

# NSW Public Library Readers' Advisory Seminar 2026



Cameron Morley,  
State Library of NSW

Welcome to State Library &  
Acknowledgement of Country



# Morning Chairperson Housekeeping / Q&A facilitation



Mallory Salter,  
Campbelltown Library,  
Home Library Service



# CAMPBELLTOWN CITY HOME LIBRARY SERVICE

Readers Advisory Seminar 2026





## Overview

50+ Years of Service

Onboarding Customers

Spydus Profile

Decentralisation

Meals on Wheels

Challengers





## 50+ Years of Service

Special Needs Service Unit

Mobile Library



Home Library Service

Central Branch



Community Partnership

Meals on Wheels



Decentralisation

All Branches





## Onboarding Customers

### Application Initiation

Customers can apply online, in-person and over the phone by self-referral, family members, carers, or their aged care organisation.

### Eligibility Assessment

Staff ask qualifying questions about mobility, transport, independence, and safety needs to determine customer eligibility and needed support.

### Customer Interview

Interviews gather reading preferences, accessibility needs, and emotional triggers to inform readers advisory.

### Home Safety Check

Home visits ensure safe delivery conditions for volunteers and staff.





## Spydus Profiles

### Centralised Customer Profiles

Spydus stores detailed customer profiles including preferences and accessibility needs, reducing errors and manual handling.

### Automated Recommendations

The system suggests relevant authors and similar materials, speeding up selections while maintaining variety and accuracy.

### Consistent Advisory Standards

Only trained staff perform advisory work, with Spydus supporting consistent service standards and supervised learning.

### Ongoing Profile Updates

Staff regularly update profiles after interactions, ensuring information remains current between annual reviews.



## Decentralisation

### **Decentralised Service Model**

The decentralised model across four branches enhances efficiency and ensures high-quality service delivery. Upskilling staff for a deeper understanding of reader advisory experiences.

### **Diverse Stock and Flexibility**

Wider stock availability meets diverse reading preferences and supports selective customer needs.

### **Resilience and Work Distribution**

Work is redistributed among branches during staffing shortages to maintain service continuity.

### **Coordinated Logistics and Communication**

Logistics and communication ensure smooth item transfers and cohesive service management.





## Meals on Wheels

### Integrated Delivery Routes

Combining library deliveries with Meals on Wheels routes extends service reach without extra staff or schedules.

### Consistent Client Access

Volunteers provide regular, dependable delivery of library materials alongside meals to clients.

### Social Connection and Support

Volunteers build rapport with clients, sharing wellbeing observations with library staff for holistic support.

### Strengthened Community Ties

Collaboration of local services working together to support vulnerable residents efficiently.





## Challenges

### **Client Feedback Limitations**

Obtaining detailed client feedback is difficult as responses are often minimal, hindering profile refinement.

### **Selective Reader Challenges**

Highly selective readers exhaust narrow subject collections quickly, making it hard to meet their requests.

### **Logistics and Coordination**

Coordinating selections and deliveries across multiple branches with differing resources presents logistical challenges.

### **Staff Training and Support**

Increases to number of staff selecting, requires resourcing for training and ongoing communication for quality control.



Lindsay Carapella,  
Wollongong Library,  
Home Library Service

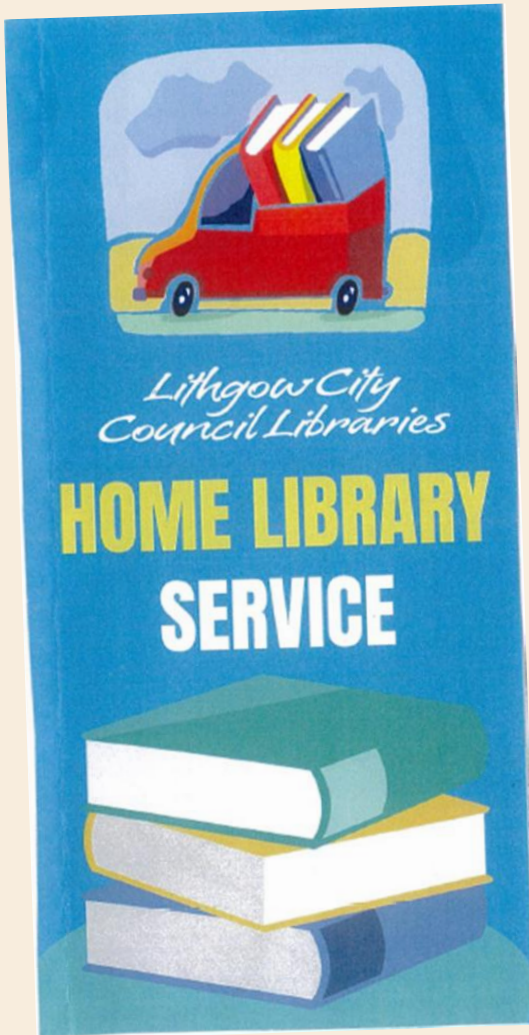


LITHGOW LIBRARY

# HOME LIBRARY SERVICE

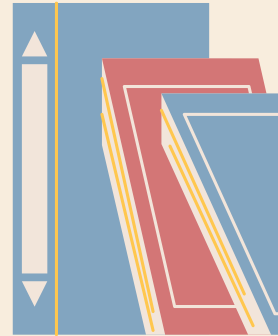


# OVERVIEW



- Lithgow LGA population **21,000**
- Geographic area **4500** square kilometres
- Rural region with dedicated National Park & State Forest
- Aging population
- **3** branches located at Lithgow, Wallerawang & Portland
- HLS service operational since **2014**.
- One permanent part time staff member **24** HPW.
- Currently **56** active HLS customers
- Private customer individual home visits
- Residential care entry with individual visits
- Retirement villages with individual visits
- Bulk loans to retirement villages and disability housing.
- Average loan per customer **8** items
- Customer age range: **60 to 101**

Number of resources selected last calendar year: **5297**



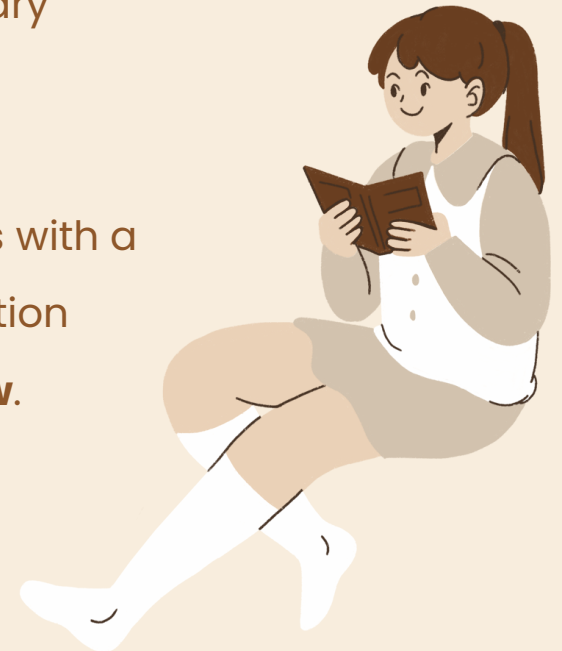


Sometimes selecting hundreds of books each month can seem like having a mountain to climb!

How do we consistently find the “Right book for the right time” that continues to foster a customer’s love of reading?

Unlike RA conversations in the library which often occur spontaneously, **Home Library** advisory is typically more structured and planned. **Home Library Service** customers particularly older patrons in rural areas are often not equipped with the skills (or access) to navigate our online collections or view our library catalogue.

The relationship with my customer begins with a home visit to gather as much information possible in a **home library interview**.

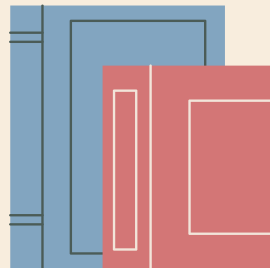
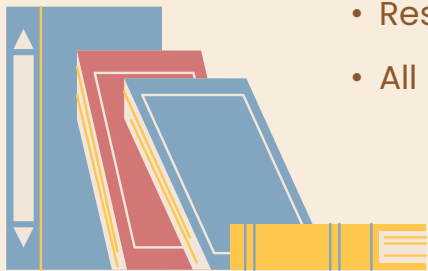


# THE INTERVIEW

## Here I discuss:

Any reading disabilities as selections are matched not just by interest but by physical format needs such as LP, audiobooks or the size or weight of a book.

- Favourite authors
- Genres generally
- Determine print size (Print Disability)
- Access to technology and skill level (E Resources, VA)
- Number of books required
- Reserving books from home (where able)
- All resources. (Music, jigsaw puzzles, local history collection etc)



## Appeal Factors

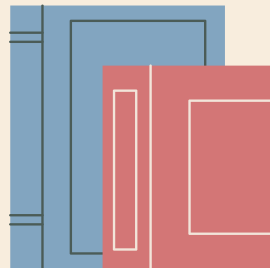
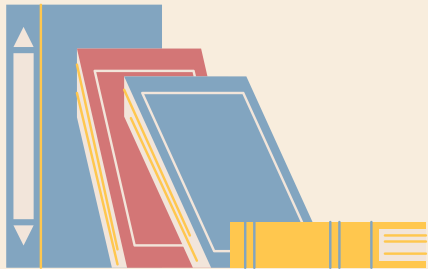
Try to determine appeal factors. Talk about books that describe place, are conversational, have action or follow a theme. See what the customer favours.

### **“Tell me about a book you have recently enjoyed and why?”**

Determine definite dislikes.

Provide a selection of different books (print size, genre, size and weight) to flip through and discuss with the customer at the interview.

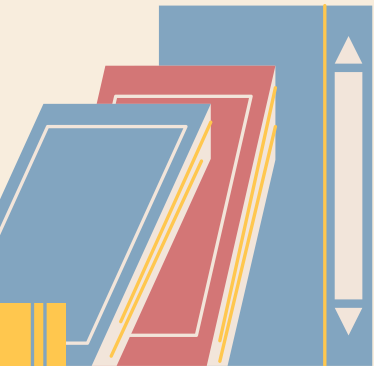
Information gathered at the interview forms the basis for my customer profile.



# PROFILING

Developing and maintaining a strong customer profile is key to selection that connects customers with resources for leisure and information that will match their reading rhythms.

Regular interaction at delivery time allows me to refine profiles for future selection.





**Books:**

Favourite authors: \_\_\_\_\_

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult fiction:  | <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Non-Fiction: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adventure       | <input type="checkbox"/> Art                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Australian      | <input type="checkbox"/> Australiana        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Popular Fiction | <input type="checkbox"/> Biography/Auto     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Detective       | <input type="checkbox"/> Cookery            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historical      | <input type="checkbox"/> True Crime         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Romance         | <input type="checkbox"/> Exploration        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Science Fiction | <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spy             | <input type="checkbox"/> Handcrafts         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> War             | <input type="checkbox"/> History            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Western         | <input type="checkbox"/> Hobbies            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sea stories     | <input type="checkbox"/> Travel             |

Number of Books required: \_\_\_\_\_

Format of books: (eg talking book, Large print, paperback etc. \_\_\_\_\_

DVD's: \_\_\_\_\_

Magazine: \_\_\_\_\_

Staff Use:

Eligibility check

Current Membership: yes/no

Drs Cert: Yes/no/na.

Resident of a home: yes/no

Privacy Disclaimer: yes/no

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

# SELECTION: MANUAL AND DIGITAL



# MANUAL SELECTION



# MANUAL SELECTION

Keeps me up to date with the collection.

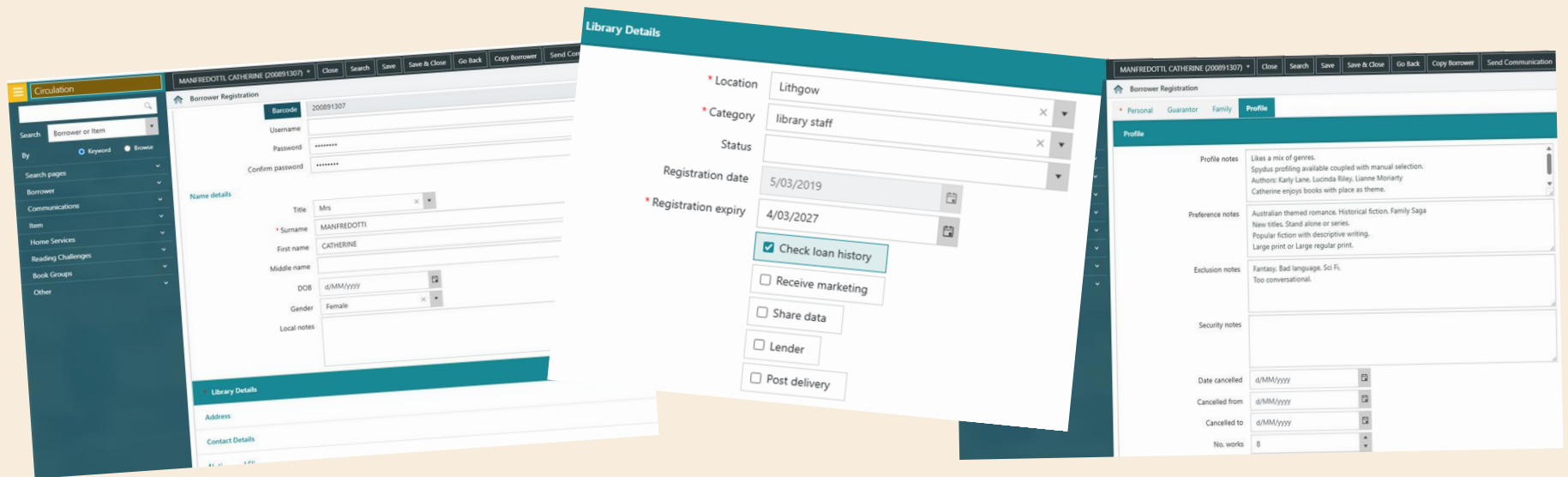
Regular desk shifts help me maintain a current perspective on what other readers like. Physically handling books allows me to assess the book beyond its catalogue description.

Factors like the book's weight, the feel of the paper, print size and shade, as well as illustrations can all contribute to providing HLS customers overall enjoyment of a book.

Digital tools can narrow options based on algorithms, but manually pulling books encourages me to browse nearby shelves. This "serendipitous discovery" can reveal genres or authors I might not have considered otherwise.

In manually searching books for one customer, I often find books that may suit another.

# DIGITAL SELECTION



USING SPYDUS PROFILING  
TO ASSIST WITH SELECTION.

# DIGITAL SELECTION

## USING SPYDUS PROFILING TO ASSIST WITH SELECTION.

Profile matching, also referred to as SDI Profiles or Awareness Profiles, can help to find and select titles that match a borrower's interests. We use the Home Services Module to match items to your borrower.

You can create a list of your selected matches in the Enquiry Module. Selected items automatically add to your "items available for allocation" to produce a reservations list.

The workflow encompasses tasks in both Borrower Registration and Home Services. We use Circulation to set up SDI profiles and the Home Services module for profile matching and selecting items.

# BORROWER REGISTRATION

**Circulation** | MANFREDOTTI, CATHERINE (200891307) | Close | Search | Save | Save & Close | Go Back | Copy Borrower | Send Communication

**Borrower Registration**

Barcode: 200891307

Username:

Password:

Confirm password:

**Name details**

Title: Mrs

\* Surname: MANFREDOTTI

First name: CATHERINE

Middle name:

DOB: d/MM/yyyy

Gender: Female

Local notes:

**Library Details**

Address:

Contact Details:


## LOAN HISTORY

### Library Details

\* Location  × ▼

\* Category  × ▼

Status  ▼

Registration date  

\* Registration expiry  

Check loan history

Receive marketing

Share data

Lender

Post delivery

ADD BASIC PREFERENCE NOTES AND SET THE NUMBER OF WORKS REQUIRED FOR SELECTION IN THE PROFILE TAB.

The screenshot shows a library system interface. On the left is a dark teal sidebar with a search bar and navigation menu. The main area is white with a top navigation bar and a breadcrumb trail. The 'Profile' tab is selected, showing various note fields and a 'No. works' field.

**Search Bar:** Search Borrower or Item (Dropdown), By Keyword (Selected) / Browse (Unselected)

**Navigation Menu:** Search pages, Borrower, Communications, Item, Home Services, Reading Challenges, Book Groups, Other

**Top Bar:** MANFREDOTTI, CATHERINE (200891307) | Close | Search | Save | Save & Close | Go Back | Copy Borrower | Send Communication

**Breadcrumb:** Borrower Registration

**Profile Tab:** \* Personal | Guarantor | Family | **Profile**

**Profile Section:**

- Profile notes:** Likes a mix of genres. Spydus profiling available coupled with manual selection. Authors: Karly Lane, Lucinda Riley, Lianne Moriarty. Catherine enjoys books with place as theme.
- Preference notes:** Australian themed romance, Historical fiction, Family Saga. New titles. Stand alone or series. Popular fiction with descriptive writing. Large print or Large regular print.
- Exclusion notes:** Fantasy, Bad language, Sci Fi, Too conversational.
- Security notes:** (Empty field)
- Date cancelled:** d/MM/yyyy
- Cancelled from:** d/MM/yyyy
- Cancelled to:** d/MM/yyyy
- No. works:** 8

CREATE A NEW  
PROFILE OR EDIT  
AN EXISTING  
PROFILE.

Profile

Australian Themed Romance

New profile Edit profile

Profile

Current Awareness Profile

**IRN(531914)**  
Record 1 of 1. record saved

*New items matching your profile will be sent to [manfredotti@bigpond.com](mailto:manfredotti@bigpond.com)*

\* Description

Anywhere	▼	Romance	AND	▼
Anywhere	▼	Australia	OR	▼
Anywhere	▼	Kelsall, Leonie	OR	▼
Anywhere	▼	Callen, Alissa	OR	▼
Anywhere	▼	Magro, Mandy	OR	▼
Anywhere	▼	Lane, Karly	AND	▼
Anywhere	▼	Enter search terms	AND	▼
Anywhere	▼	Enter search terms	AND	▼
Anywhere	▼	Enter search terms	AND	▼

GIVE A MEANINGFUL  
NAME TO YOUR  
ALERT PROFILE

## Profile

Bibliographies  
Biography

Government publication

All publications  
Academic publisher  
Autonomous or semi-autonomous components of sove  
Federal/national

Target audience

All audiences  
Adolescent  
Adult  
General

Search

Send Alerts



Alert Frequency

Daily

Use for Profile Matching



Expiry Date

dd/mm/yyyy



Info

Next alert due 18 Nov 2025

Alert

Profile has been created.

Save

Reset

Delete

Extra options



## MATCH YOUR BORROWER IN HOME SERVICES

The screenshot displays a library system interface. On the left is a dark navigation menu with the following items: Circulation, Search pages, Borrower, Communications, Item, Home Services (expanded), Rounds, Match Borrower, Available for Profile Allocation, Reading Challenges, Book Groups, and Other. The main content area is titled 'Borrower Registration' and shows the borrower 'MANFREDOTTI, CATHERINE (200891307)'. A search bar contains 'Borrower or Item'. A modal dialog box titled 'Match (MANFREDOTTI, CATHERINE)' is open, showing search results for location 'L | Lithgow'. The dialog contains the following data:

Field	Value
Location filter	L   Lithgow
Match	(button)
Titles requested	8
Titles matched	0
Loans	8

The dialog also has a 'Close' button. The background interface includes buttons for 'Close', 'Search', 'Save', 'Save & Close', 'Go Back', and 'Copy Borrower'. Below the dialog, a table shows borrower details:

Cancelled from	d/MM/yyyy
Cancelled to	d/MM/yyyy
No. works	8
Cancel notes	

VIEW YOUR LIST AND SELECT RECORDS FOR A  
PRINTABLE RESERVE LIST.


**Search**

Brief Display

**Profile Matches for MANFREDOTTI, CATHERINE / Number of Works Required - 8**  
Your search found **86** records. Displaying records **11 to 20**.

11 **A country mile / Mandy Magro.**


Magro, Mandy  
Second Australian paperback edition 2022.  
Sydney, NSW : HQ Fiction, 2022.  
©2018.  
338 pages ; 20 cm.  
**Record format:** Book



Location	Collection	Call Number	Accession No	Status/Desc
Lithgow	adult fiction	F MAG	302229760	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Available</li> <li>Last Returned: 02 Jul 2025</li> </ul>

12 **Crystal Creek / Charlotte Nash.**

Nash, Charlotte  
Sydney, NSW Hachette Australia, 2015.  
©2015  
357 pages ; 24 cm.  
**Record format:** Book



Location	Collection	Call Number	Accession No	Status/Desc
Lithgow	adult fiction	F NAS	301944054	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Available</li> </ul>

# CHALLENGES

- READING DISABILITIES. PROGRESSIVE.
- PRINT SIZE, COLOUR AND SPACING
- WEIGHT AND SIZE OF BOOKS (HARDCOVERS, TOO MANY PAGES)
- READING ONLY ONE GENRE
- ESTABLISHING PREFERENCES WITHIN GENRES. PARTICULARLY CRIME  
\*\*
- FINDING POPULAR FICTION AUTHORS IN LARGE PRINT
- E RESOURCES
- AVOIDING UNWANTED UNDERLYING THEMES
- FINDING AND MAINTAINING THE RIGHT APPEAL FACTOR
- ADAPTING TO CUSTOMERS READING RHYTHMS
- EVERCHANGING CUSTOMER BASE. DIVERSE AND NUMEROUS PROFILES
- MANAGING SELECTIONS FOR SHORT TERM USE OF THE SERVICE
- CUSTOMERS LEAVING THE SERVICE
- NOT ENOUGH TIME IN THE DAY!!!! 😊



# MEASURING SUCCESS

OUTREACH COMPONENT IS KEY IN CREATING A SENSE THAT HLS CUSTOMERS ARE STILL PART OF THE LIBRARY COMMUNITY. IT IS IMPORTANT TO BECOME A VISIBLE AND KNOWN PRESENCE IN A RURAL COMMUNITY. NOT ONLY DOES THIS ENSURE CONTINUED UPTAKE OF THE SERVICE IT BUILDS A RAPPORT THAT ALLOWS CUSTOMERS TO FEEL SUPPORTED IN THEIR READING PURSUITS.

