

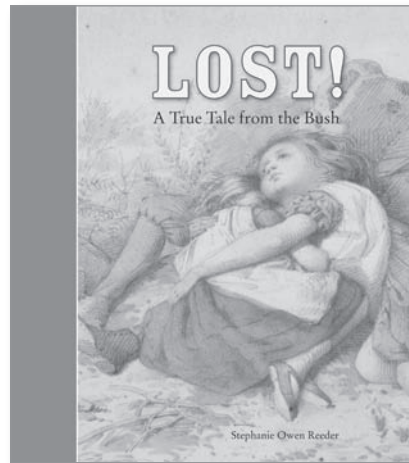
## An amazing story of survival

Looking for a Christmas present that will captivate children and adults alike? Stephanie Owen Reeder's retelling of the remarkable tale of three young children lost in the Australian bush in the 1860s has something for everyone. *Lost! A True Tale from the Bush* imaginatively reconstructs the amazing journey of the Duff children—Isaac, aged nine, Jane, seven, and Frankie, just three—who, one winter morning, left home at their mother's bequest to collect bushes for making brooms. The children spent nine long, tortuous days and eight lonely, freezing nights lost in impenetrable mallee scrub in the Wimmera District of Western Victoria.

Isaac, Jane and Frankie walked nearly 100 kilometres in a determined effort to find their way home. Unfortunately, they mainly walked in circles and so the search party had terrible trouble finding them, especially when storms washed away their tracks. However, their father would not give up, even after all hope of finding them alive had faded. It was only when he brought in Aboriginal trackers, with their amazing ability to 'read' the faintest clues of the children's presence, that they were finally found, albeit barely alive.

How did these three small children physically survive in the Australian bush in such inhospitable surroundings? And how did they cope psychologically as hope of being found faded with the close of each interminable day? This story has fascinated generations of children and adults alike. There was great media interest at the time. Most of the newspapers concentrated on Jane's role in ensuring the children's survival. Hailing her as a 'little mother', the newspaper reports enthused about how she had looked after her brothers, carefully covering them with her dress each night to protect them from the cold. Jane was to keep that dress until the day she died.

Jane Duff's pioneering spirit was used to inspire children to be caring, valiant and self-sacrificing. The story was told again and again, in everything from



religious magazines of the late 1800s, to school readers of the 1930s, to a film in the 1970s. Three public subscriptions raised money for Jane. The first paid for her to go to school, the second helped support her when her husband died leaving her with eleven children, and the third was used to build a memorial to her. This truly is a story that captured the public's imagination.

Artists were also entranced by the tale, painting tender scenes of the girl covering her brothers with her dress or of the distraught father coming across the 'bodies' of his children. Nineteenth-century English artist William Strutt was so inspired that he wrote and illustrated a fictionalised version. While his writing was somewhat melodramatic, his accompanying watercolours were exquisitely tender. They are reproduced in *Lost!*, along with many other paintings, drawings and photographs from the National Library's impressive collections.

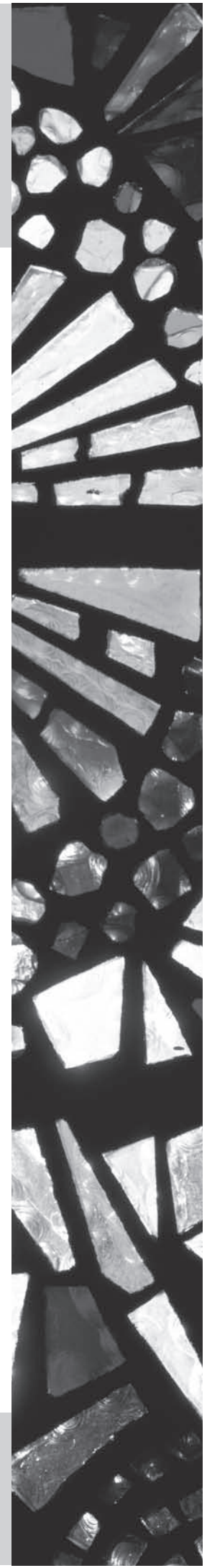
With its dust jacket, linen cover, cream paper, decorative flourishes and lavish illustrations, this is a beautiful book. The fictionalised retelling of the children's ordeal is imaginative and moving. In addition, the historical period is brought to life with an illustrated information section at the end of each chapter which explores how children lived in the 1860s—their houses, food, clothes, transport, toys and schooling. An epilogue lets readers know what happened to some of the characters, including one of the Aboriginal trackers who became a member of the first Australian cricket team to tour England. This is Australian history compellingly brought to life.

