

BIOGRAPHIES & MEMOIRS – READING LIST

Adams, David **Chasing Liquid Mountains: Adventures of a Solo Yachtsman** **910.45 ADA**
The story of a lone yachtsman who set himself a goal and overcame enormous setbacks with exceptional determination to achieve that goal.

Adut, Deng Thiak
with McKelvey, Ben **Songs of a War Boy** **920 ADU**
This is an inspiring story of a man who has overcome deadly adversity to become a lawyer and committed worker for the disenfranchised, helping refugees in Western Sydney. It is an important reminder of the power of compassion and the benefit to us all when we open our doors and our hearts to fleeing war, persecution and trauma.

Against the Sea: Great Adventure Stories edited by Louisa Rudeen **910.45 AGA**
These 24 true tales of adventure tell of heroes who embark on daring missions, situations fraught with danger, and maritime disasters that destroy ships and men. Each account comes from the very people who lived through the events.

Al-Windawi, Thura **Thura's Diary: a Young Girl's Life in War-Torn Baghdad** **920 AL**
What would it really be like to live through the bombing of Baghdad? This poignant diary is a first-hand account of a family in a city living under attack. Written by 19-year-old Thura al-Windawi, it describes the chaos and destruction around her.

Andraka, Jack with **Breakthrough : How One Teen Innovator is Changing**
Lysiak, Matthew **the World** **920 AND**
Jack was just 15 when he invented an early detection test for three types of cancer. After a family friend passed away from pancreatic cancer, Jack began to research the subject. While sitting in biology class, he hit upon an idea. In 2012, working with the team at John Hopkins School of Medicine in Baltimore, Jack created a test that can detect pancreatic, ovarian and lung cancer in its earliest stages.

Attenborough, David **Life on Air : Memoirs of a Broadcaster** **920 ATT**
Sir David Attenborough is Britain's best-known natural history film-maker. His career as a naturalist and broadcaster has spanned nearly six decades. A lot has changed since his first television documentary, and in this updated edition of Life on Air Sir David tells us of his experiences of filming in the 21st century.

Bailey, Maurice &
Maralyn **117 Days Adrift** **910.45 BAI**
After Maralyn and Maurice Bailey's yacht 'Auralyn' sank, they spend 118 days in their small life raft and rubber dinghy. For most of the time they were totally dependent on resources provided by the ocean and the sky.

Barakat, Ibtisam **Tasting the Sky** **920 BAR**
A look at the life and times of a Palestinian child and what it is like to grow up in a world shattered by war. A powerful and groundbreaking memoir set in Ramallah during the aftermath of the 1967 Six-Day War, this work captures what it is like to be a child whose world is shattered by war.

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Barnes, Jimmy **Working Class Boy** **920 BAR**

Working Class Boy is a powerful reflection on a traumatic and violent childhood, which fuelled the excess and recklessness that would define, but almost destroy, the rock'n'roll legend. This is the story of how James Swan became Jimmy Barnes. It is a memoir burning with the frustration and frenetic energy of teenage sex, drugs, violence and ambition for more than what you have.

Beah, Ishmael **A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier** **920 BEA**

A Long Way Gone is the true story of Ishmael Beah, who becomes an unwilling boy soldier during a civil war in Sierra Leone. When he is twelve years old, Beah's village is attacked while he is away performing in a rap group with friends.

Benson, Ross **Paul McCartney: Behind the Myth** **781.66092 MCC:B**

A detailed and authoritative biography of one of the most talented and best loved figures in popular culture.

Brickhill, Paul **The Great Escape** **F BRI:P**

One of the most famous true stories from the last war, 'The Great Escape' tells how more than six hundred men in a German prisoner-of-war camp worked together to achieve an extraordinarily daring breakout. Made famous by the Hollywood film of the same name, this is the original story.

Brierley, Saroo **Lion: a Long Way Home** **920 BRI**

Can you imagine being lost and not finding your way home again? Saroo Brierley became lost on a train in India at the age of five. Not knowing the name of his family or where he was from, he survived for weeks on the streets of Kolkata, before being taken into an orphanage and adopted by a family in Australia. Despite being happy in his new home, Saroo always wondered about his origins.

Brown, Bob **Optimism: Reflections on a Life of Action** **920 BRO**

Bob Brown, former Senator and Parliamentary Leader of the Australian Greens, is one of Australia's most thoughtful and recognized public figures. Since his retirement from public life in 2012, Bob has had time to consider the things that are truly important.

