

KALAMUNDA COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTRE

LIST OF BOOKS AVAILABLE FOR HIRE - 2012

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Following is a list of books owned by the Kalamunda Community Learning Centre which are available for hire by interested groups.

There are twelve books in each set. Hire fees are as follows:

\$36.00 per set plus postage at \$12.00 per set.

\$18.00 per half set, plus postage at \$12.00 per set.

\$3.00 per book for each copy between 7 & 11 copies. Minimum of SIX books may be borrowed.

Books must be returned promptly. Borrowing period is six weeks.

Lost books must be paid for. Cost is \$20.

Please submit a list of at least 20 books for the year as several of your choices could be on loan to other clubs at any time, and so we may need to work down the list. Please list books in order of preference.

Please note that the Centre is closed during school holidays. Books will be posted as normal. Clubs who collect, please contact Jenny or Tom.

I HEARD THE OWL CALL MY NAME by Margaret Craven

A modern Canadian classic which deals with the experiences of a young priest assigned to a remote Indian community whose culture is being broken down by modern civilisation.

LOVE ON THE DOLE by Walter Greenwood.

An insight into the effects of the Great Depression of the 1930.s on the lives of a working class family in the English Midlands.

CLOUDSTREET by Tim Winton

Set in Perth, the story of two families sharing a house is followed from the forties to the sixties.

LOVE AMONG THE BUTTERFLIES by Margaret Fountaine.

The candid confessions of a cheerful, humorous, inquisitive and infinitely susceptible female - based on the diaries of an amazing lady and her life prior to 1914.

NEWSPAPER OF CLAREMONT STREET by Elizabeth Jolley.

“Weekly”, the cleaning lady, has a dream, which she gradually manages to realize

THE BATTLE FOR CHRISTABEL by Margaret Forster.

The battle is for the custody of Christabel, whose mother has been killed. The combatants are her family, the authorities and her mother's friend. Well drawn characters and the issues it confronts make this an absorbing read.

THE GINGER TREE by Oswald Wind.

A young woman leaves Scotland to travel out to Hong Kong to marry in 1904. The marriage is a loveless disappointment, then she meets an interesting Japanese soldier.....

THE SHIPPING NEWS by Annie Proulx.

An unlikely hero whose life is in chaos moves back to the family home on Newfoundland. Here he rebuilds himself.

HARD TIMES by Charles Dickens.

One of Dickens' more blatantly political novels, decrying the Utilitarian philosophy of the time. Some of it seems very familiar today. Tightly structured and well written.

THE GHOST ROAD by Pat Barker.

The 1995 Booker Prize winner. The starkly written story looks at the role of war in culture, and how war engulfs men's lives.

HIGHWAYS TO A WAR by Christopher Koch

What makes a man become a war photographer? This book seeks an answer, as well as telling of the search for one who has disappeared. Miles Franklin award winner for 1996.

FELICIA'S JOURNEY by William Trevor

The chilling story of a naive Irish girl seeking her lover in the „wilds“ of an industrial city

MORALITY PLAY by Barry Unsworth.

An intriguing murder mystery centred round a group of travelling players, set in Medieval England.

LAST ORDERS by Graham Swift

A Booker prize winner, this tells the story of a group of men carrying out the „last orders“ of their friend. The history of each man's friendship with the dead man is revealed before his final resting place is reached.

REMEMBERING BABYLON by David Malouf.

Set in Queensland, this story explores what happens when a young man returns to white society after spending many years with the Aborigines.

NIGHT LETTERS by Robert Dessaix

A man with an incurable disease travels to Europe - and in his letters to a friend explains how we should live life to the full particularly in the face of impending death. The descriptions are wonderful, some of the characters fascinating, and the storytelling deft.

THE DROWNER by Robert Drewe.

The theme is water, and how important it is to us - physically and mentally. The action moves from Bath and Wiltshire in England to Western Australia and the Goldfields pipeline, and evokes images of a century and more ago.

READING IN THE DARK by Seamus Deane.

Another story of an Irish childhood? Yes, but it is more than that. This book looks at how the past in Ireland dominates life in the present, and how this controls the life of one family.

THE GREAT GATSBY by F. Scott Fitzgerald.

A classic story of the „great American dream., which is as current today as in the twenties.

THE GOD OF SMALL THINGS by Arundhati Roy.

