East Gippsland Shire Library Book Club Sets

**The little coffee shop of Kabul**  **Author: Deborah Rodriguez  FICTION**
Deborah Rodriguez's bestselling novel about a little cafe in Kabul, and the five extraordinary women who meet there. In a little coffee shop in one of the most dangerous places on earth, five very different women come together. As these five discover there's more to one another than meets the eye, they form a unique bond that will for ever change their lives and the lives of many others.

**Bitter Greens**  **Author: Kate Forsyth  FICTION**
An exquisite rendering of the story behind the Rapunzel fairy tale. Charlotte-Rose de la Force has been banished from court by the Sun King, Louis XIV, after a series of scandalous love affairs. Three women, three lives, three stories, braided together to create a compelling story of

**The hypnotist's love story**  **Author: Liane Moriarty  FICTION**
From the author of critically acclaimed *What Alice Forgot* comes a wonderfully fun, insightful novel about the crazy things we do for love. It's about the murky areas between right and wrong, and the complexities of modern relationships.

**The language of flowers**  **Author: Vanessa Diffenbaugh  FICTION**
A mesmerizing, moving, and elegantly written debut novel, The Language of Flowers beautifully weaves past and present, creating a vivid portrait of an unforgettable woman whose gift for flowers helps her change the lives of others even as she struggles to overcome her own troubled past.

**Last Chance Café**  **Author: Liz Byrski FICTION**
With aching empathy, Liz Byrski assembles a fallible cast of characters who are asking the questions we ask ourselves. What does it mean to grow older? Are we brave enough to free ourselves from the pressure to stay young? And is there ever a stage in life when we can just be ourselves?

**The lightkeeper’s wife**  **Author: Karen Viggers FICTION**
A woman at the end of her life. A man unable to restart his. A history of guilty secrets and things left unsaid. A powerful, moving novel that will steal your heart

**Mateship with Birds**  **Author: Carrie Tiffany FICTION**
A novel about young lust and mature love. It is a hymn to the rhythm of country life – to vicious birds, virginal cows, adored dogs and ill-used sheep. On one small farm in a vast, ancient landscape, a collection of misfits question the nature of what a family can be.

**A Secret Kept**  **Author: Tatiana Rosnay  FICTION**
This stunning new novel from Tatiana de Rosnay, author of the acclaimed *New York Times* bestseller *Sarah’s Key*, plumbs the depths of complex family relationships and the power of a past secret to change everything in the present.

**When we have wings**  **Author: Claire Corbett  FICTION**
In a world divided into fliers and non-fliers, how far would you go to be able to fly? How much would you sacrifice - perhaps your own child? A beautifully written and compellingly original novel of sacrifice, betrayal and love.
Mad men, bad girls and the guerilla knitters institute  Author: Maggie Groff  FICTION
When a secretive American cult moves to the Gold Coast, freelance journalist Scout Davis's investigative antennae start quivering. She sets out to expose the cult's lunatic beliefs and bizarre practices, but when she learns the identity of a recent recruit, her quest becomes personal. And dangerous. This novel is frequently hilarious, always surprising, and delivered with a strong cast of charmingly eccentric characters.

The Opal Desert  Author: Di Morrissey  FICTION
The Opal Desert is the story of three women from different generations with unresolved issues in their lives who meet in the fictitious NSW town of Opal Lake. The friendship that develops between these three women who meet in the strangely beautiful but desolate landscape of Opal Lake helps them resolve deal with the next stage of their lives.

Second Chances  Author: Charity Norman  FICTION
In the quiet of a winter's night, the rescue helicopter is sent to airlift a five-year-old boy with severe internal injuries. He's fallen from the upstairs verandah of an isolated farmhouse, and may not last the next few hours. A rich warm novel of family, divided loyalties and complicated relationships.

The Boy Under the Table  Author: Nicole Trope  FICTION
Told from the alternating points of view of Tina, Sarah, Doug and Pete, The Boy Under the Table is gritty, shocking, moving and, ultimately, filled with hope. A harrowing glimpse into the real world behind the headlines, this is a novel of immense power and compassion-one that will not fail to move all who read it.

Nine Days  Author: Toni Jordan  FICTION
Ambitious in scope and structure, triumphantly realised, this is a novel about one family and every family. It is about dreams and fights and sacrifices. And finally, of course, it is as it must be about love.