Bryson, Bill **A Walk in the Woods** **910.4 BRY**

The longest footpath in the world stretches from Georgia to Maine, through some of the most arresting and celebrated landscapes in America. Bill Bryson is off to hike through the vast tangled woods which have been frightening sensible people for 300 years, to achieve a lifetime's ambition - not to die outdoors.

Burton, David **How to be Happy : a Memoir Of Love, Sex And Teenage Confusion** **F BUR:D**

A funny, sad and serious memoir, How to Be Happy is David Burton's story of his turbulent life at high school and beyond. It tackles depression, friendship, sexual identity, suicide, academic pressure, love and adolescent confusion.

Carter, Paul **Don't Tell Mum I Work on the Rigs** **920 CAR:P**

A 'take no prisoners' approach to life has seen Paul Carter heading to some of the world's most remote, wild and dangerous places as a contractor in the oil business. Amazingly, he's survived (so far) to tell these stories from the edge of civilization, and reason.

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Clarke, Maxine

Beneba

The Hate Race: a Memoir

920 CLA

'Against anything I had ever been told was possible, I was turning white. On the surface of my skin, a miracle was quietly brewing ...' Suburban Australia. Sweltering heat. Three-bedroom blonde-brick. Family of five. Beat-up Ford Falcon. Vegemite on toast. Maxine Beneba Clarke's life is just like all the other Aussie kids on her street. Except for this one, glaring, inescapably obvious thing.

Clarke, Marcus

For the Term of His Natural Life

F CLA:M

Murder, shipwreck, brutal tortures, cannibalism amongst escaping convicts - this novel brings to life all the horror and suffering of the settlement at Port Arthur and the system under which countless convicts disappeared without trace. The survival of Rufus Dawes is amazing in itself.

Coming of Age : Growing Up Muslim in Australia edited by Anna

Pajalic and Demet Divarore

305.69794 COM

Muslim people in Australia come from over seventy countries and represent a wide variety of cultural backgrounds and experiences. Yet we are constantly bombarded by media stories feeding one negative stereotype. What is it really like to grow up Muslim in Australia?

Cosentino

Anything is Possible

793.8 COS:F

Cosentino is Australia's premier illusionist . This is his thrilling and inspiring story. He was a 12-year-old boy with learning difficulties, teased and isolated, who struggled with reading and schoolwork. But one day, in a library, he found an illustrated book about magic - and that unlocked something in him.

Dahl, Roald

Boy: Tales of Childhood

F DAH:R

The boyhood adventures of Roald Dahl. Hilariously true are the details of the Great Mouse Plot of 1924, when an eight-year-old Dahl and his gobstopper-loving friends took a just revenge on the disgusting sweetshop owner Mrs. Pratchett. Full of excitement and the unexpected.

Diver, Stuart &

Survival: the Inspirational Story of the Thredbo

Bouda, Simon

Disaster's Sole Survivor

920 DIV

The story of how one man found the mental and physical strength to live through tragedy and survive against impossible odds. Stuart relives the event that changed his world forever.

Do, Anh

The Happiest Refugee: the Extraordinary True Story of a Boy's Journey from Starvation at Sea to Becoming one of Australia's Best Loved Comedians

920 DO

Anh Do nearly didn't make it to Australia. His entire family came close to losing their lives on the sea as they escaped from war-torn Vietnam in an overcrowded boat. This book tells the incredible, uplifting and inspiring life story of one of our favourite personalities. Tragedy, humour, heartache and unswerving determination - a big life with big dreams.

Donaldson, Mark

The Crossroad : a Story of Life, Death and the SAS

920 DON

When Mark Donaldson was awarded the Victoria Cross in 2009, he was the first Australian to receive our highest award for bravery since Keith Payne's medal in 1969. Mark showed extraordinary courage when he rescued an Afghan interpreter under heavy fire during a bloody ambush in Afghanistan...From teenage rebellion to the stark realities of combat in the mountains and valleys of Afghanistan, Mark's book is the frank and compelling story of a man turning his destiny around by sheer determination and strength of mind.

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Doty, James R. **Into the Magic Shop : a Neurosurgeon's True Story of the Life-changing Magic of Mindfulness and Compassion** **920 DOT**
The author relates how a chance encounter in a magic shop with a woman who taught him exercises to ease his sufferings and manifest his greatest desires gave him a glimpse of the relationship between the brain and the heart, and drove him to explore the neuroscience of compassion and altruism.