THE EXCHANGE OF BOOKS IS A SUCCESS WHEN MY CUSTOMER IS KEEN TO DISCUSS TITLES THEY HAVE READ. INCREASED ENGAGEMENT MEANS I AM ON TRACK.

CUSTOMERS READ ACROSS DIFFERENT GENRES, TRYING NEW THINGS.

CUSTOMERS REQUEST FURTHER TITLES OF A NEWLY INTRODUCED AUTHOR.

CUSTOMERS TRANSITION THROUGH COLLECTION TYPES WITHOUT LOSS OF READING PLEASURE.

SUSTAINED CUSTOMER LEVELS. WHILE TURNOVER IS INEVITABLE, SUCCESS CAN BE MEASURED WHEN NEW MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY CONSISTENTLY JOIN THE SERVICE IN EQUAL NUMBER. THIS SERVES TO DEMONSTRATE THE ONGOING COMMUNITY NEED FOR THIS FIRMLY ESTABLISHED AND VITAL OUTREACH SERVICE.

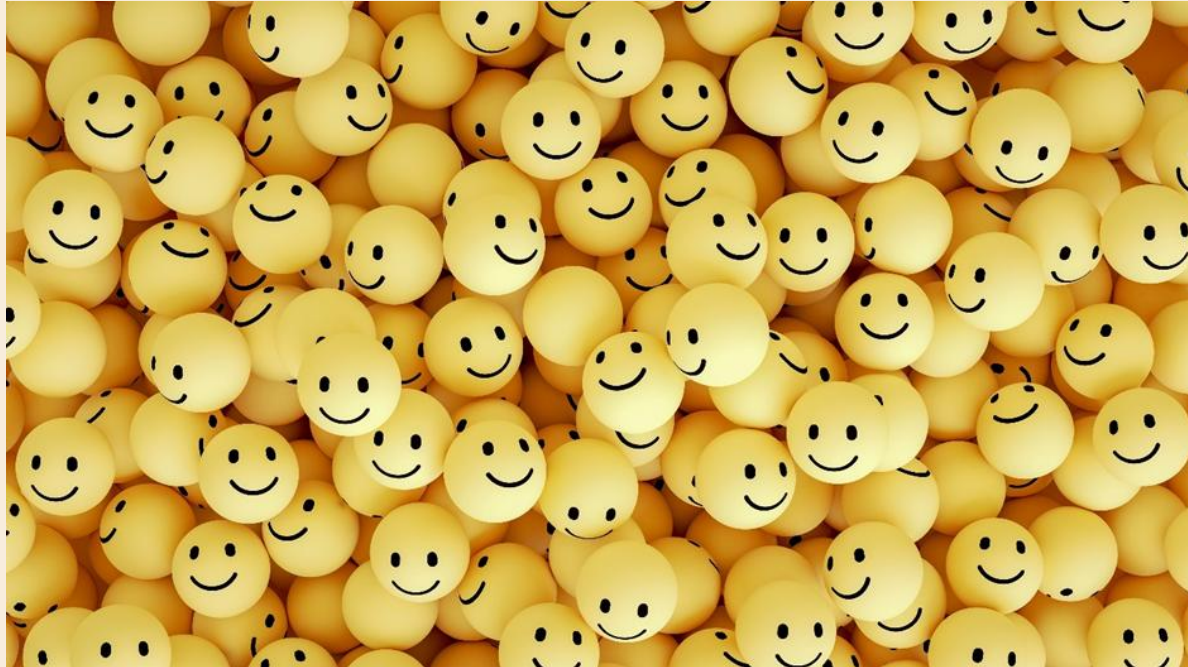


# STRATEGIES AND TIPS

- ALWAYS PACK MORE BOOKS THAN REQUESTED.
- SELECT BROADLY WITHIN THE PARAMETERS DISCUSSED.
- TRY SERIES SELECTION.
- TRY TO INVOLVE THE CUSTOMER AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE IN THEIR OWN SELECTION PROCESS. “ANY SPECIAL REQUESTS?”
- SEEK FEEDBACK. GOOD OR BAD. THE VIEWS PROVIDED HELP ADJUST MY FUTURE SELECTIONS.
- BOOKMARK CERTAIN BOOKS FOR REVIEW.
- INCLUDE A “GOOD READS” MAGAZINE FOR CUSTOMERS.
- ALL NEW LP BOOKS COME TO HLS OFFICER FIRST.
- LITERATURE MAP AND FANTASTIC FICTION SITES.
- PHONE A FRIEND. ASK A COLLEAGUE TO SELECT BASED ON THE PROFILE.



AND OF COURSE .....THIS  
SEMINAR!!!!!!



THANK YOU AND HAPPY ADVISING!



# Fairfield City Open Libraries - Home Library Service (HLS) & Readers' Advisory

Supporting Access for Everyone

# Getting Started - The Referral Form

There is a referral form that either the library staff or customer completed.

This form helps staff capture the customers reading preferences.

## **Key Information Collected:**

- Contact Details & DOB.
- Current Library Membership Status.
- Number of people in household needing service.
- Number of items desired per month.
- Preferred Language(s).
- Preferred Formats (Large Print, Audiobook, DVD, etc.).
- Fiction Genre Preferences.
- Non-Fiction Subject Preferences.
- Favourite Authors



## Joining HLS - Registration Process (using Spydus)

To join HLS, customers must first hold a valid library membership.

The process begins with either registering new members for a library membership or updating the existing membership details for current members.

# Creating/ Managing Member Profiles in Spydus

**Using Spydus, a Profile is then created using the information from the referral form:**

- **Profile notes:** Record the member's delivery Round (e.g., TUESDAY A).
- **Preference notes:** List desired items, genres, authors.
- Start with total item count. Detail specifics in brackets (e.g., "2 LP Romance books (Thin, regency, or old style)").
- **Exclusion notes:** Record dislikes (genres, authors, subjects).
- **Security notes:** Note specific drop-off instructions or facility access codes.
- **No. works:** Set the number of items the member wants per delivery.

# Using Spydus Profile Matching

We utilise Spydus to generate title matches based on the customers' specified reading preferences. Spydus curates a tailored list of items, from which staff select titles to reserve for delivery to the HLS branch.


Upon arrival, the items are recorded as borrowed and placed in the customer's designated slot, ready for packing and dispatch.

Customers may also request titles outside their initial preferences or items that are not currently available, which we can either purchase or borrow from other library services to meet their needs.

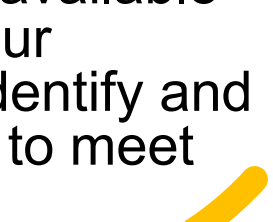




# Delivery Rounds

- Home Library service deliveries are conducted on Tuesdays and Thursdays during Weeks A, B, and C.
  - The delivery staff contacts all scheduled customers the day prior to their delivery to confirm and inform them of the upcoming visit.
  - During the delivery, customers have the opportunity to discuss their preferences for future items or provide feedback on items they did not enjoy, ensuring a personalised and responsive service.
- 

# Readers' Advisory Feedback and Challenges

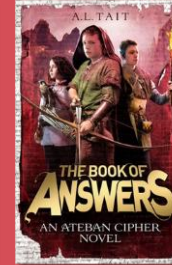
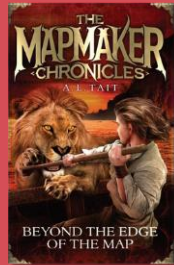
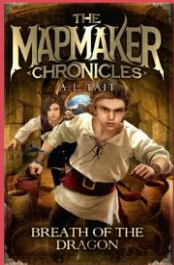
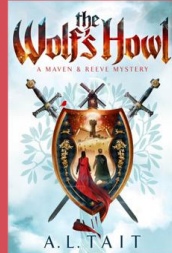
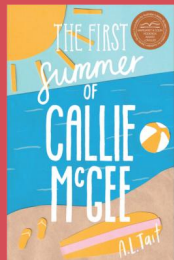
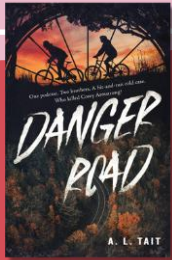
- Customers often leave letters with the team, sharing their feedback and additional requests.
  - While valuable, fulfilling some requests can be challenging, particularly when customers seek older publications or items not currently held in our collection. In such cases, staff may need to explore options such as purchasing the item or arranging an interlibrary loan.
  - When the requested title is unavailable or has been exhausted from our collection, staff may need to identify and recommend similar resources to meet the customer's needs.
- 

# Selecting Your Kid's Next Read

YOUR KID'S  NEXT READ



# Allison Tait



**YOUR KID'S  NEXT READ**

**[yourkidsnextread.com.au](http://yourkidsnextread.com.au)**





# Challenges to reading

- Time/Scheduled lives
  - Screens
- Parental guidance
- Social influences
  - School reading
  - Discoverability

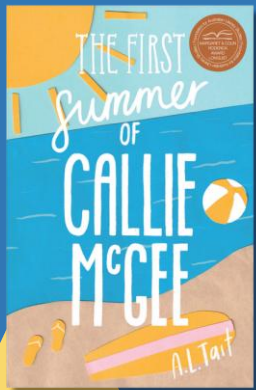
**YOUR KID'S**  **NEXT READ**



# The YKNR Way

- Who is your reader – what are they interested in
  - Meet them where they are
- Find out what's stopping them from reading
  - Don't stop giving them books
  - It's a fight worth having

YOUR KID'S  NEXT READ

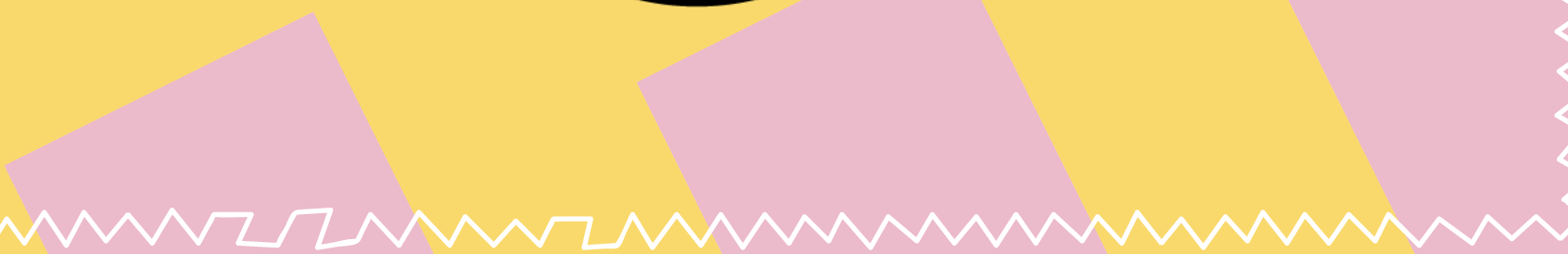


“The book that turns a young person into a reader for life is the book they think was written for them.”

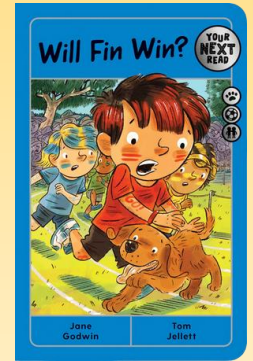
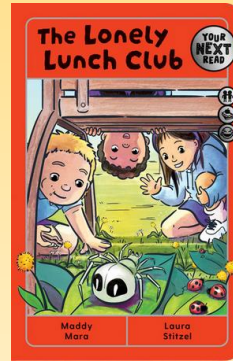
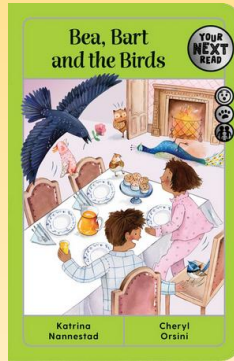
YOUR KID'S  NEXT READ

Introducing ...

**YOUR  
NEXT  
READ**



# YOUR NEXT READ



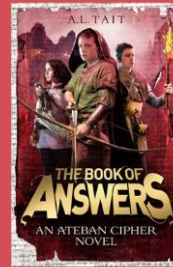
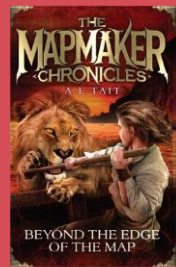
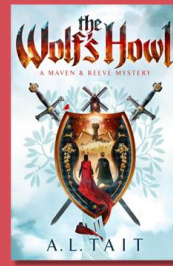
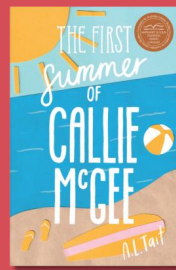


## 2026 Contributors



Jane Godwin ✕ Tom Jellett ✕ Katrina Nannestad  
Cheryl Orsini ✕ Maddy Mara ✕ Laura Stitzel  
Jasmin McGaughey ✕ AL Tait ✕ Jade Goodwin  
Peter Cheong ✕ Kylie Howarth ✕ Amelia Mellor  
Jess Racklyeft ✕ Anita Heiss ✕ Kate & Jol Temple

# Thank you



[allisontait.com](http://allisontait.com)

[yourkidsnextread.com](http://yourkidsnextread.com)

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# Using the Understanding Australian Readers report to break down barriers

Presented by:

Marisa Bottaro



THE BARRIERS

# Understanding Australian Readers Report / Audience segments



Understanding Australian readers: Behavioural insights into recreational reading



## Audience segments

Six segments were identified: four of Readers and two of Non-Readers. A deep dive into the segments looked at the drivers of capability, opportunity, motivation and social norms. The full report provides a detailed profile of each segment, highlighting the key drivers and barriers for each group.



### Avid Readers (22.4%)

#### The daily devotee

**Habits:** Read daily and frequently start new books  
**Intentions:** No gap between how much they read and how much they intend to read  
**Demographics:** Mostly women, older or retired, living alone or with a partner  
**Barriers:** None! They have the motivation, time, and ability to read

### Engaged Readers (30.6%)

#### The regular but busy reader

**Habits:** Read regularly (daily or a few times a week), but want to read more  
**Challenges:** Struggle with motivation, distracted by other activities  
**Demographics:** Young to middle-aged, highly educated  
**Barriers:** Competing priorities and lack of time for reading

### Ambivalent Readers (14.8%)

#### The uncertain explorer

**Habits:** Inconsistent reading; unsure if they truly enjoy reading or want to prioritise it  
**Challenges:** Lack of interest, uncertainty about enjoyment, and motivation  
**Demographics:** Slightly younger, with more men in this group  
**Barriers:** Indifference to reading, uncertainty about their capability and interest

### Aspirational Readers (14.7%)

#### The eager yet struggling seeker

**Habits:** Read infrequently (monthly or a few times a year), but eager to read more  
**Challenges:** Lack of time, distractions, and difficulty staying motivated  
**Demographics:** Younger to middle-aged, higher earners, mostly full-time employees  
**Barriers:** Struggle with competing activities, time constraints, and motivation

### Lapsed Readers (7.1%)

#### The forgotten book lover

**Habits:** Used to read more but have lapsed into not reading; remember positive reading experiences  
**Challenges:** Read less than they want to; experience difficulty with focus and reading skills  
**Demographics:** Fairly balanced age and gender distribution; mixed household types  
**Barriers:** Lack of time, trouble finding books that interest them, and difficulty concentrating

### Uninterested Non-Readers (10.4%)

#### The complete disconnect

**Habits:** Don't read for recreation and lack interest in reading  
**Challenges:** Indifferent to reading; find reading difficult and prefer other entertainment forms  
**Demographics:** Younger to middle-aged, mostly male, many working full-time  
**Barriers:** Low motivation, concentration difficulties, lack of time, and lack of interest in books



# Engaged Readers – Staff Picks

## Staff picks

Discover staff favourites, different genres, literary award winners and more with these hand-picked reading lists.

### Great reads

New books ▼

Author talks

Book clubs ▼

**Staff picks**

Reading recommendations ▼

Accessible reads ▼

Search the catalogue

Suggest a purchase

Most popular books of 2025

### Renee's staff picks

Renee loves stories that surprise you, make you feel something real and linger in your mind long after you've finished reading. Her staff picks feature a mix of dark humour, emotional depth and a touch of the surreal.

### Anna's reading recommendations

Anna Loder, founder of the online bookish community at [readabook.com.au](http://readabook.com.au), curates a list of recommended reads each month.

### Claire's staff picks

Claire loves stories that immerse her in another time and place. Walk in someone else's shoes with Claire's selections.

### Marie's staff picks

Marie enjoys a wide range of fiction books, from fun beach reads to historical fiction and everything in between!

### Amanda's staff picks

Amanda staff picks are filled with books across many genres including myth retellings, romance and mysteries however, at the core of her reading you'll find strong female characters with complex stories.

### Aimee's staff picks

Aimee enjoys travel biographies, culinary adventures and novels with strong female leads.

### Kate's staff picks

Kate enjoys reading books across all genres, with her favourites being science fiction and fantasy. She enjoys being transported to different worlds through literature, with a particular love of settings involving dragons!

### Kristen's staff picks

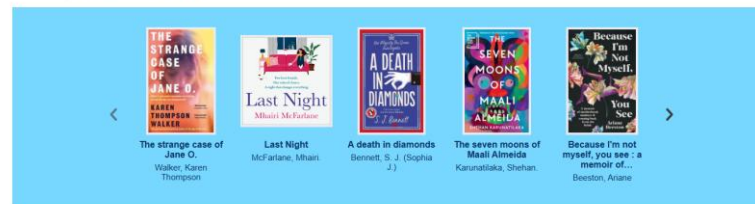
A lover of historical fiction and horror, but depending on her mood Kristen will read just about anything... And love it!

### Cathy's staff picks

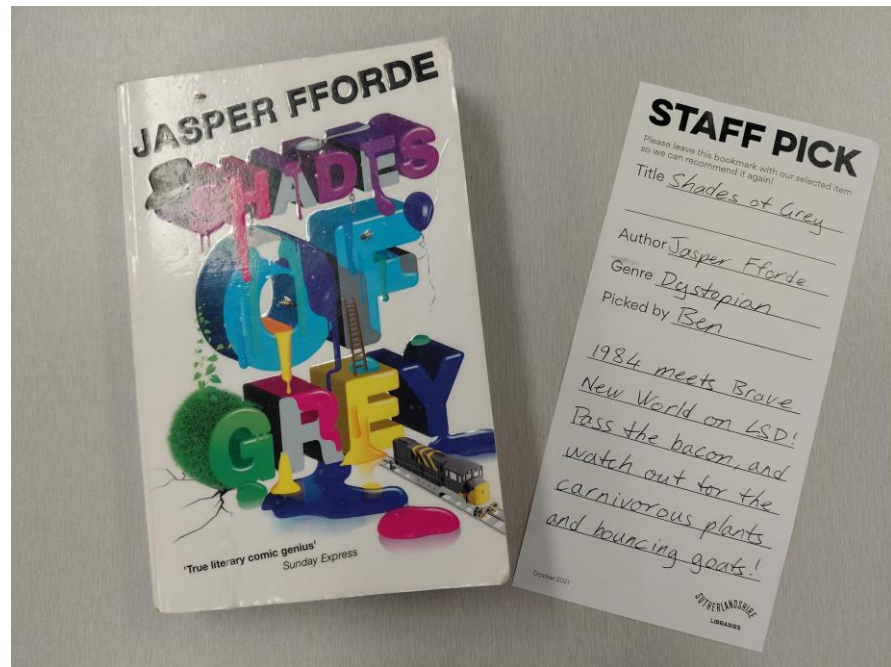
Cathy prefers reading real-life fiction filled with conflict, drama and maybe a little romance; as well as the occasional biography, true crime, and Young Adult fiction.

## Renee's staff picks

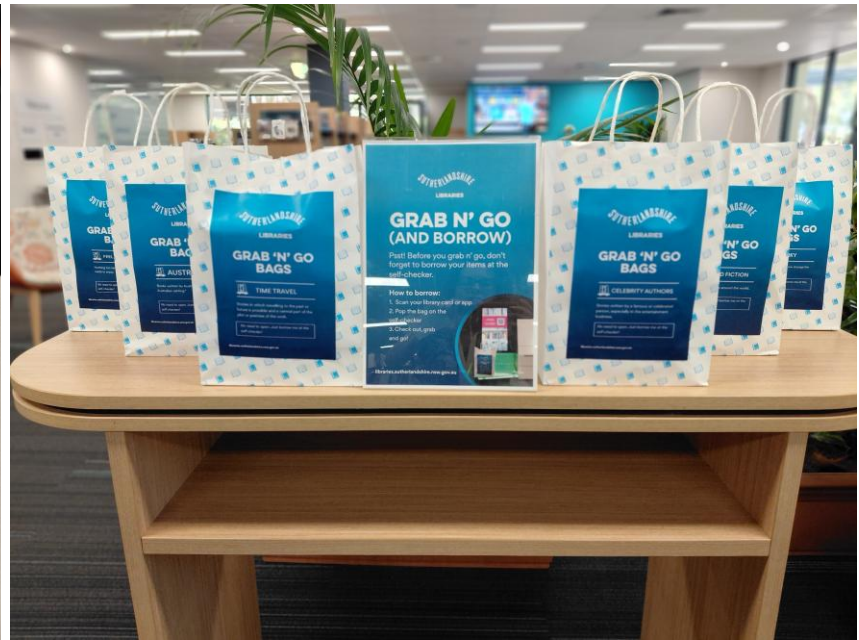
Renee loves stories that surprise you, make you feel something real and linger in your mind long after you've finished reading. Her staff picks feature a mix of dark humour, emotional depth and a touch of the surreal.



