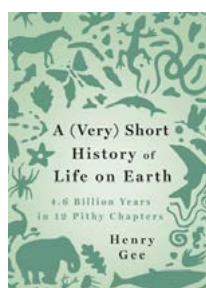


# Fellows' reading, listening and viewing list 2022



## Books

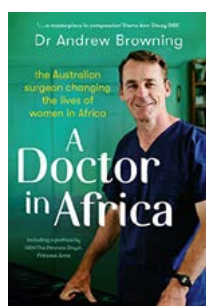


### **A (Very) Short History of Life on Earth**

*Henry Gee*

RECOMMENDED BY: **Emeritus Professor Marcello Costa AO FAA**

A remarkable summary of all that is known of the appearance of life and the numerous steps of animal evolution. Current challenges of humankind. Objective perspective of the future of life.

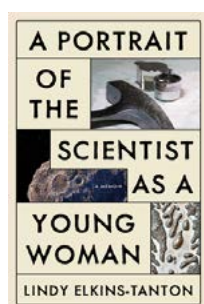


### **A Doctor in Africa**

*Dr Andrew Browning*

RECOMMENDED BY: **Professor Graeme Clark AC FAA FTSE FRS**

I have enjoyed reading *A Doctor in Africa* by Dr Andrew Browning, Pan MacMillan Australia. He is a boy from country NSW, and also like me trained in medicine at the University of Sydney. His vivid account of life as a fistula surgeon in Africa was very moving. He was close to Catherine Hamlin whose medical work I admire greatly.

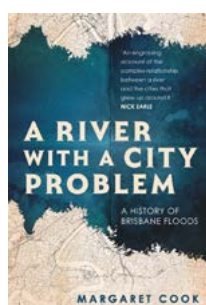


### **A Portrait of the Scientist as a Young Woman**

*Lindy Elkins-Tanton*

RECOMMENDED BY: **Professor Barbara Nowak FAA**

Lindy is a world expert on planetary science, a member of the National Academy of Sciences and the principal investigator of NASA's \$800 million Psyche mission. Her approach to difficult problems is based on asking the right questions, for example she proposed driving research projects from a Big Question and not from a research hero model and developed question-based STEM teaching. While many of us will see reflections of our experience in Lindy's story, her love of science and life will be an inspiration for all readers.



### **A River with a City Problem: A History of Brisbane Floods**

*Margaret Cook*

RECOMMENDED BY: **Emeritus Professor Neville Nicholls FAA**

In yet another year of widespread floods and despair, this is a timely historical examination of the influences on floods in Brisbane, from colonial times up to the 2011 floods. The author describes the repeated cycles of destruction, rebuilding and destruction, and the faith of many in engineering solutions. Lessons for all of this country of "droughts and flooding rains".

## Books



### **A Room Made of Leaves**

*Kate Grenville*

RECOMMENDED BY: **Dr Hugh Tyndale-Biscoe AM FAA**

This is an historical novel about the English encounter with the people and country around Botany Bay, seen through the experiences of Elizabeth Macarthur. Kate Grenville's imaginative and beautiful writing offers a different and far more interesting story about how merino sheep were introduced to Australia by a forgotten woman who knew much more about breeding sheep than her domineering husband. But this is only a small part of this lovely book, which I devoured in two days!

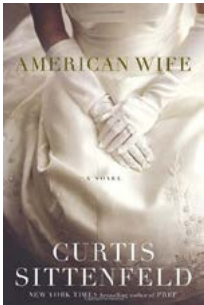


### **Aftermath: Life in the Fallout of the Third Reich, 1945–1955**

*Harald Jähner, translated by Shaun Whiteside*

RECOMMENDED BY: **Professor Nick Martin FAA FAHMS FASSA**

Much has been written about World War II and the story of the final downfall and capitulation on May 8, 1945 is well known. But what happened next? In this fascinating and highly readable book, Harald Jähner takes us through the 10 years of history from May 9, 1945. Chapters take one topic at a time, starting with the amazing role of the Trümmerfrauen, (rubble women) who cleared the debris from the streets of the shattered cities by hand in human chains. Then the great migration, with millions of defeated, demoralised soldiers and refugees trudging home, or to exile, often with no boots, no food. And amidst this misery, the resilience of mankind in a dancing frenzy; some dance halls reopened within 10 days of the surrender and those who had survived just danced and danced. More sordidly, life was ruled by the black market but the clever steps to end this (total substitution of currency) make fascinating reading. And all this leading to the economic miracle, which has also been well documented. But this account of the period between collapse and resurrection makes for compelling and enjoyable reading.