Dowswell, Paul **True Escape Stories** **904.7 DOW**
From convicts in Alcatraz to prisoners in Colditz Castle, these stories celebrate the cunning, determination and courage of the would-be escaper.

Durrell, Gerald **My family and Other Animals** **F DUR:G**
The Durrell family arrives in sun-soaked Corfu and so begins the delightful tales of the extraordinary family and the even more extraordinary menagerie Gerry collects.

Elliott, Tim **Farewell to the Father: a Memoir of Love and Madness** **920 ELL**
A charming, charismatic, well-respected doctor by day, Max Elliott turned into a roaring, raging madman at home. This is the story of growing up with a parent with mental illness. It is about the lengths children will go to protect their families from shame, and themselves and each other from harm.

Emmerich, Elsbeth **My Childhood in Nazi Germany** **940.5482 EMM**
A fascinating story of the author who was only 5 years old when WWII broke out. It tells of her childhood on the German home front, with all its unhappiness, excitement, terror and joy.

Facey, Albert **A Fortunate Life** **920 FAC**
A book about a real Australian and how he coped with WWI. This is the autobiography of Albert Facey and tells of his early life in WA before the war and how he went on to fight at Gallipoli.

Finkel, Michael **The Stranger in the Woods : The Extraordinary Story of the Last True Hermit** **920 FIN**
This is a remarkable tale of survival and solitude the true story of a man who lived alone in a tent in the Maine woods, never talking to another person and surviving by stealing supplies from nearby cabins for twenty-seven years...A riveting story of survival that asks fundamental questions about solitude, community, and what makes a good life, and a deeply moving portrait of a man who was determined to live his own way, and succeeded.

Fleming, Chris **On Drugs** **920 FLE**
Chris Fleming's account is accompanied by searching reflections on his childhood, during which he developed acute obsessive-compulsive disorder and became fixated on the rituals of martial arts, music-making and bodybuilding. In confronting the pathos and comedy of drug use, On Drugs also opens out into meditations on the self and its deceptions, religion, masculinity, mental illness, and the tortuous path to recovery. A searching, considered account of drug and alcohol use and the mechanisms of addiction.

Frank, Anne **The Diary of a Young Girl** **940.53161 FRA**
The story of a Jewish girl during the Second World War in the Netherlands. She and her family hide from the Nazis in an attic. Her diary records their true story.

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Freeman, Cathy **Born to Run** **920 FRE**
Cathy Freeman shares with younger readers the incredible tale of how she became a true Australian champion.

Galway, James **An Autobiography** **788.3092 GAL**
The story of one of music's most unconventional, most engaging stars, from his apprenticeship in Uncle Joe's flute band to fame and fortune alongside some of the greatest names in world music.

Garner, Helen **Everywhere I Look** **920 GAR**
Helen Garner takes us from backstage at the ballet to the trial of a woman for infanticide, from the significance of moving house to the pleasure of re-reading *Pride and Prejudice*. The collection includes her famous and controversial essay on the insults of age, her deeply moving tribute to her mother, and the story of her joy in discovering the ukulele. *Everywhere I look* is a multifaceted, profound portrait of life.

Garrett, Peter **Big Blue Sky: a Memoir** **920 GAR**
Peter Garrett's life has been fully and passionately lived. A man of boundless energy, compassion, intelligence and creativity, he has already achieved enough to fill several lives. From his idyllic childhood growing up in the northern suburbs of Sydney, to an early interest in equality and justice; from the height of 1960s culture shock at ANU to fronting iconic Australian band *Midnight Oil*; from his time as a galvanising activist for the environment to being the only unaligned Cabinet minister in two Labor governments, Garrett has an extraordinary story to tell.

Glover, Richard **Flesh Wounds** **920 GLO**
A mother who invented her past, a father who was often absent, a son who wondered if this could really be his family. Richard Glover's favourite dinner-party game is called 'Who's Got the Weirdest Parents?'. It's a game he always wins.

Grant, Stan **Talking to My Country** **305.89915 GRA**
This book is a very personal meditation on what it means to be Australian, what it means to be indigenous, and what racism really means in this country. The book talks to every Australian about their country - what it is, and what it could be. It is not just about race, or about indigenous people but all of us, our shared identity.

Grogan, John **Marley and Me** **920 GRO:J**
John and Jenny were just beginning their life together. They were young and in love, with a perfect little house and not a care in the world. Then they brought home Marley, a wiggly yellow fur ball of a puppy. Life would never be the same.