# Engaged Readers – Staff Picks



# Engaged Readers – Grab ‘n’ Go Bags



# Ambivalent Readers – Patron Picks

TICKET TO YOUR NEXT READ

**PATRON PICKS**

TITLE: *My friends*

AUTHOR: *Fredrik Backman*

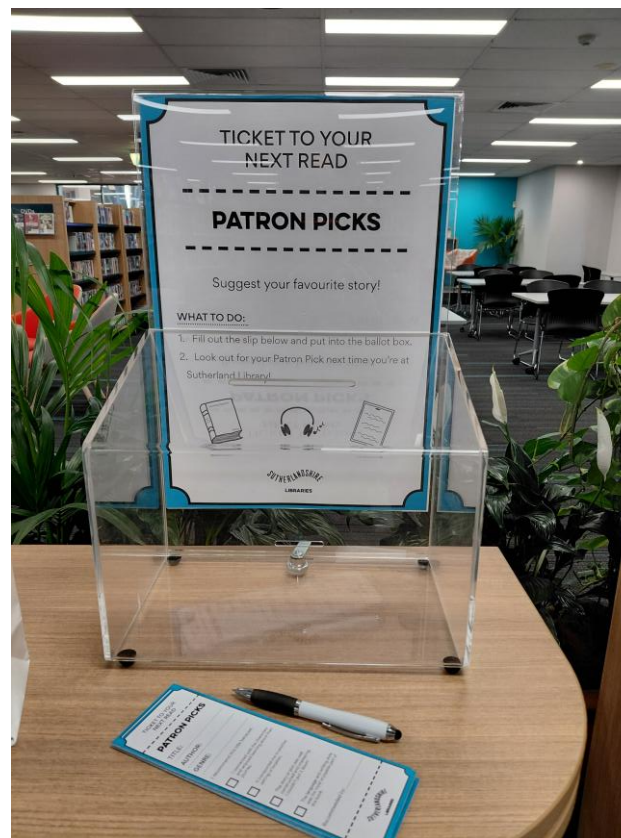
GENRE: *Contemporary*

I recommend this title because:

- I connected with the characters and enjoyed learning about their journey.
- It transported me to another setting or location.
- The story or plot was well constructed and interesting. I couldn't put it down!
- The language and writing style was the most enjoyable part of the book.

Recommended by: *Mavis*

SUTHERLANDSHIRE LIBRARIES



# Aspirational Readers – Beanstack reading challenges

**Challenges**  
Create and manage challenges, draws, and fundraisers.

**Challenges**  
Create and manage challenges.

**Fundraisers**  
Create and manage fundraisers.

**Rewards**  
Manage rewards for your challenges.

**Draws**  
Manage and run draws to award readers.

**Event Types**  
Manage the types of events readers can log.

**Your Badge Groups**  
Create and manage groups of badges for use within challenges.

**Your Individual Badges**  
Manage individual badges.

**Certificates**  
Manage branded certificates for your challenges.

## Manage Challenges

Challenge Templates **All Challenges**

Archived ▾

Name	Status	Dates
2024 Creepy Crawlies	Draft	Oct 1, 2024 - Oct 31, 2024
Autumn Reading Challenge	Published	Apr 1, 2025 - May 31, 2025
Copy of Genre Bingo Challenge	Draft	Mar 7, 2024 - Mar 31, 2024
Genre Challenge	Published	Dec 1, 2022 - Jan 31, 2023
Mini Beasts: Summer Reading Challenge - Pre-School	Published	Dec 1, 2024 - Jan 31, 2025
Musical Mayhem - Winter Reading Challenge for Preschoolers	Published	Jul 1, 2024 - Jul 31, 2024
Read Across Australia	Published	Jul 18, 2025 - Aug 31, 2025

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Manage branded certificates for your challenges.

## Manage Challenges

Challenge Templates **All Challenges**

Archived ▾

Name	Status	Dates
Musical Mayhem - Winter Reading Challenge for School Aged Children	Published	Jul 1, 2024 - Jul 31, 2024
STAFF TRAINING Books Before School	Staff Only	Nov 1, 2021 - Dec 31, 2021
Sutherland Shire Libraries 70th Birthday Treasure Hunt	Published	Nov 1, 2023 - Nov 30, 2023
Young Adult Reader's Advisory	Draft	Jul 31, 2024 - Jan 31, 2025
Genre Bingo Challenge for Adults	Published	Jul 1, 2024 - Aug 31, 2024
Teens Summer Reading Challenge 2024-2025	Published	Dec 1, 2024 - Jan 31, 2025
Adult Summer Reading Challenge 2024-2025	Published	Dec 1, 2024 - Jan 31, 2025

# Aspirational Readers – Author read-a-likes

IF YOU LIKE  
**KHALED HOSSEINI**  
WHY NOT TRY...

Chinua Achebe  
Leila Aboulela  
Mohsin Hamid  
Nadia Hashimi  
Jhumpa Lahiri  
Christy Lefteri  
Elif Shafak  
Kamila Shamsie  
Carlos Ruiz Zafon

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IF YOU LIKE  
**LISA SEE**  
WHY NOT TRY...

Isabel Allende  
Elisa Shua Dusapin  
Yaa Gyasi  
Alka Joshi  
Barbara Kingsolver  
Min Jin Lee  
Ann Napolitano  
Celeste Ng  
Maggie O'Farrell  
Abraham Verghese

SUTHERLANDSHIRE  
LIBRARIES  
December 2023

IF YOU LIKE  
**SALLY ROONEY**  
WHY NOT TRY...

Nicola Dinan  
Elena Ferrante  
Anna Hope  
Coco Mellors  
Madeline Miller  
Ottessa Moshfegh  
David Nicholls  
Anita Shreve  
Genevieve Novak

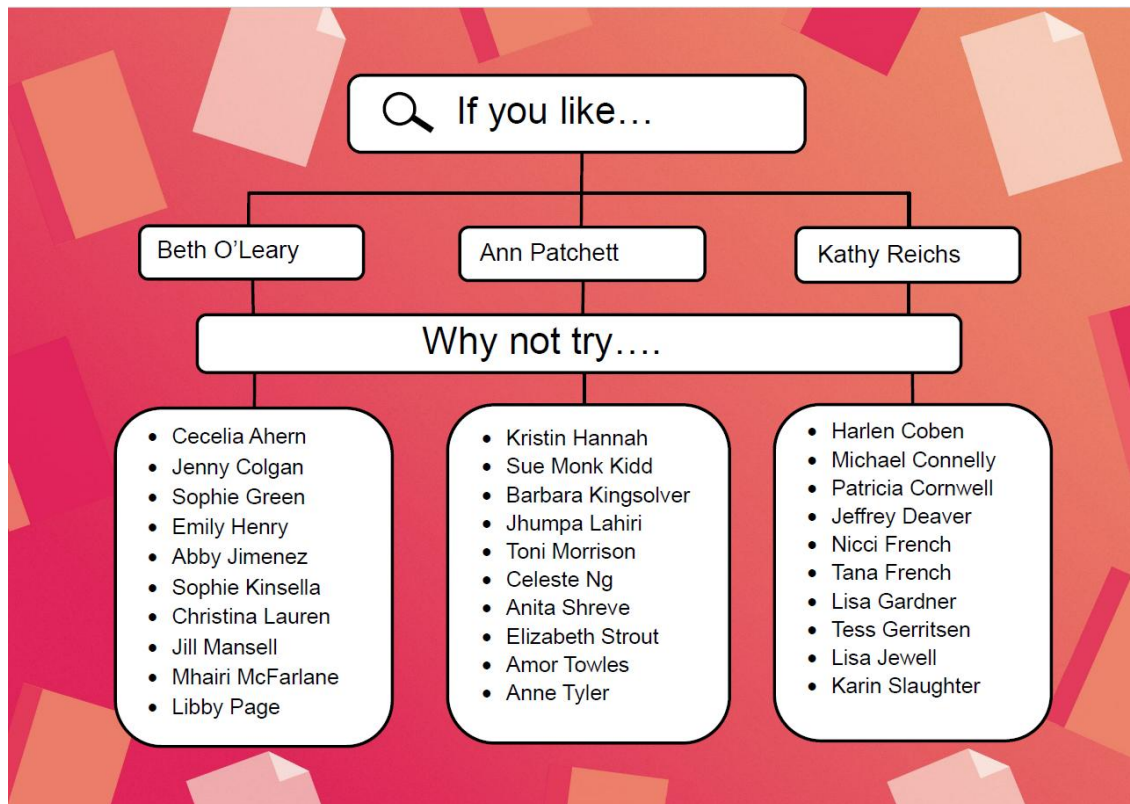
SUTHERLANDSHIRE  
LIBRARIES  
December 2023

IF YOU LIKE  
**JEFFREY ARCHER**  
WHY NOT TRY...

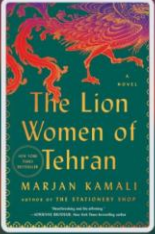
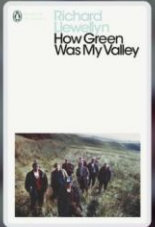

David Baldacci  
Harry Bingham  
Stephen Coonts  
Michael Dobbs  
Joseph Finder  
Ken Follett  
Frederick Forsyth  
W.E.B. Griffin  
Patricia Highsmith

SUTHERLANDSHIRE  
LIBRARIES  
December 2023

# Aspirational Readers – Author read-a-likes



# Aspirational Readers – Library Book Clubs

	<p><b>Cronulla Library 1st Monday Open Book Group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>MON 2 February 2026</li><li>2:00pm - 3:00pm</li><li>Cronulla Library</li></ul> <p>Book lovers meet each month to discuss a chosen book. Everyone is welcome, just turn up ready to share your thoughts.</p> <hr/> <p>02 9710 0351</p>
	<p><b>Sutherland Library Classics Book Group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>MON 3 February 2025</li><li>6:30pm - 8:30pm</li><li>Sutherland Library</li></ul> <p>Do you enjoy reading and discussing classic literature? If so, join us on the first Tuesday of each month for the Sutherland Classics Open Book Group.</p> <hr/> <p>02 9710 0351</p>
	<p><b>Menai Library Crime Open Book Group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>THU 12 February 2026</li><li>2:00pm - 3:00pm</li><li>Menai Library</li></ul> <p>Everyone is welcome to this crime open book group where we'll be reading everything from classics to contemporary, mysteries, thrillers and more on the 2nd Thursday of each month.</p> <hr/> <p>02 9710 0351</p>

# Aspirational Readers – Community Book Kits

## Community book clubs

Register your book club to borrow the Library's Community Book Kits, which include at least 10 copies of a title, a bag and laminated discussion questions.

### Great reads

New books ▾

Author talks

Book clubs ▲

Cronulla Library 1st  
Monday Open Book  
Group

Sutherland Library  
Classics Book Group

Menai Library Crime  
Open Book Group

Staff picks

Reading  
recommendations ▾

Accessible reads ▾

Search the catalogue

Suggest a purchase

Most popular books of  
2025

Read the information below so you understand what is involved, then complete the form on this page. Once the form on this page has been submitted, our friendly team will process your application and be in touch with more details about how to collect your book club's library card.

### Frequently asked questions

#### How do I join up my book club?

- Read through the terms and conditions to make sure this service is right for you.
- Decide on a coordinator for your group.
- Fill in the online form with your book club's name and coordinator's contact details.
- A staff member will contact you to arrange pick up of your book clubs library card.

#### How do I borrow a community book kit?

- Choose a title from our list of [Community Book Kits](#).
- Place a hold using your book club's library card. Holds cannot be reserved using an individual's library card.
- When the community kit is ready to pick up it will be placed on the holds shelf at the branch you requested.
- At the self-checker, scan the barcode on the bag AND each book inside (you will have to remove the books from the bag to do this).
- The loan period is 6 weeks, with no renewals allowed.
- Up to two community book kits can be borrowed at the one time.

#### Where and how do I return a community book kit?

- Kits can be returned at any of our [locations](#).
- The bag, exact number of copies and the laminated questions must be returned together.
- The entire kit needs to be returned to staff at the information desk, and not through the internal or external book chute.

#### What happens if I lose or damage a book in the kit?



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# Lapsed Readers – eResources promoted via social media

Hoopla eAudiobook — 52 reactions, 1.4K reach, 1.8K views, 7 shares, 5 comments



# Lapsed Readers – Book of the month



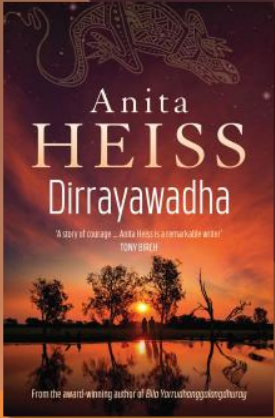
**The Lion Women of Tehran**  
MARJAN KAMALI  
AUTHOR OF THE STATIONERY SHOP OF TEHRAN  
Heartbreaking and life-affirming.  
ADRIENNE BROUWER, *New York Times* bestselling author

**BOOK OF THE MONTH**

SUTHERLANDSHIRE LIBRARIES




September 2025



Anita  
**HEISS**  
Dirrayawadha  
"A story of courage... Anita Heiss is a remarkable writer."  
TONY BIRCH  
From the award-winning author of *Alto* *Koruzhokogutonghury*

**BOOK OF THE MONTH**

SUTHERLANDSHIRE LIBRARIES



July 2025

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# Using the Understanding Australia Reads report to break down barriers



## Understanding Australian readers

Behavioural insights into recreational reading

<https://australiareads.org.au/research/understanding-australian-readers/>

Presented by:

Marisa Bottaro

THE BARRIERS

5 minute break



STATE LIBRARY®  
NEW SOUTH WALES



# Gale Books and Authors

*Damian Almeida – Academic Engagement Manager*

# Agenda

About Gale Books and Authors

Available Gale Resources for New South Wales Public Libraries

Platform features and functionality

What's next?

# “Today a reader, tomorrow a leader.” — Margaret Fuller

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- **Reading strengthens your brain** by improving focus, memory, and critical thinking skills. It exercises your mind much like physical activity strengthens your body.
- **It expands your knowledge and understanding of the world**, whether you're learning from history books, science articles, or literature like *To Kill a Mockingbird*.
- **Reading builds empathy** by allowing you to experience different perspectives and cultures through stories and real-life accounts.
- **It enhances vocabulary and communication skills**, helping you express your thoughts more clearly and confidently.
- **Reading reduces stress and promotes relaxation**, offering a healthy escape from daily pressures while stimulating imagination and creativity.

# Gale Books and Authors



## GALE BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Title Search...  
Advanced Search

### SELECT A GENRE

- Fiction
  - Fantasy fiction
  - Historical fiction
  - Horror stories
  - Inspirational fiction
  - Mystery fiction
  - Popular romances
  - Science fiction
  - Western fiction
- Non-Fiction
  - Biographies
  - Business
  - Health/Medicine
  - Humanities
  - Science
  - Social Studies
  - Technology

### New and Updated Books

 <p>The Proving Ground (Connelly, Michael) (Novel) (2025) Connelly, Michael (American...</p>	 <p>Gravity Let Me Go (Novel) (2025) Dalton, Trent</p>	 <p>Wreck (Newman, Catherine) (Novel) (2025) Newman, Catherine</p>	 <p>The Everlasting (Harrow, Alix E.) (Novel) (2025) Harrow, Alix E.</p>	 <p>The Hiding Place (Mildenhall, Kate) (Novel) (2025) Mildenhall, Kate</p>	 <p>Quantum Tempest (Novel) (2025) Maden, Mike</p>	 <p>Starchaser (Novel) (2025) Gray, R.M.</p>	 <p>The Story of My Anger (Novel) (2025) Mendez, Jasminne</p>
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### Winter or Spring? Seasonal Books for Groundhog's Day

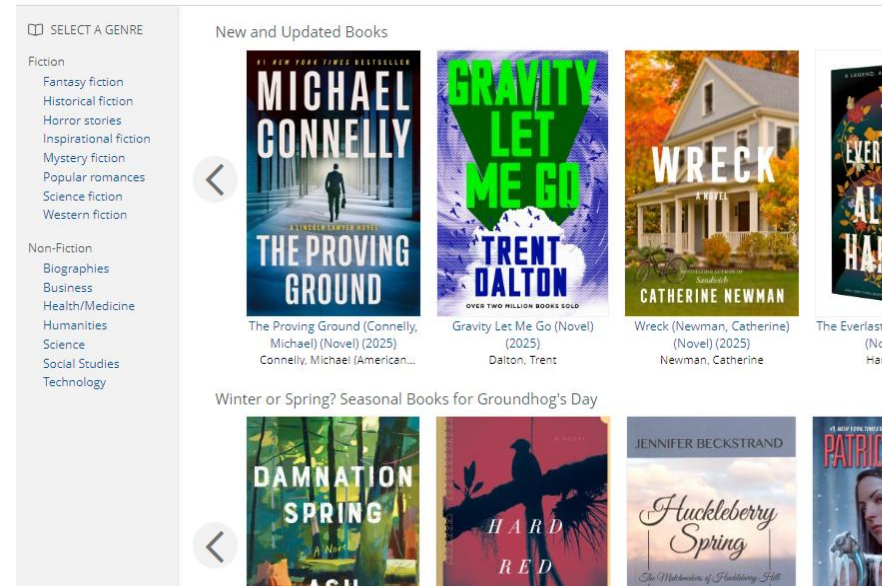
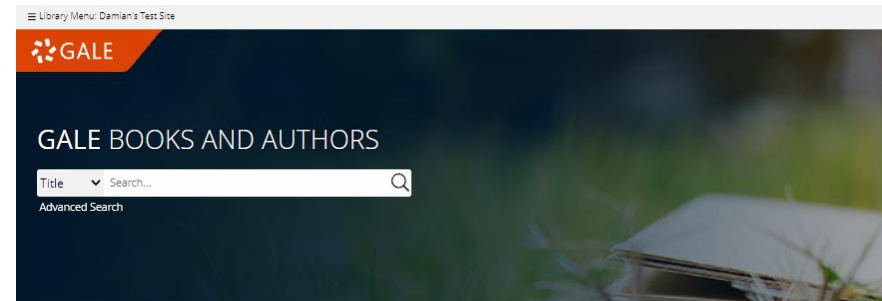
		 <p>Huckleberry Spring The Misadventures of Huckleberry Hill</p>	 <p>PATRICIA BRIGGS</p>	 <p>Laurence Fearnley WINTER</p>	 <p>WINTER DAVID HESKA WANBLI WEIDEN</p>	 <p>Winter The Secret Christmas</p>	 <p>THE GOSPEL OF WINTER</p>
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# Gale Books and Authors

## *Gale Books and Authors*

For many patrons, *finding a book that interests them can be time-consuming.*

Match their reading interests with Gale Books and Authors, a reader's advisory database that makes finding a great read much less challenging.



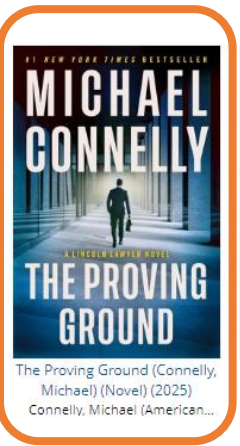
# Guides your readers towards a Good Book

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Promote What's On Your Bookshelves



# Choose from a list of the latest titles



The Proving Ground (Connelly, Michael) (Novel) (2025)  
Connelly, Michael (American...)



Gravity Let Me Go (Novel) (2025)  
Dalton, Trent



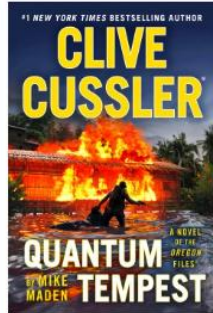
Wreck (Newman, Catherine) (Novel) (2025)  
Newman, Catherine



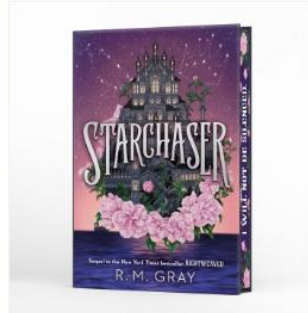
The Everlasting (Harrow, Alix E.) (Novel) (2025)  
Harrow, Alix E.



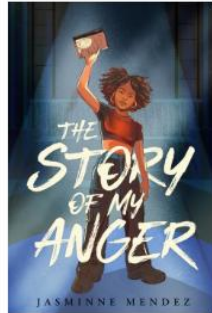
The Hiding Place (Mildenhall, Kate) (Novel) (2025)  
Mildenhall, Kate



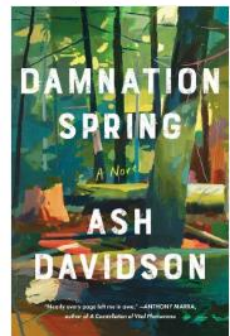
Quantum Tempest (Novel) (2025)  
Maden, Mike



Starchaser (Novel) (2025)  
Gray, R.M.



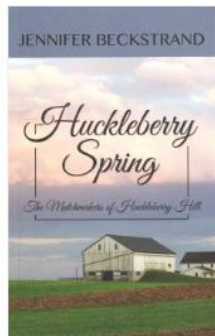
The Story of My Anger (Novel) (2025)  
Mendez, Jasminne



Damnation Spring (Novel) (2021)  
Davidson, Ash



Hard Red Spring (Novel) (2016)  
Kerney, Kelly



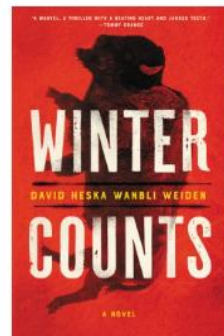
Huckleberry Spring (Novel) (2015)  
Beckstrand, Jennifer



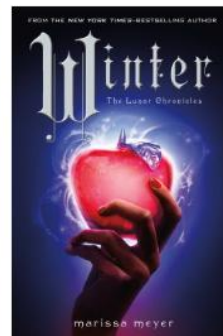
Winter Lost (Novel) (2024)  
Briggs, Patricia



Winter Time (Novel) (2022)  
Fearnley, Laurence



Winter Counts (Novel) (2020)  
Weiden, David Heska Wanbli



Winter (Meyer, Marissa) (Novel) (2015)  
Meyer, Marissa



The Gospel of Winter (Novel) (2014)  
Kiely, Brendan

# Read a quick overview about the title

## The Proving Ground (Connelly, Michael) (Novel) (2025)

Author(s): Connelly, Michael (American novelist)

Accessibility icons: A11y, A+, A, A-, and a speaker icon.

Share icons: Email, Print, Download, and a link icon.