***Lost! A True Tale from the Bush***  
by Stephanie Owen Reeder  
National Library of Australia, RRP \$29.95



**National Library Bookshop**  
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# VISIT AUSTRALIAN CLASSICS

## HENRY HANDEL RICHARDSON

Born Ethel Florence Lindesay Richardson in Fitzroy, Melbourne, in 1870, Henry Handel Richardson later adopted her pen name before the publication of her first book, *Maurice Guest* (1908). A talented pianist and composer, she moved to Leipzig, Germany, on completing her secondary education and enrolled in the Royal Conservatorium to continue her music studies. However, writing was to become her *raison d'être* and, during her lifetime, she published a number of novels and short story collections, many of which have come to be recognised as Australian classics. Her oeuvre holds a prominent place in Australian literature and, on completion of the third book in *The Fortunes of Richard Mahony* trilogy, she was awarded the Australian Literature Society Gold Medal for *Ultima Thule* in 1929.

### **The Getting of Wisdom**

One of Henry Handel Richardson's well-known works, *The Getting of Wisdom* is a coming-of-age story about a spontaneous heroine who finds herself ensconced in the rigidity of a turn-of-the-century boarding school. The clever and highly imaginative Laura has difficulty fitting in with her wealthy classmates and begins to compromise her ideals in her search for popularity and acceptance.

***The Getting of Wisdom* by Henry Handel Richardson, Penguin Australia, RRP \$9.95**

### **The Fortunes of Richard Mahony**

Set in Australia during the gold-mining boom, this remarkable trilogy is one of the classics of Australian literature. Richard Mahony, despite finding initial contentment with his wife, Mary, becomes increasingly dissatisfied with his ordered life. His restlessness is not understood by Mary, who has to endure the constant shattering of her security as Richard desperately attempts to free himself. In the figure Richard Mahony, Richardson's restless soul is representative of the universal search for meaning that will validate and give purpose to existence.

***The Fortunes of Richard Mahony* by Henry Handel Richardson, Penguin Australia, RRP \$29.95**



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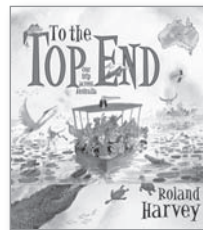
# FOR THE BOOKWORMS



### **Wanted: The Perfect Pet**

Henry was a little boy who more than anything in the whole world wanted a dog. So he decides to place an advertisement in the local paper as a means of helping him find the perfect pet. More than anything in the world, Duck was looking for a friend, so when he sees Henry's advertisement he feels that, with an appropriate disguise, he could fit the description and hopefully find a friend. What Henry and Duck both discover is that friendship comes in many forms and everyone has something special to give. Filled with delightful illustrations throughout, *Wanted: The Perfect Pet* is an endearing story for three to five year olds.

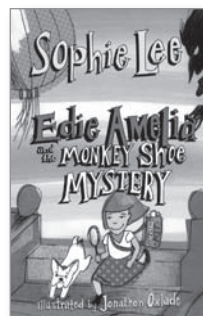
***Wanted: The Perfect Pet* by Fiona Robertson, Penguin Australia, RRP \$24.95**



### **To the Top End**

This fabulous Roland Harvey holiday book explores some of the most spectacular landscapes of Australia and is full of adventure, mishaps and madcap activity. Henry, Penny, Frankie, Mum and Dad embark on their most exciting adventure yet—from Tassie to the very tip of the Top End. Go with them on the ferry across Bass Strait to the mainland and travel through Kelly country, along the Murray, into the Flinders Ranges and overhead at the Olgas, kayak at Kakadu and finally frolic on the beach at the very top of Australia. Great summer reading for pre-schoolers and a hilarious, entertaining and delightful companion to Harvey's previous books: *At the Beach*, *In the Bush* and *In the City*.