Growing Up African in Australia **305.896094 GRO**
People of African descent have been in Australia for at least 200 years, yet their stories are largely missing from Australian writing. The book aims to question or shed light on the many stereotypes that currently exist about the vibrant extended African community in Australia.

Growing Up Queer in Australia **920 GRO**
Compiled by celebrated author and journalist Benjamin Law, 'Growing Up Queer in Australia' assembles voices from across the spectrum of LGBTIQ+ identity. Spanning diverse places, eras, genders, ethnicities and experiences, these are the stories of growing up queer in Australia.

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Harris, Richard **The Will to Climb** **920 HAR**

Christopher Harris, at just eight-years-of-age, started mountaineering with his father Richard. It was on their very first mountain that they made the decision to climb the highest mountain on each of the world's seven continents.

Hartland, Jessie **Steve Jobs: Insanely Great** **920 JOB:H**

Hartland captures the many facets of entrepreneur and innovator Steve Jobs in this graphic biography. His entire lifespan is here, from his precocious childhood tinkering to his determination to see his final product, the iPad, through before his untimely death. In between, Hartland portrays Jobs in all his geeky, passionate, difficult glory.

Hawking, Stephen **My Brief History** **920 HAW**

Stephen Hawking has dazzled readers worldwide with a string of bestsellers exploring the mysteries of the universe. Now, for the first time, the most brilliant cosmologist of our age turns his gaze inwards for a revealing look at his own life and intellectual evolution. My Brief History recounts Stephen Hawking's improbable journey, from his post-war London boyhood to his years of international acclaim and celebrity.

Heyerdahl, Thor **The Kon-Tiki Expedition: Across the Pacific by Raft** **910.9164:HEY**

This book tells the enthralling story of crossing the Pacific on a balsa-wood raft.

Hughes, John **The Idea of Home** **920 HUG**

Also available as an eBook.

John Hughes writes about growing up in the Hunter Valley coal-mining town of Cessnock, in a household dominated by memories of the Ukraine, which his mother and grandparents were forced to flee during the Second World War. Hughes charts the effect their stories and routines had on him as a child, the way they shaped his imagination and determined his idea of himself, as a student in Newcastle and later as the holder of a prestigious scholarship at Cambridge University.

Hill, Anthony **Soldier Boy: the True Story of Jim Martin the Youngest Anzac** **F HIL:A**

Jim Martin was 14 years old when he sailed away to war on the troopship Berrima on 28 June 1915, bound for Gallipoli. This is the true story of how an inexperienced and enthusiastic schoolboy became Australia's youngest known Anzac.

Kathrada, Ahmed & Maharaj, Mac **Mandela: the Authorised Portrait** **920 MAN:N**

Personally, authorised by Mandela, this book contains sixty original interviews with leading international figures including Kofi Annan, Bill Clinton and Bono.

Kent, J.A. **One of the Few** **940.548341 KEN**

Johnny Kent is perhaps best known as flight commander of the ace 303 Squadron of Fighter Command, RAF, which played such a decisive part in the Battle of Britain. This book tells how the author welded the individual pilots into a crack unit, and also of his career in the RAF.

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Knecht, Bruce **The Proving Ground: the Inside Story of the 1998 Sydney to Hobart Race** **797.140994 KNE**
The worst disaster in recent ocean racing history began on Boxing Day 1998 on Sydney Harbour. Soon 112 competitors were battered by hurricane-force winds and 25-metre waves. What made these sailors risk all in some of the world's most treacherous waters?

Knight, James **Brett Lee, My Life** **920 LEE:K**
Brett Lee is known throughout the cricketing world as one of the fastest and most exciting pace bowlers to play the game. Intimidating while charming, decent yet ferocious, he is known for his quick-one-liners as much as his gutsy bottom-order batting.

Knoke, Heinz **I Flew for the Fuhrer: the Story of a German Airman** **940.544943 KNO**
The autobiography of Heinz Knoke, an outstanding German fighter pilots of WWII. As a contrast to the many accounts of British and American war experiences, this record from the other side makes fascinating reading.

Krakauer, Jon **Into Thin air: a Personal Account of the Everest Disaster** **796.522 KRA**
A riveting story, which reveals the harsh realities of mountaineering and echoes with the frantic calls of climbers lost high on the mountain and way beyond help.