Currawalli Street  Author: Christopher Morgan  FICTION
We all have secret lives. And we are all pretty good at keeping them secret. With simplicity and great beauty, Currawalli Street reveals the echoes between past and present through the story of one ordinary street and its families, from the pre-war innocence of early 1914 to the painful and grim consequences of the Vietnam War.

Deranged Marriage  Author: Sushi Das  NON FICTION
An affectionate, often hilarious, memoir of growing up in London in the 1970s in an Indian household, and avoiding an arranged marriage. From the age of fourteen, I was aware my parents expected me to have an arranged marriage, a big Bollywood wedding. There was just one

The Happiness Show  Author: Catherine Deveny  FICTION
She ached for him. She longed for him. She missed the way he made her feel and how funny and smart and sexy she felt with him. And young. She missed the version of herself that she had left behind. At thirty-eight, Lizzie Quealy thinks she has things sorted: a happy relationship, a couple of gorgeous kids, a steadfast best friend and a career she loves. But when Lizzie bumps into Tom, an old flame from her globe-trotting twenties, her life begins to unravel.

Horrible Man  Author: Leonie Wallace  NON FICTION
It is one of Australia’s worst unsolved crimes. The seaside regional centre of Portland in Victoria’s South West unwittingly played host to a disturbing double homicide. This is a disturbing account, however, it is not just a book about murder. It is a multilayered story of great courage and love as those at its epicentre continue their quest for justice and closure.
**True North**  **Author:** Brenda Niall  **NON FICTION**
A year spent together on the stations in their early twenties ignited in the sisters a lifelong love of the Kimberley, along with a growing unease about the situation of the Aboriginal people employed there. Through war, love affairs, children and eventual old age, the Duracks continued to write and paint – their closely intertwined creative lives always shaped by the enduring power of the Kimberley region.

**In Her Blood**  **Author:** Annie Hauxwell—No reading notes  **FICTION**
It's not that easy to kick the money habit. After the world meltdown forces London's bankers to go cold turkey, people look elsewhere for a quick quid: the old fashioned East End. So when investigator Catherine Berlin gets an anonymous tip-off about a local loan shark, the case seems straightforward until… Smart, stylish and fast-paced, *In Her Blood* heralds the arrival of

**Lola Bensky**  **Author:** Lily Brett  **FICTION**
Lola Bensky is a nineteen-year-old rock journalist who irons her hair straight and asks a lot of questions. A high-school dropout, she's not sure how she got the job – but she's been sent by her Australian newspaper right to the heart of the London music scene at the most exciting time in music history: 1967.

**The Longing**  **Author:** Candice Bruce  **FICTION**
In Australia in the 1840s, the lives of two very different women intersect. Ellis MacRorie is shipped to Victoria from her Scottish homeland by her bankrupt father; Leerpeen Weelan, her Aboriginal servant known as Louisa, has lost her tribe in a bloody act of violence. The Longing is a novel about loss, finding home and the significance of history - what is recorded and what is left unknown.

**Speechless**  **Author:** James Button—No reading notes  **NON FICTION**
*Speechless* is James' highly personal account of a year working in Canberra, seen from both the inside and the outside. It's told through his experience of Kevin Rudd's failure to tell his story, and how this helped destroy his prime ministership. It also reflects on how far the Labor Party has moved from the idealism and pragmatism of his father's generation. He ends on a note of hope for the Party's revival.

**The Memory of Salt**  **Author:** Alice Melike Ulgezer  **FICTION**
Ali's father is a Turkish circus musician performing in Kabul when Ali’s mother, a young doctor from Melbourne, who has trained in Australia’s outback regions, meets him outside the circus tent. Their courtship takes them from Afghanistan across Iran to Turkey and London, where Ali is born, and then to Melbourne.

**The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas**  **Author:** John Boyne  **FICTION**
Nine-year-old Bruno has a lot of things on his mind. Who is the 'Fury'? Why did he make them leave their nice home in Berlin to go to 'Out-With'? And who are all the sad people in striped pyjamas on the other side of the fence? The grown-ups won't explain so Bruno decides there is only one thing for it - he will have to explore this place alone. What he discovers is a new friend. A boy in striped pyjamas. But why can't they ever play together?

**The Memory Keeper's Daughter**  **Author:** Kim Edwards  **FICTION**
The Memory Keeper’s Daughter is a deeply moving and thought provoking novel about the intricacies and consequences that result from protecting one’s loved ones. To protect or not to protect is the burning question… one that you will be more equipped to answer having finished this compelling story.

