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| Lords of Finance: The Bankers who broke the world                     | Liaquat Ahamed                       | Professor Mike Dopita     | Traces the evolution of financial world from the 1st to the 2nd world wars, and the gives insight into the four men who precipitated the 1920s world economic collapse. Some lessons for our own generation here!  |
| 40 Years of Evolution: Darwin's Finches on Daphne Major Island        | Peter R. Grant and B. Rosemary Grant | Professor John A. Endler  | This is a wonderful description of documented evolutionary events in one population of Darwin's finches over 40 years. One of the most interesting results is how much environmental fluctuation affects the birds' traits; natural selection is variable in strength and sometimes in direction. It is very unusual to have such a long-term data set. And very well written.   |
| Against Elections: The Case for Democracy                             | David Van Reybrouck                  | Professor Tim Flannery    | Democracy is in bad health. <i>Against Elections</i> offers a new diagnosis – and an ancient remedy. Fear-mongering populists, distrust in the establishment, personality contests instead of reasoned debate: these are the results of the latest elections.  |
| Fred Hoyle: A Life in Science   | Simon Mitton                         | Prof Ken Freeman          | This book is about the career of Fred Hoyle (1915-2001) who wrote ground-breaking scientific papers and caused bitter disputes in the scientific community with his revolutionary theories.  |
| Snowy Campbell: Australian Pioneer Investigator of the Brain          | Malcolm Macmillan                    | Professor John Furness    | A brilliant biography of a fascinating Australian scientist. Great also for illustration of the times of Campbell, late 19th - early 20th Century  |
| Finding Sanity: John Cade, Lithium and the Taming of Bipolar Disorder | Greg de Moore and Ann Westmore       | Professor John Furness    | John Cade, Australian psychiatrist, discovered lithium, the first effective treatment for any mental disorder. He was imprisoned and served as a medical superintendent in the notorious Changi prisoner of war camp. A compelling story.  |
| God's Undertaker: Has Science Buried God?                             | John C. Lennox                       | Professor Peter Gill      | The author, an Oxford mathematician, carefully analyses some of the arguments that have been mounted recently against the Christian worldview. His approach is refreshingly non-confrontational and is designed to be accessible to anyone with a basic scientific education. This book is stimulating and challenging for those who are interested in life's deepest questions. |
| The Strangest Man: The Hidden Life of Paul Dirac, Quantum Genius      | Graham Farmelo                       | Professor Peter Hannaford | Paul Dirac is a famous physicist sometimes called the British Einstein. He was one of the leading pioneers of the greatest revolution in twentieth-century science: quantum mechanics and was the youngest theoretician ever to win the Nobel Prize for Physics.   |
| Giving Up the Ghost: A Memoir   | Hilary Mantel                        | Dr TJ Higgins             | Beautiful writing. I missed it when it came out over a decade ago. I am very glad I found it now (as an audiobook).  |

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| The Private Science of Louis Pasteur                                  | Gerald L. Geison | Professor Eddie Holmes   | Using his lab notebooks as the primary source, Geison paints a far darker picture of Louis Pasteur than the usual model of the heroic lone scientist. No less a genius, but more devious, ruthless and ultimately fascinating. The chilling description 'the [rabies] case of John Linsay' from 1807 is worth the purchase price alone.   |
| Antarctica: A Biography   | David Day        | Professor Andrew Holmes  | The book is written in an engaging style and reveals the early history of the discovery of the Antarctic continent. The early indifference of many nations was transformed into intense rivalry between British, American and French explorers in the mid-19th century. Academy Fellow Sir Douglas Mawson played an enormous part in establishing Australia's role in Antarctica; this has developed into both a strategic and scientifically important commitment. |
| The Youth Pill: Scientists at the Brink of an Anti-Aging Revolution   | David Stipp      | Professor David James    | This book describes attempts by researchers to develop drugs that halt the ageing process. One of the major characters is our very own David Sinclair now at Harvard. It is a great read as not only does it do the science justice but it also gives some real insights into the human side of the research/discovery process.   |
| Secrets of the English War Bow  | Hugh D. H. Soar  | Professor Philip Kuchel  | Evolution of the bow and arrow with emphasis on the technology (and science) at the time of the battle of Agincourt...which wood was used for the bows and arrows, and why. The metallurgy and stone masonry of the arrow heads. The politics of supply of materials for weapons, e.g., wine from Portugal had to be accompanied by a specified number of yew staves for bows...a bit like the indirect 'policy contrivances' we see today with 'carbon tax'!       |