“Lush, sensual” are some of the words used to describe this Booker Prize winner. It explores some of the darker sides of Indian life and belief, as seen by a child.

THE WARRIOR QUEEN by Barbara Else.

Guaranteed to raise a chuckle.....One woman’s reaction to the discovery that her husband is unfaithful - and her recovery of self-esteem and inner strength.

THE TORTILLA CURTAIN by P. Coraghessan Boyle.

Illegal immigrants from Mexico - What draws them to California, and how are they treated? What sort of life do they have? Some of these questions are answered in this very readable story.

A VIRTUOUS WOMAN by Kaye Gibbons.

A gentle story of the relationship of two people throughout twenty five years of marriage, told from each partner’s point of view.

THE WITCH OF EXMOOR by Margaret Drabble.

The „witch. is the writer/mother of adult children who don.t know how to deal with her. The lives of these families living in England of today are well drawn

CLOSED FOR WINTER by Georgia Blain.

An impressive debut novel from this Australian writer, dealing with the lasting effects on a family when one member simply disappears.

THE READER by Bernard Schlink

A thought provoking story of an affair between a teenage boy and an older woman, and his later life. Also explores the attitudes of post war German youth to the Nazi generation.

THE COLOUR OF WATER by James McBride

An exceptional dual biography of an American coloured man and his mother. A must read..

THE CHIMNEY SWEEPERS' BOY by Barbara Vine.

The most recent offering from this superb exponent of the psychological „thriller.. Gerald Candless has had success in his life and the family life he wanted, but his death reveals that much about him was unknown to his loved ones.

LAMBS OF GOD

Some nuns live in an old convent on an island, forgotten by everyone. Then a bright young priest comes to assess the property for development and the nuns' way of life is threatened. A delightful tale.

CHOCOLAT by Joanne Harris

What harm could there be in opening a chocolate shop in a small village? None, you would think. Others think differently. A feast of characters and events.

AMSTERDAM by Ian McEwan

Two successful men have shared their lives and a mistress. Her death causes them to reassess at a time of stress. The humour is black and the view of men very cynical.

SPICE ISLANDS VOYAGE by Tim Severin

Wallace enunciated the Theory of Evolution before Darwin. Tim Severin re-traces his voyage during which he came to these conclusions.

THE DANCER UPSTAIRS by Nicholas Shakespeare

Set in South America, this story retraces the rise and fall of a guerrilla movement, through the story of one of the main characters.

HANNA'S DAUGHTERS by Marianne Fredriksson

Mothers and daughters - how does one shape the other, how does it affect their lives? These questions are explored in the telling of the stories of three Swedish women.

THE MOON AND SIXPENCE by Somerset Maugham

This 1919 classic is a novel which is based loosely on the life of Paul Gauguin. Interesting characters, and an enlightening look at the morals of the time

THE PILOT'S WIFE by Anita Shreve

The story of a plane crash - its effects on the pilot's wife - and her re-evaluation of the man she knew and what he really was.

THE HOURS by Michael Cunningham

This superbly written book is written around the lives of three women through a single day. It explores the same territory as Virginia Woolf's "Mrs Dalloway", in similar style to that acclaimed work.

FATAL REMEDIES by Donna Lion

Set in Venice, this is a satisfying mystery novel dealing with life in Italy and social issues in that country.

THE ROSE GROWER by Michelle Kretser

A chronicle of life in France during the first six years of the French Revolution. The lives of the characters are moulded by the events happening around them.

DISGRACE by J.M. Coetzee

The 1999 Booker Prize winner tells of life of a South African academic whose life is changed by his affair with a student.

GRACE NOTES by Bernard McLaverty

Catherine is an extremely talented musician whose music has taken her away from home, religion and family. The novel tells her story, including her guilt's, doubts and loves and her journey to self-belief.

THE DRESSMAKER by Rosalie Ham

She returns home to an isolated 1950.s Australian country town to see her mother. Before she leaves, she has turned the place upside down. Quirky and amusing.

WITH YOUR CROOKED HEART by Helen Dunmore.

Hard to categorise this. A thriller? A Mystery? A character study? Probably all of the above. How love can be a destructive force in some lives. The writer is a British poet and novelist.

MY HOUSE IN UMBRIA by William Trevor.

Emily's house becomes a refuge for a group of people affected by trauma - in this case a terrorist bomb on a train. We get to know them all and how their lives are changed forever.