**Cairo**  **Author:** Chris Womersley  **FICTION**
Set among the demimonde, where nothing and nobody is as they seem. Cairo is a novel about growing up, the perils of first love, and finding ones true place in the world.
Truth            Author: Peter Temple  FICTION
Truth is a novel about a man, a family, a city. It is about violence, murder, love, corruption, honour and deceit. And it is about truth.

Is it just me? (confessions of an over-sharer)         Author: Chrissie Swan  NON FICTION
From weight to wee, children to crap dates, nothing is off limits for Chrissie Swan, self-confessed 'over-sharer'. Celebrity, friendship, love, being a working mum, 'having it all' and the general chaos of life - Is It Just Me? is Chrissie at her hilarious, candid and fearless best.

Night Games: Sex, power and sport          Author: Anna Krien  NON FICTION
In the tradition of Helen Garner’s The First Stone comes a closely observed, controversial book about sex, consent and power. In Night Games, Anna Krien follows the rape trial of an Australian Rules footballer. She also takes a balanced and fearless look at the dark side of footy culture – the world of Sam Newman, Ricky Nixon, Matty Johns and the Cronulla Sharks. Both a courtroom drama and a riveting work of narrative journalism, this is a breakthrough book by one of the leading young lights of Australian writing

The Memory Trap                 Author: Andrea Goldsmith  FICTION
A rich and compelling story of marriage, music, the illusions of love and the deceits of memory, The Memory Trap's characters are real, flawed and touchingly human.

Father Bob: The Larrikin Priest         Author: Sue Williams  NON FICTION
This is the life story of Father Bob Maguire - a rare behind-the-scenes look at the much-loved 'people's priest'. The enigmatic champion of the down-and-out was shaped by a lonely childhood in poor circumstances, an early priesthood that collided with the upheaval of Vatican 11 and working with the army during the Vietnam War.

The Battle for Lone Pine           Author: David W Cameron  NON FICTION
The Battle for Lone Pine is the first book devoted to this cornerstone of the Anzac legend, drawing on unforgettable first-hand accounts scratched into diaries and letters home. The stories of the diggers, as well as the engineers, nurses, sappers, commanders and more, provide an invaluable record of the battle and serve as moving testimony to their courage in appalling conditions.

A World of Other People        Author: Steven Carroll  FICTION
Set in 1941 during the Blitz, A World of Other People traces the love affair of Jim, an Australian pilot in Bomber Command, and Iris, a forthright Englishwoman finding her voice as a writer. The young couple, haunted by secrets and malign coincidence, struggles to build a future free of society's thin-lipped disapproval.

Sisters of Spicefield                Author: Fran Cusworth  FICTION
Jessica stared at her from head to toe, lost in her legs, her hair, her eyelashes, her cheeks. How was she supposed to feel? What on earth was happening in this world if you could suddenly be introduced to a six year old child who was your biology, your blood, the descendent of your ancestors? How were people not meant to care? How on earth had she ever thought she would not?

Blood Witness      Author: Alex Hammond  FICTION
One man's search for justice and redemption plunges him into the violent world of Melbourne's underbelly. Defence lawyer Will Harris is reluctantly drawn into a bizarre murder trial. A terminally ill man claims to have witnessed the brutal crime – in a vision. The strain of balancing both cases takes its toll and Will finds himself torn between following the law and seeking justice.
Love with a Chance of Drowning    Author: Torre Deroche  NON FICTION
Set against a backdrop of the world's most beautiful and remote destinations, Love with a Chance of Drowning is a sometimes hilarious, often moving and always brave memoir that proves there are some risks worth taking. Love can make a person do crazy things . . .

The Swan Book          Author: Alexis Wright  FICTION
The Swan Book is set in the future, with Aboriginals still living under the Intervention in the north, in an environment fundamentally altered by climate change. It follows the life of a mute young woman called Oblivia, the victim of gang-rape by petrol-sniffing youths, from the displaced community where she lives in a hulk, in a swamp filled with rusting boats, and thousands of black swans, to her marriage to Warren Finch

Burial Rites          Author: Hannah Kent  FICTION
In northern Iceland, 1829, Agnes Magnusdottir is condemned to death for her part in the brutal murder of two men. Agnes is sent to wait on the farm of District Officer Jon Jonsson and his family, who are horrified and avoid Agnes. Only Toti, the young assistant reverend appointed as Agnes's spiritual guardian, is compelled to try to understand her. As the summer months fall away to winter,

Unparalleled Sorrow          Author: Barry Dickins NON FICTION
In early 2008, Barry Dickins—an artist and author—suffered from insomnia. He went to the doctor, who cited clinical and severe depression as the cause. He checked in to a clinic and was told that he would be there until the joy returned to him. But the joy eluded Barry for months, and so for months he stayed alongside patients with schizophrenia, bipolar disorders, and other traumas. He took his medication and succumbed to the electroconvulsive therapy, which left him unable to grip a pen and riddled his memory with holes.

