



# 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**

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Jean Nysen, Jill Edey, Beverley Bingham  
& Louisa Baker

## **AUGUST 2025**

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Dear Club members. The response to our Trivia Day on July 22, with the people I've spoken with, or have had feedback from, has been overwhelmingly positive.

Attendees have told me that the food was exceptional, plentiful and tasty. The Trivia questions were skilful, tricky and unpredictable – so well done to our Trivia Quiz-Masters.

Unfortunately, we don't have the final figures as yet, as some people haven't put in their claim forms and Fiona Shaw, our Treasurer, is away. Once all the expenditure has been put in and Fiona is back on deck, we will be able to tell you how much money we have raised. I think we should have the accounts finalised by the September Bulletin. At this stage it looks as if the Raffle did exceptionally well, with well over \$1,000 raised. Thanks to everyone who bought raffle tickets. We are pleased that we will do as well as last year and perhaps exceed the figures for 2024.

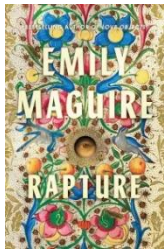
I want to thank all the people who cooked delicious scones, cakes and sweet slices, quiches and zucchini slice etc, also the sandwich makers all of whom donated all the ingredients and their time. Thank you to these dedicated club members for their generosity and commitment.

I will be away from August 19<sup>th</sup> to September 6<sup>th</sup>, and Wendy McNeilly, our Vice-President, will fill in on my behalf. Hopefully she will be able to provide the final figures for Trivia Day in our September Bulletin.

*Maria Tomaino  
President*

## SPEAKER FOR AUGUST

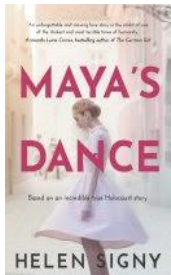
Our author for August is Emily Maguire, speaking about her latest book **Rapture**. Emily Maguire is the author of seven novels, including *An Isolated Incident*, shortlisted for the Stella Prize and the Miles Franklin Literary Award in 2017, and *Love Objects*, shortlisted for the Australian Book Industry Awards Literary Fiction Book of the Year and the Margaret & Colin Roderick Literary Award in 2022, as well as three non-fiction books. Her articles and essays on sex, feminism and culture have been published widely including in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Australian*, *The Observer* and *The Age*. Emily works as a teacher and as a mentor to young and emerging writers and was the 2023 HC Coombs Creative Arts Fellow at the Australian National University.



**Rapture** is impeccably researched and vividly imagined; this is historical fiction of the highest caliber. In Maguire's hands, the legend of Pope Joan becomes a story that women of every generation will recognise: a story of embattled womanhood, forced subterfuge and constant, fear-ridden struggle.

Emily Maguire has created an earthy, visceral, and sensual tale, full of devotion, intrigue and passion. Ninth-century Europe feels astonishingly tangible and vivid, and Maguire's protagonist, Agnes, is utterly compelling as she sweeps all before her, treading where no woman has dared venture before. *Rapture* is a reminder of the price women throughout history have been forced to pay in order to fulfil their ambitions, satisfy their intellectual curiosities and to quench their thirst for life. A stunning novel.

*Denise Hyland*



## SPEAKER FOR JULY

Our author for July was Helen Signey, talking about her novel *Maya's Dance*. A story of survival, resilience and enduring love.

Helen told us that she comes from a journalistic background and most of her work involves science communications for academics, government and not-for-profit organisations. She had a dream of maybe writing fiction one day and when her friend, a physio, told her that she was visiting Lucie, a holocaust survivor, in a nursing home, she was interested to hear her story.

Lucie came from an academic family and music and dance were a huge part of her life. She worked in a music store in Newport when she came to Australia.

Lucie was 15 when interred in a labour camp in Europe with her mother and stepfather during the holocaust in WW11. Lucie and her family were then taken on a train into Poland to a labour camp in a town on the border of Ukraine. They had to work draining swamps to grow food and worked all day with very little food, even in winter. Polish Engineers were brought in to supervise the work. As the war progressed many people died or were executed.