THURSDAY'S CHILD by Sonya Hartnett

This Australian writer has made her name writing for young adults and teenagers. This story has adult themes - The effect of poverty and war on a family, and how it affects all family members differently. Told from a child's point of view, it has great impact.

NO GREAT MISCHIEF by Alistair McLeod.

A Canadian bestseller, this story traces a Nova Scotia branch of the McDonald clan, who left Scotland to escape British persecution. The narrator is a man of our time, chronicling a way of life and type of people who are disappearing in modern times.

HOMESTEAD by Rosanna Lippi

An interlinked series of stories of women , who all live in the same Austrian mountain village, from 1909 to 1977. Through their stories, we see how life, and women's lives change.

GOOD HOUSE by Bonnie Burnard.

The fictional story of an ordinary Canadian family man from the 1940.s through to today. An absorbing read.

FALLING AWAY by Candida Crewe

A fiftyish woman tells her story.....how a teenage pregnancy and incarceration in a "home" changed the shape of her life.

ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT by Erich Maria Remarque

The classic novel of the Great War, told from a German viewpoint, but universal in its ideas and conclusions.

THE IDEA OF PERFECTION by Kate Grenville

What is perfection ? Who is perfect? Who measures up to the ideal? The story is set in a dying Australian country town and the main characters discover they are worthy of love, even though they're not "perfect".

THE WALLED GARDEN by Catherine Dunne

Beth's mother is dying - and she comes home to try to find reconciliation and some answers to old questions. The answers are not given in the way she expects, and the story unfolds in unexpected ways.

THE EARTHQUAKE BIRD by Susanna Jones

Did Lucy murder Lily? As she tells us her story of a child ugly, isolated and unloved and her finding herself in Japan, we are drawn into a chilling mystery and tale of fear.

FLIGHT OF THE MAIDENS by Jane Gardam

Three young women have just won University entrance at the end of their schooling in 1946. By the end of the vacation and beginning of University life has changed for each of them, and they've all "moved on"

A FINE AND PRIVATE PLACE by Brian Matthews

A finely written Memoir of growing up in Melbourne in the forties and fifties and the complications of family relationships.

OFFICER'S. WARD by Marc Dugain

How does one deal with having part of your face blown off? Set in W.W.1. this question is dealt with in the context of a ward full of victims. Sparsely written but projects hope, humanity and humour.

GILGAMESH by Joan London

This award winning novel is set in W.A. from the 1930.s onward. It is the story of one young woman's quest for love and romance - and of the importance of home and companionship.

YEAR OF WONDERS by Geraldine Brooks

Set in the Plague year of 1665, this novel is based on the actual events in the village of Eyam, which isolated itself from the world so as not to spread the Plague. An unusual and absorbing read.

EMBERS by Sandor Marai

The work of an Hungarian writer of the 1940.s, this novel has only recently become available in English. It is a story of love, loyalty, pride, and the importance of friendship.

BEL CANTO by Ann Patchett

The 2002 Orange prize winner, this is the story of a group of hostages in a South American mansion, taken captive during a party. A fascinating look at captives and captors and the relationships which develop.

BORDER CROSSING by Pat Barker.

A psychologist meets up with a young man, at whose trial for murder a decade earlier, he appeared as an expert witness. He becomes involved with Danny, trying to assess the validity of his evidence at the trial, and to help him move on.

SONG OF NAMES by Norman Lebrecht

An absorbing story about a man whose life has been shaped by the disappearance of a childhood friend. Also a comment on the world of music, of musicians and their absorption in themselves.

GOODBYE TO BERLIN by Christopher Isherwood.

More a series of connected stories than a novel, this „classic. fleshes out what life was like in Berlin in the 1930.s

THE PICKUP by Nadine Gordimer.

Set in modern Africa, this book confronts the problems of identity- both for illegal immigrants and those who choose to change countries legally. Interwoven with this are issues of family and its importance, and the economic divisions in modern Africa - and the world. Thought provoking.

SEVEN SISTERS by Margaret Drabble.

Women are often left to live alone in middle age for a variety of reasons. Many find it lonely and depressing. How can they deal with it?

SPIES by Michael Frayn

In 1940.s Britain, two boys begin a game, pretending one of their mothers is a spy. The Game becomes deadly serious. 2002 Whitbread Book of the Year

REMBRANDT'S WHORE by Sylvie Matton

The famous artist's companion of his later years tells the story of their ill-fated relationship, and in so doing she reveals much about life at the time.