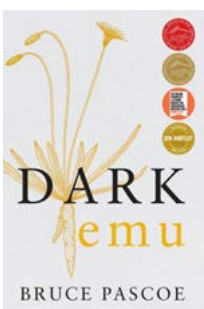


### **American Wife**

*Curtis Sittenfeld*

RECOMMENDED BY: **Professor Louise Ryan FAA**

A fictionalised biography of Laura Bush, wife of George W Bush. Fascinating story that blends fact and fiction in an intriguing manner.



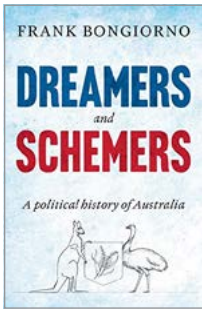
### **Dark Emu**

*Bruce Pascoe*

RECOMMENDED BY: **Professor Tom Calma AO FAA FASSA**

*Dark Emu* puts forward an argument for a reconsideration of the hunter-gatherer tag for pre-colonial Aboriginal Australians. Accomplished author Bruce Pascoe provides compelling evidence from the diaries of early explorers that suggests that systems of food production and land management have been understated in modern retellings of early Aboriginal history, and that a new look at Australia's past is required.

## Books



### **Dreamers and Schemers: A Political History of Australia**

*Frank Bongiorno*

RECOMMENDED BY: Professor The Honourable Barry Jones AC FAA FTSE FAHA FASSA

Splendidly written, insightful and comprehensive, this would make an ideal Christmas present. Bongiorno is a great scholar and superb communicator.

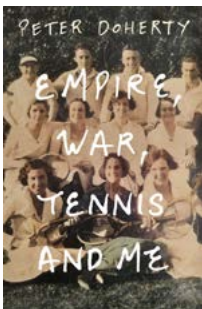


### **Elon Musk: How the Billionaire CEO of SpaceX and Tesla is Shaping our Future**

*Ashlee Vance*

RECOMMENDED BY: Emeritus Professor Frank Larkins AM FAA FTSE

A most informative narrative about the challenges faced to become a very successful entrepreneur.



### **Empire, War, Tennis and Me**

*Peter Doherty*

RECOMMENDED BY: Professor Jeremy Mould FAA

Family history, the story of tennis, World War II in the Pacific and the fate of empires are intertwined in this fascinating and lively account. We can support a fellow Fellow by grabbing hold of this book, published by MUP!

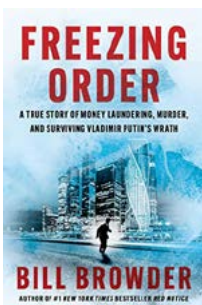


### **First Knowledges series**

*published by Thames & Hudson Australia*

RECOMMENDED BY: Professor Tom Calma AO FAA FASSA

The First Knowledges series offers an introduction to Indigenous knowledges in vital areas and their application to the present day and the future. Exploring practices such as architecture and design, land management, medicine, astronomy and innovation, this six-book series brings together two very different ways of understanding the natural world: one ancient, the other modern. Each book is a collaboration between Indigenous and non-Indigenous writers and editors.



### **Freezing Order: A True Story of Money Laundering, Murder, and Surviving Vladimir Putin's Wrath**

*Bill Browder*

RECOMMENDED BY: Dr Alan Finkel AC FAA FTSE FAHMS

An enthralling account of top to bottom corruption in Russia and spreading its tentacles throughout the world. Bill Browder tells the story of the circumstances leading to the murder in gaol of his young Russian lawyer Sergei Magnitsky and Browder's subsequent commitment to uncover the massive financial intrigues and money laundering despite the vengeance of Vladimir Putin. Browder's effort led to the passing of the Magnitsky Act in the US, Australia and many other countries.

## Books



### Friends and Enemies

*Barbara Amiel*

RECOMMENDED BY: **Professor Georgia Chenevix-Trench FAA**

This is an utterly gripping autobiography of an extraordinary life that literally ends up listing friends and enemies who did, and did not, support her when she needed it. It is beautifully written (as expected from such an accomplished writer and journalist), brutally honest and self-critical, funny and indiscrete, and refreshingly politically incorrect. We had to buy two copies so my husband and I could read it in parallel.