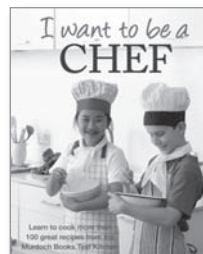
***To the Top End* by Roland Harvey, Allen & Unwin, RRP \$24.99**



### **Edie Amelia and the Monkey Shoe Mystery**

While checking that her party outfit for her ninth birthday is in order, Edie Amelia Sparks discovers that one of her most treasured possessions—a red monkey shoe with a crimson tassel on the toe—is missing. With the help of her unusual dog Mr Pants and her arch nemesis/best friend Cheesy Chompster, Edie Amelia sets out to solve the mystery of the missing shoe. A vital clue leads them to the local dump where Edie Amelia recovers her monkey shoe and the missing documents that will help reinstate her father to his rightful position as Associate Professor at the University of Wobblebottom. A fantastically imaginative story for readers seven years and older.

***Edie Amelia and the Monkey Shoe Mystery* written by Sophie Lee illustrated by Jonathon Oxlade, Pan Australia RRP \$12.99**



### **I Want to Be a Chef**

Learning to cook opens the way to a lifetime of happy experiences. Start cooking for family and friends and you'll quickly realise what a rewarding thing it is to do. *I Want To Be a Chef* is packed with recipes for breakfast, lunchtime and dinner, with plenty of healthy snacks and sweet treats, too. Clear step-by-step pictures help you to mix, roll out, slice, fold in and chop ... all the way to a successful result.

***I Want To Be a Chef*, Murdoch Books Test Kitchen, RRP \$29.95**



### **Conspiracy 365 January**

On New Year's Eve, Cal is chased down the street by a staggering sick man with a deadly warning—*They killed your father. They'll kill you. You must survive the next 365 days!* Hurling into a life on the run, with a price on his head, the 15-year-old fugitive is isolated and alone. Hunted by the law and by ruthless criminals, Cal must somehow uncover the truth about his father's mysterious death and about a history-changing secret. Who can he trust when the whole world wants him dead? A gripping story for teenagers by one of Australia's leading crime writers.

***Conspiracy 365 January* by Gabrielle Lord, Scholastic Australia, RRP \$14.99**

# BOOKSHOP BESTSELLERS

## Fiction

1. *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks
2. *And the Ass Saw the Angel* by Nick Cave
3. *The Zookeeper's War* by Stephen Conte
4. *Year of Wonders* by Geraldine Brooks
5. *March* by Geraldine Brooks

## Non Fiction

1. *Women of Flowers* by Leonie Norton
2. *The Riddle of Father Hackett* by Brenda Niall
3. *Nick Cave Stories* by Janine Brand and James Fox
4. *Nine Parts of Desire* by Geraldine Brooks
5. *The Book of Great One-liners* by Jenny Hunter

## Children's Books

1. *Ellis Rowan's Fairy World* by Susan Hall
2. *Baby Wombat's Week* written by Jackie French, illustrated by Bruce Whatley
3. *Lost! A True Tale from the Bush* by Stephanie Owen Reeder
4. *Old MacDonald Had Some Land* by Susan Hall
5. *Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes* written by Mem Fox, illustrated by Helen Oxenbury

## Christmas inspiration

2009 has been an exciting year for publishing with a host of fantastic books to suit just about every interest and reading preference. So if you're looking for some inspiration here's some great gift ideas for those special people in your life.

*Great Moments in Australian History* presents an exciting collection of stories about the most colourful highlights and heroes of Australia's history. Pioneering a fresh approach, award-winning author Jonathan King dramatises events to bring each moment vividly to life.

***Great Moments in Australian History* by Jonathan King, Allen & Unwin  
RRP \$39.99**

Charlotte Wood brings together an anthology of stories by well-known and new writers who have written about an element of sister/brother relationships, both in fictional and non-fictional forms.