THE QUIET AMERICAN by Graham Greene.

A classic of modern times, set in Vietnam, prior to the war. A must read..

THE PIANO TUNER by Daniel Mason.

A fascinating “travellers tale” of a piano tuner sent to Burma by the 19th century British Government. The people, the culture, the flora and fauna – all help to create a rich tapestry.

DIRT MUSIC by Tim Winton.

Set in W.A., Winton weaves a tale of faded hopes and dreams, small communities , and people who've lost faith in relationships.

CONFESSING A MURDER by Nicholas Drayton.

Supposedly written from a long lost 19th Century document, this book tells the story of two scientists marooned on an island in the Tropics. They are naturalists, like Darwin, looking to explain how life on earth evolved.

DIARY OF AN ORDINARY WOMAN by Margaret Forster.

This fictional diary traces a woman's life from the time of World War 1 to the 1990.s. As this was a period of war and great social change, especially for women, it is a fascinating insight into a life.

SMALL ISLAND by Andrea Levy.

An award winning look at the social change in England after World War 2 , and the complications of black migration beginning then. Good characters and wry humour add to the pleasure.

BITTER FRUIT by Achmat Dangor.

A sad and haunting story of life for a coloured family who were at the forefront of the fight for freedom in South Africa. Their new life is not what they had anticipated..

THIS SIDE OF BRIGHTNESS by Colum McCann

This novel concerns the men who helped build the many tunnels under New York - and the social outcasts who live in the tunnels in modern times.

THE KITE RUNNER by Khaled Hosseini.

A haunting story of growing up in Afghanistan and the narrator's later return to rescue his best friend's son from the Taliban.

MORAL HAZARD by Kate Jennings.

The main character in this story faces moral hazard at work in New York's financial district as she works to support her husband who has Alzheimer's disease – and wants her to help him die.

WATER, CARRY ME by Thomas Moran

Modern Ireland is not a place where you can ignore politics, even if you're young and in love. A romantic thriller, or a coming of age story? Whatever. It's a very powerful read.

THESE FOOLISH THINGS by Deborah Moggach

A motley group of British seniors find themselves in an old peoples' home in India. Here their money goes further, and they're treated with respect. A tongue in cheek look at the problems of living too long.

CASE HISTORIES by Kate Atkinson

Stories from a private detective's files, some connected, which all show how little girls can be "lost" to families. Some great characters are involved, and most of the mysteries are solved.

THE MASTER PEARLER'S DAUGHTER by Rosemary Hemphill.

An autobiographical account of growing up in Broome and the U.K. of the 1930.s. Pictures of a way of life that is long gone.

BILLIE MORGAN by Joolz Denby

Billie Morgan is a murderer. Or is she? She tells us her story – of how she grew up to be a rebel, got caught up with drugs, fell in love and then rebuilt her life. But one event is enough to bring back the past.

A COMPLICATED KINDNESS by Miriam Loews

What is it like to be a teenager in a strict Mennonite community? Particularly when your mother and sister are losing their faith and it becomes hard to make sense of anything.

THE WHITE EARTH by Andrew McGahern

A family saga about love of the land, and the lengths to which men will go to acquire and keep it. It is set in Queensland, and looks at one point of view of the Native Title debate.

EVERY MAN'S RULES FOR SCIENTIFIC LIVING by Carrie Tiffany

Set back in the tough 1930.s, this is the story of Robert, who believes science can give the solution to all problems. Jean is the woman who loves him, and tries to live by these rules.

OLD FILTH by Jane Gardam

Eddie was sent home from the colonies (Borneo) as a five year old, put with child minders, then sent to school. He only saw his father once in the next fifteen years. What effect did this have on him as a man? Or on other RAJ orphans as they were known. A great read.

THE APRICOT COLONEL by Marion Halligan

A gentle, pleasant read with a touch of mystery, the story takes us into the life of a Canberra book editor, and the "arts" scene there.

DAYS WITHOUT NUMBER by Robert Goddard

This is another well-crafted thriller from a master of the genre. Lots of secrets in a multi layered story centered around an old family story.

MAKING IT UP by Penelope Lively

Not really an autobiography as the writer tells us certain facts about her life, and then says "what if" the something else happened, another path could have been taken. So it's really like a series of short stories, well written and quite absorbing.

