

## Recommended Reading List: *A Numbers Game*

<https://www.grc.qld.gov.au/homepage/108/library-lovers-book-group-online>

### Non Fiction

***That One Patient : doctors and nurses' stories of the patients who changed their lives forever / Ellen de Visser 2020***

For every doctor there is that one patient, whose story touches them in a way they didn't expect, changing their entire outlook on life. This inspiring and deeply moving book is the story of those patients. Every weekend, in Holland's most popular newspaper, *de Volkskrant*, renowned science-journalist Ellen de Visser asks a different medical professional to tell her about 'that one patient'; the patient who changed everything for them. To be able to do their job to the best of their abilities, medical experts use their 'professional empathy': they sympathize with their patients but try to keep themselves at a distance. But there is always that one patient who, for whatever reason, bridges this distance and often unwittingly, has a lasting impact on their doctor's life. *That One Patient* is brimming with intimate stories of connection and of the unanticipated ways we can affect one other's lives. All of them remind us of just how extraordinary humans can be, and of our incredible capacity for bravery, strength and humour.

***Come in Spinner : a history of Two-up and its language / Bruce Moore 2022***

"Bruce Moore explains Two-up's role in the development of the ANZAC legend and provides new evidence that aspects of the game and its terminology have their origins in Ireland. He shows us how the Australian concept of the "fair go" had its origins in Two-up, and how working-class tenacity saved the game from the efforts of authorities and wowsers to wipe it out...."--Back cover.

***Dancing in the Dust : three nurses' misadventures in the Australian outback / Ann Martin 2022***

*Dancing in the Dust* is the funny, irreverent, and sometimes heartbreaking story of three nurses working around Australia in the nineteen sixties. Naive and unprepared for what was to follow, they set out in a second-hand Kombi van, totally unsuitable for the outback. Fifty years ago, there were no mobile phones or internet and bush roads were nothing but pot-holes and corrugations. It tells of the highs and lows of nursing in the bush: The old aboriginal woman admitted with her wounds crawling with maggots; the tiny baby surviving Tetanus; the Leprosarium in the Kimberlies; and the children dying from gastro and pneumonia. Join the three midwives in their adventures, battling bulldust, boggy roads and never-ending breakdowns. It is the moving story, told with humour, of every-day Australians struggling to live in the relentless heat and isolation of the Australian Outback.

***488 Rules For Life : the thankless art of being correct / Kitty Flanagan 2019***

*488 Rules for Life* is not a self-help book, because it's not you who needs help, it's other people. Whether they're walking and texting, asphyxiating you on public transport with their noxious perfume cloud, or leaving one useless square of toilet paper on the roll, a lot of people just don't know the rules. But thanks to Kitty Flanagan's comprehensive guide to modern behaviour, our world will soon be a much better place. A place where people don't ruin the fruit salad by putting banana in it, where your co-workers respect your olfactory system and don't reheat their fish curry in the office microwave, where middle aged men don't have ponytails.

***Dispatch from Berlin, 1943 : the story of five journalists who risked everything / Anthony Cooper, with Thorsten Perl 2023***

In December 1943, five courageous correspondents join a British air raid on Berlin. Each is assigned to one of the 400 Lancaster bombers that fly into the hazardous skies over Germany on a single night. Of the five, only two land back at base to file their stories. After parachuting out of his doomed aircraft, one reporter is taken prisoner. From there his captors take him on a remarkable tour of bombed-out German cities. In *Dispatch from Berlin, 1943*, Anthony Cooper and Thorsten Perl uncover this incredible true story of life on both sides of the war.

***Six Days in August : the story of Stockholm syndrome / David King 2020***

The definitive account of the bizarre hostage drama that gave rise to the term 'Stockholm syndrome.' On the morning of August 23, 1973, a man wearing a wig, makeup, and a pair of sunglasses walked into the main branch of Sveriges Kreditbank, a prominent bank in central Stockholm. He ripped out a submachine gun, fired it into the ceiling, and shouted, "The party starts!" This was the beginning of a six-day hostage crisis--and media circus--that would mesmerize the world, drawing into its grip everyone from Sweden's most notorious outlaw to the prime minister himself. As policemen and reporters encircled the bank, it was broadcast on live television. Inside the building, meanwhile, complicated emotional relationships developed between captors and captives that would launch a remarkable new concept into the realm of psychology, hostage negotiation, and popular culture.

