



DECEMBER NEWS FROM YOUR LIBRARY

Christmas Closure

The library will close at 4pm on Tuesday 23rd December and reopen to members at 10am on Tuesday 6th January. We wish everyone a lovely Christmas and New Year, and thank you for your support in 2025.

During the Christmas break, books can be downloaded from our ever-expanding Overdrive collection. If you need guidance on setting up an eReader or downloading books please speak to one of the library staff.



Music Event: Inventi plays The Nutcracker

Our final event for the year will see library favourite Inventi playing *The Nutcracker*.

Experience the magic of the Inventi Ensemble as they perform Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite* like never before, arranged for a vibrant chamber ensemble.

This concert will deliver energetic classics like the *Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy* and the *Waltz of the Flowers*.



If you RSVP and are then unable to attend please let us know as we often have a waiting list for events.

Details

Friday 12th December
Doors open 5.40pm, music from 6pm
Free for members, \$20 non-members
Book [here](#).



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Scarlet Stiletto Winners

The winners of the 32nd Scarlet Stiletto Awards have been announced, and Castlemaine author Julia Harris has taken out the coveted Melbourne Athenaeum Body in the Library Award. Natalie Conyer, from Mosman, NSW, was runner-up.

Melbourne Athenaeum management committee vice-president Barbara Gliddon helped present the Body in the Library awards, which we have

sponsored for 14 years. The winning entries, *Return or Die* by Julia and *The Ghost Detective* by Natalie, will be uploaded to our website within the next couple of weeks.



This year, 231 short stories competed for more than \$13,000 in prize money, and the overall Scarlet Stiletto Award was won by Healesville author Dr Sandra Thom-Jones.

Author Dinuka McKenzie presented the awards with host Amanda Hampson, who created the popular Tea Ladies series. Dinuka also launched *Scarlet Stiletto: The Seventeenth Cut*, an e-book collection of the 2025 winning stories, which is available for purchase [here](#).

Caption: (left to right) Dinuka McKenzie, Julia Harris, Barbara Gliddon and Amanda Hampson

Give the Gift of the Library

As a special deal for Christmas, we are offering a \$10 discount on gift memberships so it's the perfect time to buy a membership for that literary family member or friend.

Under the deal, full gift memberships are \$89 and concession gift memberships are \$79.

Please speak to library staff if you have any questions or would like to purchase a gift membership (*pictured, artwork by Alissa Duke*).





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New Screen Club in 2026

Members are invited to join a new screen club starting in January, which will be run by James Baker on the third Tuesday of each month from 5.45 to 6.45pm.

The first meeting will be held on Tuesday 20th January and *Interstellar* is on the agenda for discussion.

If you would like more information, or to register, email library@melbourneathenaeum.org.au



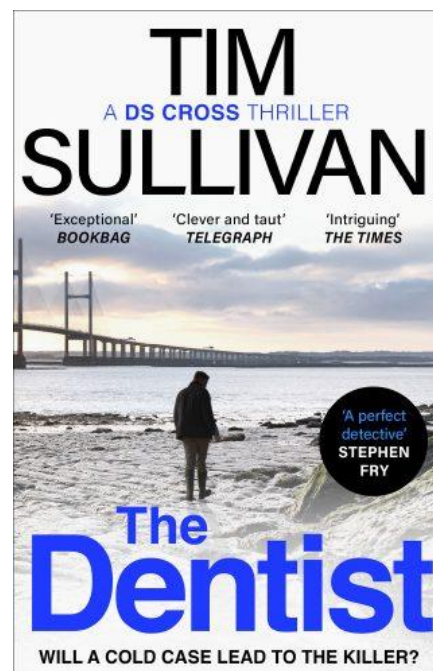
Book Recommendation

Library Manager Fiona recommends all seven of the books in the DS George Cross series by author Tim Sullivan. Book one is *The dentist* but the books can be read in any order.

As the author explains: George Cross is a brilliant detective in the Somerset and Avon police force, based in the Major Crimes Unit in Bristol. He is a detective sergeant which surprises some people, because he has Autism spectrum condition.

Cross doesn't like crowds, not even crowded rooms. He can't tolerate noise. His people skills are so negligible as to be almost non-existent. These idiosyncrasies and his diffident manner are excused by his superiors because of his astonishing success rate. He has the highest conviction rate in the force – conviction, not arrest. Cross is thorough, methodical and doggedly persistent.

Book eight is due for release in 2026.



To view the library's latest acquisitions click [here](#). To view the library's catalogue click [here](#).



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Preview of 2026 Events

We already have many events booked in for 2026 and here are a few to add to your diaries. As always, details and booking links will be included in our upcoming eNews.

- Friday 13th February, Wattleseed Ensemble (pictured)
- Friday 27th February, Bohemian Nights (contemporary)
- Friday 13th March, Connie Chamber (classical)
- Friday 20th March, Catherine McQuade (contemporary)



Help the Melbourne Athenaeum continue to live up to its position as Melbourne's first and finest cultural institution by supporting our Giving Appeal at <https://www.givenow.com.au/annualgivingappeal>



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