A LONG, LONG WAY by Sebastian Barry

Shortlisted for the Booker Prize in this is a poetic account of World War 1 from the viewpoint of an Irish lad, beautifully told, a coming of age story set in the grimmest circumstances.

Q & A by Vikas Swarup

A quirky book at Indian Society as seen by a member of the lowest class. Ram Mohammed Thomas has won a Billion Rupee Quiz on T.V. and has been challenged to prove he hasn't cheated. He proceeds to tell a series of stories of incidents in his life which have given him the answers. A great read from a superb storyteller.

SATURDAY by Ian McEwan

One day in the life of a brain surgeon, a Saturday, which shows us the tensions in his life both from his job and his family. Social comment and political observations of London on the brink of the Iraq War.

A SHORT HISTORY OF TRACTORS IN UKRAINIAN by Marina Lewyka

An amusing tale of an elderly father who wants to marry a bosomy 36 year old. What do his daughters think? Social commentary on immigrants, their children and family relationships, all related with a very light touch.

A LOYAL CHARACTER DANCER by Qiu Xiaolong

A Chinese police mystery which is noteworthy more for the picture it gives of Chinese life in recent times, than for the solution of the murder.

RESTLESS by William Boyd

A modern day daughter discovers her mother had another life- as a spy during World War 2 . The past and present are revealed as parallel stories. Absorbing and Believable with well-drawn characters

THE CONJURER'S BIRD by Martin Davies

A dual story-One is the story of Joseph Banks, and his mistress who bore him a daughter and then slipped out of his life. The second story is that of modern characters trying to piece together Bank.s story, and the fate of a rare stuffed bird he was given. A good read.

DIGGING TO AMERICA by Anne Tyler

Two families in Baltimore adopt Korean girl babies. One family is American, the other is immigrant Iranians. This is the story of the girls first few years, and the relationships between the two families, also it is the story of Maryam the Iranian grandmother, and what it means to be an immigrant.

THE ENTOMBED MINER by Tom Austen

A factual account by a W.A. writer of the events in 1907 when an Italian goldminer was trapped underground in the W.A. goldfields, and of his eventual rescue.

THE BALLAD OF LES DARCY by Peter Fitzsimmons

The true story of an Australian legend - the boxer Les Darcy.

WATER FOR ELEPHANTS by Sara Gruen

A story of Circus in the 1930s in America. Romance, Drama, Murder Intrigue.....It has it all.

SILENT PARTS by John Charalambous.

Harry never wanted to go away to war. A picture of life in Australia in W.W.1, in country France at the same time, and an unusual relationship.

TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD by Harper Lee.

A modern classic. Set in the U.S. in the 1930s Deep South, it is a story of Racial divisions and a man who stands by his principles .

RUN by Ann Patchett.

Is assimilation possible when you have plenty of money? Or do individual characters still mark those involved?

AWAY by Amy Bloom.

Based on a true story, this is an account of a Russian immigrant who wants to go home, and sets out to walk from New York to Alaska.

SORRY by Gail Jones

This novel has been shortlisted for many major awards this year. It traces the story Of a white child growing up with aboriginal friends in W.A.'s north during W. W. 2. It's about friendship, loyalty and loss.

DAY by A.L. Kennedy

A complex internal dialogue of a man set adrift by the War. He has lost his Family, his mates and his girl and is sorting through his memories, trying to make sense of it all.

ENGLEBY by Sebastien Faulks.

A working class boy wins a place at an esteemed university. The a fellow student disappears, and Engleby's troubles begin.

SKYLIGHT CONFESSIONS. By Alice Hoffman.

Arlie's spirit continues to haunt her family for many years. The story is told by Arlie, Meredith, who tries to help Arlie's children, and by Blanca, her daughter.

THE BROKEN SHORE by Peter Temple.

A crime thriller by an award winning Australian writer, this story deals with recognizable characters and real life situations.

A QUIET BELIEF IN ANGELS by R.J. Ellory

1939 . A serial killer devastates a small country town, and then seemingly moves on, undetected.. Fifty years later, Joseph must confront the nightmare.

SELF HELP by Edward Docx.

Maria Glover's children are summoned to St. Petersburg as she is dying. There they find that their family story is not as they thought.

THE ROAD HOME by Rose Tremain

Lev leaves his East European home to go to England. He needs to find his life. again – work, love, and his self-respect. This is his journey to find the road home.