**ABOUT THIS BOOK**

**Series:**  
Lincoln Lawyer Series

**Setting(s):**  
Los Angeles, California, United States

**Subject(s):**  
Artificial Intelligence, Law, Murder, Mystery, Trials

**Time Period:**  
21st century AD

**Main Character(s):**  
Mickey Haller, Lawyer

**Formats**

**Reviews (2)**

**Description:**  
This eighth installment in the *Lincoln Lawyer* series follows attorney Mickey Haller after his "resurrection walk," as he pivots from criminal defense to public interest litigation. He takes on a civil suit against an unregulated artificial intelligence (AI) company whose chatbot told a sixteen-year-old boy that it was okay for him to kill his ex-girlfriend for her disloyalty. Representing the victim's family, Mickey's case explores the absence of training guardrails and accountability in the exploding AI business, with billions of dollars at stake. To assist him, Mickey enlists journalist Jack McEvoy, who initially wants to write a book about the trial, to sift through the evidence, a task that unearths a terrified whistleblower. As Mickey digs deeper, he faces intense danger and corporate forces determined to prevent the public exposure of the unregulated AI business.

### Read-a-likes (3)

Three book covers are displayed in a row:

- Exit Strategy** (Child...)
- The Whistler** (Novel...)
- Digital Fortress**...

Read-a-likes

# Define search parameters to find a good book

**GALE**  
Gale Books and Authors

Q Search:  Advanced Search

SELECT A GENRE  
Fiction  
Fantasy fiction  
Filter within genre

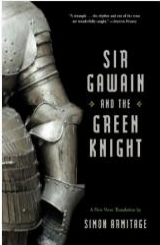


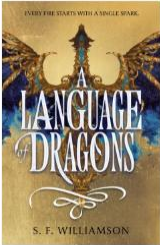




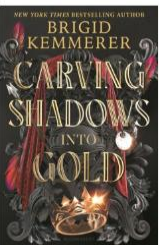
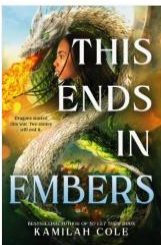
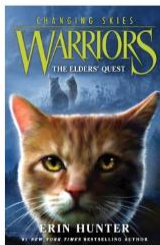









All Fantasy fiction genres  
Adventure  
Alternate History  
Alternate Universe  
Alternate World  
Amateur Detective  
Ancient Evil Unleashed  
Anthology  
Apocalyptic Horror  
Arts  
Black Magic  
Carnival - Circus Horror  
Chase  
Child-in-Peril  
Collection  
Coming-of-Age  
Contemporary  
Contemporary - Fantasy  
Contemporary Realism  
Curse  
Cyberpunk  
Disaster  
Doppelganger  
Dystopian  
End of the World

I'm looking for books aimed at:  Children  Young Adult  Adult

Search Within  Search

Sort by: Newest

Showing results 1 to 20 of 11893

 <p>SIR GAWAIN AND THE GREEN KNIGHT SIMON ARMITAGE</p>	 <p>ONCE FOR YES ALLIE MILLINGTON</p>	 <p>AMONG SERPENTS MARC J GREGSON</p>	 <p>A LANGUAGE OF DRAGONS S. F. WILLIAMSON</p>	 <p>THE PRINCESS SWAP CINDERELLA AND THE BEAST, O... BUSSING, KIM</p>	 <p>A BURNING IN THE BONES SCOTT REINTGEN</p>	 <p>DARK HOPE CHRISTINE FEEHAN</p>	 <p>ONYX STORM REBECCA YARROS</p>
 <p>CARVING SHADOWS INTO GOLD KEMMERER, BRIGID</p>	 <p>THIS ENDS IN EMBERS KAMILAH COLE</p>	 <p>WARRIORS: CHANGING SKIES THE ELDERS' QUEST HUNTER, ERIN (HOUSE PSEUDONYM)</p>	 <p>THE PRINCESS SWAP (SERIES) BUSSING, KIM</p>	 <p>LIES ON THE SERPENT'S TONGUE PEARSON, KATE</p>	 <p>BREATHMARKED (SERIES) LEE, FANDU; LEE, SHANNON (AMERICAN ACTRESS AND...</p>	 <p>UNHALLOWED HALLS WILKINSON, LILL</p>	 <p>(S)KIN ZOBEL, IBI</p>
							

# Key Features of Gale Books And Authors

---

## Search by Book Lists

- Award Winners
- Expert Picks
- Librarian Favourites

- View Formats available
- View Reviews
- Read-a-like  
(similar recommendations)

## Search by Author

- By Gender
- By Nationality
- By Ethnicity
- By Occupation
- By Place of Birth
- By Place of Death

# New ANZ content added regularly...

Title	Author	Date	Added
Signs of Damage	Reid, Diana	2025	Apr 25-Nov 25
One Dark Night	Richell, Hannah	2025	Apr 25-Nov 25
The Midnight Estate	Rimmer, Kelly	2025	Apr 25-Nov 25
Gunnawah	Salt, Ronni	2025	Apr 25-Nov 25
The Paradise Generation	Sanna Thompson	2024	Apr 25-Nov 25
The Island of Last Things	Sloley, Emma	2025	Apr 25-Nov 25
Consider Yourself Kissed	Stanley, Jessica	2025	Apr 25-Nov 25
Daughters of Batavia	Stefanie Koens	2025	Apr 25-Nov 25
The Golden Sister	Suzanne Do	2025	Apr 25-Nov 25
Stillwater	Tanya Scott	2025	Apr 25-Nov 25
Ruins	Taylor, Amy	2025	Apr 25-Nov 25
The Good Mistress	Tiernan, Anne	2025	Apr 25-Nov 25
Burning Mountain	Tindale, Darcy	2025	Apr 25-Nov 25
Blood and Gold	Trant, Michael	2025	Apr 25-Nov 25
A Beautiful Family	Trevelyan, Jennifer	2025	Apr 25-Nov 25
The Pool	Tunncliffe, Hannah	2024	Apr 25-Nov 25
Where the Birds Call Her Name	Van Ryn, Claire	2025	Apr 25-Nov 25
Once a Villain	Vanessa Len	2025	Apr 25-Nov 25
The Stolen	Vikki Petraitis	2025	Apr 25-Nov 25
He Would Never	Wainright, Holly	2025	Apr 25-Nov 25
The Bookshop Detectives: Tea and Cake and Death	Ward, Gareth, Ward, Louise	2025	Apr 25-Nov 25
Elegy, Southwest	Watts, Madeleine	2025	Apr 25-Nov 25
The Governor, His Wife and His Mistress	Williams, Sue	2025	Apr 25-Nov 25
Rytual	Wilson, Chloe Elizabeth	2025	Apr 25-Nov 25
Upon a Starlit Tide	Wood, Kell	2025	Apr 25-Nov 25
A Guide to Falling Off the Map	Zanni L Arnot	2025	Apr 25-Nov 25
The Vanishing Place	Zoë Rankin	2025	Apr 25-Nov 25
Better Days	Zorn Claire	2025	Apr 25-Nov 25
Dropbear	Philip Bunting	2025	Apr 25-Nov 25
Blood on Vines	Madeleine Eskedahl	2021	Apr 25-Nov 25
Rings on Water	Madeleine Eskedahl	2023	Apr 25-Nov 25

Title	Author	Date	Added
The Grapevine	Kemp, Kate	2025	Apr 25-Nov 25
The Passenger Seat	Khurana, Vijay	2025	Apr 25-Nov 25
Rise and Shine	Kimberley Allsopp	2025	Apr 25-Nov 25
The Secret Year of Zara Holt	Kimberley Freeman	2025	Apr 25-Nov 25
The Mix-up	Ladd, Kylie	2025	Apr 25-Nov 25
Julia Eichardt: A Life of Grit and Grace	Lauren Roche	2025	Apr 25-Nov 25
A Piece of Red Cloth	Ganambarr-Stubbs, Djawa Burarrwanga, Djawundil Maymuruare	2025	Apr 25-Nov 25
Detective Beans and the Case of the Missing Hat	Li Chen	2024	Apr 25-Nov 25
All You Took from Me	Lisa Kenway	2024	Apr 25-Nov 25
Love On The air	London, Ash	2025	Apr 25-Nov 25
The Private Island	Lowe, Ali	2025	Apr 25-Nov 25
The Mires	Makereti, Tina	2024	Apr 25-Nov 25
Lonely Mouth	Maley, Jacqueline	2025	Apr 25-Nov 25
An Ill Wind	Margaret Hickey	2025	Apr 25-Nov 25
Melaleuca	Martin, Angie Faye	2025	Apr 25-Nov 25
Laughter is the Best Ending	Maryam Master	2024	Apr 25-Nov 25
Funny Kid: Seriously Soccer	Matt Stanton	2025	Apr 25-Nov 25
Broke Road	Matthew Spencer	2025	Apr 25-Nov 25
Cockatoo Cove	Maya Linnell	2025	Apr 25-Nov 25
The Wolf Tree	McClusky, Laura	2025	Apr 25-Nov 25
The Good Father	McIlvanney, Liam	2025	Apr 25-Nov 25
The White Crow	Michael Robotham	2025	Apr 25-Nov 25
Lights, Camera, Love	Murray, Natalie	2025	Apr 25-Nov 25
Archangel's Ascension	Nalini Singh	2025	Apr 25-Nov 25
36 Ways of Writing a Vietnamese Poem	Nam Le	2024	Apr 25-Nov 25
Sleeper Beach	Nick Harkaway	2025	Apr 25-Nov 25
Titanium Noir	Nick Harkaway	2023	Apr 25-Nov 25
One Hundred Years of Betty	Oswald, Debra	2025	Apr 25-Nov 25
The Secrets of Maiden's Cove	Palmisano, Erin	2025	Apr 25-Nov 25
See How They Fall	Paris, Rachel	2025	Apr 25-Nov 25
When the Deep Dark Bush Swallows You Whole	Parkes, Geoff	2025	Apr 25-Nov 25
Nemesis	Patricia Wolf	2025	Apr 25-Nov 25
Barren Cape	Prak, Michelle	2025	Apr 25-Nov 25

# Available Gale Resources for New South Wales Public Libraries

# New South Wales Public Libraries Package 2025-2026

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- Gale General OneFile
- Gale OneFile: News
- Gale OneFile: Australia and New Zealand
  
- Gale Literature Resource Center
  
- Gale Books and Authors
- Gale Business: Insights
- Gale Health and Wellness
- Gale Interactive: Science

## Gale In Context Resources

- Gale In Context: Global Issues
- Gale In Context: Literature
- Gale In Context: Opposing Viewpoints
- Gale In Context: Science
- Gale In Context: World History

## National Geographic Virtual Library

- National Geographic Magazine Archive, 1888-Current
- National Geographic People, Animals, and the World
- National Geographic Kids

## Smithsonian Collections Online:

- Smithsonian Air & Space Magazines, 1970 – 2022  
Smithsonian Magazines, 1970 – Present
- Smithsonian Collections Online: Evolution of Flight, 1784-1991
- Smithsonian Collections Online: World's Fairs and Expositions, Visions of Tomorrow
- Smithsonian Collections Online: Trade Literature and the Merchandizing of Industry

## *Gale Subject Specific Collections*

# Gale OneFile Subject Specific Collections included

---

1. Gale OneFile: Agriculture
2. Gale OneFile: Communications and Mass Media
3. Gale OneFile: Criminal Justice
4. Gale OneFile: Culinary Arts
5. Gale OneFile: Diversity Studies
6. Gale OneFile: Educator's Reference Complete
7. Gale OneFile: Entrepreneurship
8. Gale OneFile: Environmental Studies and Policy
9. Gale OneFile: Fine Arts
10. Gale OneFile: Gardening and Horticulture
11. Gale OneFile: Gender Studies
12. Gale OneFile: Health and Medicine
13. Gale OneFile: Home Improvement
14. Gale OneFile: Hospitality and Tourism
15. Gale OneFile: Information Science
16. Gale OneFile: Military and Intelligence
17. Gale OneFile: Nursing and Allied Health
18. Gale OneFile: Physical Therapy and Sports Medicine
19. Gale OneFile: Pop Culture Studies
20. Gale OneFile: Psychology
21. Gale OneFile: Religion and Philosophy
22. Gale OneFile: U.S History
23. Gale OneFile: Vocation and Careers
24. Gale OneFile: War and Terrorism
25. Gale OneFile: World History

**Chose Any Five from this listing**

# New Resources in 2025-2026

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- British Library Newspapers, Part I: 1800-1900
- British Library Newspapers, Part II: 1800-1900
- British Library Newspapers, Part III: 1741-1950
- British Library Newspapers, Part IV: 1732-1950
- British Library Newspapers, Part V: 1746-1950
- British Library Newspapers, Part VI: Ireland, 1783-1950
- British Library Newspapers Part VII: Southeast Asia, 1806-1980s



# The Gale Support Hub for New South Wales Public Libraries

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Centralised Informational Hub providing customers access to a variety of resources relating to:

Gale Resources available to New South Wales Public Libraries

## Marketing Resources

Posters, "How To" guides, Social Media Images etc.

## Technical Support

Technical "how to" guides to support EPIC Public Libraries

## Training

Product training videos, Overview of Gale Database tools & functionality



# Product Demonstration



## Helen Madden

Account Manager  
[helen.madden@cengage.com](mailto:helen.madden@cengage.com)  
m  
NSW/ACT

## Isis Bibaoui

Account Manager  
[isis.bibaoui@cengage.com](mailto:isis.bibaoui@cengage.com)  
m  
NSW/ACT

## Support Services

**Damian Almeida**  
Academic Engagement Manager  
[damian.almeida@cengage.com](mailto:damian.almeida@cengage.com)

**Lynette Lewis & Alison Foster**  
Technical Support  
[anz.galeglobaltech@cengage.com](mailto:anz.galeglobaltech@cengage.com)  
m

**Darren Brain**  
Marketing Manager  
[darren.brain@cengage.com](mailto:darren.brain@cengage.com)

Emma Walsh  
State Library NSW,  
Promoting NSW Literary Awards  
in your library



# NSW Literary Awards 2026

# Connecting your readers to award-winning books



# Resources for libraries

- Posters
- Digital signage
- Bookmarks on order
- Shelf-talkers
- Social media content
- Book club guides (featuring the author!)



**How many have you read?**

Book	Date read	Rating
<b>BOOK</b> <i>Highway 13</i> by Fiona McFarlane		☆☆☆☆
<b>BOOK</b> <i>Deep Water</i> by James Bradley		☆☆☆☆
<b>BOOK</b> <i>rock flight</i> by Hasib Hourani		☆☆☆☆
<b>BOOK</b> <i>Silver Linings</i> by Katrina Nannestad		☆☆☆☆
<b>BOOK</b> <i>Anomaly</i> by Emma Lord		☆☆☆☆
<b>BOOK</b> <i>Three Magpies Perched in a Tree</i> by Glenn Shea		☆☆☆☆
<b>BOOK</b> <i>The Lasting Harm</i> by Lucia Osborne-Crowley		☆☆☆☆
<b>BOOK</b> <i>When the World Was Soft</i> by Julwarlu Group Aboriginal Corporation		☆☆☆☆
<b>BOOK</b> <i>36 Ways of Writing a Vietnamese Poem</i> by Nam Le		☆☆☆☆
<b>BOOK</b> <i>The Trial of Anna Thalberg</i> by Eduardo Sangarcia, translated from Spanish by Elizabeth Bryer		☆☆☆☆
<b>BOOK</b> <i>Jilya</i> by Dr Tracy Westerman		☆☆☆☆

Learn more about the NSW Literary Awards at [sl.nsw.gov.au/awards/nsw-literary-awards](http://sl.nsw.gov.au/awards/nsw-literary-awards)

NSW 100% ebooks



**NSW Literary Awards 2026**



# Reading challenge!

**READING CHALLENGE!**

**Are you a reader of winners?**

Join the NSW Literary Award Reading Challenge and tick some of the best books from the past year off your to-read list.

**Indyreads** This symbol means the book is waiting to be read on Indyreads! Download the Indyreads app and log in with your public library card to borrow.

**STATE LIBRARY NSW**



**NSW Literary Awards 2026**







# 20 years of NSW public library readers' advisory working group: 2006 – 2026+

Ellen Forsyth March 2026

**Meeting of Readers Advisory Working Group, under SLNSW  
Reference and Information Section held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February  
2006, 10am-12 noon at Manly Library.**

---



**Attendance:**

Therese Scott (Ashfield), Jenn Martin (Auburn), Susan Hoy (Burwood), Andrew Allen (Canterbury), Temutisa Fainuu (Canterbury), Marie Crilley (City of Sydney), Gloriana Amarasingham (Fairfield), Jennifer Wilson (Fairfield), Dianne Thai (Fairfield), Charina Kofod (Holroyd), Wendy Find (Manly), Fran Inkster (Manly), Jane Broadbere Mosman), Bob Diracca (Randwick), Ellen Forsyth (SLNSW), Max Bancroft (Sutherland), Katherine Mitchell (Parramatta), Cathy Johnston (Tamworth), Melanie Mutch (Warringah), Jane Shire (Warringah), Sue Cavamaen (Willoughby), Kerry-Ann Prideaux (Woollahra)

**Apologies:**

Vassiliki Veros-Elliott (City of Sydney), Gunhild Wichern (Leichhardt), Michael Selby (Liverpool), Glennys Norton (Liverpool), Ranjini Panicker (Parramatta), Jane Greville (Ryde), Beverley Hutchison (Sutherland), Jenny Hope (Newcastle), Pamela Langridge (Tamworth), Thuy Nguyen (Bankstown), Diana Brown (Waverley), Jo Smith (Lake Macquarie), Virginia Ghezzi (Camden), Will Combe (Waverley), Sue Wright (Hurstville), Kellie (Holroyd), Eileen Smith (Wollongong), Kay Delahunt (Tamworth), Indira Gonsale-Korale (Leichhardt), Vicki Edmunds (Blue Mountains)

# **2006 Mission statement**



Promoting enjoyment of  
reading and our library  
collections



To help plan the one day seminar in July, and to assist in taking the minutes for future meetings are: Therese Scott (Ashfield), Ellen Forsyth (SLNSW), Jane Broadbere (Mosman), Charina Kofod (Holroyd), Temutisa Fainuu (Canterbury), Vassiliki Veros-Elliott (City of Sydney) who will convene on March 27<sup>th</sup> at the State Library to decide on what speakers and topics will be presented. It was also agreed upon that the RA working group should aim to present a yearly seminar.

# 2007 first use of a wiki



INTERNET ARCHIVE <http://readersadvisory.wetpaint.com/page/NSW%2BReaders%27%2BAdivisory%2BWorking%2BGroup> Go NOV DEC 10 FEB 2007 2008 2011 About this ca

13 captures  
8 Dec 2008 - 1 Jan 2013

## Readers' Advisory Services

Home  
Discussion Forum  
Create New

Sign in to Wetpaint

Search this site

Site pages

- NSW Readers' Advisory Working Group
- Readers Week - September
- Seminars
- Good Practice
- Book groups
- Suggested Reading
- Ideas For Promoting Reading

Top Contributors

## NSW Readers' Advisory Working Group

This working group comprises New South Wales public librarians who provide readers advisory services in their libraries.

### Mission Statement

Promoting enjoyment of reading and our library collections

### Minutes from previous meetings

Please see Attachments at the bottom of this page.

### Readers' Advisory Steering Committee

Therese Scott - Ashfield Library Service  
Jenn Martin - Auburn Library Service  
Cathy Johnston - Clarence Regional Library  
Helen Cowen - Wingecarribee Library Service  
Vassiliki Veros-Elliott - City of Sydney Library Service

**ALIAread** is an e-list for people who wish to discuss readers advisory services in public libraries. This list is open to anyone who wishes to participate in a discussion about readers advisory services. To join ALIAread [click here](#)

**NSW Readers Advisory Blog** is a new blog for all NSW Public Library Staff with an interest in Readers Advisory. Visit the blog [here](#). If you would like to contribute to the blog, please email the NSW Readers Advisory Working Group at [ra@nsw-risg.org](mailto:ra@nsw-risg.org) with 1) your name and 2) the public library you work for and we will send you an invitation to join the blog.

**NSW Readers Advisory Forum.** As well as contributing to book lists and knowledge about book groups and authors events etc here on the wiki, NSW Public Library Staff can also contribute to discussion about Readers Advisory at the new [NSW Reference and Information Service Group Forum](#). Readers Advisory is the second to last topic on the main page, right under Library 2.0!