***Brothers & Sisters* edited by Charlotte Wood, Allen & Unwin, RRP \$32.99**

Each afternoon after he finished his work, the Toymaker would take out his violin and play music while the birds from near and far would gather round. One day a little brown bird with a brilliant voice appears, and the Toymaker and the bird make beautiful music together. Until, that is, when the day comes that the little bird, once again, dreams of life beyond the tree tops. An enchanting story for pre-schoolers.

***The Toymaker and the Bird* by Pamela Allen, Penguin Australia, RRP \$24.95**

*Kids' Night In 3* brings a host of Australian authors together in one volume to create for young readers an ocean of bedtime stories, poetry, recipes, hilarious cartoons and cool art to explore. All royalties go to the War Child charity which assists children affected by war. Suitable for readers seven years and older.

***Kids' Night In 3*, anthology, Penguin Australia, RRP \$24.95**

## What I'm Reading



**Kathy O'Callaghan**  
Accounts Payable Supervisor,  
Finance Branch

I read as a form of entertainment. I never travel without a good book or two and when travelling overseas I always take a book that I have read and enjoyed that will remind me of home (even if I don't have time to read it).

My main reading is historic fiction. I studied ancient and modern history along with geography in my youth and therefore I admire an author's ability to research the facts, create characters and place them in the period.

I have just finished reading Thomas Keneally's *The People's Train*, which recounts Artem Samsurov's escape from Tsarist Russia and his arrival in Brisbane. Following a troubled time there, he returns to Russia to take part in the Bolshevik revolution of 1917. As I had been in St Petersburg in July 2007 and visited the Aurora and toured the Winter Palace, I was able to have a mental picture of the place where Artem and fellow revolutionists marched into the palace through the square.

I hope I enjoy Keneally's *Australians: Origins to Eureka* just as much.

Bryce Courtenay is my favourite Australian author and I have read my copy of *Four Fires* many times. In fact, my copy has come with me on several overseas trips. The story is set in the era in which I grew up and his narration about bushfires is so real that you feel like you are in the fire—but from the comfort of your armchair. I have been to several book launches in Canberra where Courtenay has been the guest, including the launch of *Four Fires*. Courtenay was very passionate about the subject matter he covered in this novel, which I am sure made reading it more enjoyable.

I do occasionally read Chick Lit and American author Kate Jacobs has written a couple of good novels, *Friday Night Knitting Club* and *Knit Two*. I am eagerly awaiting the third book in the series. These books cover many modern-day social issues, making me realise how important it is to have a close family and social network.

## BECOME A FRIEND



Become a Friend of the National Library of Australia and enjoy exclusive behind-the-scenes visits, discover collections that reveal our unique heritage, and experience one of the world's great libraries. Friends receive a 15% discount on all purchases at the National Library Bookshop. For information visit [www.nla.gov.au/friends](http://www.nla.gov.au/friends) or phone (02) 6262 1551.

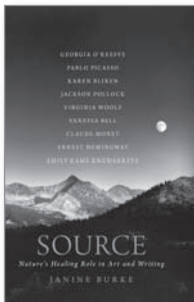
## What's New on the Shelves



### **Grand Obsessions**

On 23 May 1912, Walter Burley Griffin was announced as the winner of the international design competition for the new capital of Australia that was to be built on a sheep paddock they called Canberra. In this definitive new biography, Alasdair McGregor traces the lives of Griffin and his wife, Marion Mahony Griffin, two individuals of great talent and vision. The Griffins' story resonates through the years, and their fight to see their idealistic vision realised is one that continues in Australia today.

**Grand Obsessions by Alasdair McGregor, Lantern RRP \$69.95**



### **Source**

In her latest book, Janine Burke brings together some of the world's most highly acclaimed artists and writers to explore their connection with the natural environment and how it has influenced their work. For the people in this book the act of recreating Eden is a life-changing, art-making, healing rite that becomes both a map of their careers and an index of their subject matter. In this ground-breaking publication, Burke explores how art and landscape, love and companionship, home and garden are intertwined.

