



THE BOOKLOVERS' CLUB NORTHERN BEACHES INCORPORATED

(Incorporated in NSW under the Associations Act 2009)

No: Y2222011

1395b Pittwater Road, Narrabeen 2101

MEETINGS: 2nd and 4th TUESDAY each month from 10am

Website: <https://tinyurl.com/bookloversnb>

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& Louisa Baker

OCTOBER 2025

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We have received a delightful thankyou letter from Julie Ryan, the Board Chair of Women and Children First. She expressed her heartfelt gratitude for the continued support and incredible donation of \$4000.00 raised at our Trivia event. She also advised that our contribution will provide 70 nights of safe accommodation for women and children escaping domestic and family violence. We have helped to bring hope, relief and the promise of a better future to those who need it most.

You are invited to the Booklovers Christmas lunch

At Limani Seafood Restaurant, Narrabeen

Tuesday 25th November

Time: 12noon for 12.30pm

The cost is \$45

Pay either by cash at Booklovers Club Day by 11th November

Or by bank transfer to Booklovers Club Northern Beaches

BSB 062 208 Account number 010218903 by Friday 14th November.

Please ensure you put your name on your bank transfer. When making your booking please advise if you have any specific dietary requirements.

I do hope you can all join us to celebrate the end of another wonderful year

Wendy McNeilly
Vice President

SPEAKER FOR OCTOBER

Loretta Barnard is our speaker for October. She is an author, arts writer, reviewer, editor, and project manager. Over 40 years, she worked in educational, academic, technical, legal and trade publishing, as editor, writer, researcher, picture researcher, proof-reader, commissioning editor and project manager. Over that period, she was involved in a huge variety of subjects; anything from Constitutional Law to the cultivation of roses, to microbiology; from psychology to biography, to Chinese calligraphy; from traffic safety to fishing; from architecture to arthritis, to geography; from anatomy to music, to history; from sport to adult and children's fiction and poetry. She has been a manuscript assessor, a senior mentor for writers under 18, and has also worked as a ghost writer.

Loretta was part of the team that produced *Earth Platinum*, which measures 1.8 metres x 1.4 metres, and is the world's biggest atlas, as recorded by the *Guinness Book of Records*. There is a copy in the State Library of New South Wales, that they display from time to time.

She's been a contributing writer to a range of large-format reference books; and her poetry has been featured in seven separate anthologies. She has authored six non-fiction titles, two of which were for children, three of which focused on Australian music, and one on the Australian creative arts and history. Loretta studied Australian history in her undergraduate degree, before completing her MA in English literature from UNSW. She's a regular contributor on the arts to a number of online sites, including *Sydney Arts Guide*.



Loretta will be talking about her most recent book '*Imagining Australia: a history of our nation through music, film, literature and art*'.

Loretta Barnard & Ingeborg van Teeseling.

Publisher: MoshPit Publishing, 2023.

'*Imagining Australia*' tells an incredibly interesting story of our nation through the eyes of people who are trained to see... artists, writers, painters, musicians, filmmakers: they hold up a mirror and tell us who we are. In more than 80 well-researched and highly engaging chapters, '*Imagining Australia*' looks at our history by discussing the music, film, literature and visual art of our country. These creative works are put the context of the times in which they were made. They ask what they say about who we were, and who we have become.

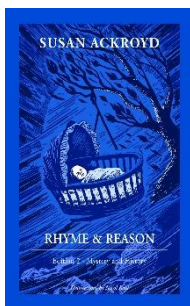
Denise Hyland

SPEAKER FOR SEPTEMBER

Susan Ackroyd was our speaker for September. She has excelled in many careers, commencing as a High School English/ History teacher, then spent over 20 years teaching migrants and refugees.

Susan retrained to become a lawyer, where she spent 6 years delving into Elder Law. The Education sector lured her back, and she investigated poor quality training, poor standards in age care and early childhood education.

Now retired, Susan has written *Rhyme and Reason* (English history through nursery rhymes). Published in April by Austin Macauley, London.



‘RHYME AND REASON’

Nursery rhymes started as a covert political comment of the times and were passed on initially by word of mouth.

The fascinating origin of many of our well-known rhymes dates back at least to the 13th century. Most of the 26 rhymes explored in the book are political satire, mocking the establishment of the day, such that heads or liberty were not lost. The Tudor and Stuart periods of the 16th and 17th centuries produced rhymes depicting the turbulent relationship between monarch and people, catholic and protestant, and how parliament and king battled over taxation.

It is quite amazing that orally transmitted rhymes from the 13th to the 18th centuries are still known and recited today. Parents, grandparents, and teachers will find the origin of these rhymes fascinating.

Susan passed around her book for members to look at while she explained the meanings of some of the nursery rhymes, such as Three Blind Mice, Dr Foster, Little Bo Peep, Dick Whittington, Old Mother Hubbard, Little Jack Horner, Mary Mary quite contrary, Goosey Goosey Gander, Georgy Porgy, Humpty Dumpty, Rock a bye Baby, etc.

Susan gave a comprehensive description of what each of these nursery rhymes referred to and the historical period they were set in. Too much to put in this bulletin but well worth reading about in her book (ed). Quite a few members bought her book and lots of questions were asked.