THE CHILDREN by Charlotte Wood

An Australian novel about a family who are united because father is dying. Old rivalries and resentments surface, but some of their problems are resolved.

THE MADONNAS OF LENINGRAD by Debra Dean

A modern story of ageing parents and Alzheimer's, coupled with the parents experiences in and near Leningrad during the Germans 900 day siege.

THE LOST DOG by Michelle de Kretser

Set in and near Melbourne, this modern story is told by a man not sure where he belongs. He is Anglo Indian , has had a broken marriage, and is in love with an artist.. Then he loses his dog.....

ROSE OF SEBASTOPOL by Katherine McMahon

Set in Victorian times, this story gives an insight into middle class life and values, and later, into the chaos that was the Crimean War. Two very different young women are at the centre of the story, which culminates in the Siege of Sebastopol.

ANGEL AT MY TABLE by Janet Frame

This autobiography by NZ writer Janet Frame encompasses three books published in her life time. We learn of her childhood in the 1930.s and 1940.s, her experiences as a young adult in a mental institution, and her hard won success as a writer (458 pages).

NOTES FROM AN EXHIBITION by Patrick Gale

A sympathetic and insightful look at a family, all of whom are affected by their mother's Bipolar condition. She is a successful artist, and at times a loving mother, but her condition touches them all, even as adults.

THE BIG SLEEP by Raymond Chandler

The classic tough guy Private Eye story, which reshaped the detective genre from the 1940.s on.

OCTOBER by Richard Wright

Two parallel stories of people suffering from cancer. The narrator has been affected by both - in the past and in the present. He tells both stories, one of which ends with Euthanasia. Simply told and at times very sad. Partly set in Canada.

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BRIDGE by Mary Lawson

This is another Canadian story - a family story. The main character is Arthur, the dutiful, reserved elder son. His brother Jake is a charming lazy ne'er do well whose aim in life seems to be to blight Arthur's hopes and dreams. We read of their lives as others in the community who come in contact with them. A great study of character and places.

OUT STEALING HORSES by Per Petersen

A Norwegian coming of age story with its roots in one summer soon after the war.(1948). A boy's relationship with his father and its effects on the rest of his life.

CITY OF THIEVES by David Benioff

Set in Leningrad during the siege, we follow the adventures of two young men on a mission which if successful, will save their lives. At times funny, horrific and fascinating, this is a good read.

GUERNSEY LITERARY AND POTATO PEEL PIE SOCIETY By Mary Ann Schaffer

Told in a series of letters, this is a story of experiences of Guernsey's people during the war . The characters are well drawn, and there is a bit of romance and intrigue. Charming.

THE GOOD PARENTS by Joan London

When their daughter disappears, Jacob and Toni look back at their own lives to try to understand how they have got to this point, have they been good parents? Were their parents "good"? A W.A author.

BREAKFAST AT TIFFANY'S by Truman Capote

The classic coming of age story of Holly Golightly, written by this iconic US writer. There are other short stories in the collection.

BREATH by Tim Winton

A beautifully written tale set in the S.W. of W.A., it explores the motivation and mindset of those who pursue extreme sports- in this case, surfing

BREATHING IN COLOUR by Claire Joy

Explores the relationship between mother and daughter which was fractured by the death of a second child. Also shows how synaesthesia [seeing everything in colours] alters your perspective on the world.

THE WOMEN IN BLACK by Madeleine St John

A piece of social history set in Sydney in the 1950.s. Looks at the lives of the ladies who work in the frock department of a large store.

A GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF EAST AFRICA by Nicholas Drayson.

A wry and amusing look at one section of society in Nairobi, and shows what life is like there.

THE SPARE ROOM by Helen Garner.

What happens when you offer your spare room for a short time to a friend suffering from cancer. This reads like a diary, but the story evolves like a novel.

LEGACY by Larissa Behrends.

A story of urban aboriginals, but also of a daughter.s relationship with her father as she comes to really know him.

THE MERRY GO ROUND IN THE SEA by Randolph Stow

A „classic. of Australian literature of the 20th century. Set in Geraldton, it chronicles the 1941-1949, and how everyone.s life changed to some degree over some time.

THE VANISHING ACT OF ESME LENNOX by Maggie O.Farrell

Esme was consigned to an asylum by her family while still in her teens. The book gradually fills in the history of Esme and her sister, and of modern Iris, who suddenly finds she is responsible for a relative she knows nothing about.

