

FRIENDS OF ARMIDALE WAR MEMORIAL LIBRARY



NEWSLETTER – April 2021

FROM THE COMMITTEE

Website in the making

The generous Joy Bowles came and discussed the setting up of a website for FOAL. She was very interesting and obviously knew a lot more about the process than any of the committee! Joy is going to set up a website for us to discuss...suggesting a logo is an excellent idea for quick identification by the public. Also she will include an avenue for events, fund raising , newsletters etc. She also hopes to attach the website to the Armidale library's site. We also need to discuss the colour and font size and possible logo. Suggestions from any talented graphic designers among our membership would be most welcome.

Six of the best Competition

We are going to hold this competition again this year. We hope the entries will open 12/7/21 to Monday 4/10/21...during term 3 of the school schedules.

Judging will be on 5th October 2021 to 22nd October 2021

The announcement of winners will be 1st November 2021 - 5th November 2021. Emails will be sent to winners and with their permission publicised to the community. There will be a prize giving on Wednesday 17th November 2021 and a library display from 8th November to 22nd November 2021.

Treasurer: Our excellent Treasurer is unwell at the moment, so Clare Davies is going to generously give her time and take on the Acting Treasurers role for the moment; for which the rest of the Committee are very grateful.

Gail Grant

FINDING THE” RIGHT BOOK”

Writers Festival Tie in:

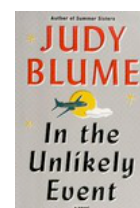
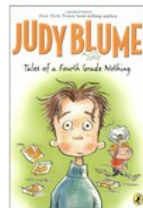
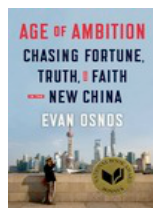
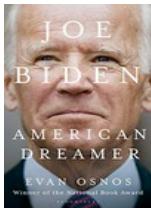
Just a reminder that **Sydney Writers Festival** is Live Streaming in Armidale & Guyra Libraries.

In a special library event on **Friday 30 April and Saturday 1 May** our libraries are live streaming direct from the Sydney Writers Festival on the theme “Within Reach”. Spaces are limited so book early in the library, on the Library app, or on the Council website

<https://www.armidaleregional.nsw.gov.au/community/arts-and-culture/libraries/library-events>

If I had ever doubted the breadth and quality of our libraries' collections, finding the books to tie in with the Writers Festival live streaming would have dispelled them. Book/s written by most of the authors who are featured in the live stream are available at the Library.

Friday 10-11 am Barrie Cassidy and Friends: Biden's America :Panel discussion with US author Evan Osnos.



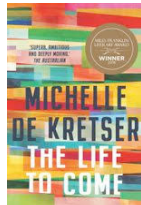
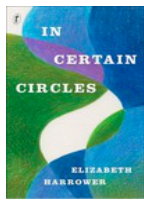
Friday 12-1 p.m Are You There Sydney? It's me, Judy Blume: Judy Blume talks to Sophie Black.

Evan Osnos' books *Age of Ambition* and *Joe Biden American Dreamer*, demonstrate his intensive examinations of the topics on which he writes. *Age of Ambition* describes his travels in China, the people he met there and the political and social conclusions which he draws from his experiences. In *Joe Biden American Dreamer*, he has made an in-depth study of Joe Biden's career; conducting hundreds of interviews with Biden, his allies and his opponents. He speaks with Barrie Cassidy about his insight into Biden's personal and political life.

Judy Blume has been a colossus of children's literature from the late 1960s, and many of us will remember the impact on us or our children, of her funny, irreverent and, at times controversial depictions of the lives of children, young adults and adults. *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* is a Judy Blume classic, examining sibling rivalry, grief and loss within the framework of a 9 year old

boy's exasperation with his annoying toddler brother. *In the Unlikely Event* returns to the same theme. Inspired by true events Judy Blume examines the effect of a series of plane crashes on the lives of three generations of women in New Jersey.

Friday 2-3 pm But Not Forgotten- Michelle de Kretser, Kerry O' Brien, Michael Robotham and Sally Warhaft reflect on beloved authors Elizabeth Harrower, Mungo MacCallum, John Le Carre and Jan Morris.



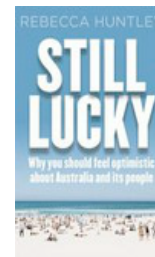
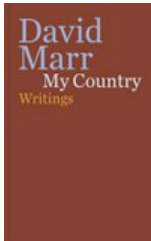
Elizabeth Harrower's *In Certain Circles* is an intense psychological drama about family, love, control and autonomy, set on the shores of Sydney Harbour. Although written in 2014, its examination of the way class and gender play out in marriage has an unnerving contemporary resonance. Who better then, to discuss Harrower's work, than Michelle de Kretzer, whose *The Life to Come* skewers many of the same themes in equally vibrant prose.

John Le Carré's latest novel *Agent Running in the Field* proves that this much loved author had lost none of his ability to construct a taut and complex spy thriller. Michael Robotham is equally adept at writing crime novels and in *When She Was Good*, is in top form.