Latest page update: made by [Vassiliki](#), May 4 2008, 8:32 PM EDT ([about this update](#) - [complete history](#))  
Keyword tags: [current reads](#) [minutes](#) [news](#) [NSW RA Working Group](#) [Readers Advisory updates](#)  
More Info: [links to this page](#)  
Bookmark: [Del.icio.us](#) [StumbleUpon](#) [Facebook](#)



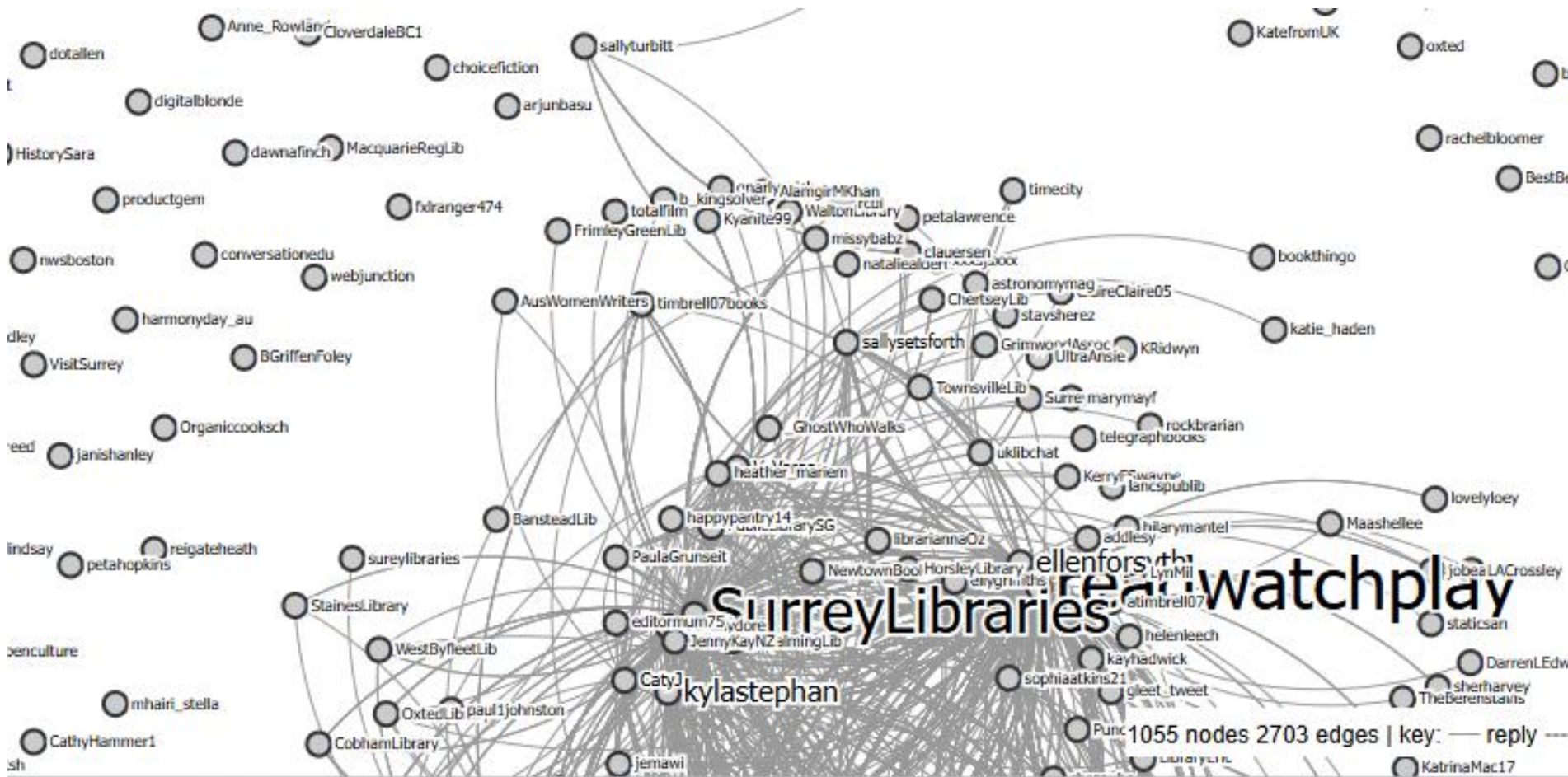
# 2010 fastest bookings



# 2011 Dragons in the Metcalfe



# 2011 - 2018 twitter reading group #RWPCChat



# 2014 first year streaming/hybrid



## Horror at the Metcalfe 12 March 2014

The topic this year for the NSW Readers Advisory Seminar #ra2014 is : Horror at the Metcalfe.

9.00 Registration 9.30 Welcome to the State Library **9.35 Keith Whelan**

[presentation here](#)

## 10.00 Amy Calhoun via Google+ hangout

Documents referred to by Amy are here.

[W](#)How to schedule and start a Google + hangout [W](#)How to start a Google + hangout



# 2020 100% online at short notice



## Readers' Advisory Seminar 2020

this event streamed Thursday 19 March 9.30am-4.00pm



# 2025 last year in the Metcalfe



# Jenn and Kerry-Anne

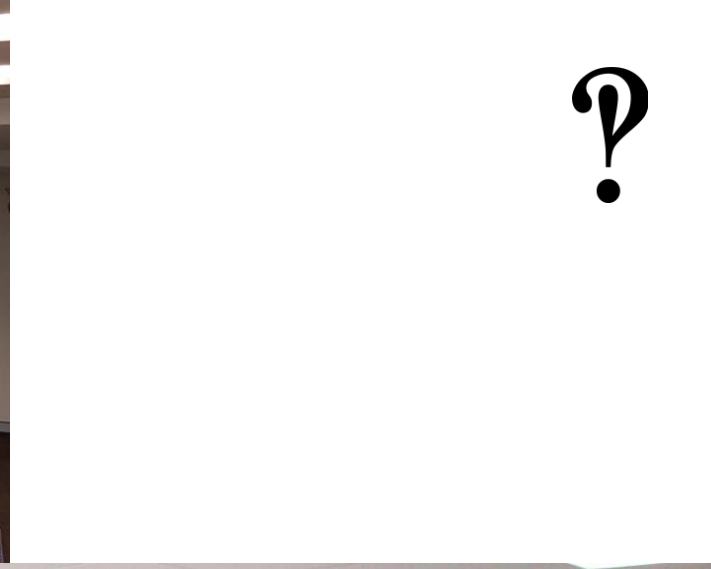


# Steering group members 2006 - 2026



Therese Scott, Jane Broadbere, Charina Kofod,  
Temutisa Fainuu, Vassiliki Veros-Elliott, Cathy  
Johnston, Jenn Martin, Helen Cowen, Amy Heap,  
Monique Akauola, Maria Mutimer, Melanie Mutch,  
Eric Dodson, Ita Hanssens, [Lauren Watkins](#), [Aaron  
Wilkes](#), [Erica Enriquez-Clemente](#), [Victoria Murray](#),  
[Abbey Minnage-Dehnert](#) +

Apologies if names are missing – lists were incomplete



Questions?

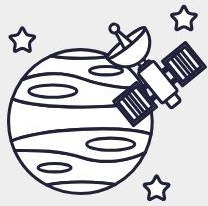


NSW Public Library  
Readers' Advisory Seminar 2026  
is currently at lunch

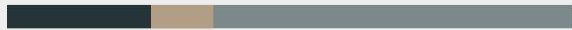


# Afternoon Chairperson Housekeeping / Q&A facilitation





# Live Long & Check Out

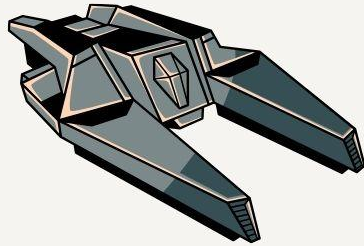


19 March 2026

Presented by Gabby Cundy  
& Greg Coustas



IN A LIBRARY FAR  
FAR AWAY...



THERE HAS ALWAYS  
BEEN SCIENCE  
FICTION!



# Definition

## Academic

*Science Fiction Encyclopedia states:*

*“Science Fiction is stories that have as some key component scientific ideas. They do not have to contain real scientific ideas, but they generally have to follow principles or concepts of scientific thought.”*



# Definition

## Practical

*Norman Spinrad states:*

*“Science Fiction is anything published as Science Fiction.”*



# Genre Deep Dive

Time Travel  
Near Future  
Human-Alien Encounter  
Steampunk  
Post-Apocalypse  
Space Opera  
Planetary Romance  
Tech Noir  
Solarpunk  
**Science Fiction**  
LitRPG  
Cyberpunk  
Utopian  
Climate Fiction  
(Cli-Fi)  
Speculative Fiction  
Dystopian  
Military SF  
Alternate History

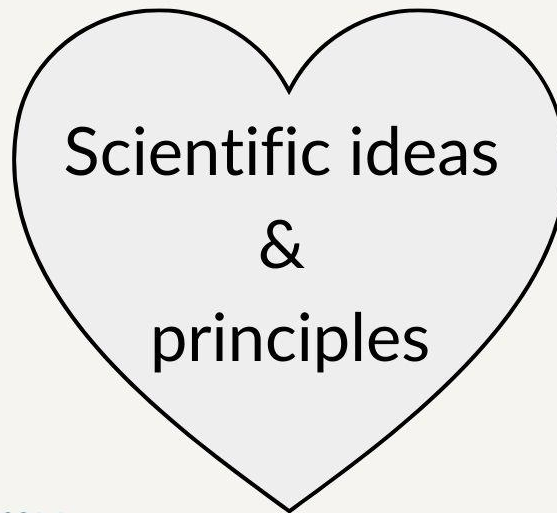


# Hard Sci Fi

Physics

Mathematical  
sciences

Astronomy



Scientific  
Accuracy

Ramifications of  
future science

Hard edged  
speculations

Notable sub genre: Cyberpunk



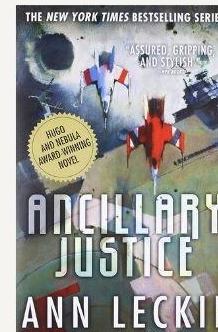
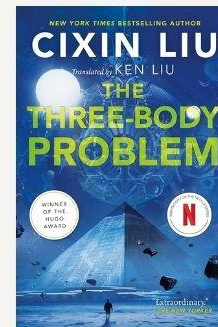
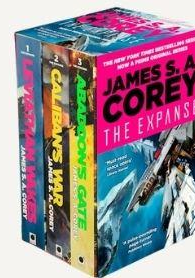
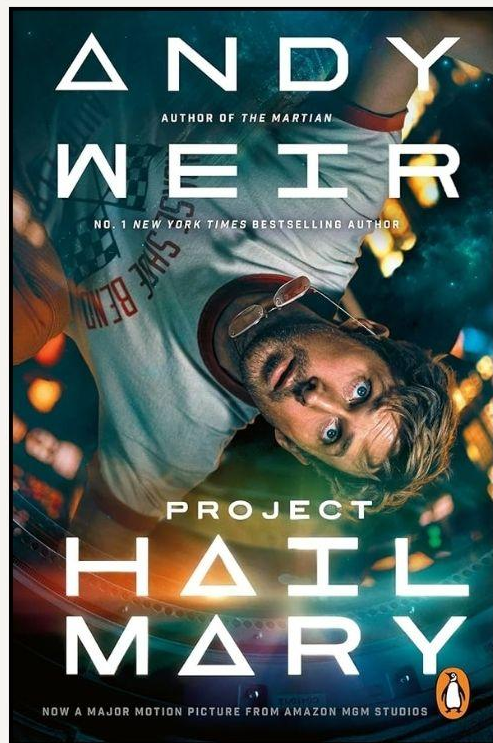
# Hard Sci Fi

## Example

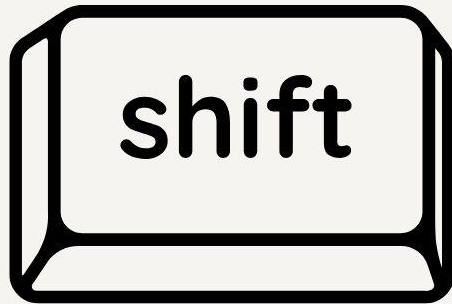
Ignore the "scientific"  
inconsistencies

Focus of the story is on  
survival and the  
struggle

Scientific elements act  
as the vehicle



# Soft Sci Fi



- Social Sciences
- Character driven
- Emphasize cultures
- Borders between other genres gets fuzzy

Notable sub genre: Utopian or Dystopian



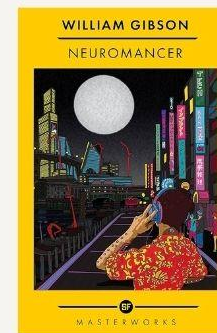
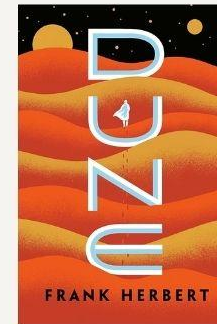
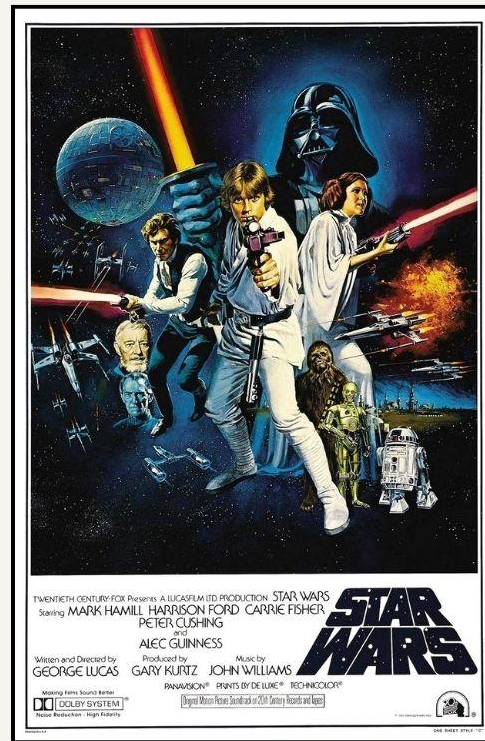
# Soft Sci Fi

## Example

Probably the best known example

Bordering on fantasy

Focus on space ships & hyperdrives tips it towards "science"



# The Sci Fi Reader

*Readers familiar with that genre have met the space ship, the alien, and the mad scientist before. They know more about them than the writer does.*

*~ Ursula K. Le Guin*

**Elusive**



Often don't seek  
assistance

**Outspoken**



Strong opinions  
about what they like  
and what they don't

**Devoted**

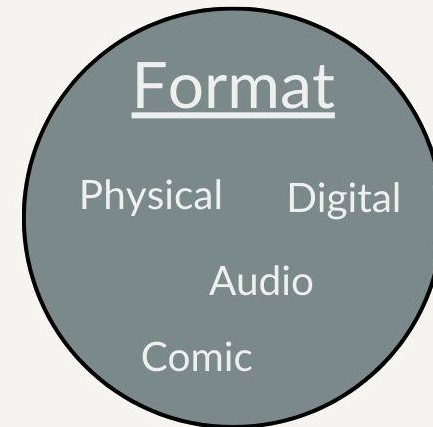
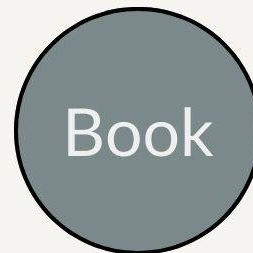


Smaller circle of  
what interests them



# The Sci Fi Reader

How?



Panic

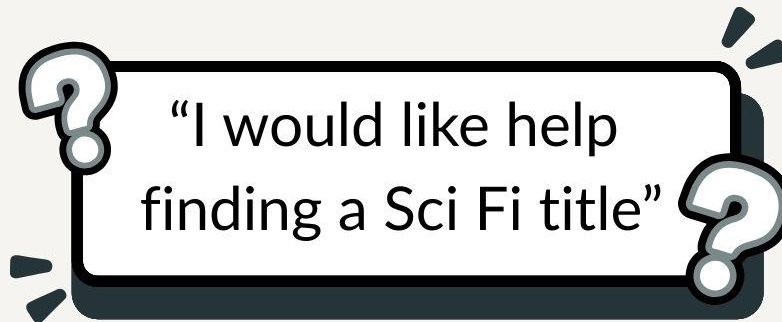
Nothing comes  
to mind

Ok...where am I going  
to search

 The Dreaded  
Question

Keen

Do Androids Dream of  
Electric Sheep?  
by Philip K. Dick



Iron Widow by Xiran Jay Zhao

Excited

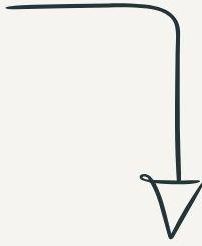
Not a typical  
request

Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy  
by Douglas Adams

Not Confident



“What was the last good book in this genre that you read?”



# The Dreaded Question

Appeal  
Characteristics

## Find a Connection

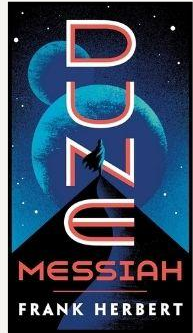
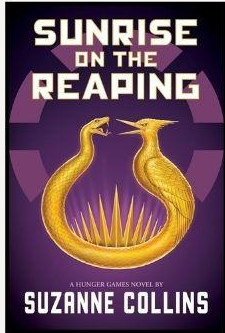
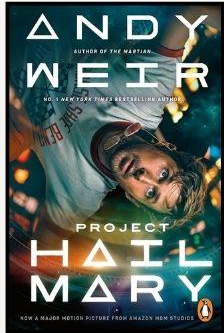
Physical or  
Digital

*Novel or Graphic Novel?*

Setting

Pacing

Understanding  
the sub genre



2 Weeks

30 Jan - 13 Feb

40 titles

Mix of physical, digital, older & newer

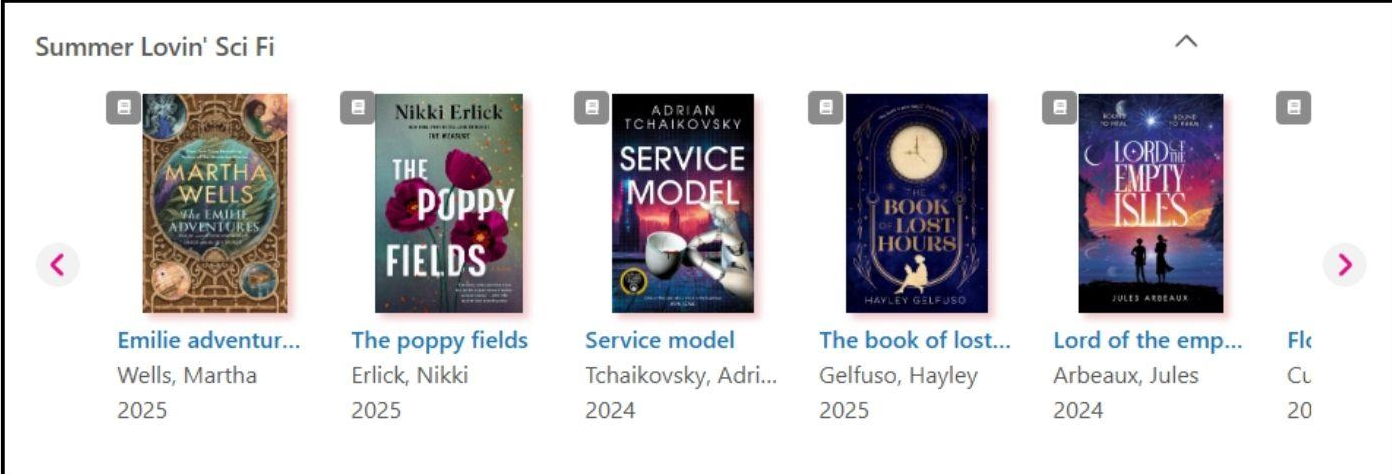
19 Loans

14 Reserves

# Promoting Sci Fi

## Summer Lovin' Sci Fi

Summer Lovin' Sci Fi



Book Title	Author	Year
Emilie adventures	Wells, Martha	2025
The poppy fields	Erlick, Nikki	2025
Service model	Tchaikovsky, Adri...	2024
The book of lost...	Gelfuso, Hayley	2025
Lord of the emp...	Arbeau, Jules	2024
Fl...	Cu...	20...





# 📣 Promoting Sci Fi

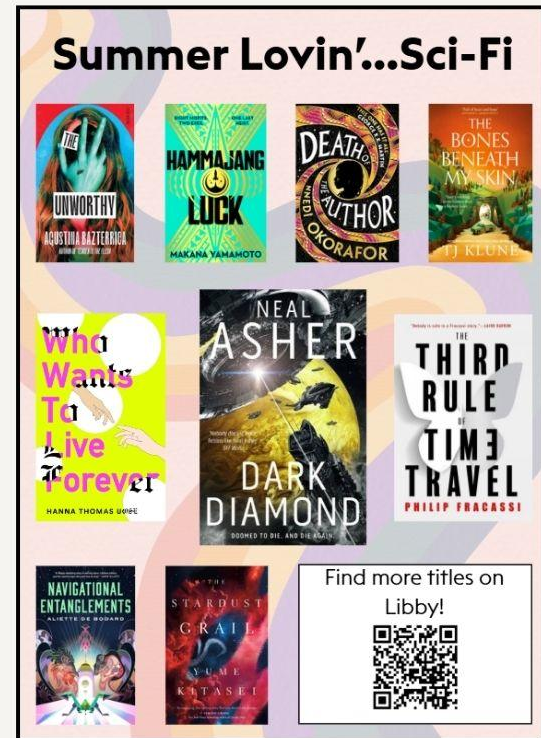
## Summer Lovin' Sci Fi

2 Weeks

*Weekends were best*

26 titles placed  
on display

15 borrowed



24 Jan - Published

10 Older titles

10 Brand New *Notify Me tags & recently(ish) published*

15 Loans - 4 Reservations

# Promoting Sci Fi

## Summer Lovin' Sci Fi



Libby.



Summer Lovin Sci-Fi ✕

This list is totally out of this world.  
[See all 19 titles >](#)

 <p>Mouth stories Puloma Ghosh</p> <p>📖 13 HOURS</p>	 <p>MONSTERS IN MAINFRAMES</p> <p>📖 15 HOURS</p>	 <p>Marge Piercy WOMAN ON THE EDGE OF TIME</p> <p>📖 21 HOURS</p>	 <p>PETTY TREASONS VICTORIA GODDARD</p>	 <p>DUNE FRANK HERBERT</p> <p>📖 8 HOURS</p>
 <p>SYLVAIN NEUVEL SLEEPING GIANTS</p> <p>📖 4 HOURS</p>	 <p>TOMIHIKO MORIMI THE TAMAMI TIME MACHINE BLUES</p>	 <p>A PRAYER FOR THE CROWN- SHY</p> <p>📖 4 HOURS</p>	 <p>BEAUTYLAND MARIE-HELENE BERTINO</p>	 <p>I Who Have Never Known Men Jacqueline Harpman</p>

# 📣 Promoting Sci Fi

## Summer Lovin' Sci Fi



Total checkouts 15  
Total holds 4

<p># 1</p> <p>Checkouts: 3 Holds: 0</p>	<p># 2</p> <p>Checkouts: 1 Holds: 1</p>	<p># 3</p> <p>Checkouts: 1 Holds: 1</p>	<p># 4</p> <p>Checkouts: 2 Holds: 0</p>	<p># 5</p> <p>Checkouts: 1 Holds: 0</p>	<p># 6</p> <p>Checkouts: 1 Holds: 0</p>	<p># 7</p> <p>Checkouts: 1 Holds: 0</p>
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Science Fiction



Literature  
Science Fiction



Science Fiction

Science Fiction



Literature  
Science Fiction  
Romance

Mythology  
Science Fiction  
Short Stories



Horror  
Science Fiction  
Humour



# Book List

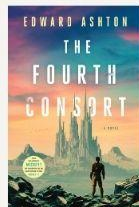
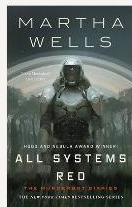
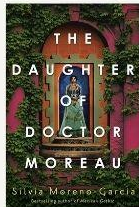
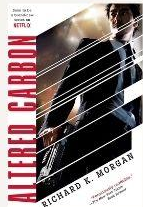
Daggermouth by H. M. Wolfe

Altered Carbon by Richard K. Morgan

Binti Trilogy by Nnedi Okorafor

The Daughter of Doctor Moreau by  
Silvia Moreno-Garcia

The Best of All Possible Worlds by  
Karen Lord



The Expanse series by James S.A Corey

The Three Body Problem by Cixin Liu

Ancillary Justice by Ann Leckie.