Kuhne, Cecil **On the Edge: Adventurous Escapades from Around the World** **910.4 KUH**
A 'Lonely Planet' publication which follows the fortunes and misfortunes of the world's best travel writers in jungles and on the seas, off the beaten track and even off the planet. On foot, on camel or on a sailing ship: this book will enthral you from start to finish.

Kuroyanagi, Tetsuko **Totto-chan: the Little Girl at the Window** **920 KUR**
The story of the unconventional early education of a popular Japanese television personality.

Lawson, Jenny **Furiously Happy: a Funny Book about Horrible Things** **920 LAW**
Jenny Lawson describes her battles with depression and anxiety and her quest to overcome them by saying yes to even the absurdist opportunities and making the good times gloriously good. For as Jenny says: 'You can't experience pain without also experiencing the baffling and ridiculous moments of being fiercely, unapologetically, intensely and (above all) furiously happy...' It's a philosophy that has - quite literally - saved her life.

Lee Shetterly, Margot **Hidden Figures** **920 SHE**
Starting in World War II and moving through to the Cold War, the civil rights movement, and the space race, Hidden Figures follows the interwoven accounts of Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, and Christine Darden, four African American women who participated in some of NASA's greatest successes. It chronicles their careers over nearly three decades they faced challenges, forged alliances, and used their intellect to change their own lives, and their country's future.

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Lee, Sungju & McClelland, Susan **Every Falling Star** **920 LEE:M**
Every Falling Star, the first book to portray contemporary North Korea to a young audience, is the intense memoir of a North Korean boy named Sungju who was forced at age twelve to live on the streets and fend for himself. To survive, Sungju creates a gang and lives by thieving, fighting, begging, and stealing rides on cargo trains.

Lock, Andrew **Summit 8000 : Life and Death with Australia's Greatest Mountaineer** **920 LOC**
A thrilling memoir of the spectacular high-altitude mountaineering achievements of Andrew Lock: the only Australian to have summited all fourteen 8000-metre peaks in the world, including Mount Everest twice. Here Andrew Lock gives us a gripping account of his death-defying ascents.

Lowe, Janet **Bill Gates Speaks : Insight from the World's Greatest Entrepreneur** **338.7 GAT**
Whether admired or detested, glorified or vilified, Gates is a household name and a worldwide curiosity. Bill Gates Speaks discloses what Bill Gates has to say on everything from financing a start-up to running a conglomerate, developing technology to raising a family, and growing his business to expanding his personal wealth.

Lowe, Pat **In the Desert: Jimmy Pike as a Boy** **920 PIK:L**
Jimmy Pike is one of Australia's most famous Aboriginal artists. He grew up in the Great Sandy Desert during the 1940s and 1950s. This is his story as told by his lifetime partner, who spent three years in the desert with him, and many more years listening to his stories.

Mah, Adeline Yen **Chinese Cinderella and the Secret Dragon Society** **F MAH:A**
When Adeline Yen Mah's mother died giving birth to her, the family considered Adeline bad luck and she was made to feel unwanted all her life. This is the story of her struggle for acceptance and how she overcame the odds to prove her worth.

Mailer, Norman **The Fight** **796.83092 MAI**
In Kinshasa, Zaire, 1974, Muhammad Ali met George Foreman in the ring. Foreman's famous tactical use of silence, serenity and raw cunning made him the undefeated reigning World Heavyweight Champion. For Ali, the challenger, the contest had to begin in the mind. This legendary fight was to make boxing history with an explosive meeting of indomitable wills, unwavering nerves, and monumental egos.

Manning, Paddy **Born to Rule : the Unauthorised Biography of Malcolm Turnbull** **920 TUR:M**
The highs and lows of Malcolm Turnbull's remarkable career are documented here in technicolour detail by journalist Paddy Manning. Based on countless interviews and painstaking research, it is a forensic investigation into one of Australia's most celebrated overachievers.

Marshall, Alan **I Can Jump Puddles** **920 MAR**
I Can Jump Puddles is Alan Marshall's story of his childhood - a happy world in which, despite his crippling poliomyelitis, he plays, climbs, fights, swims, rides and laughs.

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Mattingley, Christobel **Escape from Sarajevo** **F MAT:C**
Asmir's father's account of survival in besieged Sarajevo after his beloved family flees to Austria and he is separated from them, perhaps forever.

McDonald, Roger **Slipstream** **F MCD:R**
The story of a famous Australian aviator, Roy Hillman who first achieved glory as a pilot in WWI and then as a stuntman in the early days of Hollywood.