The Contract          Author: Brett Hoffmann FICTION
Wall Street star consultant Stella Sartori is very good at her job. So good, in fact, that she can't help but follow up a casual remark made during a routine company assessment. It leads her to a dusty old contract in the archives and within hours she is running for her life, taking the file and its cryptic contents with her. Fellow Australian Jack Rogers is sent in for damage control, but when he finds Stella's notes, her realises she has stumbled onto a devastating secret. Suddenly, it's vital that he finds her before some else does.

The Secret River          Author: Kate Grenville FICTION
In 1806 William Thornhill, an illiterate English bargeman and a man of quick temper but deep compassion, steals a load of wood and, as a part of his lenient sentence, is deported, along with his beloved wife, Sal, to the New South Wales colony in what would become Australia. The Secret River is the tale of William and Sal's deep love for their small, exotic corner of the new world, and William's gradual realization that if he wants to make a home for his family, he must forcibly take the land from the people who came before him. Acclaimed around the world.

Dreams from My Father: Barack Obama  NON FICTION
Nine years before the Senate campaign that made him one of the most influential and compelling voices in American politics, Barack Obama published this lyrical, unsentimental, and powerfully affecting memoir, which became a #1 New York Times bestseller when it was reissued in 2004. Dreams from My Father tells the story of Obama’s struggle to understand the forces that shaped him as the son of a black African father and white American mother—a struggle that takes him from the American heartland to the ancestral home of his great-aunt in the tiny African village of Alego.
**Sold**  
Author: Brendan Gullifer  
FICTION  
Sold takes a fly-on-the-wall look at Melbourne’s property industry. Set in the leafy, prosperous inner suburbs, it follows the fortunes and misfortunes of three agents as they jostle, thrive and try to survive. It reveals the routines, the agents’ listing tricks and the subtle intimidation used to motivate staff and prospective vendors at Prender and Prender Real Estate.

**A short History of Tractors in Ukrainian**  
Author: Marina Lewycka  
FICTION  
With this wise, tender, and deeply funny novel, Marina Lewycka takes her place alongside Zadie Smith and Monica Ali as a writer who can capture the unchanging verities of family. When an elderly and newly widowed Ukrainian immigrant announces his intention to remarry, his daughters must set aside their longtime feud to thwart him.

**An American in OZ**  
Author: Sara James  
NON FICTION  
No one thought Sara James, a 30 Rock habitue and Manhattanite through and through, would move to Australia after a long and successful fast-track career reporting from around the globe. But move she did, when her Australian husband Andrew wanted to come home, in a journey that sees her morph from a big-city anchor and correspondent to a small-town mum living an Australian country life.

**Romulus my Father**  
Author: Raimond Gaita  
NON FICTION  
Romulus Gaita fled his home in his native Yugoslavia at the age of thirteen, and came to Australia with his young wife Christina and their infant son Raimond soon after the end of World War II. Tragic events were to overtake the boy’s life, but Raimond Gaita has an extraordinary story to tell about growing up with his father amid the stony paddocks and flowing grasses of country Australia.

**Demons**  
Author: Wayne Macauley  
FICTION  
It is the middle of winter and Seven friends leave their ordinary lives behind to travel to a remote coastal beach house off the Great Ocean Road. The stories they tell, turn by turn, are the beginning of a puzzle, each exposing the foibles of humankind. But what to these disturbing tales reveal - or conceal - about each of them? Where does fact

**The Husbands Secret**  
Author: Laine Moriarty  
FICTION  
Imagine that your husband wrote you a letter, to be opened after his death. Imagine, too, that the letter contains his deepest, darkest secret—something with the potential to destroy not just the life you built together, but the lives of others as well. Imagine, then, that you stumble across that letter while your husband is still very much alive.