Lucie was a dancer and performed in a show put on by the inmates. The show was watched by the Polish Engineers and in particular Jan, who was fell in love with her. He tried to protect her as she was on her own when her mother was taken to the gas chambers. Lucie was given the choice of going with her mother, but chose to stay. Jan managed to get her out of the camp and hid her in a bakery & then took her to his parents' place. Jan procured false paperwork for Lucie, and she managed to get to a safe place. They never saw each other again.

She eventually came to Australia where she married a Dutch man and became Lucie Pollak-Langford. They never had children and lived in Neutral Bay, Newport and Turramurra. Lucie has written a book *My Memoir – Lucie Pollak Langford*. Lucie's family supported Helen in writing her story. Lucie tried to trace Jan but couldn't find him. Helen met Lucie before the Covid years. Lucie eventually died at age 95.

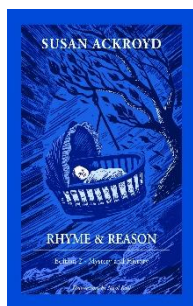
*Louise Matthews*

### **SPEAKER FOR SEPTEMBER**

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

Susan retained 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’**

Gain an understanding of history from medieval times through to the 1700s through these rhymes and their stories.

Understand how a nursery rhyme we recite today started life as a political comment and was passed down through the years until now we have forgotten the politics.

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.

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – Library Open from 10am**

	<b>August 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>September 9<sup>th</sup></b>
Club Day and Author Talk Open from 10 am – Author talk at 11 am		
Management Committee 12 pm	26 <sup>th</sup>	---
Book discussion	26 <sup>th</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup>

## Assistant Librarian's AUGUST 2025

	TUESDAY		THURSDAY
5	Louise Matthews	7	Nerilyn Schooley
12	Club Meeting Glenys Murray, Jennifer Seale	14	Chris Horton
19	Wendy Austen	21	Wendy Webb
26	Book Discussion Glenys Murray, Jennifer Seale	28	Chris Hughes

### Book Discussion:

August 26 In the Margins by Gail Holmes presented by Heather Proctor

### From the Librarian:

Book Discussion presenters needed for September 23rd, October 21st and December 9th

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## NEW BOOKS August 2025

**Archer, Jeffery** An Eye for an Eye

Chief Superintendent William Warwick investigates, a murder in Saudi Arabia impacting a major British arms deal, and a dying lord's controversial inheritance in England. Discovering a master criminal's elaborate revenge plot connecting both cases, forces him to race against time to prevent further devastation and secure justice.

**Arnott, Robbie** Dusk

Destitute twins Iris and Floyd hunt a mythical puma for a bounty in the wild Tasmanian highlands. As they traverse the unforgiving landscape, their desperate quest for money forces them to confront their troubled past and the complex, often brutal, relationship between humans and the natural world.

**Holmes, Gail** In the Margins

In 1647 Puritan England, Rector's wife Frances Wolfreston confronts new religious laws she must enforce. Frances risks everything, teaching children, aiding women, preserving books, to defy oppression and uphold her conscience.

**Jones, Gail** The Name of the Sister

An emaciated, mute woman appears on an outback road near Broken Hill. Freelance journalist Angie and Detective Bev investigate. Multiple people claim her as missing family. The case unfolds into a meditation on identity, grief and myth-making.

**Rowbotham, Michael** The White Crow

PC Philomena McCarthy, daughter of a London crime boss has her two worlds collide. Investigating a deadly home invasion linked to a jewel heist, evidence implicates her father. Philomena must navigate a brutal gang war, risking her career and loved ones, as she struggles to choose between blood and badge.

**Shafak, Elif** There are Rivers in the Sky

Weaves together three disparate lives across centuries, linked by a single drop of water and the epic of Gilgamesh. From Victorian London to modern-day Turkey, it explores themes of memory, displacement, and the enduring power of water to connect humanity across time and cultures.

**Spencer, Matthew** Broke Road

In the Hunter valley, Homicide Detective Rose Riley investigates a young woman's murder. When forensic evidence links it to other unsolved cases, Riley realises a serial killer is at large. Alongside journalist Adam Bowman, she delves into the town's secrets to uncover the killer's motive before another victim falls.

*Glenys Murray*

**The deadline for the September Bulletin will be 27<sup>th</sup> August 2025**

**BOOKS OPEN DOORS**