McManners, Hugh **Commando: Winning the Green Beret** **356.167 MCM**
This is the story of the intensive training, physical hardship and mental pressure that ends with the gruelling Commando tests and the right to wear the coveted Green Beret.

McNab, Andy **Immediate Action** **356.167 MCN**
By turns chilling, astonishing, violent, funny and moving, this first-hand account of life at the forward edge of battle confirms Andy McNab's standing in the front rank of writers on modern war.

Milligan, Spike **Adolf Hitler: My Part in his Downfall** **827.914 MIL**
Milligan's unique view of World War II, unlike any other account of the war.

Mills, Marja **The Mockingbird Next Door : Life with Harper Lee** **920 MIL**
For decades, journalists trekked to Harper Lee's hometown of Monroeville, Alabama, where she lived with her sister Alice, trying and failing to get an interview with the author. But in 2001, the Lee sisters opened their door to Chicago Tribune journalist Marja Mills. It was the beginning of a long conversation and a great friendship. In 2004, with the blessing of the Lee sisters, Mills moved in next door to them and spent the next 18 months there, sharing their lives as they slowly revealed their life stories and their love of literature and the South.

Milton, Giles **The Riddle and the Knight: in Search of Sir John Mandeville** **910.4 MIL**
In 1322, Sir John Mandeville left England on a 34-year pilgrimage. He returned and wrote a book claiming it was possible to circumnavigate the globe. In the 19th century sceptics questioned his voyage, and suspected he never left England at all. This book investigates if Mandeville really made his voyage.

Minney, R.J. **Carve Her Name with Pride** **940.5486 SZA**
Violette Szabo, widowed at 22, resolves to leave her wartime job and fight for her country. She trains as a secret agent, and parachutes into Occupied France. Captured and interrogated by the Gestapo, and despite torture, imprisonment and solitary confinement, Violette remains silent until the very last.

Morgan, Sally **My Place** **920 MOR**
'Sally Morgan traced the experiences of her own life, growing up in suburban Perth in the 50s and 60s. Through the memories and images of her childhood and adolescence, vague hints and echoes begin to emerge, hidden knowledge is uncovered and a fascinating story unfolds.

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Morpurgo, Michael **Joan of Arc of Domremy** **F MOR:M**

The moving story of the life of Joan of Arc of Domremy - one of the most extraordinary lives ever lived - brings Joan to life, nearly seven hundred years after her terrible death in Rouen.

Myers, Walter Dean **The Greatest: Muhammad Ali** **796.83092 ALI:M**

A riveting portrayal of Ali's spirit and courage. It also exposes the hazards of boxing - the sport Ali lived, but which ultimately damaged him and many others beyond repair. This is the story of Ali's childhood, his rise as a champion, his politics, and his battle against Parkinson's disease.

Nancarrow, Doug **Game Changer** **920 BOW**

The biography of one of Australia's most fascinating and enigmatic business leaders, John Borghetti. From mail boy to CEO - the trajectory of John Borghetti's career seemed set for a corporate fairy-tale ending ...until it nearly wasn't.

Nawaz, Maajid;
with Bromley Tom **Radical** **920 NAW**

Born and raised in Essex, Maajid Nawaz was recruited into politicised Islam as a teenager. He was recruited into Hizb ut-Tahrir (the Liberation Party) where he played a leading role in the shaping and dissemination of an aggressive anti-West narrative. This title provides an account of his life inside and out of Islamic extremism.

Newby, Eric **A Short Walk in the Hindu Kush** **910.4 NEW**

No mountaineer, Newby set out with a friend to explore the formidable peaks of the Nuristan Mountains in northeast Afghanistan. His witty, unorthodox report is packed with incidents both ghastly and ecstatic as he takes us where few Western feet have trod. This tale is a classic of travel adventure.

Newman, Bernard **Real Life Spies** **940.5485 NEW**

This book is full of anecdotes about real-life spies who operated during the Second World War, the work they did and what happened to them if they were caught.

Obama, Barack **Audacity of Hope : Thoughts on Reclaiming the American Dream** **920 OBA**

In this bestselling book Obama discusses the importance of empathy in politics, his hopes for a different America with different policies, and how the ideals of its democracy can be renewed. With intimacy and self-deprecating humour, Obama describes his experiences as a politician, about balancing his family life and his public vocation.