Christopher Rucchio's Suneater series

The Firebird Chronicles by T.A White

Frontlines series by Marko Kloos

Blindsight by Peter Watts

The Locked Tomb series by Tamsyn Muir

The Murderbot Diaries by Martha Wells

A Desolation Called Peace by Arkady Martine

A Memory Called Empire by Arkady Martine

The Fourth Consort by Edward Ashton



Annie Bot by Sierra Greer

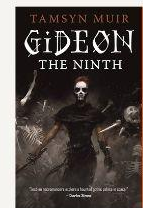
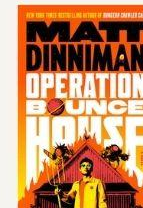
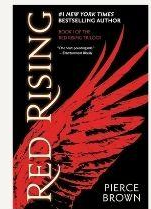
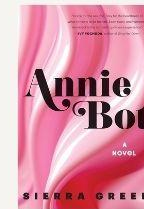
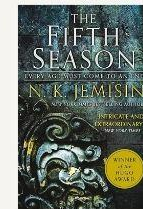
The Tusks of Extinction by Ray Nayler

Some Desperate Glory by Emily Tesh

The Fifth Season by N.K. Jemisin

Red Rising by Pierce Brown

Operation Bounce House by  
Matt Dinniman



# 5 Minute Talks





# DIVERSE READER'S ADVISORY

ENCOURAGING YOUR COMMUNITY  
TO TRY SOMETHING NEW

Chelsea Brown - Librarian  
Port Macquarie Hastings Libraries



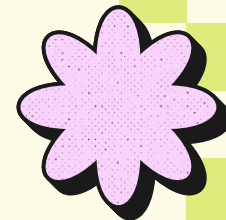
MID NORTH COAST  
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## HOW CAN WE PROMOTE MORE DIVERSE BOOKS TO OUR COMMUNITY?

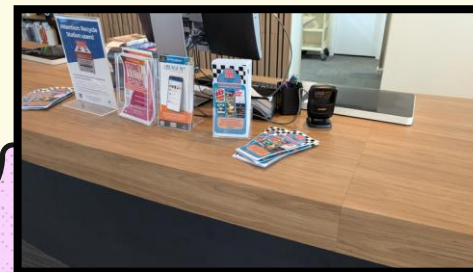
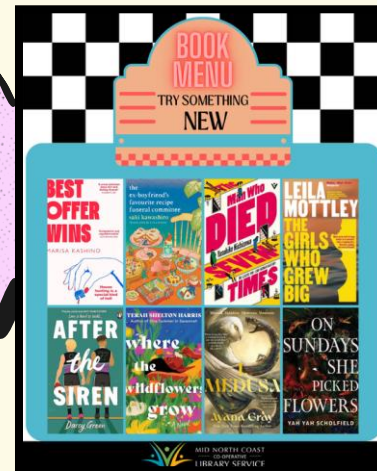
### GOALS

- To promote more diverse and inclusive titles to our community.
- To broaden our community's reading experience.
- To include more reader's advisory on our social media.
- To educate our staff on promoting diverse and inclusive titles.



# THE BOOK MENU

- Encouraging our borrowers to 'Try Something New'
- Includes new diverse titles added to the collection.
- Categorised by popular genres
- Appeal characteristics used to entice readers.
- Small selection - less overwhelming



# RECENT EDITION

**BOOK MENU**  
 TRY SOMETHING NEW

### ROMANCE & RELATIONSHIPS

- An Ancient Witch's Guide to Modern Dating** by Cecilia Edward
  - Cozy romance with a dash of magical realism
  - 17th century 'spinster' navigating modern life
- The ex-boyfriend's favourite recipe: funeral committee** by Saki Kawashiro
  - Food as therapy
  - Episodic, interconnected stories
- After the Siren** by Darcy Green
  - Emotional, enemies-to-lovers, AFL story
  - Spice Rating: 🌶️🌶️
  - Australia's answer to Heated Rivalry

### SCI-FI & HORROR

- Automatic Noodle** by Annalee Newitz
  - Cosy dystopian sci-fi
  - Sentient robots that decide to run a restaurant
- Saltcrop** by Yume Kitasei
  - Eco-thriller set on future Earth
  - Slow-burn
- On Sundays She Picked Flowers** by Yah Yah Scholfield
  - Retribution and healing after generational trauma
  - Stunningly gothic and chilling read

### CRIME & THRILLER

- Best Offer Wins** by Marisa Kashino
  - Unhinged protagonist
  - Best Offer Wins by Marisa Kashino
- The Man Who Died Seven Times** by Yasuhiko Nishizawa
  - Bingeable chapters & jaw-dropping twists
  - Cozy Mystery
- Quantum of Menace** by Vaseem Khan
  - Intricate puzzle solving
  - New series set in the world of James Bond
  - Classic 'whodunnit' style

### HISTORICAL

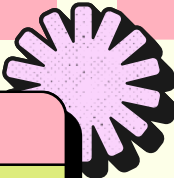
- Where the Wildflowers Grow** by Terah Shelton Harris
  - Takes place on a flower farm in rural Alabama
  - Emotional, character driven story
- The Girls Who Grew Big** by Lella Mottley
  - Lyrical & poetic prose
  - Unique perspective on teenage motherhood
- The Warrumbar** by William J. Byrne
  - Fast paced suspense in rural Australia
  - Dual timeline narrative

### FANTASY

- Dawn of the Firebird** by Sarah Mughal Rana
  - Epic dark fantasy
  - Intricate world-building
- Recipes for an Unexpected Afterlife** by Deston J. Munden
  - Cozy fantasy
  - Unique perspective on afterlife
- I, Medusa** by Ayana Gray
  - Reimagined origin story
  - Strong, complex female protagonist

To reserve any title from the Book Menu, simply head to [www.mnclibrary.org.au](http://www.mnclibrary.org.au) or speak to one of our lovely team members

MID NORTH COAST CO-OPERATIVE LIBRARY SERVICE



# SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN

## IF YOU LIKED THIS...


IF YOU LIKED THIS... 

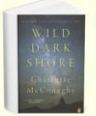


YOU MIGHT LIKE THESE...




  

Order your copy today at [www.mnclibrary.org.au](http://www.mnclibrary.org.au) or speak to one of our staff.


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YOU MIGHT LIKE THESE...


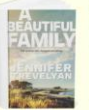

  

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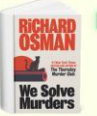


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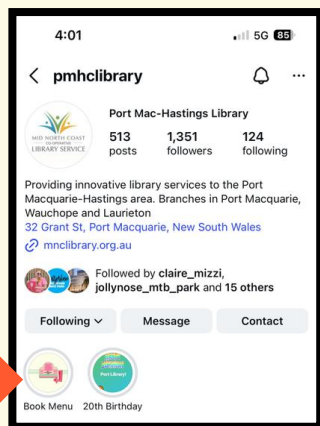
YOU MIGHT LIKE THESE...

Order your copy today at [www.mnclibrary.org.au](http://www.mnclibrary.org.au) or speak to one of our staff.



- Launched at the same time as each edition of The Book Menu.
- Take current highly reserved/borrowed titles and offer read-a-likes that include diverse titles and new authors.
- Kept together in a highlight on our social media for easy accessibility.



## LIBRARY DISPLAYS

- Simple infographic to guide staff in creating more inclusive and diverse displays
- What diversity can look like...
- Things to keep in mind when selecting items for a display
- Gentle reminder that not every box needs to be ticked, rather to be mindful of creating displays that are as accessible and inclusive as possible.

## Things to Consider When Creating Displays

### Diversity Can Look Like...

- Race and ethnicity
- Age/generation
- Gender & Gender Identity
- Sexual Orientation
- Physical ability/disability
- Neurodiversity
- Mental Illness
- Religious Beliefs
- Socioeconomic status
- Languages Other Than English
- Marital Status
- Parental Status

### Remember...

Not every box needs to be ticked for every display!  
This is a gentle reminder to make our displays as inclusive as possible for our wonderful community

1

Have you included titles from diverse authors?



2

Are there diverse stories or points of view included?



3

Is there a range of accessible resources?  
Print size, audio, dyslexia friendly, LOTE etc



4

Is it visually accessible?  
Use high contrast, readable fonts.  
Are the fonts large enough?  
Keep the space uncluttered.



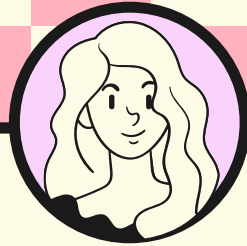
## FUTURE PLANS

- Expanding our Book Menu to our OPAC and Library app.
- Carousel linked with our Book Menu selections for ease of discovery and placing holds.
- Cross-promoting diverse and inclusive titles to reach as much of our community as possible.
- Tracking data and statistics related to each title.

## CURRENT CHALLENGES

- Sourcing diverse titles in a range of formats.
- Both availability and budget constraints play into this.

# FUTURE PLANS & CHALLENGES




MID NORTH COAST  
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# THANK YOU

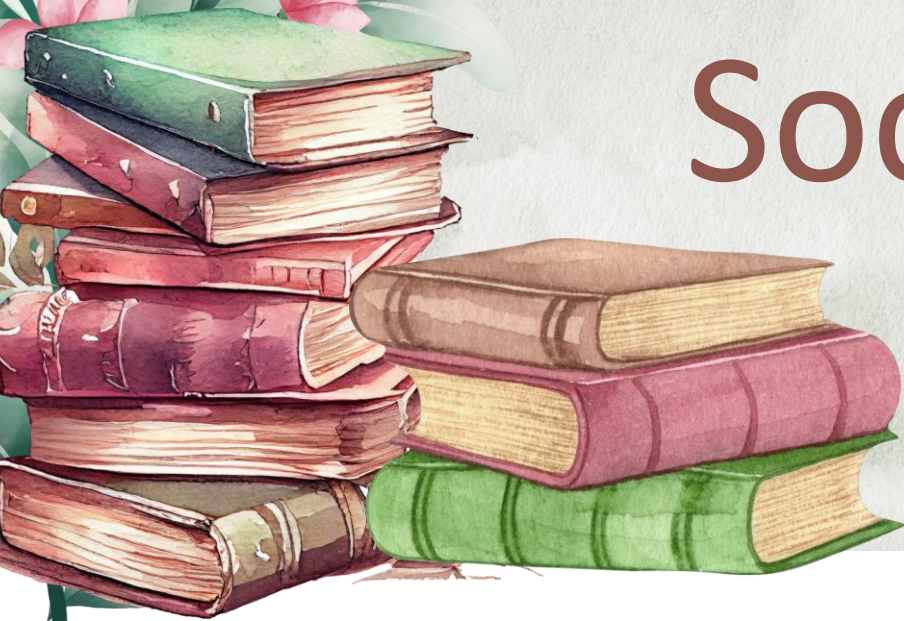
If you have any questions you can reach me at

[chelsea.brown@pmhc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:chelsea.brown@pmhc.nsw.gov.au)



Port Macquarie Hastings  
Libraries

# Literary Society



Kia Wood  
Digital Spaces and  
Projects Librarian

# Port Macquarie Hastings Libraries



# Literary Society



# Meetings

## Library Staff Lit Soc

### MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, February 15th, 2025,  
2pm

Attendees:

Gail, Kia, Penny, Chloe,  
Jen, Maleah, Therese

### Romance / Love story suggestions

Gail - As the River Rises by Fiona McArthur  
Therese - Elizabeth Strout novels love over time  
Chloe - The In-Between by Christos Tsiolkas  
Jen - Where Rainbows End by Cecelia Ahern

Penny - Pride by Ibi Zobol, The Princess Bride by William Goldman & The Odyssey by Homer translated by Emily Wilson  
Maleah - Ice Planet Barbarians series by Ruby Dixon  
Kia - Novels by Ashley Poston

### Best book of 2024

Kia - A Novel Love Story by Ashley Poston  
Gail - Orbital by Samantha Harvey  
Therese - Foster by Clare Keegan

Penny - Light from Uncommon Stars by Ryka Aoki  
Maleah - Circe by Madeline Miller  
Jen - Divine Rivals by Rebecca Ross

### Anticipating in 2025

Gail - Death by Misadventure and The Sisterhood by Tasha Alexander  
Therese - Air by John Boyne  
Kia - So many. Too many. Linda Holmes.

Penny - The Teller of Small Fortunes by Julie Leong  
Chloe - The Emily Wilde series by Heather Fawcett  
Jen - Onyx Storm by Rebecca Yarros

### What are you reading?

Kia - Blood by Tony Birch, From Here to There by Lisa Marie Presley,  
Janel by Marian Keyes,  
The Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien  
Flame by Rebecca Yarros

Gail - Piranesi by Susanna Clarke, Death at the Sign of the Cross by Kate Atkinson, Tuesday Evenings with the Copeston Craft Resistance by Kate Solly  
Maleah - One Dark Window by Rachel Gillig  
Kia - You Don't Have to Have a Dream by Tim Minchin

### Notes:

Darcy & Miss Tilney Mystery series by Claudia Gray  
The Musical by Jorge Rivera-Herrans  
Fantasy recommendations: Monk & Robot and the Yafars series by Becky Chambers, Legends & Lattes by Travis Baldree

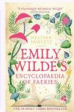
Podcasts: That's What I'm Tolkien About and The Allusionist  
Babel by RF Kuang for translation politics  
kia wants to read her recommendation for A Five Letter Word for Love - Lazy writing

## Library Staff Lit Soc

### Best Books of 2025



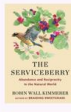
**Kia**  
Meditations for Mortals by Oliver Burkman (2024)



**Chloe**  
The Emily Wilde series by Heather Fawcett



**Fran**  
Atmosphere by Taylor Jenkins Reid



**Penny**  
The Serviceberry by Robin Wall Kimmerer (2024)



**Claire**  
The Bee Sting by Paul Murray (2023)



**Leanne**  
The Wedding People by Alison Espach (2024)



**Jen**  
100 Things We've Lost to the Internet by Pamela Paul (2021)



**Sue**  
A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles (2018)



**Therese**  
The End and Everything Before It by Finegan Kruckmeyer (2024)



**Charm**  
The Midnight Secret by Karen Swan (4<sup>th</sup> in the series)



**Kylie**  
Three Wild Dogs by Markus Zusak



**Gail**  
The Sun Was Electric Light by Rachel McAlpine

## Library Staff Lit Soc

### MEETING MINUTES

2pm Saturday, November 29th

Attendees:

Gail, Kia, Claire, Sue, Chloe,  
Lee, Jen, Penny, Fran,  
Therese, Kylie

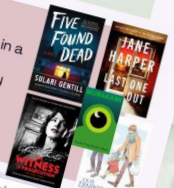
### Current Reads

**Kia**  
Five Found Dead by Sulari Gentili - a fun Australian mystery set on the Orient Express during COVID.  
Last One Out by Jane Harper - A family mystery set in a small town without a hint of a detective.  
Super-Frog Saves Tokyo by Haruki Murakami - Fun, only 90 pages, but super-weird.  
Witness for the Prosecution by Agatha Christie - Fun, only short stories from the queen of crime.  
Our Dining Table by Mita Ori - Gentle YA graphic novel

**Penny**  
The House of My Mother by Shari Franke and Nobody's Girl by Virginia Roberts Guffire - Two very different voices for stories of abuse, extremely intense but amazing on audio.  
Adult Children of Emotionally Immature Parents by Lindsay Gibson - A non-fiction read

**Jen**  
Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen - A fun Austen adaptation on audio with a murder trial. Easy to start.  
Pictures of You by Emma Grey - Heartfelt and enjoyable tale of a widow with memory loss. Dual timelines/views.

**Charm**  
Stop Screaming I'm Scared Too by Rod Henderson - An Australian soldier's story with a surprise guest star of her son-in-law, Fitzy. East Timor, Afghan war, and the effects of PTSD.  
Behind Closed Doors by B. A. Paris - The worst domestic violence she's seen presented in a book.  
Still Me by Jojo Moyes - Third in the series  
The Hidden by Bryan Brown - Sounds like his voice. Too many characters but quite good.



# Readers Advisory Through Conversation



Kia

## Loves:

Howl's Moving Castle  
BY DIANA WYNNE JONES

Emma  
BY JANE AUSTEN

The Watchmaker of  
Filigree Street  
BY NATASHA PULLEY

I Capture the Castle  
BY DODIE SMITH

Daisy Jones & The Six  
BY TAYLOR JENKINS  
REID

Library Lovers  
Day 2026



# Our Lit Soc



# Tips for your Lit Soc

- Have a set time and a time limit
- Share dates at your meetings and in emails
- Provide resources to share
- Choose a fun meeting location
- Take copious notes and share them
- Track your reading



# Contact

**Kia Wood**

**Digital Spaces and Projects Librarian**

**Port Macquarie Hastings Library**

**Website: [mnclibrary.org.au](http://mnclibrary.org.au)**

**Email: [kia.wood@pmhc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:kia.wood@pmhc.nsw.gov.au)**

**PH: (02) 6581 8763**



# Readers Advisory Cheat Sheets

Beth Harrison

Wagga Wagga City Library

Classics		Monsters Scientists		Ghost story Haunted house		Clowns Good vs evil Paranormal
Gothic		Family secrets Curse		Family secrets Haunted house		Superstition Thriller Scotland
Haunted Houses		Grief Sibling rivalry		Ghost stories Weddings		Families inheritance Missing children
Ghost Stories		Organised crime Possession Legal photos		Horror film Curse Ghosts		Reality TV Supernatural
Historical				Missing		Female friendship infidelity

Inspired by real events		Murder mystery Iceland 1929		Ming Dynasty Medicine Friendship		Booker Prize Australian Crime
Romance		Regency England Nobility		Victorian Mexico Politicians		WWII Japan Romance
Wartime		WWII Holocaust Women		WWII Germany Classic		Afghanistan Friendship Coming of age
Horror		1950s Paranormal African American		1920s Dark Fantasy Racism		1950s Mexico Haunted House
Indigenous				Korea Family Saga Racism		

### HORROR

Stories that scare, repulse or haunt. The Horror genre is about the emotional response - from psychological terror to shivers down the spine. Setting is often key e.g. Haunted Houses. Monsters can be either human or supernatural.

Some popular HORROR

	Psychic Trauma Revenge		Magic Missing persons Prejudices Small town		Mythical animals Doorways Time travel
--	------------------------------	--	--	--	--

Readers Advisory Questions

Do you have any disablers? (readers may avoid human monsters for example)  
Fast paced and action packed, or tension building and atmospheric?  
What other genres do you like?  
Do you have a favorite horror movie or book?

Common Tropes and Trends

Ghost stories | Extreme horror | Supernatural horror | Folk Horror | Dark fantasy | Slashers  
Vampires | Grief horror | Haunted houses | Small town | Body horror | Botanical horror | Gothic


Some other authors to try:

Stephen Graham Jones Tananarive Due Paul Tremblay	Rachel Harrison Junji Ito Chuck Tingle	Eric LaRocca Darcy Coates Grady Henrix
---	--	--

100 horror books to read before you're murdered (non-fiction)

### HISTORICAL FICTION

What is Historical Fiction?  
Historical Fiction sheds light on life during a previous period in history. Typically Historical Fiction includes books set at least 25 years in the past. If a historical novel bears trademarks of other genres, it may fall into sub-genres like historical fantasy or historical romance.

Some popular Historical Fiction

	Coming of age LGBTQ+ 19th Century		Retelling Huckleberry Finn Racism	
--	---	--	--	--

Readers Advisory Questions

What time periods do you like?  
Are there any historical events that you'd like to read about?  
What other genres do you like?  
What elements of a book do you love? Characters, writing pace, mood?

Common Themes, Trends and Sub-genres

Inspired by real events | Life during wartime | Coming of age | Facing racism  
Exploring Eras | Hidden History | Biographical | Own Voices | Retellings  
Historical Horror | Historical Romance | Historical Fantasy | Historical Mystery


Some other authors to try:

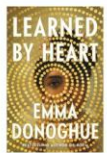
Peter Carey Tracy Chevalier Ken Follett	Jock Serong Kristin Hannah Julia Quinn	Geraldine Brooks Lisa See Amor Towles	Patrick White Hannah Kent Colleen McCullough
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## HISTORICAL FICTION

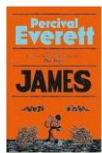
### What is Historical Fiction?

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### Some popular Historical Fiction



Coming of age  
LGBTQ+  
19<sup>th</sup> Century



Retelling  
Huckleberry  
Finn  
Racism



Vietnam War  
Coming of age  
Relationships

### Readers Advisory Questions

What time periods do you like?

Are there any historical events that you'd like to read about?

What other genres do you like?

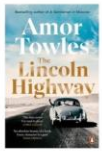
What elements of a book do you love? Characters, writing pace, mood?