REMARKABLE CREATURES by Tracy Chevalier.

Another fiction based on fact from this author. Gives a great picture of life in early 19thC England, especially of the role and place of women in society. Two women who develop a passion for collecting fossils, and how they turn the scientific world on its head, provide the focus of the story.

JASPER JONES by Craig Silvey

A second novel from the author of “Rhubarb”, this story is set in a country town and narrated by a teenager who is frank. confused and a bit of an outsider. Well written depiction of life in a country town.

BOY ON A WIRE by Jon Doust

A coming of age novel by this well-known W.A. figure. It is a thinly disguised autobiography of his childhood and years at boarding school.

AFTER RIVER by Donna Milner

Set near the Canada /US border during the Vietnam war. River is a draft dodger who comes north to work on the farm, and changes all their lives.

THE STILL POINT by Amy Sackville.

A family has always been fascinated by an ancestor who disappeared while exploring in the Arctic. Julia, his modern descendent is almost living in the past.....

THE TALL MAN by Chloe Hooper.

This much awarded piece of non-fiction chronicles the case of Cameron Doomadgee, and the people of Palm Island. She draws in the background and the history behind the case.

THE THIRTYNINE STEPS by John Buchan

This classic is regarded as the forerunner to the modern thriller with the hero on the run while trying to prove his innocence. Interesting to compare it with today's thrillers.

COLD COMFORT FARM by Stella Gibbons

This is a brilliant parody of the bucolic country romances so popular in the early 1930's.

LET THE GREAT WORLD SPIN BY Colum McCann

A series of stories of peoples' activities in New York on the day in 1974 when the 'Man on a Wire' walked between the Twin Towers. Some of the Stories link up at the day's end. Winner of the Dublin Impac Award 2010.

ARMISTICE by Nick Stafford.

Philomena has been told her fiancé died on the last day of World War 1. She sets out to discover what happened, and to meet the men with him that day. She finds all is not as it seemed and tries to pursue the truth.

THE HELP by Kathryn Stockett

In 1960's Mississippi, Skeeter decides to write a book to inform the world just how badly blacks are treated, particularly by the women who employ housemaids. It is a life changing experience for all involved.

GOD'S OWN COUNTRY by Ross Raisin

Sam's view of the world is a simple one, and he doesn't always consider the consequences before he acts. He tells his story, and it is a sad indictment of society.

THE TWIN by Gerbrandt Bakker

This Dutch book won the 2010 Impac award for foreign literature. When the twin who was to carry on the farm is killed, his brother is brought home from University to take his place-- a place he did not want.

TINKERS by Paul Harding.

An old man is dying and is looking back over his life, and that of his father. Beautifully written, this won the 2010 Pulitzer Prize.

A CUPBOARD FULL OF COATS by Yvonne Edwards

A story of a West Indian family in England, and the long lasting effects of domestic violence on their lives, and the lives of their friends.

WHEN GOD WAS A RABBIT by Sarah Winman

Brother and sister forge a special relationship as children, and it carries through to their adult lives thirty years later.

PAST THE SHALLOWS by Favel Parrett

Set in a fishing community in southern Tasmania, this is the sad story of three boys whose father is bitter and whose life is falling apart.

THE SPARROWS OF EDWARD STREET by Elizabeth Stead

Unable to find a home to rent, the Sparrow family find themselves in an old army camp on the edge of Sydney used by the Housing Commission as temporary accommodation after World War 2.

THE ELEPHANT'S JOURNEY by Jose Saramago

Translated from the Portuguese, this is the imagined story of an elephant given by the King of Portugal to a relative for a wedding gift, and its journey to its new home.

THE NOVEL IN THE VIOLA by Natasha Solomons

The story of a young woman displaced from her home in Europe in the 1930's, and her new life in England.

THE BUTTERFLY CABINET by Bernie McGill

A mother punishes her child, with tragic consequences. Many years later the child's nurse recounts the story to the grand daughter and attempts to set the record straight. Based on a true case.

THE HARE WITH AMBER EYES by Edmund de Waal

Part biography, part family history, the author has traced the ownership of a netsuke collection within his family. In so doing, he recreates the periods in which his forebears lived [Paris in the late 1800's, Vienna 1900 to 1938] and in so doing, chronicles the rise of anti-Semitism in these cities. He also describes Japan's emergence from the war.