O'Brien, Raud **Little Wing: Eastabout the Southern Oceans** **910.41 O'B**

The story of Raud O'Brien's single-handed circumnavigation of the world in his yacht Little Wing, a journey of 20,000 miles. In a vessel totally designed, predominantly built, and entirely financed by his own efforts, no life-raft, no means of communication, no engine, and no modern technology to help him.

O'Neill, Susie **Choose to Win: Achieving Your Goals, Fulfilling Your Dreams** **797.2092 ONE:C**

Susie O'Neill talks about the highs and lows of her extraordinary swimming career. An insight in one of Australia's greatest swimmers and essential reading for anyone who faces challenges.

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Omar, Qais Akbar A Fort Of Nine Towers 920 OMA

This is an extraordinary book about a beautiful and civilized country ravaged by war, and about the power of stories to embolden, console, and bind a family together, in the face of almost unimaginable odds.

Ondaatje, Michael Running in the Family 920 OND
Also available as an eBook.

In an exotic, evocative portrait of the heat, wildlife, sounds and silences of the Sri Lankan landscape, Ondaatje combines vivid recreations of a privileged, eccentric older generation with a deeply personal reconciliatory journey in which he explores his own ghosts, and how his family's extraordinary history continues to influence his life.

**Passarlay, Gulwali
with Ghouri, Nadene The Lightless Sky : an Afghan Refugee Boy's
Journey of Escape to a New Life 920 PAS**

Gulwali Passarlay was sent away from Afghanistan at the age of twelve, after his father was killed in a gun battle with the US army for hiding Taliban fighters. Trafficked into Iran, Gulwali began a twelve month odyssey across Europe, spending time in prisons, suffering hunger, cruelty, brutality, nearly drowning in a tiny boat on the Mediterranean. Somehow, he survived, and made it to Britain, no longer an innocent child but still a boy of twelve. In Britain he was fostered, sent to a good school, won a place at a top university, and was chosen to carry the Olympic torch in 2012.

Paton, Alan Towards the Mountain: an Autobiography 896.32 PAT

In this book, Alan Paton reviews the formative years of his life, from his formal education and upbringing in Natal, to the publication of his highly acclaimed novel, Cry, the Beloved Country, in 1948.

Patty, Ann Living with a Dead Language: My Romance with Latin 920 PAT

After thirty-five years as a book editor in New York, Ann Patty stopped working and moved to the country. Bored, she decided to challenge her word-loving brain through studying Latin at local colleges. Her study opened unexpected windows into her life, and along the way, she met an impassioned group of professors, students and classicists outside of academia who keep Latin very much alive.

**Petit, Philippe To Reach the Clouds : My High-Wire Walk
Between the Twin Towers 920 PET**

One night in 1974, a young Frenchman secretly - and illegally - rigged a tightrope between the twin towers of the World Trade Centre. At daybreak, he gave the high-wire performance of all time, making eight crossings over the course of an hour, 110 floors up above the earth, as a hundred thousand people gathered on the ground to watch.

Paulsen, Gary Harris and Me F PAU:G

A boy spends his tenth summer on his aunt and uncle's farm. From sunrise to sunset, his days are filled with backbreaking chores, gut-busting meals, and crazy escapades with his cousin Harris. Hilarious!

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Pausewang, Gudrun **The Final Journey** **F PAU:G**

"The sliding-door of the railway truck closed with a deafening clang." So, begins Alice's journey. But where is she going? As she gets to know her fellow passengers, Alice's eyes are opened to the facts of life, the horrors of death and the terrifying truth about her final destination.

Pele **Pele: the Autobiography** **920 PEL**

The extraordinary life story of the greatest footballer ever to play the game.

Ponting, Ricky **Ponting : at the Close of Play** **920 PON**

The inspiring story of Ricky Ponting, one of the greatest Australian cricketers to have worn the baggy green. His autobiography details his journey from his childhood protégé, to the highs and lows of an extraordinary international cricket career, to retirement. test captain of Australia in 2004 until handing the job to Michael Clarke in 2011, he is the highest Australian run-scorer of all time in tests and one-day international cricket, second only India's Sachin Tendulkar among batsmen from all countries.

Read, Paul Piers **Alive: the Story of the Andes Survivors** **920 REA**

In 1972, an aircraft carrying a party of Uruguayan rugby players took off from Argentina to fly over the Andes to Chile. In the middle of those jagged mountains, the aircraft crashed. Some passengers were killed on impact, others seriously injured. This is the tale of how they survived.

