

CELEBRATING GREAT AUSTRALIAN WRITING

First Tuesday Book Club



The ABC First Tuesday Book Club's Jennifer Byrne was a terrific supporter of the National Year of Reading 2012 and, in the last program of the series, on 4 December, she announced the "10 Aussie Books You Should Read Before You Die."

More than 20 000 people had voted for the list and 500 000 viewers tuned in to watch the program and discover the final all-Australian reading list. Jennifer told us, "[Booksellers] rang me after the show saying they had had a huge response, and a number of books we'd mentioned had hit their top 10 list overnight. So for all those who can't buy those books, or (like me) love their local library, hope it results in lots of new readers!"

There were a couple of classics alongside top contemporary fiction. It's a great selection that you can promote to your library users.

1. *Cloudstreet* – Tim Winton
2. *The Book Thief* – Markus Zusak
3. *A Fortunate Life* – A B Facey
4. *The Harp in the South* – Ruth Park
5. *The Power of One* – Bryce Courtenay
6. *Jasper Jones* – Craig Silvey
7. *The Magic Pudding* – Norman Lindsay
8. *The Slap* – Christos Tsiolkas
9. *The Secret River* – Kate Grenville
10. *Picnic at Hanging Rock* – Joan Lindsay

And just for fun, Jennifer put together her own choice of five books.

Jennifer's recommendations

The Lost Memory of Skin, by Russell Banks.

A dark, magnificent study of America's underbelly, focusing on a 22-year old known only as "the Kid" who has committed a minor but unforgivable crime and becomes part of the community of the lost, living in a limbo-world beneath a Florida causeway.

The Age of Miracles, by Karen Thompson Walker

Set in California, the book starts with a simple government announcement on the radio: the earth is slowing, losing time each time it rotates. We learn what happens next through the eyes of an 11-year old schoolgirl.

The Heart Broke In, by James Meek

A sprawling, ambitious novel about a brother and sister, Bec and Ritchie, both chasing their own very different version of the good life. But at what – and to whose – cost?

The Harp in the South, by Ruth Park

An old classic, but new to me – a fantastic, vividly written account of the eccentric Darcy family living in the slums of Surry Hills.

My Policeman, by Bethan Roberts

Set during the 50s, when homosexuals were both socially condemned and liable to prosecution and imprisonment, Tom is the policeman who struggles between his own sexual desires and the need to conform – with deeply moving consequences.

Reading Australia 200

While the First Tuesday Book Club was looking for the top 10, the Copyright Agency was thinking even bigger. The Copyright Agency asked the Australian Society of Author's Council to come up with a list of 200 classic Australian titles they thought students should encounter in school and university, as a special 'Reading Australia' initiative.

The 200 titles include novels, short stories, drama, poetry, children's books, non-fiction, memoirs, and essays, and Ned Kelly's Jerilderie Letter is on the list. Several writers have two entries, including Anita Heiss, Robert Drewe, Helen Garner, Joan London, David Malouf, Frank Moorhouse, Jill Jones, Ruth Park, Drusilla Modjeska, and Katharine Susannah Prichard.

The plan is to take the 200 works and match them with materials from the National Library's Trove archive, to help with context and provide teachers with a rich set of resources – authors' letters, journals, contemporary newspaper reports, photographs, and so on.

Why not take the test and find out how many of the items you have read?

Score two points if you have read it and one point if you've read another work by the same writer. Find the full list here: <http://www.copyright.com.au/assets/documents/top-200-australian-literary-titles>.



Left: Craig Silvey
Upper right: Kate Grenville
Lower right: Anita Heiss

Novels

- At Parramatta*, Ethel Anderson
- Tirra Lirra by the River*, Jessica Anderson
- It's Raining in Mango*, Thea Astley
- Eucalyptus*, Murray Bail
- True History of the Kelly Gang*, Peter Carey
- The Time We Have Taken*, Steven Carroll
- For the Term of His Natural Life*, Marcus Clarke
- Disgrace*, J M Coetzee

- Grace*, Robert Drewe
- The House in the Light*, Beverley Farmer
- My Brilliant Career*, Miles Franklin
- Such is Life*, Joseph Furphy
- The Children's Bach*, Helen Garner
- Lilian's Story*, Kate Grenville
- Captivity Captive*, Rodney Hall
- Power Without Glory*, Frank Hardy
- Capricornia*, Xavier Herbert
- The Transit of Venus*, Shirley Hazzard
- Carry Me Down*, J M Hyland
- The Unknown Industrial Prisoner*, David Ireland
- Moral Hazard*, Kate Jennings
- Dr Wooreddy's Prescription for Enduring the End of the World*, Colin Johnson/Mudrooroo
- The Far Road*, George Johnston
- Miss Peabody's Inheritance*, Elizabeth Jolley
- Five Bells*, Gail Jones
- The Chant of Jimmie Blacksmith*, Thomas Keneally
- The Year of Living Dangerously*, Christopher Koch
- The Lost Dog*, Michelle de Kretser
- The Pea-Pickers*, Eve Langley
- The Morality of Gentlemen*, Amanda Lohrey
- The Good Parents*, Joan London
- An Imaginary Life*, David Malouf
- The White Earth*, Andrew McGahan
- Journey to the Stone Country*, Alex Miller
- The Murray Whelan Trilogy*, Shane Maloney
- Grand Days*, Frank Moorhouse
- The Harp in the South*, Ruth Park
- Coonardoo*, Katharine Susannah Prichard
- The Fortunes of Richard Mahony*, Henry Handel Richardson
- That Deadman Dance*, Kim Scott
- Faith Singer*, Rosie Scott