| A Woman of No Importance  | Oscar Wilde      | Professor Trevor Lithgow | In our new world that is so judgemental, and yet wishes it wasn't and tries not to be, this very short read is perfect. Take it into your garden, sit with it quietly, read some pages. You can savour where our language comes from, and see how much it has changed (and yet hasn't). Or you can reflect on what was or wasn't possible then ... depending on your gender, class or ability to not say out loud what you felt to be true.                         |
| The Patient Will See You Now: The Future of Medicine is in your Hands | Eric Topol       | Professor John Mattick   | A glimpse into the massive cultural, technological, digital and operational changes coming down the pipeline in medicine and healthcare - every chapter is an epiphany.   |
| The Last Voyage of Columbus   | Martin Dugard    | Professor John Mattick   | A compelling account of the life, voyages and fortunes of Christopher Columbus. History brought alive - a great story, from the seduction of the great houses to adventure, betrayal and tragedy - one of the best books I have read in many years.   |

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| Ghost Stories for Darwin: The Science of Variation and the Politics of Diversity | Banu Subramaniam                         | Dr Oliver Mayo                      | A different take on diversity, given to me by my daughter, who is a print-maker.   |
| How to Teach Quantum Mechanics to your Dog                                       | Chad Orzel                               | Professor Ross McPhedran            | A book I recommend for any non-expert who wants to learn about modern physics. Written in a light style, but technically correct.  |
| The Mandibles: A Family, 2029-2047   | Lionel Shriver                           | Emeritus Professor Michael Hynes    | Readable novel about a family in a future dystopian USA. Includes a majority Hispanic population and president and ends with POTUS Chelsea Clinton. Entirely suitable for happy reading at the end of the horror of 2016 world politics.   |
| Lab Girl: A Story of Trees, Science and Love.                                    | Hope Jahren                              | Emeritus Professor Neville Nicholls | How could any scientist resist a book that starts with "There is nothing in the world more perfect than a slide rule"?   |
| Fulbright: The Dissenter   | Haynes Johnson and Bernard M. Gwertzmann | Professor Ian Petersen              | The book is a biography of Senator J. William Fulbright. It covers his early years as a Rhodes Scholar and President of the University of Arkansas. It then moves on to his founding of the Fulbright Educational Exchange program and his opposition to the Vietnam war as chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.  |
| The Silk Roads: A New History of the World                                       | Peter Frankopan                          | Professor Harry Poulos              | This is an innovative view of world history that I really enjoyed reading.   |
| The Sabotage Diaries   | Katherine Barnes                         | Professor Cheryl Praeger            | Based on the wartime diaries of allied soldier Tom Barnes, the book traces the lives of a group of allied soldiers behind enemy lines in Greece during World War 2. Tom Barnes had been parachuted into Greece in October 1942 for a special mission, but after completion he was forced to remain in Greece for several years cooperating with the local Greece resistance.<br>Tom Barnes died in a car accident shortly after his son Chris (Kathy's husband) was born. Chris is a mathematician with CSIRO. |
| Bird Minds: Cognition and Behaviour of Australian Native Birds                   | Gisela Kaplan                            | Emeritus Professor Lesley J. Rogers | This book about cognition in Australian birds received a Whitley Award in behavioural zoology this year. Covering brain size, tool use, play, mimicry, vocal learning, emotions and a number of other topics, it will appeal to bird watchers and readers interested in the science of complex behaviour in animals. I read it again recently and, like many others, found it most enjoyable and full of fascinating factual information on a topic not previously discussed in one volume.                    |

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| A God in Ruins  | Kate Atkinson                       | Professor Louise Ryan             | Fictional account of the life of a former English Bombardier from WWII. Atkinson is a wonderful Canadian writer and this is the second book of hers I have read. I found this book very touching since my late father was also a bombardier (RAAF) serving in England during the war.  |
| The Big Picture: On the Origins of Life, Meaning, and the Universe Itself                   | Sean Carroll                        | Professor Evan Simpson            | A thoughtful discourse by a theoretical physicist at CalTech, which provides a refreshing insight into these issues which we continue to wrestle with.   |
| From Eternity to Here: The Quest for the Ultimate Theory of Time                            | Sean Carroll                        | Professor Evan Simpson            | The mystery of 'The arrow of time' has for long been a topic of philosophical debate. Dr Carroll provides a theoretical physicist's perspective which is both novel and understandable to those who are interested in the mysteries of the universe but who lack a physicist's mathematical background.  |