**Marie Antoinette-The Journey**  
Author: Antonia Fraser  
NON FICTION  
France's iconic queen, Marie Antoinette, wrongly accused of uttering the infamous "Let them eat cake," was alternately revered and reviled during her lifetime. For centuries since, she has been the object of debate, speculation, and the fascination so often accorded illustrious figures in history. Married in mere girlhood, this essentially lighthearted child was thrust onto the royal stage and commanded by circumstance to play a significant role in European history.
Driving under the Influence Author: Jenna Martin  FICTION
Chelsea has had a rough week. After a few great years of professional triumphs and personal sta-

bility, she suddenly finds herself—at the grand old age of 28—homeless, jobless and single.
Cheating on her boyfriend with her boss probably wasn't the brightest idea.

Golden Boys Author: Sonya Hartnet  FICTION
Colt Jenson and his younger brother Bastian live in a world of shiny, new things – skateboards,

slot cars, train sets and even the latest BMX. Their affluent father, Rex, has made sure that
they'll be the envy of the new, working-class suburb they've moved to.
But underneath the surface of the perfect family, is there something unsettling about the Jen-

sons? .

St Kilda Blues Author: Geoffery McGeachin  FICTION
It's 1967, the summer of love, and in swinging Melbourne Detective Sergeant Charlie Berlin
has been hauled out of exile in the Fraud Squad to investigate the disappearance of a teenage

girl, the daughter of a powerful and politically connected property developer. As Berlin's in-
quiries uncover more missing girls he gets an uneasy feeling he may be dealing with the city's
first serial killer

The Feel Good Hit of the Year  Author: Liam Pieper FICTION
Liam Pieper was raised by his bohemian parents to believe in freedom and creativity, and that
there's nothing wrong with smoking a little marijuana to make life easier. Nothing if not preci-
cious, he used these lessons to develop a fledgling drug habit and a thriving business selling pot
from the back of his pushbike.

Tree Palace Author: Craig Sherborne  FICTION
Shane, Moira and Midge, along with young Zara and Rory, are ‘trants’—itinerants roaming the

plains north-west of Melbourne in search of disused houses to sleep in, or to strip of heritage
fittings when funds are low. When they find their Tree Palace outside Barleyville, things are
looking up. At last, a place in which to settle down.
But Zara, fifteen, is pregnant and doesn’t want a child. She’d rather a normal life with town
boys, not trant life with a baby. Moira decides to step in: she’ll look after her grandchild.

Warning-The story of Cyclone Tracy Author: Sophie Cunningham NON FICTION
When Cyclone Tracy swept down on Darwin at Christmas 1974, the weather became not
just a living thing but a killer. Tracy destroyed an entire city, left seventy-one people dead
and ripped the heart out of Australia's season of goodwill.

Inconceivable Author: Ben Elton  FICTION
Lucy desperately wants a baby. Sam is determined to write a hit movie. The problem is that
both their efforts seem to be unfruitful. And given that the average IVF cycle has about a
one in five chance of going into full production, Lucy's chances of getting what she wants
are considerably better than Sam's.

On the Edge Author: Richard Hammond  NON FICTION
Richard Hammond is one of our most in-demand and best-loved television presenters. On
September 20, 2006, he suffered a serious brain injury following a high-speed car crash, and
the nation held its breath. On the Edge is his compelling account of life before and after the
accident and an honest description of his year of recovery, full of drama and incident.
**What Came Before**

Author: Anna George  
FICTION

David Forrester and Elle Nolan are sophisticated, mature people who don’t understand love. They live in a world where love is revered but marriages commonly end in divorce, or worse. When jaded lawyer David meets Elle, he decides she’s his last chance of happiness and does everything he can to woo her and keep her. Everything, that is, except face his demons. Elle, a lawyer herself once but now a blossoming filmmaker, is done with heartbreak. But romance can be intoxicating and David is determined.

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**So Many Selves**

Author: Gabrielle Carey  
NON FICTION

A fascinating memoir of a woman of our times, Gabrielle Carey deftly explores her own life experience to make wider observations on the nature of writing and writers, the cult of celebri-

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**Lost and Found**

Author: Brooke Davies  
FICTION

Millie Bird is a seven-year-old girl who always wears red wellington boots to match her red, curly hair. But one day, Millie’s mum leaves her alone beneath the Ginormous Women’s underwear rack in a department store, and doesn’t come back.

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**This House of Grief**

Author: Helen Garner  
NON FICTION

On the evening of 4 September 2005, Robert Farquharson, a separated husband, was driving his three sons home to their mother when his car plunged into a dam. The boys, aged ten, seven, and two, drowned. Was this an act of deliberate revenge or a tragic accident?