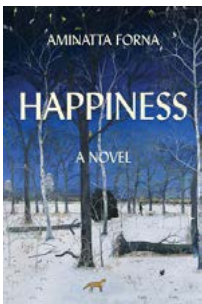


### Grey Bees

*Andrey Kurkov*

RECOMMENDED BY: **Professor Tony Basten AO FAA FTSE**

This delightfully written and topical novel from Ukraine's best-known author describes what life is like in the so called 'grey zone' between the Ukrainian and Russian lines in the Donesk region of Ukraine. A Ukrainian beekeeper and a Russian separatist live in an uneasy peace on opposite sides of a bombed-out village haunted by the daily exchange of missile and artillery fire. In a brief respite, the beekeeper takes himself and his bees to Crimea for a holiday where he faces a hostile reception.

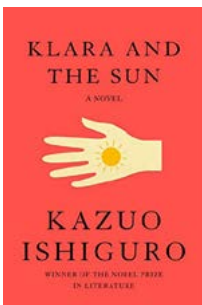


### Happiness

*Aminatta Forna*

RECOMMENDED BY: **Professor Naomi McClure-Griffiths FAA**

This is an amazing novel focusing on two people, Jean and Attila, from very different backgrounds whose lives intersect in London for a few days. The story dabbles into Jean's research on urban foxes in London and Attila's work as a psychiatrist in war zones, while wrapping in the challenges of life in late middle age, including loves lost or faded.



### Klara and the Sun

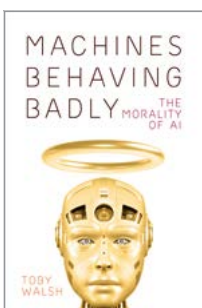
*Kazuo Ishiguro*

### Machines Like Me

*Ian McEwan*

RECOMMENDED BY: **Emeritus Professor Peter Langridge FAA FTSE**

Two novels exploring the relationship between humans and robots but from a very different perspective. Behind both books is a revealing analysis of human behaviour. Both are superbly written, although slightly disturbing.



### Machines Behaving Badly: The Morality of AI

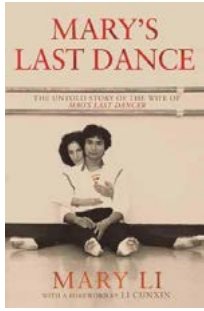
*Toby Walsh*

RECOMMENDED BY: **Professor Toby Walsh FAA**

Artificial intelligence is an essential part of our lives—for better or worse. It can be used to influence what we buy, who gets shortlisted for a job and even how we vote. But as we continue to build more intelligent and autonomous machines, what impact will this have on humanity and the planet? *Machines Behaving Badly* is a thought-provoking book looking at the increasing human reliance on robotics and the decisions that need to be made now to ensure the future of AI is as a force for good, not evil.



## Books



### **Mary's Last Dance**

*Mary Li*

RECOMMENDED BY: **Professor Lyn Beazley AO FAA FTSE**

For those who enjoyed *Mao's Last Dancer*, the story of a boy from rural China who rose to international fame as a ballet dancer, I would recommend *Mary's Last Dance* by Li Cunxin's dancing and life partner Mary Li. Mary describes a happy childhood in Rockhampton Queensland, training in London and then becoming a dancer of renown but ending her career early, when their beautiful first born was diagnosed with severe hearing loss. It was this daughter who persuaded Mary to write the inspiring book, to celebrate her mother's career and document the family's journey to help her meet the challenges posed by living in a silent world.

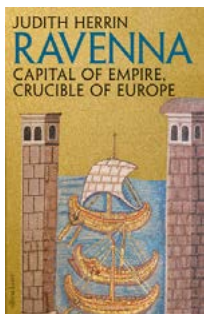


### **Mother of Invention: How Good Ideas Get Ignored in an Economy Built for Men**

*Katrine Marçal*

RECOMMENDED BY: **Dr Cathy Foley AO FAA FTSE**

This book really brings home the extent to which gender influences innovation, from the cars we drive to the luggage we carry, from how we view the past to how we anticipate the future. Katrine Marçal questions our understanding of innovation, pointing out that the spacesuit worn by Neil Armstrong relied on the expertise of female seamstresses who created hand-sewn suits to withstand the conditions of space, and exploring the gendered history behind finally attaching wheels to suitcases. The book was given to me by CSIRO Executive Director of Future Industries Kirsten Rose, and has been an eye-opener. I thoroughly recommend it.