**Source by Janine Burke, Allen & Unwin, RRP \$55.00**

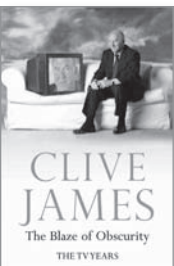


### **The Mind and Times of Reg Mombassa**

Christopher O'Doherty, aka Reg Mombassa, has infiltrated our culture for more than 30 years with a unique, laconic view of our world ... and of his. Yet long before he joined eighties rock band *Mental As Anything* or transformed shirts into collector's items, Mombassa was an artist.

However, there is even more to Reg Mombassa, as fellow New Zealand-born writer Murray Waldren shows in this illuminated journey, illustrated with over 300 artworks, photographs, posters and band memorabilia.

**The Mind and Times of Reg Mombassa by Murray Waldren, Harper Collins, RRP \$75.00**



### **The Blaze of Obscurity**

For many people, Clive James will always be a television presenter first and foremost and a writer second—this, despite the fact that his adventures with the written word took place before, during, and after his time on the small screen. *The Blaze of Obscurity* tells the inside story of James' years in television, shows Clive at his finest both then and now, proving once and for all that Clive has a way with words ... whatever the medium.

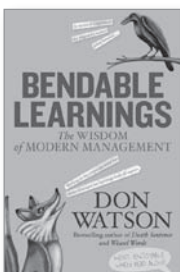
**The Blaze of Obscurity by Clive James, Picador RRP \$34.99**



### **Sons of the Rumour**

David Foster ingeniously manipulates the frame tale of the Arabian Nights and utilises all his narrative gifts of adventurous satire in *Sons of the Rumour*. Sprawling, ambitious, explicit but frequently hilarious, this book is a modern masterpiece, an utterly original novel by a man who *The Sydney Morning Herald* critic Andrew Riemer has called Patrick White's worthy successor.

**Sons of the Rumour by David Foster, Picador RRP \$39.99**



### **Bendable Learnings**

The language of modern management has triumphed, transforming clear, everyday communication into meaningless sludge. From Don Watson, the author of *Weasel Words* and *Death Sentence*, comes this new assortment of noxious management drivel and financial market blather. The disease may not yet have run its course, but Watson's acerbic wit restores hope in the power of well-chosen words to entertain and to inspire.

**Bendable Learnings: The Wisdom of Modern Management by Don Watson, Knopf Australia RRP \$32.95**

## NLA EVENTS

### **Christmas Carols**

Chamber choir *Igitur Nos* presents a program of choral favourites and special Australian music for Christmas from the Library's collection.

**Wednesday 9 December, 12.30 pm Foyer, free**

### **Stories under the Christmas Tree (ages 4–6)**

Join 'Holly', the Christmas librarian, for some great Christmas tales, and a singalong with a carol or two.

**Tuesday 15 and 22 December, 11 am Conference Room, gold coin donation**

### **Family History at the Library**

Discover the Library's family history resources and collection guides.

**Wednesday 30 December, 12 – 1 pm Ferguson Room, free**

### **Summer Storytime (ages 4–6)**

Share captivating stories by children's authors whose works are held in the Library's collection. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Bring a packed lunch and stay for cartoons.

**Tuesday 12 and 19 January, 11 am Conference Room, gold coin donation**

### **Build Your Own Ballet (ages 6–8)**

Children will make tutus and tiaras, choreograph a dance performance and explore the creative world of Ballets Russes dancers.

**Thursday 14 January, 10.30 am Conference Room, \$15**

### **SPECIAL EVENT**

#### **Valentine's Day at the Library**

Celebrate Valentine's Day with world-renowned romance writer Valerie Parv, as she discusses the creative process of writing a romance novel. This special event will be followed by a screening of the Australian Romantic comedy, *Paperback Hero* (M15+), starring Hugh Jackman and Claudia Karvan.

**Friday 12 February, 5 – 9 pm Theatre, \$10 (book signing and refreshments included)**

## NATIONAL LIBRARY BOOKSHOP ANNUAL SALE



**20% off\***



Just in time for Christmas — books, greeting cards, wrapping paper, bookplates, bookmarks, jewellery and much more on sale.

**Saturday 19 December**

**Bookshop open 9 am – 5 pm**

\* does not include already discounted or remaindered stock, limited edition prints, newspapers, stamps and phone cards. No further discounts apply.