Penny McIntyre loves her life as an ambitious city professional, with a marketing team at her fingertips and a promotion just within reach. So, when she's floored by a mystery illness, and ordered back to the family farm for three months' rest and recuperation, she is horrified to find her perfect life imploding. Within days, Penny has to leave her much-loved job, her live-in boyfriend, and her beloved city apartment... to return to the small country town in which she grew up. Back to her dad and three sisters, one of whom has never forgiven her for abandoning her family. And to her ex-boyfriend, Tim Patterson, who was the biggest reason she ran in the first place. When Penny's father is injured in a farming accident and Tim campaigns to buy the property, she must choose between the city life she loves and the farming dream she buried long ago.

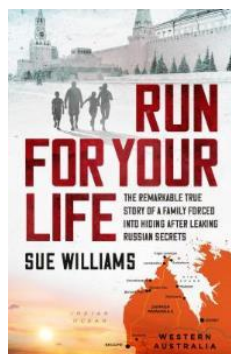


Run for your life : the remarkable true story of a family forced into hiding after leaking Russian secrets

Sue Williams | 920.71 WILL

RLQ | Non Fiction book | 18th

Nick moved to Russia in 1998 to help build the British Embassy in Moscow, but ended up on the run with his wife and two children after leaking secrets from Vladimir Putin's one-time deputy. Hiding off grid on Australia's final frontier, remote beaches on the Dampier Peninsula on the far north Kimberley coast, the family faced crocodiles, sharks, snakes, raging bushfires and the devastating Cyclone Yvette, and survived only by catching fish and crabs and learning how to kill wild animals. It was a life-or-death move, but Nick felt he had no choice.

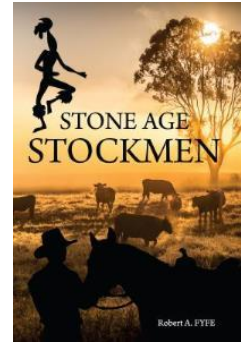


Stone Age Stockmen

Robert A. Fyfe | 920.094 FYFE

RLQ | Non Fiction book | 3rd

WWII had been over for just twenty years. Baby Boomers were being born. It was only a year or two after Australia adopted decimal currency. A war was raging in Vietnam, but it didn't adversely affect us very much. Seatbelts and bicycle helmets were not yet compulsory, there were no such things as speed cameras, tasers, or breathalysers, and it was fun to ride in the back of the ute with the wind in our hair. It was only the 1960s, but a lot has happened since then. Let me take you out into the bush, into my history, where I was mustering cattle by day, working alongside men who I consider to be the best stockmen in the world, and sleeping under the stars by night. I was interacting with Aboriginal people on their own native lands, on what was a working cattle station. The Aboriginal people did not gauge a man on what assets he had, but his hunting skills.



Girl falling

Hayley Scrivenor

GRC | Adult Fiction book | 7th

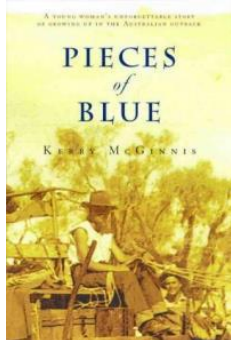
Finn and her best friend, Daphne, have grown up together in a small town in the Blue Mountains, NSW. Bonded by both having lost a younger sister to suicide, they've always had a close, sometimes too close, friendship. Now in their twenties, their lives have finally started to diverge: Daphne is at university and Finn is working in the Mountains, as well as falling in love with a beautiful newcomer called Magdu. Unused to sharing Finn, Daphne starts to act up in ways that will allow her to maintain the control over her best friend she's always relished. Then, one fateful day, Finn, Daphne and Magdu all go mountain climbing, and Magdu falls to her death. Is it suicide, or a terrible accident, or has something more sinister happened?



Pieces of blue

Kerry McGinnis | 307.72 MACG
GRC | Non Fiction book | 16th

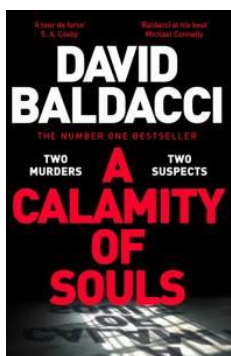
At the age of 6, Kerry McGinnis loses her mother. Her grief-stricken father, Mac, is left with 4 young children to raise. After a desperate attempt to manage alone, Mac gathers up his family and leaves the city to go droving. For the next 15 years, the McGinnis clan travels the continent, droving, horse breaking and living off the land. Schoolrooms, comfort and civilisation are a long way off as Kerry grows up in the harsh outback, where the animals are often her closest friends. Wild adventures and strange encounters colour their days, and by night their father tells tall tales around the campfire. With the memory of her absent mother ever present, Kerry begins her difficult journey to young womanhood.



A calamity of souls

David Baldacci
GRC | Adult Fiction book | 14th

Set in the tumultuous year of 1968 in southern Virginia, a racially-charged murder case sets a duo of white and Black lawyers against a deeply unfair system as they work to defend their wrongfully-accused Jack Lee. Jack Lee is a white lawyer from Freeman County, Virginia, who has never done anything to push back against racism, until he decides to represent Jerome Washington, a Black man charged with brutally killing an elderly and wealthy white couple. Doubting his decision, Lee fears that his legal skills may not be enough to prevail in a case where the odds are already stacked against both him and his client.



Brown, female, doctor : a memoir

Sarah Arachchi | 926.1 ARAC
GRC | Non Fiction book | 17th

Sarah is a brown female doctor who emigrated to Australia in the 1990s. Her journey to becoming a paediatrician has been challenging, right from the schoolyard. As a minority, she was perceived as different. She tried hard to blend in, but she was unfamiliar to her peers. No brown heroines in the fairytales she was exposed to left her with few role models. As an adult, a graduate in the medical world, she experienced a new kind of obstacle: being female in a male-driven hospital environment. When she eventually walked across the stage to get her paediatric letters, with a drip in her arm, a pregnant belly, a toddler on her hip and heels that could shatter a glass ceiling, victory was bittersweet. In the spirit of Dr Neela Janakiraman's *The Registrar*, Sarah Malik's *Desi Girl* and Anita Rani's *The Right Sort of Girl*, this is a story of grit and determination, hope and self-discovery. It is a powerful call for social change and a greater acceptance of diversity.



The reunion

Bronwyn Rivers
GRC | Adult fiction book | 17th

Ten years ago, six teenagers hiked into the Blue Mountains wilderness - and only five came out alive. The survivors have barely seen each other since the tragic bushwalk. Yet when an invitation arrives to attend a 10-year memorial of their friend's death, Hugh, Charlotte, Alex, Laura and Jack find themselves travelling back into the rugged landscape where it all began. The weekend at an isolated homestead in the bush - no phone signal, no distractions - should be a chance to reflect and reconnect. But each of the friends has been carrying secrets from the fateful hike. And someone will stop at nothing to get the truth.