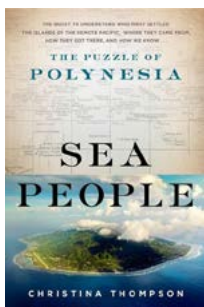


### **Ravenna: Capital of Empire, Crucible of Europe**

*Judith Herrin*

RECOMMENDED BY: **Professor Cheryl Praeger AC FAA**

I found this book a revelation: a wonderful history of Ravenna as the meeting point of Byzantium and the West from the fifth to the eighth centuries AD. Thirty years ago I had stumbled on the astonishing religious art there without any understanding. This book is simply amazing as it counterposes the political, military and episcopal forces at play. Accessible, scholarly, with many illustrations and maps—winner of the Duff Cooper Prize.

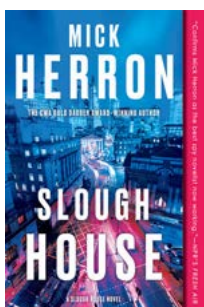


### **Sea People: The Puzzle of Polynesia**

*Christina Thompson*

RECOMMENDED BY: **Professor Peter Koopman FAA**

For over a thousand years the Polynesians have occupied the largest single culture area in the world. Where did they come from, how did they get there, and how did they manage to find every habitable speck of land in a vast ocean? Christina Thompson's cracking detective story is impeccably researched and transports the reader to a mysterious lost world.



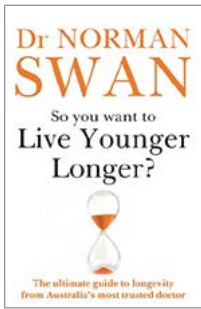
### **Slough House**

*Mick Herron*

RECOMMENDED BY: **Professor David Day FAA**

Brilliant escapist reading: Herron has constructed a fascinating alternative world of spy agencies and how they manipulate (in particular) the British government. You can start with any of his 'Slow Horses' novels but this one resonates with recent political events in GB. All too believable.

## Books

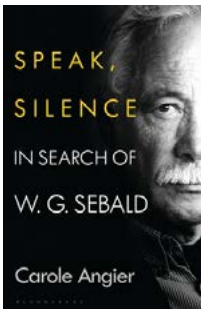


### **So You Want to Live Younger Longer?**

*Norman Swan*

RECOMMENDED BY: **Professor Jennie Brand-Miller AO FAA**

I really enjoyed reading Norman's take on research in the area of longevity. He's not only done a lot of homework, he makes it funny and calls a spade a spade. Think big (he says) when it comes to food ... because thinking small costs you money on stuff that literally goes down the drain and may not get you anywhere. He's talking about supplements of course.

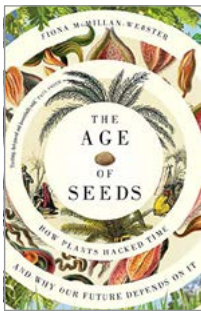


### **Speak, Silence. In Search of WG Sebald**

*Carole Angier*

RECOMMENDED BY: **Professor The Honourable Barry Jones AC FAA FTSE FAHA FASSA**

WG (aka Max) Sebald was born in Germany, son of a Nazi, but lived and worked in England, while retaining German nationality and publishing only in German. His four 'prose works with pictures' combine elements of novels, essays, biographies, natural histories and travel guides, and include photographs. He died (accident? suicide?) just after gaining international recognition, with a Nobel Prize on the horizon. Angier tries to find out the truth about Sebald. Who was he? Who are we, if it comes to that? What is the truth of any matter?



### **The Age of Seeds**

*Fiona McMillan-Webster*

RECOMMENDED BY: **Dr Elizabeth Truswell FAA**

A popular science book well written and hard to put down. Beginning with the germination of 2,000-year-old Judean date palms and dealing with the complexity of dormancy, the author also uses local examples such as the Pink Flannel Flowers of the Blue Mountains. Seed dispersal, longevity, the history of seed banks and seeds in relation to the history of human agriculture are all covered in this lively text.

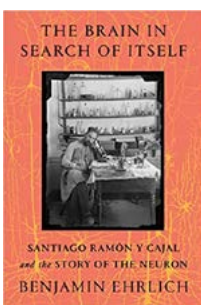


### **The Big Picture: On the Origins of Life, Meaning and the Universe Itself**

*Sean Carroll*

RECOMMENDED BY: **Professor Martin Bennett FAA FRS**

This book represents one physicist's valiant and entertaining attempt to interrelate all the features of the universe, from elementary particles and quantum mechanics to thought, consciousness and life itself. I have read it once and probably need to start again. Theists are unlikely to be convinced by the author's 'poetic naturalism'.



