

DECEMBER NEWS FROM YOUR LIBRARY

CHRISTMAS WISHES AND 2022 REOPENING DATE

The committee and staff wish all of our members a wonderful Christmas and New Year. We take this opportunity to thank members for your support during the very challenging period we have endured. A three-month extension has been added to all memberships as a token of our gratitude.

The library's last opening day for 2021 will be Friday 17th December and we will reopen from 10am on Wednesday 12th January. eBooks are available during our closure period and take advantage of our 'browse and borrow' sessions or 'click and collect' service in the next couple of weeks to stock up on some holiday reading.

EASING OF RESTRICTIONS

It has been lovely to see members returning to the library and, with the easing of restrictions, we have made some minor tweaks to the library's operations. Density limits have been scrapped so we have no restrictions on the number of members in the library at the same time. Members and visitors are no longer required to wear masks, but staff and volunteers must wear masks when serving. Everyone over the age of twelve entering the library must check in using the QR code and show either proof of double vaccination or a medical exemption.

We will continue to take every necessary step to keep members, staff, and volunteers safe, and we thank members for your understanding.

If any members would prefer not to enter the library space, we will continue to offer a click and collect service during opening hours. Please contact us if you would like to arrange a click and collect pick-up.

SCARLET STILETTO WINNERS

The winners of the 28th annual Scarlet Stiletto Awards were announced last week, and the Melbourne Athenaeum's \$1250 Body in the Library Award was won by Clare Fletcher (pictured), from Summer Hill in New South Wales.

Clare, who managed communications for the Walkley Foundation for Journalism, penned "Death's Waiting Room", about an aged care home whose residents keep turning up dead in the library.

The Body in the Library Runner-up Award (\$750) was won by Susan Green from Castlemaine, Victoria, for "Creativity Now!", a story that demonstrates rule number one of crime fiction – you underestimate a sweet old lady at your peril. Susan is a children's author who has long intended to enter the Scarlet Stiletto Awards – and finally did.

Canberra pharmacist Hayley Young won the overall Scarlet Stiletto Award, during an online presentation ceremony hosted by award-winning actor Catherine McClements. This

year's awards, which are run by the Sisters in Crime, attracted 241 short stories, which competed for a record \$11,910 in prize money and benefits. During the ceremony, McClements also launched *Scarlet Stiletto: The Thirteenth Cut*, a collection of winning stories from this year's competition, which is \$5 for an eBook from the publisher [Clan Destine Press](#) or \$5.99 from Booktopia, Amazon, or iTunes.

The winner and runner-up stories in the Body in the Library category will be made available on our website in the coming weeks.

MUSIC PERFORMANCES

We knew members had missed our musical performances – but the response to the two December performances by the Affinity Quartet was overwhelming. They booked out almost immediately.

We have lined up a busy calendar of events for 2022, including an array of classical, jazz, and contemporary music performances.

Our first music event will be Ultrafox (pictured) in March and we will continue to keep members informed via the eNews. We cannot wait to get back to our regular program of events.

GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

There's still time to buy a gift membership for the library as a Christmas gift and, as a special deal, we are offering a \$10 discount (\$89 full membership and \$79 concession). If you would like to buy a gift membership, please speak to the library staff.

VALE SIR JAMES GOBBO

Sir James Augustine Gobbo, AC, CVO, QC (22 March 1931 to 7 November 2021) was an Australian jurist who served as the 25th Governor of Victoria, from 1997 to 2000.

As well as being Patron of the Melbourne Athenaeum Library during his tenure as Governor, Sir James was a great champion of libraries. He served as Chairman of the Council of the National Library of Australia and was the inaugural patron of the State Library of Victoria's Redmond Barry Society.

His biography, *Something to declare: a memoir*, is available in the library.

VALE STUART MACINTYRE

Many library members will have fond memories of leading Australian historian Stuart Macintyre AO, who passed away in late November.

Professor Macintyre, who was voted one of the country's leading historians, delivered the library's annual Marcus Clarke Lecture in October 2016, speaking about Melbourne in the second half of the 19th Century. The annual lecture was launched in 2015 and is designed

to generate and provoke conversations and confirm Melbourne as a culturally rich and inquiring city.

A few of Professor Macintyre's works can be found on the library shelves, including *The Reds* and *A Concise History of Australia*.

CHRISTOS TSIOLKAS WINS MELBOURNE PRIZE

Acclaimed author Christos Tsiolkas was recently announced as the winner of the Melbourne Prize's major award, the \$60,000 Melbourne Prize for Literature. Tsiolkas has penned seven novels, including *Barracuda* and *The Slap*, which were both adapted into celebrated television series, and is also a playwright, essayist, and screen writer.

Library members are spoilt for choice with all of his novels available for loan, including some as eBooks.

BOOK CLUB MEETINGS AND READS

To finish off the year, our book clubs have some terrific books for discussion, including *Bluebird, bluebird* (Attica Locke), *The yield* (Tara June Winch), *Out of our minds* (Ken Robinson) and *How to stop time* (Matt Haig).

If you're interested in joining one of our book clubs in 2022, speak to the library staff.

NEW BOOKS ADDED TO THE COLLECTION

The library purchases more than one hundred new books each month, and new book lists are added to the library website within the first few days of each month. Please check the website soon for November's new books or contact the library for the book list.