***Question 7 / Richard Flanagan 2023***

Flanagan approaches this extraordinary mix of memoir and history with honesty and integrity, admitting to not understanding life – his own, or that of his father or mother. *Question 7* is an exploration and celebration of those lives, as well as of his beloved Tasmania. The odd title comes from an Anton Chekhov story, 'Questions Posed by a Mad Mathematician', where each question is illogical. Flanagan knows that life itself doesn't make sense. He writes – beautifully and masterfully – to try to unravel its riddles.

***Eight Seconds / Frances Dall'Alba 2022***

When Grace wins her first poddy ride at the age of twelve but is refused the first prize trophy because she's a girl, it stirs a fierce streak that won't rest - not until she's allowed to compete in the sport she loves as an equal and be recognised for it. Erin Blackwater comes into Grace's life many years after her bull riding days are over. Employed by a medical research company to record Grace's miracle recovery, Grace teaches Erin the importance of living life to the fullest without fear or regrets. Encapsulating the Australian outback landscape of the sixties and seventies, this story is inspired by one woman, with one dream, and one almighty driving passion.

***The Nine of Us : growing up Kennedy / Jean Kennedy Smith 2016***

Prompted by interesting tidbits in the daily papers, Rose and Joe Kennedy would pose questions to their nine children at the dinner table: "Where has Amelia Earhart gone" "Do you think there will be war in Europe" "What will the British do" It was a nightly custom that helped shape the Kennedys into the men and women they would become. Before Joe and Rose's children emerged as leaders on the world stage, they were simply a loving circle of brothers and sisters who played football, swam, sailed, read, and pursued their interests. They were children inspired by their parents, who instilled in them a strong work ethic, a deep love of country, and an intense appreciation for the sacrifices their ancestors made to come to America. "No whining in this house!" was their father's regular refrain. It was his way of reminding them not to complain and to be grateful for what they had, and he always emphasized how important it is to give back. With charming anecdotes and dozens of rarely seen family photographs, *The Nine of Us* offers indelible, elegantly rendered portraits of a closely knit family known throughout the world.

## **Fiction**

### ***The One and Only Dolly Jamieson* / Lisa Ireland 2023**

Dolly Jamieson is not homeless, she's merely between permanent abodes. The 78-year-old spends her days keeping warm at the local library, where she enjoys sparring with the officious head librarian and helping herself to the free morning tea. It's not so bad, really. But it's certainly a far cry from the 1960s, when this humble girl from Geelong became an international star of the stage. When Jane Leveson, a well-to-do newcomer to the library, shows an interest in Dolly, the pair strike up an unlikely friendship. Yet Dolly can detect a deep sadness in the younger woman's eyes. Perhaps by working together both women can finally face their pasts and start to heal.

### ***2 Sisters Detective Agency* / James Patterson and Candice Fox 2021**

Attorney Rhonda Bird returns home after a long estrangement when she learns her father has died. There she makes two important discoveries: her father stopped being an accountant and had opened up a private detective agency, and she has a teenage half sister named Baby. Baby brings in a client, a young man who claims he was abducted. Rhonda and Baby become entangled in a dangerous case involving a group of overprivileged young adults who break laws for fun, their psychopath ringleader, and an ex-assassin victim who decides to hunt them down for revenge.

### ***Three Weddings and a Proposal* / Sheila O'Flanagan 2021**

Delphie is enjoying her brother's wedding. Her surprise last-minute Plus One has stunned her family - and it's also stopped any of them asking again why she's still single. But when she sees all the missed calls that evening, she knows it can't be good news. And she's right. Delphie has been living her best life, loving her job, her friends, her no-strings relationships and her dream house by the sea. Now she has to question everything she believed about who she is and what she wants. Is her mum right - is it time to settle down? Or does she want to keep on trying to have it all? Each wedding of a glorious summer brings a new surprise. And as everything Delphie thought she had is threatened, she has the chance to reshape her future

### ***Four Dogs Missing* / Rhys Gard 2023**

While estranged twins Oliver and Theo Wingfield are identical in appearance, they couldn't be more different. Theo, an extrovert verging on arrogant; Oliver, intense, creative and introspective, destined to become a winemaker. After fifteen years without contact, Theo unexpectedly turns up at his brother's vineyard. His arrival is the catalyst for a series of murders involving those closest to Oliver. Finding himself the main suspect, Oliver soon discovers that not everyone in Mudgee supports a reclusive and unorthodox vigneron who's shied away from the community that helped him succeed. Abandoning his grapevines, he sets out to solve the crimes - and confront his damaged past - before someone else he loves is found dead ... beside a bottle of his own wine.