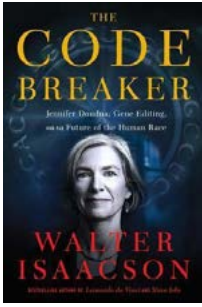
### **The Brain in Search of Itself: Santiago Ramón y Cajal and the Story of the Neuron**

*Benjamin Ehrlich*

RECOMMENDED BY: **Professor The Honourable Barry Jones AC FAA FTSE FAHA FASSA**

A marvellous account of Cajal's work in Spain, his meticulous drawings of neural networks and the rivalry with his fellow Nobel laureate Camillo Golgi.

## Books

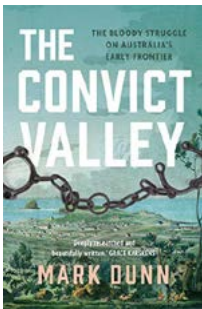


### **The Code Breaker**

*Walter Isaacson*

RECOMMENDED BY: **Professor Joss Bland-Hawthorn FAA**

This is the remarkable story of the development of CRISPR, the gene editing technology. What started as a competition between Jennifer Doudna and Emmanuelle Charpentier (and a cast of other characters) becomes something different when COVID hit. This is a very well-paced drama throughout.

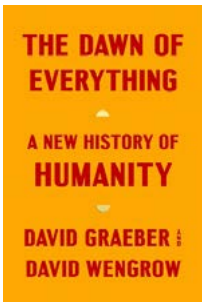


### **The Convict Valley**

*Mark Dunn*

RECOMMENDED BY: **Emeritus Professor Eugenie Lumbers AM FAA**

This history of the Hunter Valley gives great insight into the development of the valley and Newcastle. The significance of the Hunter Valley in terms of cedar, coal and agriculture to NSW is well described as are the torments of the convicts and Aboriginal populations.

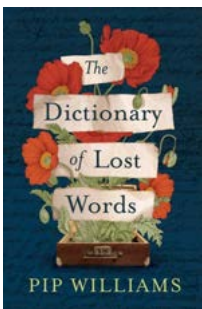


### **The Dawn of Everything: A New History of Humanity**

*David Graeber and David Wengrow*

RECOMMENDED BY: **Professor The Honourable Barry Jones AC FAA FTSE FAHA FASSA**

This is a revisionist account of how civilisation developed, challenging the prevailing view of how simple hunter-gatherers were part of linear progression towards centrally organised production. They argue that human life before the Agricultural Revolution was far more complex, sophisticated and varied, with abstract symbolism, than the conventional wisdom recognises.

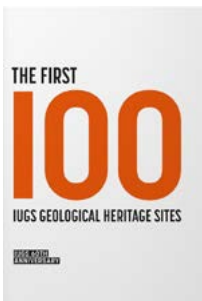


### **The Dictionary of Lost Words**

*Pip Williams*

RECOMMENDED BY: **Professor Jennifer Martin AC FAA**

I may be a scientist, but I'm fascinated by words and their history, evolution and usage. In Pip Williams' book about the first edition of the Oxford English Dictionary, she gives voice to the women involved in the OED's development, and the words that were excluded, in a beautifully crafted historically influenced fictional story that even travels to Australia.



### **The First 100 IUGS Geological Heritage Sites**

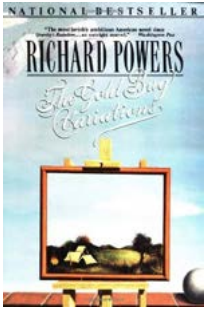
*International Union of Geological Sciences*

RECOMMENDED BY: **Dr Janice Lough FAA**

The world abounds with '100 best...' lists—films, books, restaurants, songs, etc. and the International Union of Geological Sciences, in celebration of its 60th anniversary, has published its own. This experts' choice of geological heritage sites around the world is fascinating and informative with each site given a two-page spread. It reminds us how spectacular this planet is and the science of 'reading' the rocks.

Available as a [downloadable PDF](#)

## Books



### **The Gold Bug Variations**

*Richard Powers*

RECOMMENDED BY: **Professor Bob C Williamson FAA (University of Tübingen)**

An outstanding novel (now some 31 years old) whose hero is a scientist, depicted realistically and complexly by the author. Both the plot and the very structure of the book circle around a double helix, entwining science, music and love. The characters are complex, imperfect and entirely believable, and the pace and plot are quick and exciting.