- The Man Who Loved Children*, Christina Stead
- Jonah*, Louis Stone
- To the Islands*, Randolph Stow
- Truth*, Peter Temple
- The Battlers*, Kylie Tennant
- The Slap*, Christos Tsiolkas
- Voss*, Patrick White
- Cloudstreet*, Tim Winton
- Carpentaria*, Alexis Wright
- Swallow the Air*, Tara June Winch
- Café Scheherazade*, Arnold Zable

Children's books

- As I Grew Older*, Ian Abdulla
- Little Brother*, Allan Baillie
- Mirror*, Jeannie Baker
- The Gathering*, Isobelle Carmody
- Strange Objects*, Gary Crew
- The Red Shoe*, Ursula Dubosarsky
- Tjarany Roughtail*, Gracie Greene, Joe Tramacchi, and Lucille Gill
- The Great Bear*, Libby Gleeson and Armin Geber
- Crusher is Coming*, Bob Graham
- The Silver Donkey*, Sonya Hartnett
- Taronga*, Victor Kelleher
- Looking for Alibrandi*, Melina Marchetta
- The Two Bullies*, Junko Morimoto
- Stradbroke Dreamtime*, Oodgeroo Noonuccal and Bronwyn Bancroft
- The Papunya School book of country and History*, Papunya School
- Playing Beatie Bow*, Ruth Park
- Dot and the Kangaroo*, Ethel C Pedley
- My Girragundji*, Boori Pryor and Meme McDonald
- Beyond the Labyrinth*, Gillian Rubinstein
- 100 Australian Poems for Children*, Clare Scott-Mitchell and Kathryn Griffith
- Ash Road*, Ivan Southall
- The Arrival*, Shaun Tan
- Seven Little Australians*, Ethel Turner

- Five Times Dizzy*, Nadia Wheatley
- Fox*, Margaret Wild and Ron Brooks
- I Own the Racecourse*, Patricia Wrightson

Non fiction – narrative/history

- The Tyranny of Distance*, Geoffrey Blainey
- Dancing with Strangers*, Inga Clendinnen
- Stasiland*, Anna Funder
- This is the ABC: The Australian Broadcasting Commission 1932-1983*, K S Inglis
- The Colony, A History of Early Sydney*, Grace Karskens
- Australians: Origins to Eureka*, Thomas Keneally
- The Other Side of the Frontier: Aboriginal Resistance to the European Invasion of Australia*, Henry Reynolds
- A Million Wild Acres*, Eric Rolls
- A Peculiar People*, Gavin Souter
- A Complete Account of the Settlement at Port Jackson*, Watkin Tench
- Myths and Legends of the Australian Aborigines*, David Unaipon
- The Australian Legend*, Russell Ward

Biography

- John Curtin: A Life*, David Hay
- Broken song: T G H Strehlow and Aboriginal Possession*, Barry Hill
- Barwick*, David Marr
- Christina Stead: A Biography*, Hazel Rowley

Your score

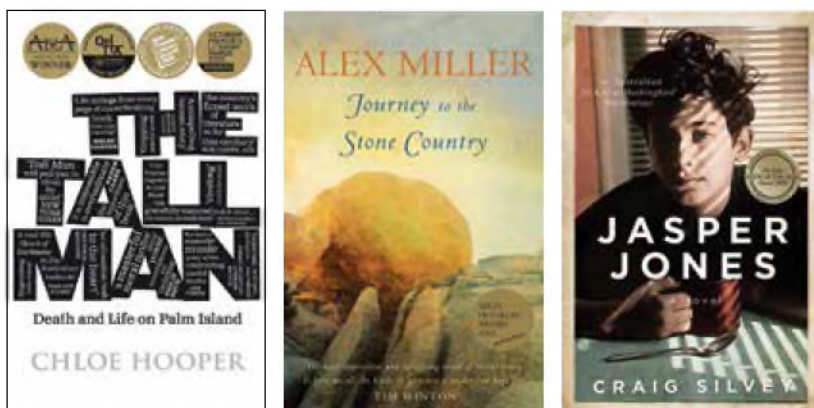
150+ Impressive, but you need to get out more
 100 – 150 Your knowledge is encyclopaedic (for under 30s, an encyclopaedia was like Wikipedia, but a lot more reliable)
 50 – 100 Your book group must love you
 0 – 50 You need to stay in more

Australian content for Australian readers

There's plenty of talk in the library world about ebooks and lending – the platforms we use, the willingness of publishers to provide us with content, all the issues around licensing and digital rights management. We are already working through the Book Industry Collaborative Council and IFLA to raise topics of particular concern to Australian libraries – public, school, academic, and special – and this year, ALIA is working with the Australian Society of Authors to bring another aspect of the ebook phenomenon to the attention of a wider audience.

Both associations are equally worried about the potential for Australian writing to be drowned out by the wave of ubiquitous, global content coming from the big six publishers. We're working together to find ways of avoiding this outcome.

Later in the year, we will be working with the Australian Society of Authors to bring together library leaders, authors, publishers, and other key stakeholders to develop an action plan for how we ensure the next generation of readers has ready



Some of Australia's favourite novels.

access to the same broad spread of Australian writing that we enjoy today.

We're anticipating that the discussion will range from how we support smaller local publishers through to securing the position of

Australian content in the National Curriculum.

For more information about the summit, contact us via advocacy@alia.org.au.



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