

AUSTRALIAN FICTION – READING LIST

**Ahmad, Michael
Mohammed**

The Lebs

F AHM:M

As far as Bani Adam is concerned, Punchbowl Boys is the arse end of the earth. Though he's a Leb and they control the school, Bani feels at odds with the other students, who just don't seem to care. He is a romantic in a sea of hyper-masculinity. Bani must come to terms with his place in this hostile, hopeless world, while dreaming of so much more.

Aldridge, James

The True Story of Spit MacPhee

F ALD:J

Young Spit lives a hand to mouth existence with his eccentric grandfather, Fyfe MacPhee, in an old shanty on the banks of the Murray River. The townspeople think Spit would be better cared for in a Boys' Home - and when old Fyfe dies, a fierce battle to decide Spit's destiny begins.

Attwood, Alan

Burke's Soldier

F ATT:A

1871 - John King is dying and he is finally ready to tell his story. He was with Wills as he penned his final letter and at Burke's side when he died. Then he was alone, the sole survivor. This is his story.

Baillie, Allan

The First Voyage

F BAI:A

An adventure story set in our very distant past, 30,000 years ago, when the first tribes from Timor braved the ocean on primitive rafts to travel into the unknown, and reached the land mass of what is now Australia.

Birch, Tony

The White Girl

F BIR:T

Indigenous storyteller Tony Birch explores the lengths we will go to in order to save the people we love. Odette Brown has lived her whole life on the fringes of a small country town. After her daughter disappeared and left her with her granddaughter Sissy to raise on her own, Odette has managed to stay under the radar of the welfare authorities who are removing fair-skinned Aboriginal children from their families. When a new policeman arrives in town, determined to enforce the law, Odette must risk everything to save Sissy and protect everything she loves.

Boldrewood, Rolf

Robbery Under Arms

F BOL:R

One of the best-known adventure stories of the Australian bush. It has insight into the life on the goldfields, and the tales of bushranging - the best ever written. It features the Marston boys, and Captain Starlight.

Bunney, Ron

All That Glitters

F BUN:R

Seventeen-year old Martin Graham loves and understands horses. Stable lad at the Travellers Inn just out of Guildford, he also longs to join the thousands making for the goldfields around Coolgardie. On the long journey east he joins forces with Beth Wilkes, a girl with a serious chip on her shoulder when it comes to members of the male sex.

Burton, David

The Man in the Water

F BUR:D

On the first day of year 10, Shaun sees a dead body. When Shaun finds a body floating in the lake of a quiet mining town in outback Queensland, he immediately reports it to the police. But when he returns to the site with the constable, the body is gone. Determined to reveal the truth, Shaun and his best friend, Will, open their own investigation. But what they discover is far more sinister than they expected, and reveals a darkness below the surface of their small town.

AUSTRALIAN FICTION – READING LIST

Carey, Peter

Jack Maggs

F CAR:P

It was a Saturday night in April 1837 that Jack Maggs arrived in London with a mission - and a determination that his past would remain in the past and his new life as a footman would enable him to achieve his purpose.

Castagna, Felicity

The Incredible Here and Now

F CAS:F

Tells of Michael's coming of age in a year which brings him grief and romance; and of the place he lives in Western Sydney where 'those who don't know any better drive through the neighbourhood and lock their car doors', and those who do, flourish in its mix of cultures.

Cheng, Christopher

New Gold Mountain: The Diary of Shu Cheong

F CHE:C

Shu Cheong works on the goldfields at Lambing Flat. Life is tough, and there are many white settlers who are anything but friendly. It is 1860, and the white miners' behaviour towards the Chinese is becoming more and more violent. Shu Cheong witnesses increasing hatred and brutality towards his people...

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.

Cleary, Jon

Sundowners

F CLE:J

Set in Australia in the 1920s, this is the story of Paddy Carmody, a wandering drover, his wife Ida and their 14-year-old son Sean. Paddy's wife, Ida, yearns for a permanent home and is bitterly disappointed when their chances of buying a share in a farm are destroyed by Paddy's gambling spree.

Coleman, Claire G.

Terra Nullius

F COL:C

The Natives of the Colony are restless. The Settlers are eager to have a nation of peace, and to bring the savages into line. Families are torn apart, re-education is enforced. This rich land will provide for all. This is not Australia, as we know it. This is not the Australia of our history.

