



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>

PRESIDENT

Maria Tomaino 0403 740 665
tomainomj@gmail.com

SECRETARY

Carolyn Darmanin 0418 454 194
cfdarmanin@bigpond.com

TREASURER

Fiona Shaw 0415 233 241
fshaw2@icloud.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Wendy McNeilly 0422 907 582
wmneilly@hotmail.com

HEAD LIBRARIAN

Glenys Murray 0402 015 873
glenysmu@gmail.com

BULLETIN EDITOR

Louise Matthews 0438 416 582
louisemtws@yahoo.com.au

AUTHOR LIAISON OFFICER

Denise Hyland 0402 152 421
DeniseBooklovers@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP OFFICER

Chris Horton 0412 070 600
bobandchrishorton@bigpond.com

LIFE MEMBERS

Jean Nysen, Jill Edey, Beverley Bingham
& Louisa Baker

DECEMBER 2025/JANUARY 2026

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Club Members,

This will be our final bulletin for 2025 and it also covers our programme for January 2026.

We held our annual Christmas lunch for 46 attendees at Limanis Restaurant Narrabeen on 25th of November. This number represents some 58% of our membership. A great time was had by all and it was an opportunity to cap off another successful year at Booklovers and an occasion to enjoy one another's company.

Two book vouchers were gifted to the "back-room girls", our librarian Glenys Murray and our assistant librarian Jennifer Seale. They quietly work away on our busiest day, Club Day, and don't get the opportunity to sit back and relax.

Glenys has worked on behalf of the club as our librarian for a great number of years and also she has enlisted the technical expertise of her husband, Kevin. We are truly grateful for the exceptional service given over the years. Jennifer has ably assisted Glenys by being available on club days, covering all of our new books, and she steps in to Glenys' role when she is away. Jennifer has also given admirable service to our club.

Our final meeting for 2025 will be a book discussion on the 9th of December. One of our newest members, Libby Ciok, has bravely volunteered to facilitate a discussion on Heather Rose's latest book "A Great Act of Love". There will be no lunch day on the 9th December.

In January there will be two meetings as usual, on the 13th January Joanna Nell, formerly a local GP, and author has agreed to talk about her new book which was launched recently "The

Funeral Crashers". Joanna last appeared by Zoom during the COVID years. We found her to be a stimulating and vibrant speaker.

On the 27th of January (the day after Australia Day) as is our practice, we will have a general discussion, led by you, our members. Please come prepared to speak about a book or books that you have enjoyed over the holiday break, books that you have been gifted, or that you have liked (or not as the case may be). We will note all of your recommendations and they will come attached to the bulletin.

Attached at the end of this bulletin is a Membership Form for 2026. Subscription fee of \$40 is due in January and needs to be paid within 3 months of 1 January 2026.

Maria Tomaino
President

BIRTHDAY RECOGNITION

We have decided to take 5 minutes from each author talk day to recognise those members who are celebrating a birthday. We will begin in January of the new year

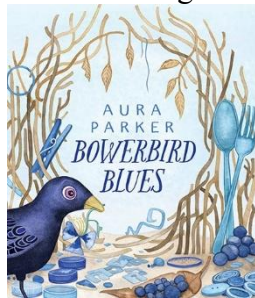
You will be asked to stand and come to the front to draw a card from the pack. Highest card gets a \$20 gift voucher from Berkelouw's Books. So, if you have a birthday in any given month, make sure you don't miss that meeting as only those present will be eligible.

Hope this adds just a bit of fun for our members.

Chris Horton

AUTHOR FOR NOVEMBER – Aura Parker – Bowerbird Blues

We were delighted to welcome Aura Parker as our Author for November.



Her new picture book 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

Aura told us that she trained as an illustrator and screen-print designer and then progressed to writing stories for children.

Aura said that 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 Bloom*, published in November 2024.

Aura told us that she visits schools and libraries and there is even a large Satin Bowerbird sculpture at Newtown Primary School. We saw projected photos of the many examples of her delightful illustrations for her books, including satin bower-bird nests and the many blue items

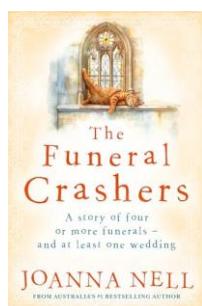
the male bower-bird collects to entice the females into his nest. The male bird is a dark blue/purple colour with a magenta eye. The females are a muted green colour.