### ***The Five Wishes of Mr. Murray McBride* / Joe Siple 2018**

With all his family and friends gone, one-hundred-year-old Murray McBride is looking for a reason to live. He finds it in Jason Cashman, a ten-year-old boy with a terminal heart defect and a list of five things he wants to do before he dies. Together, they race against the limited time each has left, ticking off wishes one by one. Along the way, Murray remembers what it's like to be young, and Jason fights for the opportunity to grow old. But when tragedy strikes, their worlds are turned upside-down, and an unexpected gift is the only thing that can make Jason's final wish come true.

***Secluded Cabin Sleeps Six / Lisa Unger* 2022**

Three couples rent a luxury cabin in the woods for a weekend getaway-to-die-for in this chilling locked-room thriller. What could be more restful than a weekend getaway with family and friends? An isolated luxury cabin in the woods, spectacular views, a hot tub and a personal chef. Hannah's generous brother found the listing online. The reviews are stellar. It'll be three couples on this trip with good food, good company and lots of R & R. But the dreamy weekend is about to turn into a nightmare. A deadly storm is brewing. The rental host seems just a little too present. The personal chef reveals that their beautiful house has a spine-tingling history. And the friends have their own complicated past, with secrets that run blood deep. How well does Hannah know her brother, her own husband? Can she trust her best friend? Meanwhile, someone is determined to ruin the weekend, looking to exact a payback for deeds long buried. Who is the stranger among them?

***The Seven / Chris Hammer* 2023**

Yuwonderie's seven founding families have lorded it over their district for a century, growing ever more rich and powerful. But now - in startling circumstances - one of their own is found dead in a ditch and homicide detectives Ivan Lucic and Nell Buchanan are sent to investigate. Could the murder be connected to the execution of the victim's friend thirty years ago - another member of The Seven - or even to the long-forgotten story of a servant girl on the brink of the Great War? What are the secrets The Seven are so desperate to keep hidden? With the killer still on the loose and events spiralling out of control, the closer Ivan and Nell get to discovering the truth, the more dangerous their investigation becomes. Can they crack the case before more people die?

***Eight lives / Susan Hurley* 2019**

Former refugee, David Tran, becomes the Golden Boy of Australian medical research and invents a drug that could transform immunology. Eight volunteers are recruited for the first human trial, a crucial step on the path to global fame for David and windfall gains for his investors. But when David dies in baffling circumstances, motives are put under the microscope. With its origins in a real-life drug trial that ended in tragedy, *Eight Lives* is told from the perspectives of David's friends, family and business associates, who all played a role in his downfall.

***The Couple at No. 9 / Claire Douglas* 2021**

When Saffy moves into 9 Skelton Place with boyfriend Tom and sets about renovations, the last thing she expects is workmen uncovering two bodies. Forensics indicate the bodies have been buried for thirty years - much to Saffy's relief. Until the police's murder investigation turns to the cottage's former owner - her grandmother, Rose. But Rose is in a care home, Alzheimer's increasingly confusing her memories. As the police dig ever deeper and Rose begins to remember, Saffy fears she and the cottage are being watched. What happened thirty years ago? What part did her grandmother play? And is Saffy now in danger?

***Ten Birthdays / Kerry Wilkinson* 2017**

There are going to be so many things I wish I could've told you in person, Poppy. I won't get the chance to do that, so perhaps this is my only way... It's Poppy Kinsey's birthday. She should be blowing out candles and opening presents - but hers falls on the type of heart-wrenching, agonising anniversary she would far rather forget. The worst day of them all. The day her mother died. But this year is special because the person she misses most in the world has left her a set of letters, one for each of her next ten birthdays. As Poppy opens them year by year, she discovers that no matter how tough life gets, her mum will always be by her side, guiding her along the way.