Constable, Kate

Crow Country

F CON:K

When Sadie is tumbled back in time to view a terrible crime, she is pulled into a strange mystery. Can Sadie, Walter and Lachie figure out a way to right old wrongs, or will they be condemned to repeat them?

Courtenay, Bryce

The Potato Factory

F COU:B

The story of the ruthless Ikey Solomon, his brothel mistress, wife Hannah, his sometimes mistress Mary and their lives as convicts in the penal colony of Van Diemen's Land. The first in a trilogy that will cover Australia's history and development as a nation.

Crew, Gary

Sam Silverthorne

F CRE:G

Set in the 19th century; fourteen-year-old Sam Silverthorne runs away from his home in London and his cruel Aunt Bertha. He embarks on a quest to find his father, who has failed to return from his most recent ornithological expedition in search of the fabled silver Bird of Paradise that lives in the steamy jungles of the Malay Archipelago.

AUSTRALIAN FICTION – READING LIST

French, Jackie **The Girl from Snowy River** **F FRE:J**
Flinty McAlpine is 16 and, while WW1 ended almost a year ago, it still resonates for Flinty and her family. Years of war and drought have left the district in chaos and local families are doing their best to rebuild lives and land. With both parents dead, Flinty is bringing up her younger siblings, as her brother Andy has 'gone with cattle' to Queensland. Money is tight, but as the best rider in the family, Flinty seizes the opportunity to make a quick 100 quid. Disguised as a boy, she talks her way into a brumby muster headed up by the legendary Clancy of the Overflow.

French, Jackie **Pirate Boy of Sydney Town** **F FRE:J**
Twelve-year-old Ben Huntmore is the son of a shipowner, an only child who loves the farming life on his mother's family estate, Badger's Hill. But when Ben's father loses their ancestral home in 1809 as payment for a gambling debt, Ben reluctantly joins him in a desperate venture to win it back, capturing enemy trading ships off the west Australian coast. While at sea, Ben must face not just the giant waves of the Southern Ocean but also the guns of a Dutch ship, along with unexpected treachery. And only the friendships of the mysterious convict Higgins and the young Indigenous sailor Guwara will help Ben survive, as well as show him the true meaning of loyalty and riches.

French, Jackie **The Road to Gundagai** **F FRE:J**
Blue Laurence has escaped the prison of her aunt's mansion to join The Magnifico Family Circus, a travelling troupe that brings glamour and laughter to country towns gripped by the Depression. Blue hides her crippled legs and scars behind the sparkle of a mermaid's costume; but she's not the only member of the circus hiding a dark secret.

Flynn, Warren **Return Ticket** **F FLY:W**
How do you live in a world with no cars, no bras and no TV? What do you buy at the local shop if they don't have chips, pies or Coke? Abruptly thrust back in time, teenagers Sam, Shannon and Zak find themselves aliens in their own country, facing dangers and excitement they'd never imagined.

Fuller, Lisa **Ghost Bird** **F FUL:L**
Stacey and Laney are twins - mirror images of each other - and yet they're as different as the sun and the moon. Stacey works hard at school, determined to get out of their small town. Laney skips school and sneaks out of the house to meet her boyfriend. But when Laney disappears one night, Stacey can't believe she's just run off without telling her. As the days pass and Laney doesn't return, Stacey starts dreaming of her twin. The dreams are dark and terrifying, and hard to shake, but at least they tell Stacey one key thing - Laney is alive. It's hard for Stacey to know what's real and what's imagined.

Gervay, Susanne **The Cave** **F GER:S**
Boys always find the compulsory school camp gruelling - not only are there tough mountain climbs, but the final descent into the cave is the ultimate test. It is a living hell for most boys, with bullying and nastiness to contend with as well. For Sam this particular camp becomes a personal journey of growth.

Gleitzman, Morris **Once** **F GLE:M**
For three years and eight months Felix has lived in a convent orphanage high in the mountains in Poland. Felix is convinced his parents are still alive and that they will one day come back and get him. But instead, the orphanage is visited by a group of Nazi soldiers who burn the nun's books.

AUSTRALIAN FICTION – READING LIST

Grant, Neil **Rhino Chasers** **F GRA:N**
Goog is about to learn three new R's - relationships, responsibility and revenge - as he and Castro go barrelling across the country in Aldo's old Kingswood. Sharks the size of trucks, a sinister hitchhiker, campervan tourists, neo-Nazis, wild-haired surf fiends are just some of the things they encounter.