Aura showed us how she “works up” her drawings to the final stage, using coloured pencils and water-colour paints. A book can take a year to produce. She said that childrens’ publishing is a very competitive field and described the process.

“Aura Parker's storytelling through words and pictures inspires imagination, courage and confidence in young readers.” Other books by Aura Parker include Cocoon, Twig, Goodnight Glow Worm, Meerkat Christmas and The Silly Seabed Son.

Louise Matthews

AUTHOR FOR JANUARY



Our author for January 13th will be Joanna Nell talking about her latest book *The Funeral Crashers*. A delightfully heartwarming story of four or more funerals and at least one wedding, from the bestselling author of *Mrs Winterbottom Takes a Gap Year*

'There are a lot of lonely people in the world, Martin. Especially when you get to our age. This is the one place you can come where nobody judges. Besides, you don't need to have known somebody personally to celebrate their life.'

Maria Tomaino

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – Library Open from 10am

	December	January
Club Day and Author Talk Open from 10 am	9 th No author talk – Book discussion instead	13 th
Management Committee meeting 12 pm	---	27 th
Book discussion	9 th A Great Act of Love	27 th Books we have read and enjoyed

Assistant Librarians' Roster DECEMBER 2025

	TUESDAY		THURSDAY
2	Louise Matthews	4	Hilary Macorison
9	Glenys Murray, Jennifer Seale	11	Chris Horton
16	Wendy Austen	18	Wendy Webb
23	Glenys Murray	25	Library Closed

Assistant Librarians' Roster January 2026

	TUESDAY		THURSDAY
6	Louise Matthews	8	Hilary Macorison
13	Club Day Glenys Murray, Jennifer Seale	15	Chris Horton
20	Wendy Austen	22	Wendy Webb
27	Glenys Murray, Jennifer Seale	29	Chris Hughes

BOOK DISCUSSION

December 9th - Heather Rose - *A Great Act of Love* - presented by Libby Ciok

January 27th - Books we have Read during the Holidays

February 24th – *No Way Back* – written & presented by Nathalie Apouchtine

From the Librarian:

Members needed to present a Book Discussion during 2026. Please

Just a reminder about suggesting New Books for purchasing. Send me an email with the details of any books that you think the members would enjoy.

Glenys Murray

Christmas Lunch at Limani's 2025





Membership renewal form for 2026 is attached on next page

The deadline for the February Bulletin will be 27th January 2026

BOOKS OPEN DOORS

THE BOOKLOVERS' CLUB NORTHERN BEACHES INCORPORATED

Reg Y2222011

\$40.00 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DUE JANUARY 2026

PLEASE NOTE: Complete below any changes to contact details and hand back to Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer at the desk on Club Day or Book Discussion Day.

Under Clause 11 (d) of the Constitution your annual subscription must be paid within 3 months of 1 January 2026.

NAME.....

Phone

Address.....

.....

Email Address

PAYMENT OPTIONS

We offer 4 options to pay your membership.

By CASH at the door when attending a meeting.	By cheque at the door when attending a meeting OR post to: Treasurer Fiona Shaw 12 Wimbledon Ave. North Narrabeen NSW 2101 fshaw2@icloud.com NO Receipt will be issued for cheques. Cheque to be made out to: The Booklovers' Club Northern Beaches Inc. Please do not post cash.
By over the counter at CBA to: The Booklovers' Club Northern Beaches Inc BSB 062 208 Account Number: 10 218 903 Your name must be in the reference box. No receipts will be issued for these deposits. Please email Treasurer with payment details	By electronic banking to: The Booklovers' Club Northern Beaches Inc BSB 062 208 Account Number: 10 218 903 Your name must be in the reference box. No receipts will be issued for these deposits. Please email Treasurer with email details.

PLEASE NOTE:

If you are paying by Option 3 or 4 it is your responsibility to ensure that all details are correct and that your name is the reference that will shown on OUR Bank account statement. If you make an error obviously it is not the responsibility of The Booklovers' Club Northern Beaches Inc to follow up and your membership will remain unpaid.