### Common Themes, Trends and Sub-genres

Inspired by real events | Life during wartime | Coming of age | Facing racism  
Exploring Eras | Hidden History | Biographical | Own Voices | Retellings  
Historical Horror | Historical Romance | Historical Fantasy | Historical Mystery



**Horror**  
Supernatural  
Scotland 1923



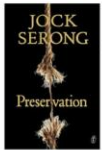
**Coming of age**  
1950s  
New York  
Brothers



**Romance**  
Time travel  
18<sup>th</sup> Century  
Scotland



**Mystery**  
1920s  
Cosy Crime



**Inspired by real events**  
Australian  
Crime



**Biographical fiction**  
Gilded Age  
Racism

### Some other authors to try:

Peter Carey  
Tracy Chevalier  
Ken Follett

Jock Serong  
Kristin Hannah  
Julia Quinn

Geraldine Brooks  
Lisa See  
Amor Towles

Patrick White  
Hannah Kent  
Colleen McCullough

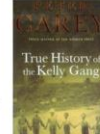
### Inspired by real events



Murder  
mystery  
Iceland 1829



Ming  
Dynasty  
Medicine  
Friendship



Booker Prize  
Bushrangers  
Australian  
Crime

### Romance



Regency  
England  
Nobility



Victorian  
Mexico  
Politicians



WWII  
Japan  
Romance

### Wartime



WWII  
Holocaust  
Women

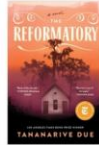


WWI  
Germany  
Classic



Afghanistan  
Friendship  
Coming of age

### Horror



1950s  
Paranormal  
African  
American



1920s  
Dark  
Fantasy  
Racism



1950s  
Mexico  
Haunted  
House

### Own Voices



Indigenous  
History  
Romance  
Flood

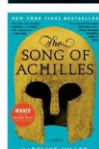


Ghana  
Family Saga  
Slavery



Korea  
Family Saga  
Racism

### Retellings



Greek  
mythology  
LGBTQ+  
Coming of age



Feminism  
Ancient  
Greece  
Fantasy



Dark Ages  
Scotland  
Lady  
Macbeth

### GENRE

What is ...?

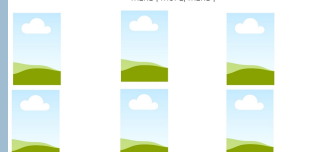
### Some popular [GENRE]



### Readers Advisory Questions

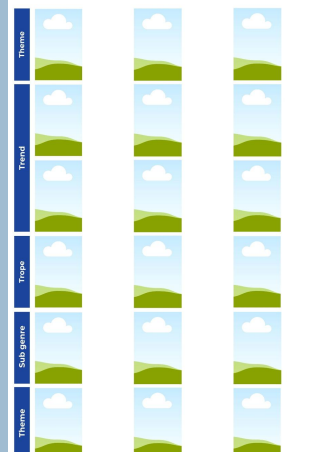
### Common Tropes and Trends

TREND | TROPE | TREND |



### Some other authors to try:

Author Author Author



**GENRE**

What is ...?

Some popular [GENRE]

Readers Advisory Questions

Common Tropes and Trends

TREND | TROPE | TREND |

Some other authors to try:

Author                      Author                      Author

**HORROR**

Stories that scare, repulse or haunt.  
 The Horror genre is about the emotional response - from psychological terror to shivers down the spine.  
 Setting is often key e.g. Haunted Houses.  
 Monsters can be either human or supernatural.

**Some popular HORROR**

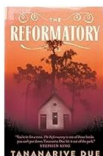

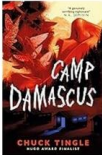

	Psychic Trauma Revenge		Magic Missing persons Prejudices Small town		Mythical animals Doorways Time travel
---	------------------------------	---	--	---	---

**Readers Advisory Questions**

Do you have any dealbreakers? (readers may avoid human monsters for example)  
 Fast paced and action packed, or tension building and atmospheric?  
 What other genres do you like?  
 Do you have a favorite horror movie or book?

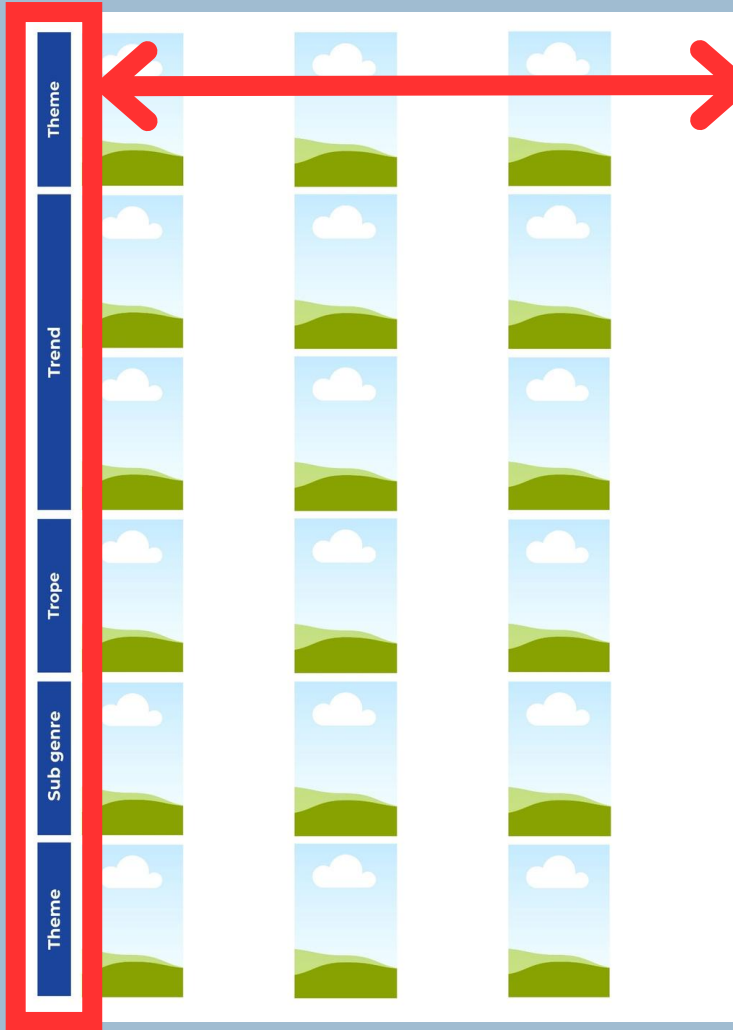
**Common Tropes and Trends**

Ghost stories | Extreme horror | Supernatural horror | Folk Horror | Dark fantasy | Slashers  
 Vampires | Grief horror | Haunted houses | Small town | Body horror | Botanical horror | Gothic

	<b>Ghost story</b> School children Florida, U.S.A		<b>Small town</b> Female friendship Witches		<b>Slasher</b> Missing persons Murder Young adult
	<b>Botanical horror</b> Paranormal Short stories		<b>Supernatural</b> Camp Conversion therapy Secrecy LGBTQIA+		<b>Supernatural</b> Faustian pact Heavy metal band

**Some other authors to try:**

Stephen Graham Jones Tananarive Due Paul Tremblay	Rachel Harrison Junji Ito Chuck Tingle	Eric LaRocca Darcy Coates Grady Hendrix
---	--	---



Classics		Monsters Scientists		Ghost story Haunted house		Clowns Good vs evil Paranormal
Gothic		Family secrets Curse		Family secrets Haunted house		Superstition Thriller Scotland
Haunted Houses		Grief Sibling rivalry		Ghost stories Secrets Weddings		Families Inheritance Missing children
Ghost Stories		Organised crime Possession Legal photos		Horror film Curse Ghosts		Reality TV Supernatural
Vampire		Historical horror Dracula		Missing children Motherhood Book club		Female friendship Infidelity
Anthology and Reference		Short stories Halloween LGBTQIA+		History of Horror as a (non-fiction)		101 horror books to read before you're murdered (non-fiction)



Tropes  
Trends  
Themes  
Genres  
Sub genres  
Story elements

## WESTERNS

Have a very specific sense of place - generally USA - Mississippi River to the Pacific Coast.  
 Nostalgia for a lost time - generally 1850's to early 20<sup>th</sup> Century  
 Action-packed adventures where bad guys get theirs...  
 Often the loner who rides into town... Not Western Romance

### Some popular Westerns



### Readers Advisory Questions

What level of action?  
 What level of romance is acceptable if any?  
 What do you want to avoid?  
 How open to other genre elements are you?

### Common Tropes and Trends

Lawmen | Outlaws | Revenge | The Land as a Character



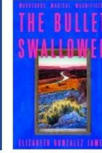
### Some other authors and publishers to try:

Zane Grey  
 Robert B. Parker  
 Ethan Flagg

Black Horse Westerns  
 Colin Bainbridge  
 William Johnstone and J.A. Johnstone

C.J. Sommers  
 Dale Graham  
 Hank J. Kirby

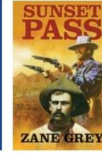
### Outlaws



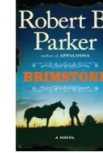
Mexico  
 Family Saga  
 Magical realism



### Trend



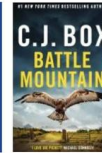
Adventure



### Weird Westerns



### Revenge



Beware a Wronged Avenger

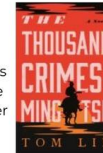


Ranch life

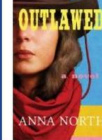
### Diversity



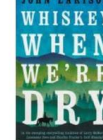
Orphans  
 Immigrants  
 Landscape as character



Asian  
 American  
 Magical Realism  
 Revenge



Outlaws  
 Feminism  
 LGBTQ+



Outlaws  
 Orphans  
 Siblings



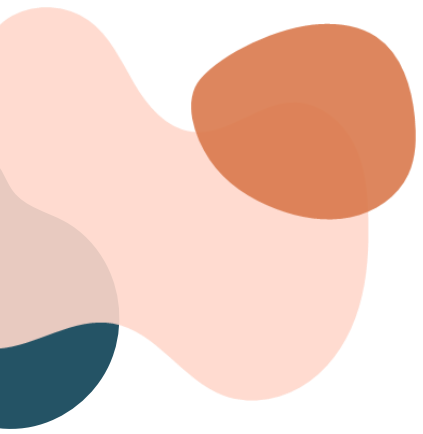
Fires  
 Psychics  
 Redemption

# Thank you

Beth Harrison

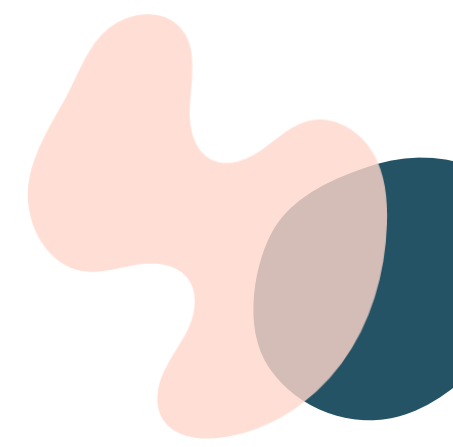
Wagga Wagga City Library

[harrison.beth@wagga.nsw.gov.au](mailto:harrison.beth@wagga.nsw.gov.au)





# GENREFYING THE JUNIOR NON-FICTION COLLECTION

Amy Boyd  
[amy.boyd@richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au](mailto:amy.boyd@richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au)





# GOALS

- 
- Help children browsing find like interests.
  - Visually support information seeking and discovery.
  - Visually appealing collection.
- 

# WHERE TO START

- How many genres?
- What genres?
- How to create structure for the cataloguing team.

*Shout out to Bernadine from Library at the Dock in the City of Melbourne who shared their working spreadsheet detailing their genres and the DDC ranges for each genre. We made some changes to this, e.g. moving LEGO from Nature & Science to Things to make and do, but mostly used their structures.*

## Barriers

- Manual labour for relabelling items
- LMS changes, catalogue and item level data

<b>People</b>	
Media	070-079
Philosophy	100-129
Psychology	140-199
Religion	200 - 291
Religion	293 - 299
Society, politics	300 - 329
Economics	330 - 332
Economics	334 - 339
Law, military, society	340 - 362
Criminology, education, commerce	364 - 384
Customs, costume, festivals	390 - 397
Customs of war	399 - 399
Households	643 - 645
Households	647 - 649
Business, management, careers	650 - 659
Biographies	920
<b>Make</b>	
Gardening, agriculture	630 - 635
Food and drink	641 - 642
Sewing	646
Food technology	663 - 664
Art, architecture, landscaping	700 - 729
Art, craft, fashion	730 - 779
Building/LEGO	684-688
Music, performing arts, games, sport	780 - 799

# GENRES



Tales and  
rhymes



Places



Animals



People



Things to  
make and do



Facts



Science and  
Nature



# IMPLEMENTATION

- **Kept the existing call numbers, and created a new collection code for each genre.**

This enabled us to create item barcode lists and make bulk transfers of items to new collection codes, reducing the labour needed to print and attach new call number labels and make individual level changes in our MARC and Item records.

- **Change discussed with cataloguing team to capture any new items being added to the collection.**

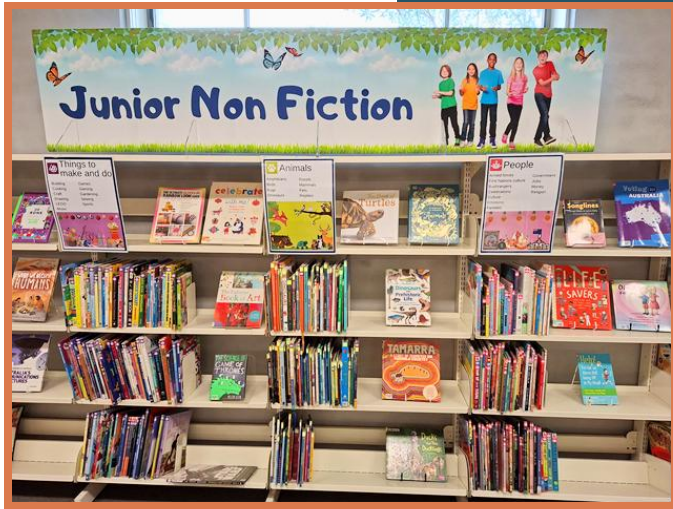
Updated our local Cataloguing document with DDC guidelines and Genre stickers.

- **Branch by branch approach.**

Items were transferred and labelled branch at a time.

- **Worked with our Programs and Events coordinator to create signage for the new collections.**

# ON THE SHELF



↑ Casino Library



→ Evans Head Library

## Tales and rhymes

Fairy tales  
Jokes  
Myths and legends  
Poetry

## Science and Nature

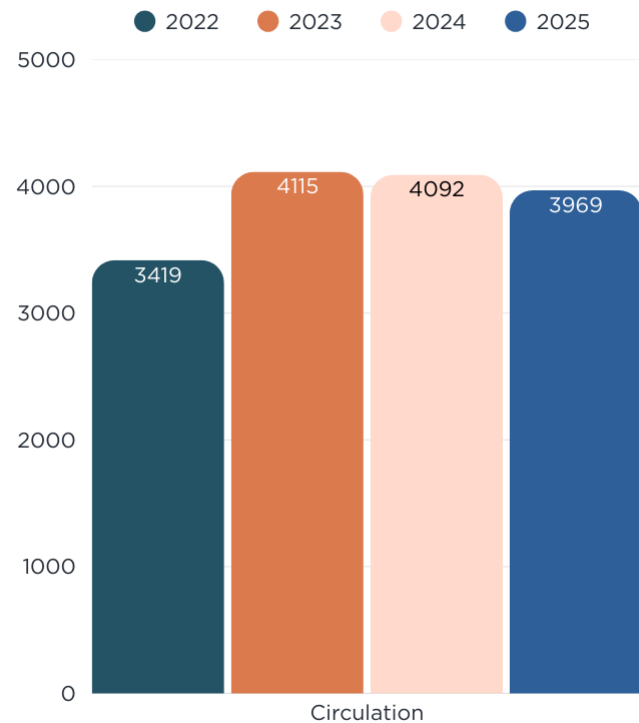
Astronomy	Environment
Biology	Human body
Cars & vehicles	Inventions
Chemistry	Nature
Construction	Physics
Engineering	

## Places

Ancient civilisations	Travel
Countries	Vikings
Geography	Wars
History	
Knights & Castles	

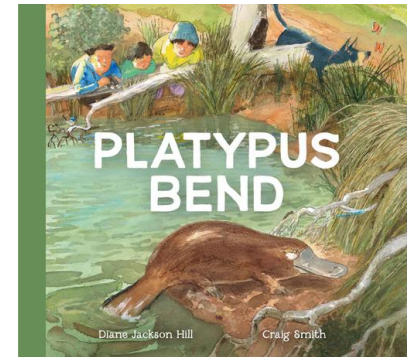
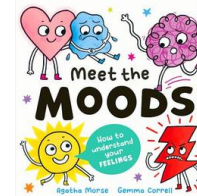
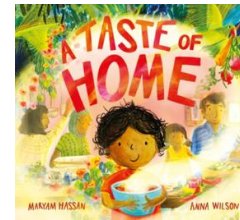
# RESULTS

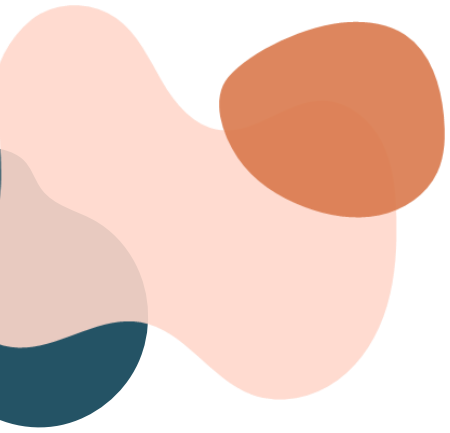
- Implemented between 2024-2025, circulation decrease of 3%. Please note: 7% decrease in circulation of Adult Fiction and Adult nonfiction collections during this time also.
- Community member feedback: Helpful for parents that are time poor to quickly find the content their children are interested in. Their children could easily find items for themselves.



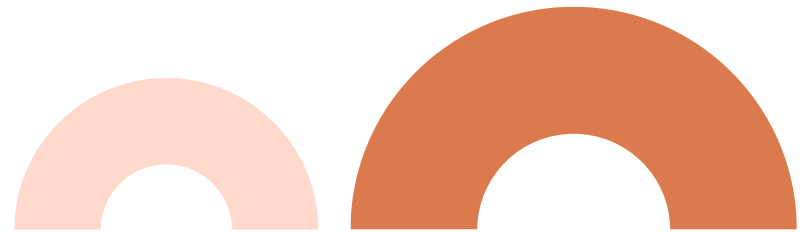
# WHAT'S NEXT

Junior nonfiction  
picture books  
collection





**Thank You**





## Bibliotherapy +

Readers advisory heroes at Maitland libraries

**maitland**  
CITY COUNCIL

A wooden table is covered with various craft supplies. In the foreground, there are several bottles of glue (one yellow, one white), a jar of paintbrushes, and a container of markers. A hand is visible on the left, holding a pair of scissors and cutting a piece of blue and white striped string. In the center, there is a ball of twine and a small woven basket. To the right, there is a glass of water and a small jar of white paint. The background shows more craft supplies, including a box of markers and a container of string. The overall scene is a well-lit workspace for crafting.

# Readers Advisory in Library Programs & Events

Erica Enriquez-Clemente, Willoughby City Library  
Readers' advisory seminar 2026



Photo by [coneiroslyl](#) on Unsplash

# What Is Readers' Advisory in Programs?

You might think that Readers Advisory and Programming are two very separate arms of a library service. But they can be integrated, and you've already been doing this, maybe without even knowing they were connected!

# Why this matters for public libraries

1. Increase circulation
2. Strengthen collection visibility
3. Reinforce a person's reader identity
4. Turn passive attendees into repeat borrowers
5. Strengthen community engagement

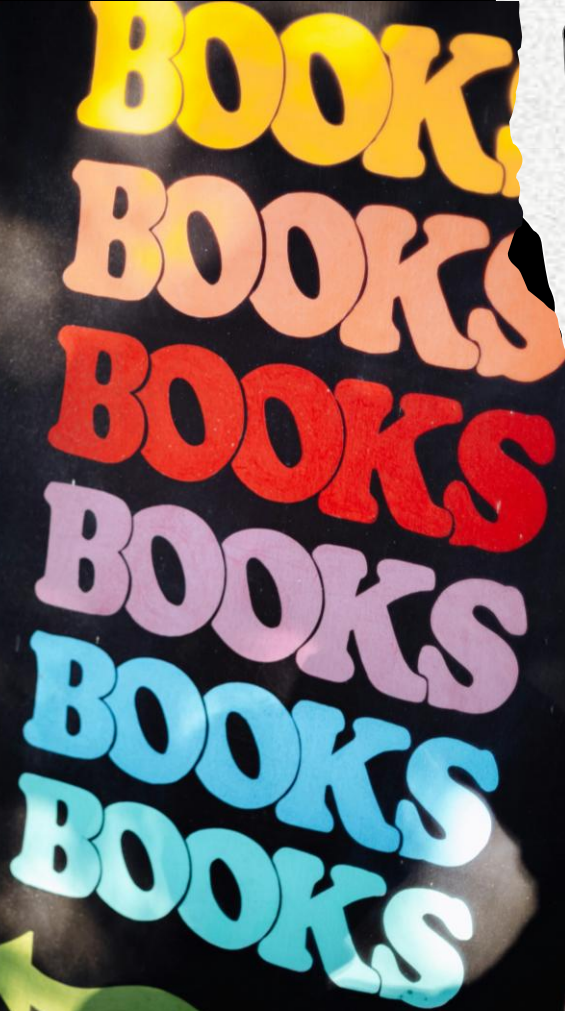


# Benefits of using programs and Readers Advisory services together

- a) RA helps one person, programming brings many people together at once
- b) RA presents individual titles, programming can highlight whole genres
- c) Both are community builders – they can be linked!
- d) Diverse communities feel more connected when they see culturally diverse authors represented in their collection



Photo by [DOKYUNG KIM](#) on [Unsplash](#)



BOOKS  
BOOKS  
BOOKS  
BOOKS  
BOOKS  
BOOKS

Photo by [Jason Leung](#) on [Unsplash](#)

# 1. Embed RA into programs (Passive RA)

May include:

- a) Staff picks aligned with the event topic displayed in the event space
- b) Curated reading lists in the online listing of your event
- c) QR code with link to your catalogue that relates to your program
- d) Take-home program-related recommendations list
- e) Post-event / program follow-up i.e. “if you enjoyed today’s session, here’s what you can read next” (i.e. as part of your feedback comms)

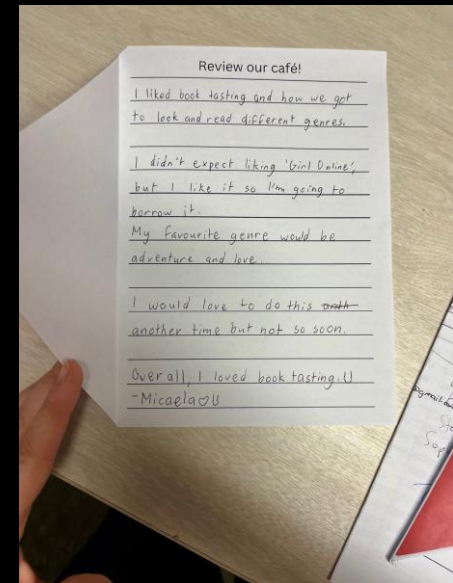
## 2. Create programs specifically to support RA

May include:

- a) Theme-based book clubs (i.e. for a certain community group, interest group etc.)
- b) Book tasting events (interactive, and encourages attendees to explore their local library)
- c) Wellbeing / bibliotherapy programs
- d) Reading challenges
- e) Blind date with a book /Speed dating

AWE-  
SOME  
PEOPLE  
READ  
BOOKS

# Book Tasting (Children's Team)



Photos courtesy of Eleni Tsakiris, Willoughby City Library

# Mindful Reading workshop



Photos courtesy of Erica Enriquez-Clemente, Willoughby City Library

## Mindful reading and mindfulness for seniors

[Register on Event](#)

[Invite a friend](#)

Next date: Saturday, 14 March 2026 | 02:00 PM to 03:30 PM

Unwind in a calming decompression session that introduces mindfulness through the practice of mindful reading.