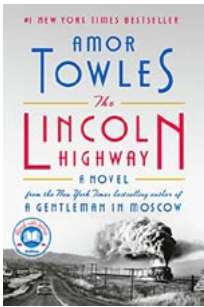


### **The Idea of Australia**

*Julianne Schultz*

RECOMMENDED BY: **Professor Robyn Williams AO FAA**

I arrived in Australia in 1964, the date Donald Horne's *The Lucky Country* was first published. Julianne Schultz's *The Idea of Australia* is the brilliant 2022 version of Horne's withering critique. ScoMo would do well not to read it. I relished every page.



### **The Lincoln Highway**

*Amor Towles*

RECOMMENDED BY: **Emeritus Professor Michael Hynes FAA**

The Lincoln Highway runs across the US from Times Square to San Francisco and in the 1950s, 18-year-old Emmet, recently released from reform school, and his brilliant young brother, Billy, plan to travel to California from Nebraska for a new start. Their travel plans are reversed by two escapees from the reform school leading to multiple adventures and encounters with a wide range of people. Each chapter is told from the perspective of a different character and ends with an intriguing and usually unexpected cliff-hanger. Engrossing road novel with a satisfying resolution.

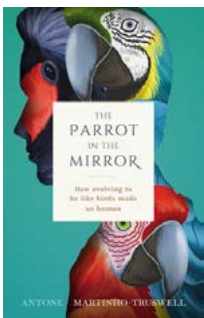


### **The Magician**

*Colm Tóibín*

RECOMMENDED BY: **Emeritus Professor Harry Poulos AM FAA FTSE**

This is a superb historical novel based on the life, family and time of the author Thomas Mann. It is a remarkable portrayal of a complex and proficient writer whose novels have been recognised in many ways, including the Nobel Prize in Literature 1929.



### **The Parrot in the Mirror: How Evolving to be Like Birds Made Us Human**

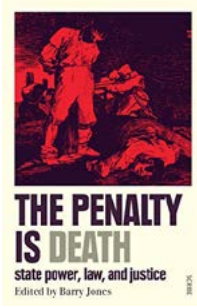
*Antone Martinho-Truswell*

RECOMMENDED BY: **Professor Simon Gandevia FAA FAHMS**

This short engaging book by zoologist Antone Martinho-Truswell unpacks some intriguing elements of convergent evolution between *Homo sapiens* and some bird families, particularly the parrots. The common elements include relatively large intelligent brains, longevity and helplessness at birth. Yet we evolved tens of millions of years after parrots and so, to what extent do we see a strange featherless bird in the mirror?



## Books

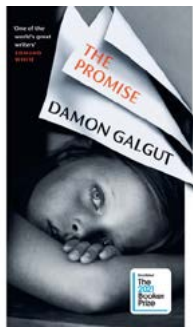


### **The Penalty is Death**

*Barry Jones*

RECOMMENDED BY: **Professor The Honourable Barry Jones AC FAA FTSE FAHA FASSA**

Modesty prevents me from recommending a new, much expanded and completely revised edition of *The Penalty is Death* (Scribe), published to mark the centenary of the abolition of capital punishment in Queensland. There are remarkable contributions by Michael Kirby, Julian McMahon, Richard Bourke and Mike Richards. Proceeds go to the Capital Punishment Justice Project (CPJP).

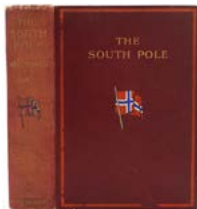


### **The Promise**

*Damon Galgut*

RECOMMENDED BY: **Professor Jonathan Carapetis AM FAA FAHMS**

A magnificently written tale of a family unravelling in parallel with the unravelling of apartheid in South Africa and following them over decades. Seamlessly moves between the perspectives of the main characters with wit, sarcasm and an ability to tug at the heartstrings too.

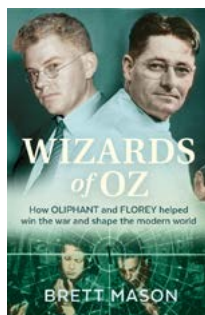


### **The South Pole: An Account of the Norwegian Antarctic Expedition in the Fram, Vols I and II**

*Roald Amundsen*

RECOMMENDED BY: **Professor David Smyth FAA**

Scott's expedition to the South Pole is a well-known epic that ended in tragedy. Amundsen's expedition beat him by one month and has a happy ending but is less well known. Amundsen's success relied on fast travel on skis and dogsleds, although many dogs were eaten en route to fuel both men and the remaining dogs. Although successful, Amundsen was sneaky in not revealing he was heading south rather than north until he set sail. His report here is rather dispassionate, although reading between the lines it was not all smooth sailing.