Louise Matthews

THE ORAL TRADITION

Our guest speaker Susan Ackroyd shared her research into 'nursery rhymes' - those which are really political satire or commentary- at our September meeting.

A Book Club member, in conversation with Susan after the talk, mentioned an experiment conducted by the Professors Opie, in the 1950s. This experiment sought to test the scope of the oral transmission of rhymes.

Susan would love more information on this and asks the lady concerned to get in touch so Susan can follow this up. Her email address is: www.susanackroyd.com

LOST PROPERTY

Someone attending our author talk on Tuesday 9th September left a navy blue spray jacket, marked Coral Expeditions, in Berry Hall. If this is yours, you can collect it from our Library.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – Library Open from 10am

	October	November
Club Day and Author Talk Open from 10 am – Author talk at 11 am	14 th	11 th
Management Committee meeting 12 pm	28 th	---
Book discussion	28 th	25 th <i>No book discussion Christmas Party</i>

Assistant Librarian's Roster OCTOBER 2025

	TUESDAY		THURSDAY
		2	Hilary Macorison
7	Louise Matthews	9	Nerilyn Schooley
14	Club Meeting Glenys Murray, Jennifer Seale	16	Chris Horton
21	Wendy Austen	23	Wendy Webb
28	Book Discussion Jennifer Seale	30	Chris Hughes

BOOK DISCUSSION:

October 28 100 Years of Betty by Debra Oswald presented by Chris Hughes and Pauline Rajaratnam

November 25th Christmas Lunch

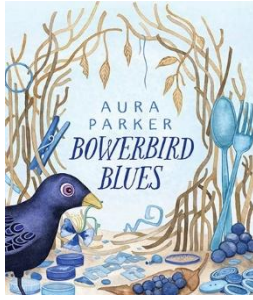
December 9th Book Discussion (no Author Talk)

I'm trying to get our Book Discussion schedule for the first half of 2026 organised. To ensure we have a great lineup of books and to give everyone a chance to lead a discussion, I'm setting a goal to have the calendar filled for January through June 2026 by the second Tuesday of January. As a reminder, presenting a book discussion is an important part of our club, and it's a great way to share a book you love and guide a conversation. It doesn't have to be a formal presentation, it can be as simple as bringing a few questions to spark our discussion.

From the Librarian: There is no New Book List this month. Suggestions for new books or older books are always welcome.

Glenys Murray

AUTHOR FOR NOVEMBER - Aura Parker 'Bowerbird Blues'



This new picture book from Aura Parker stars a beautiful bowerbird on the search for blue! It's a moving story of longing, love and connection, that unfolds as the bowerbird's search sends him soaring across the sea, sky and city. He swoops and snatches vibrant treasures for his collection, and soon his bower – a mix of natural and unnatural objects – attracts something greater and more fulfilling than he could ever have imagined.

Bowerbird Blues has been shortlisted for CBCA Picture Book of the Year 2024

As an illustrator, designer and writer, Aura Parker creates bodies of work, including textile designs, prints and picture books.

Aura Parker's bodies of work are constantly evolving. She often draws on themes of nature, humanity and childhood. Her work is insightful and imaginative with a playful sense of humour. Aura is the author and illustrator of eight picture books published with Scholastic Australia and Penguin Random House which have been published internationally and received awards such as Children's Book Council of Australia Notable and the Speech Pathology Book of the Year. Meerkat Splash has also appeared on the ABC's enduring Play School program, read by Lachy Wiggle. Aura's picture book, Bowerbird Blues was chosen for ALIA National Simultaneous Storytime and read by 2.3 million people in May 2024. Her latest book is Bowerbird Brood, published in November 2024.

BOOK DISCUSSION SEPTEMBER- The Bookwoman of Troublesome Creek by Kim Michele Richardson – discussion led by Sue Steedman

The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek by Kim Michele Richardson is about 19 year old Cussy Carter - the last living female of the Blue people ancestry - who lives in Kentucky with her coal mining father Elijah. In 1936 the lonely young Appalachian woman joins the Pack Horse Library of Kentucky and becomes a librarian. She rides across treacherous mountains with her faithful mule Junia to deliver books and other reading material to those most in need in Eastern Kentucky.

Cussy is willing to do anything for her patrons even if it means travelling through the toughest terrain in Eastern Kentucky.

To the mountain folk, Cussy is known as "Bluet". She confronts those suspicious of her blue skin every day on her route and at the depot where Cussy chooses her books to deliver.

The story is loosely based on the Blue Fugates - a family who were known to carry a gene trait that led to the blood disorder methemoglobinemia, causing skin to appear blue.

The story covered such matters as:

The blue people

The pack horse librarians and

The courting candle

Widespread hunger

Racism

A community controlled by a mining company, hard working conditions.

Superstitions and extreme beliefs.

I was most intrigued to read about the remedies the hill folk used

Tonics, roots, barks and homemade potions.

Bluet rubbed her bleeding hands with horse ligament.

Laudanum was used to deaden pain, honey to heal and alcohol to clean the wound

Willow bark for fever

And honey was worth more than gold or a chicken.

It was an enjoyable morning discussing an interesting book.

Sue Steedman

The deadline for the November Bulletin will be 28th October 2025

BOOKS OPEN DOORS