Discover how the act of reading can lead you to develop the skill of mindfulness. They go hand in hand in terms of health and wellness benefits and can assist in lowering the risks of cognitive disorders, reducing stress and offering a form of escapism.

In this 60-minute mindful reading workshop, you will be guided by meditation teacher Trish through 3 mindful reading exercises:

1. Interacting with the physical qualities of a book, using it as an anchor for meditative focus.
2. Practising the principles of mindfulness with reading activities.
3. Reading in a way that is deeply immersive and restorative.

You'll also be able to practice your newly acquired skills during short reading sessions, and you'll get the chance to ask questions during each exercise.

**You'll need to bring your favourite book, or, if you prefer audio or e-books, bring the device you access the book from, and remember to bring your headphones.** You can also borrow a book here at the library. You can bookmark a passage or two that you enjoyed and share this with the group.

At the end of the workshop, you're welcome to hang back and ask questions and even practice your newfound meditation skills in the library.

Check out the following books related to mindfulness and reading, all available through Willoughby City Library:

- *Dear Reader: The Comfort and Joy of Books* by Cathy Rentzenbrink
- *Bibliotherapy: The Healing Power of Reading* by Bijal Shah
- *The Simple Act of Reading* by Debra Adelaide

### Event snapshots

#### Cost

Free

#### Contact

Willoughby City Lib  
02 9777 7900  
[library@willoughby](mailto:library@willoughby)

Every  
program is a  
readers'  
advisory  
opportunity  
... if we create  
it that way

...



Photo by [Lonela Mat](#) on [Unsplash](#)



Photo by [Kenzie Kraft](#) on [Unsplash](#)



Photo by [Esra Afşar](#) on [Unsplash](#)

# Thank you!

Ashikuzzaman, M., 2024. *How libraries use social media to engage readers and build communities*. **LIS Education Network**. Available at: <https://www.lisedunetwork.com/how-libraries-use-social-media-to-engage-readers-and-build-communities/> (Accessed: 8 March 2026). ([lisedunetwork.com](https://www.lisedunetwork.com))

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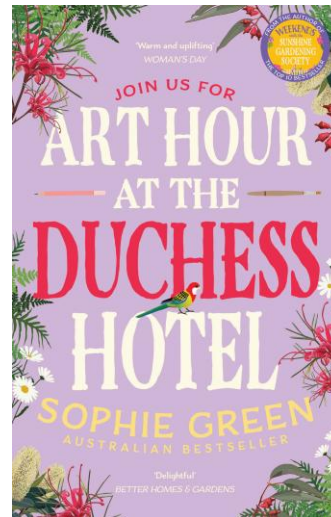
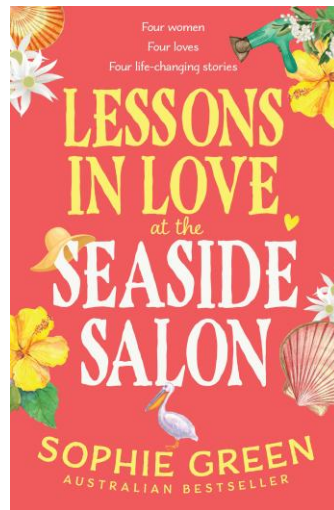
Sievert, K, Fick, A, Adamski, B, Merrill, A and LeMay, D 2018, *Library, Library, Make Me a Match: Impact of Form-Based Readers' Advisory on Academic Library Use and Student Leisure Reading*, Reference and User Services Association, viewed 8 March 2026, <<https://journals.ala.org/index.php/rusq/article/view/6703/9004?>>.

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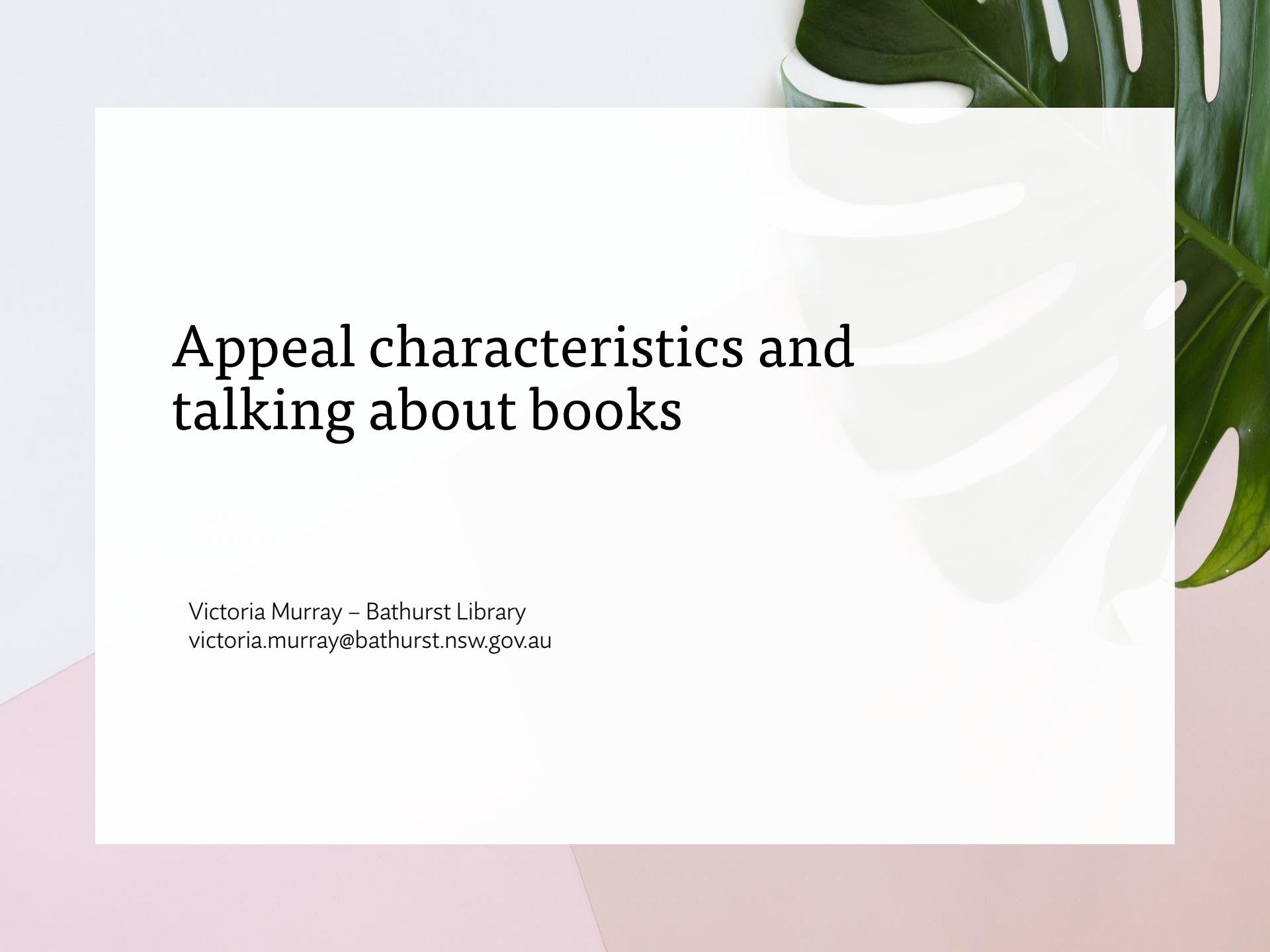
Yu, W., Jiang, Y., Wu, Y. and Cheng, Y., 2023. *Multisensory reading promotion in academic libraries*. **Frontiers in Psychology**, 13, p.987180. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2022.987180> (PubMed)

# Sophie Green, *How does this make you feel?*



NSW public library  
readers' advisory seminar 2026  
is currently at afternoon tea





# Appeal characteristics and talking about books

Victoria Murray – Bathurst Library  
[victoria.murray@bathurst.nsw.gov.au](mailto:victoria.murray@bathurst.nsw.gov.au)

# Readers Advisory and Appeal Characteristics

**Appeal characteristics** describe the *experience* of reading a book — how it feels, not just what happens.

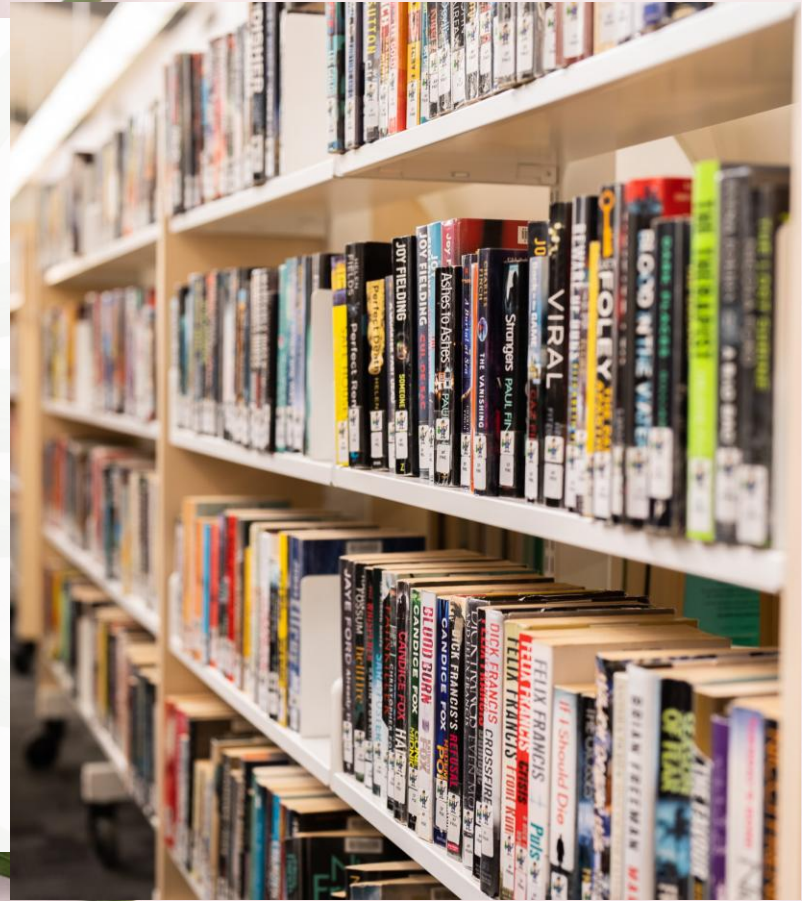
Two books can both be crime novels, but feel completely different to read.

Appeal characteristics help us explain and compare books using **shared language and vocabulary**. They're especially useful when:

- Readers can't remember titles or authors
- Readers say "I don't know what I want"
- Readers say "I don't usually like this genre, but I loved this one"

# Main appeal characteristics

- Pacing
- Character
- Story/Plot
- Setting/atmosphere/tone
- Language/style



# Pacing

You might hear readers say:

“I couldn’t put it down”

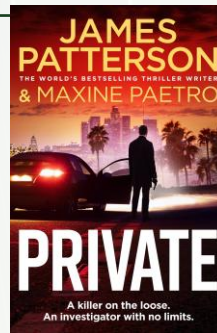
“It was a slow burn”

“Too much action”

“Nothing really happened”

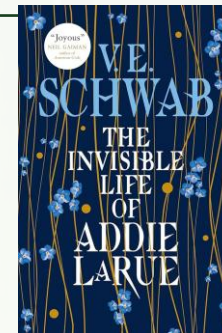
## Fast-paced books:

- Short chapters
- Frequent cliffhangers
- Action-driven plots
- Often popular in thrillers, crime, YA



## Slower-paced books:

- More reflection and description
- Focus on relationships or ideas
- Often found in literary fiction or historical novels



# Character

You might hear readers say:

“I loved the main character”

“They felt so real”

“I didn’t connect with anyone”

You can also think about:

- Single point of view vs multiple narrators
- Likeable vs flawed characters
- Character-driven vs plot-driven stories

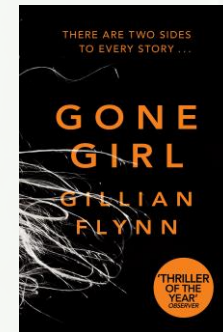
For many readers, if they don’t connect with the characters, nothing else matters.

## Some readers want:

- Strong character development
- Emotional depth
- Relationships and inner conflict

## Some prefer:

- Plot over personality
- Clear heroes and villains
- Characters as vehicles for action



# Story/plot

## Some readers want:

- Intricate plots
- Twists and surprises
- Mysteries that reward close attention

## Others prefer:

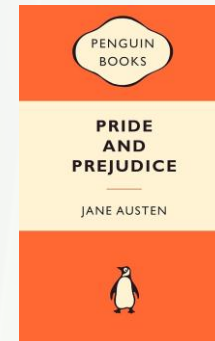
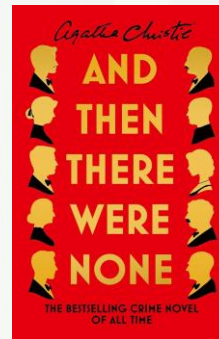
- Familiar storylines
- Predictable structures
- Comfort reads

You can also think about:

- Is the plot linear or non-linear?
- Is it realistic, speculative, or fantastical?
- Does it focus on action, relationships, or ideas?

For example, two romance novels may differ greatly:

- One may be plot-heavy with dramatic twists
- Another may be quiet and character-focused
- Both are valid — but they suit different readers.



# Setting/ atmosphere/ tone

This is why terms like “*cosy crime*”, “*gritty noir*”, or “*uplifting fiction*” are so useful — they describe feeling, not content.

## Some readers love:

- Rich, immersive settings
- Strong sense of place
- Atmospheric writing

## Atmosphere can include:

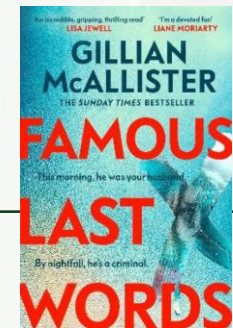
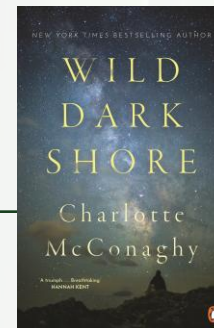
- Mood/tone (dark, cosy, tense, hopeful, bleak, romantic, dramatic, funny, inspiring)
- Time period
- Cultural or social environment

## Tone = what feeling is evoked

- Light, humorous, cosy
- Dark, serious, confronting

## Others are more focussed on:

- Action
- Dialogue
- Characters



# Language/ style

“I loved the writing”

“It was beautifully written”

“It was too wordy”

“I just couldn’t get into the style”

“It felt easy to read”

This is often one of the hardest things for readers to name, but one of the strongest reasons they either love or abandon a book.

Language and style can include:

## Sentence structure

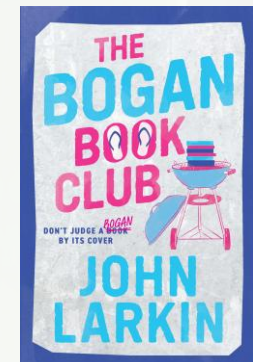
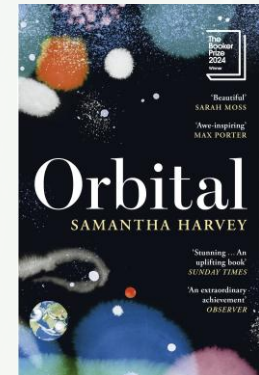
- Simple and direct
- Or complex and lyrical

## Vocabulary

- Plain, conversational language
- Or rich, descriptive, and literary

## Narrative voice

- First person vs third person
- Conversational vs distant
- Formal vs informal



# How do we use these terms, and how do we practice talking about books?

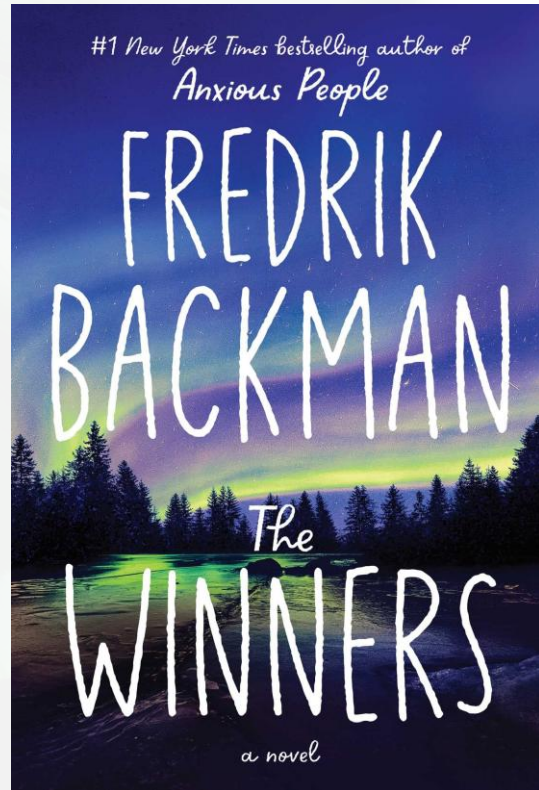
Using these appeal characteristics in a practical way looks just like using the open-ended questions we would use in a typical RA interview- but listening and understanding the way people speak about books can translate into appeal language which can help us to curate lists, displays and make suggestions for further reading.

## Practice makes perfect

- Reading journal. As you finish a book, write down 3-4 things about the book based on appeal characteristics

## Useful tools to assist

- **Which book** - allows you to filter books based on mood and emotion, character and plot
- **Story graph** - as mentioned before it can help you review books with prompts around pacing, character development
- **Novelist** - if you have it



## Example

For example, in my own reading journal I recently finished the book *The Winners* by Fredrik Backman

I would describe it as **Atmospheric**, you really feel like you are there in the small-town setting, the setting itself is a character.

I would describe the **story and plot as intricate**; there are mysteries and connections you don't see until the end.

And I would describe it as **having strong character development** – characters that have flaws, have deep histories and relationships with those around them.

If someone was to describe these things to me, I might suggest something like *The Bee Sting* by Paul Murray as a follow up read.

# Thank you

Victoria Murray

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Readers' Advisory  
Presentation

# Back To Basics

Lauren Watkins



# The Interview

- What is it?
- **IT'S NOT ABOUT YOU OR WHAT YOU READ**
- Connect with your patrons
- Have good overall knowledge
- Understand resources at your disposal
- Build a comfort level
- Diversity in our suggestions
- Never make assumptions
- **SUGGEST**, don't recommend



# Tips to start

**Be  
approachable**

**Treat users  
and their  
preferences  
with respect**

**Ask  
questions  
and actively  
listen**



# Questions

- Open a dialogue
- Find out interests/appeals
- What NOT to suggest
- Show interest in their preferences

**Are you looking for a specific book/movie?**

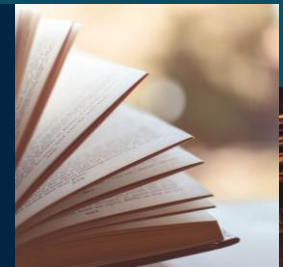


**What types of books do you like to read?**



**What have you enjoyed lately?**

**What are you in the mood for?**



**Is there a book you didn't like?**



# DON'T...

- ...Suggest books you've read (with some exceptions)
- ...Push your own reading interests onto the patron
- ...Make assumptions about someone's reading choices
- ...Send someone to the Fiction shelves to find books themselves
- ...Send someone to the OPAC so they can search themselves
- ...Overload or overwhelm



**DON'T BE  
SCARED**



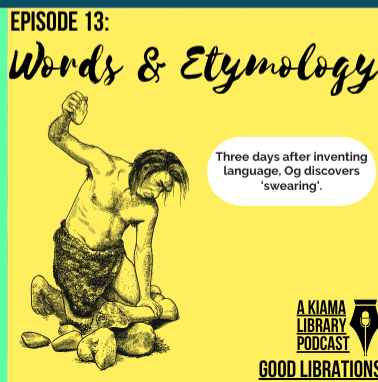
## Basic Tips

- Talk in appeal characteristics
- Google it!
- Bring in a colleague
- Know your collection
- Know your RA materials
- Suggest from the whole collection
- Commence and conclude openly

# Good Librations Podcast

Welcome to the Good Librations podcast, an entertaining dive down the rabbit hole of all things books, reading, libraries and more.

- An Ode to Poetry
- The Book is Always Better
- Once Upon a Fairytale
- An Odyssey through Mythology (x2)
- Romancing the Tome
- Beyond Fan Fiction
- Fair to Middle Grade
- Romantasy Beasts & Where to Find Them
- What a Classic!
- Science Fiction Double Feature
- Wild Wild Westerns





# Thank you

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# Questions?

Breanna Wright & Anna Burkley,  
Monash University,  
Understanding Australian Readers  
report



# Thank you for participating

## NSW Public Library

### Readers' Advisory Seminar 2026

Seminar evaluations will be sent out  
Recording of the Seminar available  
Follow up meeting in May