### **The Wizards of Oz: How Oliphant and Florey Helped Win the War and Shape the Modern World**

*Brett Mason*

RECOMMENDED BY: **Professor Brian Schmidt AC FAA FRS Nobel Laureate**

Brett Mason's *Wizards of Oz* I think should be made part of the Australian curriculum, and should be read by anyone interested in Australian scientific history. It tells the story of how two Australians, Oliphant and Florey, made three of the arguably most profound technical contributions to World War II, and changed the course of the war. Hard to put down once you start, it will forever change your outlook on the impact of Australian science.

ALSO RECOMMENDED BY: **Professor Margaret Sheil AO FAA FTSE**

This book details the parallel lives and impact on the war effort and beyond of Howard Florey and Mark Oliphant in an engaging and informative style. While Florey's contribution in developing penicillin is well recognised, less is known about the contributions of Oliphant's role in critical radar technologies and in raising awareness of the feasibility of nuclear weapons and the threat posed if Germany were to get ahead of the allies in those developments. A great way to highlight the story of these two amazing Australians.

## Books

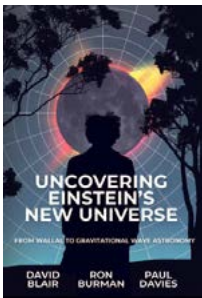


### **Transformer: The Deep Chemistry of Life and Death**

*Nick Lane*

RECOMMENDED BY: **Dr Andrew Cuthbertson AO FAA FTSE FAHMS**

A rich sweep of the chemistry of life with a focus on energy flow and growth. The book competes with and complements the more dominant genetic perspective. For those interested in broad principles rather than the specialist chemist. Beautifully written and very compelling.

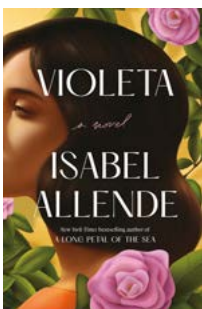


### **Uncovering Einstein's New Universe—from Wallal to Gravitational Wave Astronomy**

*David Blair, Ron Burman, Paul Davies*

RECOMMENDED BY: **Professor Susan Scott FAA**

Einstein gave us a vision of a new universe in which time and space are warped and rippling in response to everything else in the universe. Vast bursts of energy in the form of ripples of pure and empty space are passing through us at light speed, carrying messages about a dying universe and about the places where space, time and matter all cease to exist. It took a century of struggle to understand Einstein's prophesy. Einstein doubted his own predictions, and eventually it took 1000 physicists to detect his greatest prophecy of all, gravitational waves. The definitive proof of Einstein's new universe began with donkey trains and sailing ships at Wallal in 1922. A century of struggle by an array of eccentric and determined scientists brought us to the era of gravitational wave astronomy where our detectors, like bionic ears, have given us a brand new sense, an ability to hear across the vast scale of the universe. This book tells the international story from an Australian perspective, from the Wallal Expedition, instigated by Alexander Ross of the University of Western Australia, to the Australia-wide team that participated in the discovery of gravitational waves and continues to lead national efforts in gravitational wave discovery. "I love the way you've captured the mix of inspiration, technical skill and collaboration (with a backdrop of human nature and politics)—it's a story about how science is done as much as it is about gravitational waves themselves. And I very much like your recipe for gold, although I'm having trouble getting the ingredients from my local Woolies so may have to order the Suns online." – Sam Trafford, Editor



### **Violeta**

*Isabel Allende*

RECOMMENDED BY: **Emeritus Professor Frances Separovic AO FAA**

Beautiful story told by Violeta, who was born in 1920 as the Spanish flu comes to her South American homeland and who dies in 2020 during the COVID crisis. Her story is bookended by pandemics and reflects on the rise and fall of tyrants and the fight for women's rights. I found reading the book, during lockdown, truly inspiring and very emotional.