| The Quantum Universe: Everything that can happen does happen.                               | Brian Cox and Jeff Forshaw          | Professor Evan Simpson            | This is an engaging and accessible account of the mysteries of the quantum universe. It is highly relevant to those grappling to understand what the physicists are talking about but who lack the physicists' mathematical background.  |
| Encountering Terra Australis: The Australian Voyages of Nicolas Baudin and Matthew Flinders | Jean Fornasiero and John West-Sooby | Professor David Smyth             | Baudin and Flinders independently explored the southern coast of Australia between Eyre Peninsula to Bass Strait in 1802, filling in the last gap of European knowledge and unexpectedly meeting half way at Encounter Bay. This historical analysis of their achievements integrates excerpts from their logs, and sketches from the published records. It is a fascinating comparison of their personalities, and the reader can judge if history is right in emphasizing Baudin's failures and Flinders' successes. |
| The Best Australian Science Writing 2016  | Jo Chandler (editor)                | Professor Fiona Stanley           | If you are depressed about the state of Australian science, this book will lift your mood. It is a wonderful collection of essays from all areas of science from astronomy to evolution, ecology to climate change, how to assess risk, from how eels migrate to how an orchid pretends to be a female wasp to entice a male wasp to come inside! I have to confess I wrote the forward, but apart from that the essays are terrific!  |
| The Unlikely Voyage of Jack de Crow: A Mirror Odyssey from North Wales to the Black Sea     | A. J. Mackinnon                     | Emeritus Professor Stewart Turner | This is an amusing book. It will be enjoyed by anyone interested in sailing or travel. It begins in England, the author travels across the English channel and through Europe, and finishes in the black sea.  |

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| <p>The Reef: A Passionate History: The Great Barrier Reef from Captain Cook to Climate Change</p>                      | <p>Iain McCalman</p>     | <p>Dr Hugh Tyndale-Biscoe</p>         | <p>Twelve fascinating stories about the Great Barrier Reef in three parts, beginning with Cook's near disaster at Endeavour River and Flinders later voyage. Two wonderful stories of castaways taken in by the local people with whom they happily lived for years. Other chapters deal with the scientists who have struggled to understand the Reef and activists, such as Judith Wright and Len Webb who saved it from destructive exploitation a generation ago.</p>  |
| <p>A passion for exploring new countries' Matthew Flinders &amp; George Bass</p>                                       | <p>Josephine Bastian</p> | <p>Professor John Veevers</p>         | <p>Another excellent book from Australian Scholarly Publishing on the voyages that changed the map of the place Flinders called Australia. I especially liked the account of the Encounter Bay rendezvous with Baudin's Geographe.</p>   |
| <p>Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind</p>   | <p>Yuval Noah Harari</p> | <p>Dr Brian Walker</p>                | <p>A good account of how humans evolved and developed into the variety that exists today, and very interesting, technology-driven projection of what humans will be in the near future</p>   |
| <p>The Silwood Circle: A History of Ecology and the Making of Scientific Careers in Late Twentieth-Century Britain</p> | <p>Hannah Gay</p>        | <p>Professor Mark Westoby</p>         | <p>How some really bright alpha-male researchers formed a coterie (aka "mafia", "mob") that was more than the sum of its parts. They set much of ecology's research agenda 1970s-1990s, and several went on to top government roles. Written with deep understanding of the science itself and of the science process; fair and insightful about the personalities, wherever I could judge.</p>  |
| <p>The Philosophical Breakfast Club: Four Remarkable Friends who Transformed Science and Changed the World</p>         | <p>Laura J. Snyder</p>   | <p>Professor Robert C. Williamson</p> | <p>A gripping tale of four remarkable scientists from the 19th century, one who invented the very name "scientist", one who was most renowned astronomer of the day, one the progenitor of the modern computer and reformer of the royal society and one the father of modern political economy. A remarkably timeless and exciting story of how eminent scientists struggled, and dealt with, many of the same problems we do today, including all the institutional inertia and impediments which it is easy to think are unique to our time. Their fearlessness in crossing what we would think of as large disciplinary boundaries is an inspiration to budding polymaths today.</p> |
| <p>Birds and Frogs: Selected Papers of Freeman Dyson, 1990–2014</p>  | <p>Freeman J. Dyson</p>  | <p>Professor Howard Wiseman</p>       | <p>Freeman Dyson is the last of the generation of physicists who created modern quantum field theory in the 1940s, and is widely regarded to have deserved a Nobel Prize for his contributions. More recently he has become famous for his incisive, often controversial, and sometimes wrong (e.g. on climate change) views on all manner of scientific and social subjects. This book is a collection of some of his fascinating essays.</p>   |