Remnick, David **A Portrait of Bruce Springsteen : We Are Alive** **920 SPR:R**

Remnick shadows Springsteen from his recent Wrecking Ball world tour, the whole way back to the beginning, back to Asbury Park, to childhood rock'n'roll fantasies. Details of Springsteen's strained relationship with his father, his battle with mental illness, his marriage, and the joys and anguish of friendships forged and lost with ephemeral E Street Band members, are all delicately woven through a career that spans over four decades as America's working-class hero.

Saturday Evening Post **Battle: True Stories of Courage in Action in the Second World War** **940.5483 BAT**

Fifteen true stories of courage in action in the Second World War.

Scott, James **Lost in the Himalayas: James Scott's 43 day ordeal** **796.522 SCO**

Lost in the Himalayas is the detailed story of James Scott's survival in the Himalayas after an accident, of how he focused his thoughts to sustain hope, how he exercised his body and his mind as he kept himself alive.

Shapton, Leanne **Swimming studies** **920 SHA**

A collection of autobiographical sketches that explore the worlds of competitive and recreation swimming. From her training for the Olympic trials as a teenager, to meditative swims in pools and oceans as an adult, Shapton contemplates the sport that has shaped her life.

Shears, Richard **Wildlife warrior - Steve Irwin 1962-2006 : a Man Who Changed the World** **920 IRW:S**

Charts Steve Irwin's amazing life - from his childhood, catching snakes in Victoria, through to his work in the wilderness and in his zoo. It follows his love story with his wife Terri and his rise to fame. A down-to-earth adventurer with a love of all animals and passionate about wildlife conservation.

BIOGRAPHIES & MEMOIRS – READING LIST

Sisman, Adam **John Le Carre: the Biography** **920 LEC:S**

John le Carr is still at the top, more than half a century after *The Spy Who Came in from the Cold* became a worldwide bestseller. From his bleak childhood - the departure of his mother when he was five was followed by 'sixteen hugless years' in the dubious care of his father, a serial-seducer and con-man - through recruitment by both MI5 and MI6, to his emergence as the master of the espionage novel, le Carr has repeatedly quarried his life for his fiction. Millions of readers are hungry to know the truth about him.

Smith, Gilly **Jamie Oliver: Turning up the Heat** **920 OLI:S**

Encouraging an international audience of fast food fans to cook rather than just defrost, Jamie Oliver has put the passion back into eating. Grabbing no-hope kids off the street, Training them up and giving them jobs in his own restaurant as well as some of the best restaurants in the world, he has inspired a new generation of chefs.

Stone, Irving **The Agony and the Ecstasy** **F STO:I**

The story of Michelangelo set in the turbulent Renaissance, the years of poisoning princes, warring popes and the all-powerful de 'Medici family and the fanatic monk Savonarola.

Southall, Ivan **Fly West** **940.548394 SOU**

This is the story of Ivan Southall's war as a Sunderland pilot of 461 Squadron, Plymouth.

Sykes, Roberta **Snake Cradle** **920 SYK**

Snake Cradle chronicles the early years of one of Australia's best known activists for Aboriginal rights, from the time of her birth in Townsville in the 1940s through to the birth of her son when she was 17, and the trial of the men who raped her. Roberta's voice is strong and true as she describes far north Queensland of the time, her battles with a series of childhood illnesses, and her growing awareness that hers was not an ordinary Australian childhood.

Thomlinson, Damien with Cowley, Michael **Without Warning** **920 THO:C**

After losing both his legs in an accident in Afghanistan, Special Forces soldier Damien Thomlinson was determined not only to survive, but to meet life head on. This is an uplifting story of guts, drive and exceptional resilience...Damien is now an aspiring Paralympian, determined to represent Australia in snowboarding.

Trueman, Stuart **All the Way Round** **920 TRU:S**

In 2010, Stuart Trueman set out on a 16-month voyage to circumnavigate Australia by kayak. He wasn't the first person to complete the circumnavigation, or even the second - but he was determined to make it a triumphant third. Stuart's adventure was to be done on a shoestring, with no support team and a powerful belief in the philosophy of Do-It-Yourself, albeit with the kindness and help of the many people he met along the way.

Vondra, Josef **No-Name Bird** **F VON:J**

Jose Rodriguez was 14 years old when the Indonesians came to East Timor in 1975. This is the story of his Uncle Adolfo and the fighting bird they train as their daily lives changed forever. Jose is caught up in adventure and danger, and the fighting bird becomes a symbol of courage which he clings to.