### **Wagnerism: Art and Politics in the Shadow of Music**

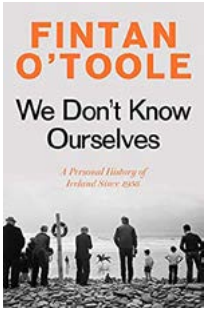
*Alex Ross*

RECOMMENDED BY: **Professor The Honourable Barry Jones AC FAA FTSE FAHA FASSA**

Alex Ross, music critic for The New Yorker, has an extraordinary range of expertise and is an intensely stimulating writer. He writes of Wagner and Wagnerism in the context of politics, philosophy, 'the survival of the fittest', art, architecture and literature. His cast includes Nietzsche, Wilde, Bernard Shaw, Proust, Joyce, Yeats, T S Eliot, Thomas Mann, Virginia Woolf, Tolkien, Hitler, Mahler, Stravinsky, Bunuel and Dali.

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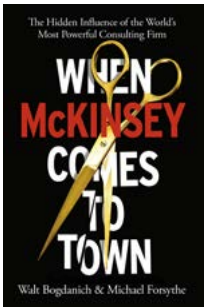


### **We Don't Know Ourselves: A Personal History of Ireland Since 1958**

*Fintan O'Toole*

RECOMMENDED BY: **Professor The Honourable Barry Jones AC FAA FTSE FAHA FASSA**

A dazzling social history of modern Ireland and its rapid transition to a more secular state, hysterically funny and deeply appalling, often simultaneously. He writes about corruption, misogyny, miracles, sexual abuse in the church, contraception, property development and serial lying in politics.

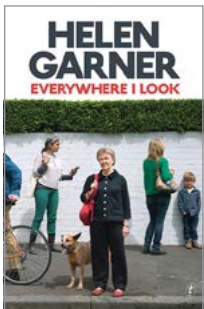


### **When McKinsey Comes to Town**

*Walt Bogdanich*

RECOMMENDED BY: **Professor Joss Bland-Hawthorn FAA**

After reading about the bad behaviour of modern banks, a friend suggested this book about the havoc caused by management consultants and CEOs. As the cover says, 'Meticulously researched and ultimately devastating'. It's not good for the blood pressure.



### **Everywhere I look**

*Helen Garner*

RECOMMENDED BY: **Professor Allen Kerr AO FAA FRS**

It contains short essays on Helen Garner's life experiences. I think this book would be a great comfort to anyone who has suffered a recent bereavement.

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## Podcasts



### **Russia, If You're Listening**

*Matt Bevan*

RECOMMENDED BY: **Professor Ashley Dunn FAA**

Matt has wonderful insights into Russian culture, its citizens, the mindset of Putin and the invasion of Ukraine.



### **Who is Daniel Johns?**

*Spotify Original Podcast*

RECOMMENDED BY: **Professor Arthur Christopoulos FAA FAHMS**

This podcast gives a very raw, honest and rare insight into the mind of a reclusive and brilliant musician who was thrust into the limelight from a very early age and has suffered the consequences, especially in terms of mental health, ever since. It also highlights how he has been able to continually evolve in terms of his musical growth, but this has always (and continues to) come at a personal cost, thus limiting him from achieving his true potential. Fascinating.

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## Podcasts



### **Word Matters**

*Emily Brewster, Ammon Shea and Peter Sokolowski*

RECOMMENDED BY: **Professor Jennifer Martin AC FAA**

From the editors at Merriam-Webster, *Word Matters* is a show for readers, writers, and anyone who ever loved their English class. Hosted by three lexicographers, it is a joy to listen to, focusing each episode on the weird and wonderful of English words: Why are words 'dropped' from dictionaries? Which is correct: 'another thing coming' or 'another think coming'? Can you be grunted as well as disgruntled/kempt as well as unkempt/consolate as well as disconsolate?

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## TV shows



### **Carbon: The Unauthorised Biography**

*ABC iview. Daniella Ortega and Niobe Thompson*

RECOMMENDED BY: **Professor David Karoly FAA**

This outstanding documentary tells the story of carbon, the essential element for life, the environment and our society, but the most misunderstood element on Earth. It will make for great Christmas viewing for you and your family on a rainy day. It is available on ABC iview, with more information on the [movie's website](#) and a [teacher's study guide](#).



### **Bad Sisters**

*AppleTV. Brett Baer, Dave Finkel, Sharon Horgan*

RECOMMENDED BY: **Professor The Honourable Barry Jones AC FAA FTSE FAHA FASSA**

*Bad Sisters* is a black comedy, set in Ireland, based on a Danish original, a 10-part series about gender imbalance, misogyny, incompetence and murder. Brilliantly directed and acted. Very funny and very uncomfortable.