Two legendary journalists, are under a spotlight focussed by two equally brilliant writers. Kerrie O' Brien knew Mungo MacCallum very well and his view of the legendary speechwriter, raconteur, satirist and all round stirrer should be intriguing.

Jan Morris' *In My Mind's Eye* is an account of growing older by a woman who has changed her life, gender, career, country and point of view many times. She looks back at her life with a nostalgic but shrewd eye. In *Well May We Say*, Sally Warhaft also looks back at the past, but through the prism of a definitive collection of speeches by Australians from many areas of endeavor. A highlight of the book is her contextual introductions of the speeches and speech makers.

Friday 4-5p.m The Larrikin Lie :David Marr, Patricia Cornelius and Rebecca Huntley “separate the shit stirrers from the boot lickers” with ABC's Laura Tingle.



David Marr remains one of Australia's most incisive, intelligent and entertaining writers, whose interrogation of Australian society and culture seldom fail to challenge and amuse. *My Country* is a collection of his writing on politics, sexuality, censorship, arts and the law.

Patricia Cornelius, has developed Morris Gleitzman's best-selling novel, *Boy Overboard* into a deeply moving play depicting a deeply human side of the 'asylum seekers' issue by following the journey of two boys, Jamal and Bibi from Afghanistan to Australia.

Many people will be familiar with the social research of Rebecca Huntley who has in some ways inherited the mantle of Hugh MacKay. In *Still Lucky*” she makes a case for Australians to continue to be optimistic and to find a way to confront the social, cultural and economic problems which seem at times to be overwhelming.

Saturday 10-11 am Barrie Cassidy and Friends:Opposition and Dissent
Panel discussion with Scott Ludlum.

12-1pm Isabel Wilkerson: Caste-The Lies That Divide Us.
U.S author discusses the underpinnings of class and race divisions.

Mini International Film Festival – Tie In.

With the lifting of Covid regulations the Belgrave Cinema is cautiously putting a toe in the Film Festival waters. Those film lovers among us who sorely missed the International Film Festival (IFF) in 2020 will be delighted that the Belgrave will be showing five of the films that the IFF committee had planned for last year as a lead up to the IFF in August

For further information and bookings contact the Cinema.

Three of the films, Parasite, The Third Wife and The Insult will be available as DVDs at the library after the festival. Friends of the Library have traditionally donated IFF

Dvds wherever possible and we are currently trying to obtain the further two films, *Aga* and *Transit* to add to the collection.



Parasite, Friday April 23 7.30 p.m

Directed by Joon Ho Bong, *Parasite* was the history making Korean film which won Best Picture at the Oscars last year, the first foreign language film to do so. *Parasite* is the the blackest of black comedies, yet with all its absurdity, manages to be a humane and engrossing look at the interaction between the destitute Kim family and the wealthy Park family, their employers. This beautifully shot and tautly directed film satirises the economic, social and cultural divides in Korea.

The Third Wife Saturday April 24 10 a.m

The Third Wife is an award winning (Toronto and San Sebastian Film Festivals) Vietnamese costume drama of “haunting beauty” Set in the 19th century, it follows a 14-year-old girl who becomes the third wife to a landowner in rural northern Vietnam.

The Insult Saturday April 24 2.30 p.m

A Lebanese courtroom drama *The Insult*, which was shortlisted for best Foreign Film in the 2018 Oscars, tells the story of an insult between a minor incident between a Lebanese Christian and a Palestinian refugee turns into an explosive trial that ends up dividing the two communities. A brilliant, critically acclaimed film it gives an insight into the deep conflicts which undermine Lebanese society,

AGA Sat April 25 3 p.m

A Bulgarian/French/German co production *Aga*, by the Bulgarian filmmaker Milko Lazarov tells the story on an aging couple. Alienated from their daughter the couple begin a trek to try to find a rapprochement with her.

Transit April 25 5 p.m

Book Review

The Wife and the Widow Christian White

This psychological thriller by Christian White is set on Belport Island, an isolated place off the coast of Victoria. Belport is a tourist destination in the summer months of the year, and the novel is set during the winter.

The story is told in alternating chapters, between the Widow and the Wife. After a short prologue, the Widow commences the story proper. Kate and her 10 year old daughter Mia are waiting at a mainland airport for the return of husband John from a conference in London. When he doesn't appear, Kate goes to Belport where they have a family holiday house in an attempt to find out what has happened to him. Her grief at discovering John's death is made more harrowing by what she learns about his secret life.

The wife Abby, lives on the island with husband Ray and their two teenage children, Lori and Eddie. Abby begins to suspect her husband of a serious crime, after he becomes secretive and dismissive of her enquiries. The intertwining of the two stories leads eventually to the truth. The situation for both Kate and Abby is to recognize that aspects of long time partners can remain unknown.

The novel is well written and the scenic island setting is beautifully realised. Winter weather conveys a sense of isolation and foreboding. The time line part way into the book caused me some confusion and I had to re-read a couple of chapters. However, the author manages this twist in the story very well and ensures that the ending of the novel is not what is expected.

Marnie French