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**House of Sand and Fog**

Author: Anrre Dubus III  
FICTION

On a road crew in California, a former colonel in the Iranian Air Force sees a way to restore his family's dignity in an attractive bungalow available on county auction. But the house's owner, a recovering alcoholic and addict down on her luck, will fight for the one thing she has

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**Au Revoir**

Author: Mary Moody  
NON FICTION

Living the good life in the Blue Mountains in Australia with her husband, four grown-up children and four grandchildren, Mary Moody's life was full. But she felt she never had a moment alone, so she ran away to live on her own for six glorious months in the rural paradise of southwest France.

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**Finding God in St Kilda—Streets of Hope**

Author: Tim Costello  
NON FICTION

After theological training in Switzerland, Tim Costello's ministry in a Melbourne bayside suburb - as famous for sex and drugs as for its ethnic mix - was to test his prejudices as a lawyer, his convictions and himself. This is his own story of the encounters and characters, ideas and values.

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**A Year of Marvellous**

Author: Sarah Winman  
FICTION

WaysCornwall, 1947. Marvellous Ways is a ninety-year-old woman who's lived alone in a remote creek for nearly all her life. Recently she's taken to spending her days sitting on the steps of her caravan with a pair of binoculars. She's waiting for something - she's not sure what, but she'll know it when she sees it. Freddy Drake is a young soldier left reeling by the war.  

NO READING NOTES
**Eat Prey Love**  
*Author: Elizabeth Gilbert  NON FICTION*  
In her early thirties, Elizabeth Gilbert had everything a modern American woman was supposed to want—husband, country home, successful career—but instead of feeling happy and fulfilled, she felt consumed by panic and confusion. This wise and rapturous book is the story of how she left behind all these outward marks of success, and of what she found in their place.

**Look Who’s Morphing**  
*Author: Tom Cho  FICTION*  
Look Who’s Morphing is a collection of funny, playful, often outlandish fictions in which, along with his extended family, the central character undergoes a series of transformations, shape-shifting through figures drawn from film and television, music and books, porn flicks and comics. **NO READING NOTES**

**Exposure**  
*Author: Joel Magarey  NON FICTION*  
Exposure’ is about wanting too much, choosing too little, and how a person can spend three weeks solid in Los Angeles buying a sleeping bag. Obsessive-compulsive Joel McGarey abandons his home, his job in journalism and his girlfriend and sets off around the globe on the journey of his dreams. **NO READING NOTES**

**Not Meeting Mr Right**  
*Author: Anita Heiss  FICTION*  
Alice Aigner is successful, independent, and a confirmed serial dater, but at her 10-year school reunion she has a sudden change of heart. Bored rigid by her married, mortgaged, and motherly former classmates, Alice decides to prove that a woman can have it all: a man, marriage, career, kids, and a mind of her own. **NO READING NOTES**

**Fifty Shades of Grey**  
*Author: EL James  FICTION*  
When literature student Anastasia Steele goes to interview young entrepreneur Christian Grey, she encounters a man who is beautiful, brilliant, and intimidating. The unworldly, innocent Ana is startled to realize she wants this man and, despite his enigmatic reserve, finds she is desperate to get close to him.

**The Snow Kimono**  
*Author: Mark Henshaw  FICTION*  
On the same day that retired police inspector Auguste Jovert receives a letter from a woman claiming to be his daughter, he returns to his Paris apartment to find a stranger waiting for him. That stranger is a Japanese professor called Tadashi Omura. What's brought him to Jovert's doorstep is not clear, but then he begins to tell his story - a story of a fractured friendship, lost lovers, orphaned children, and a body left bleeding in the snow.

**A God in Ruins**  
*Author: Kate Atkinson  Fiction*  
In *Life After Life* Ursula Todd lived through the turbulent events of the last century again and again. In *A God in Ruins*, Atkinson turns her focus on Ursula’s beloved younger brother Teddy – would-be poet, RAF bomber pilot, husband and father – as he navigates the perils and progress of the 20th century. For all Teddy endures in battle, his greatest challenge will be to face living in a future he never expected to have.

**Secret Cord**  
*Author: Geraldine Brooks*  
Peeling away the myth to bring the Old Testament's King David to life in Second Iron Age Israel, Brooks traces the arc of his journey from obscurity to fame, from shepherd to soldier, from hero to traitor, from beloved king to murderous despot and into his remorseful and diminished dotage.