Gwynne, Philip **Deadly Unna?** **F GWY:P**
Dumby Red and Blacky don't have a lot in common. Dumby's the star of the footy team; Blacky's a gutless wonder. Dumby's got the knack with girls; Blacky never knows what to say. Dumby's got a killer smile, Blacky needs braces. Dumby's a Nunga. Blacky's white. But they're friends. And it could be deadly, unna?

Gwynne, Philip **Nukkin Ya** **F GWY:P**
Blacky and Clarence are falling for each other. Nothing complicated about that, but Blacky's starting to feel the whole town's got a problem with them getting together. Now her cousin Lovely wants to make sure that Blacky never sees Clarence again - and he means business.

Gwynne, Phillip **Swerve** **F GWY:P**
One of the country's finest young cellists, 16-year-old Hugh Twycross, has a very bright future. Hugh has a secret, though: he loves cars and he loves car racing. When his newly discovered grandfather, Poppy, asks him to go on a road trip to Uluru in his 1970 Holden HT Monaro, Hugh decides, for once in his life, to do the unexpected.

Hayes, Rosemary **The Blue Eyed Aborigine** **F HAY:R**
This is the story of a cabin boy called Jan Pelgrom and a soldier involved in a notorious mutiny after the shipwreck of the Batavia off Western Australia in 1629. Unlike most of the other mutineers who were hanged, the two men were marooned on the Australian mainland and became Australia's very first European settlers. Later European explorers to the region reported coming across Aboriginal Australians with blue eyes.

Harper, Jane **The Lost Man** **F HAR:J**
Two brothers meet at the remote fence line separating their cattle ranches in the lonely outback. In an isolated belt of Western Australia, they are each other's nearest neighbour, their homes four hours' drive apart. The third brother lies dead at their feet. Something caused Cam, the middle child who had been in charge of the family homestead, to die alone in the middle of nowhere. So the eldest brother returns with his younger sibling to the family property and those left behind. But the fragile balance of the ranch is threatened.

Hathorn, Libby **Rift** **F HAT:L**
When Vaughan's parents go overseas, he is dumped with his grandmother in an isolated coastal town. He longs to join the local gang, but has to complete a frightening initiation - a seemingly impossible swim. Little does Vaughan know he is a pawn in a terrifying ritual and he must fight for his very survival.

Hawke, Rosanne **Taj and the Great Camel Trek** **F HAW:R**
Beltana, South Australia, 1875: Twelve-year-old Taj and his camel Mustara are joining explorer Ernest Giles on his second attempt to cross the Australian desert where wild dogs, scorpions, poisonous snakes and a constant shortage of water mean they are never far from disaster. Taj, raised in the ways of the Afghan people, is struggling to find his place in this new and exciting land.

AUSTRALIAN FICTION – READING LIST

Hughes, John **No One** **F HUG:J**

In the ghost hours of a Monday morning a man feels a dull thud against the side of his car near the entrance to Redfern Station. He doesn't stop immediately. By the time he returns to the scene, the road is empty, but there is a dent in the car, high up on the passenger door, and what looks like blood. Only a man could have made such a dent, he thinks. Has he hit someone, and if so, where is the victim?

Kelleher, Victor **Dogboy** **F KEL:V**

He is born on a bare hillside near the end of the Dry Time. Abandoned by his mother, cared for and suckled only by a dog, he becomes a creature of the wilds. To the poor villagers, he hardly appears human at all, and they reject him.

Lindsay, Joan **Picnic at Hanging Rock** **F LIN:J**

Three girls from a boarding school disappear while on a picnic at Hanging Rock. A classic Australian story

Lowe, Pat **Feeling the Heat** **F LOW:P**

Matthew returns to the remote town in the Kimberley where he spent the happiest years of his childhood. He needs work, and he's looking for Frances, the girl who once meant so much to him. But things have changed and a shocking event shakes his confidence and threatens all his plans and dreams.

Malouf David **Fly Away Peter** **F MAL:D**

"Fly away Peter" is a novel of contrasts and continuity in which the atrocities of war are set against and played out before the inviolable forces of nature. Jim Saddler, protector of wild birds at a private sanctuary on the Queensland coast, is catapulted into the horrors of frontline fighting in war torn France in 1915.

Marney, Ellie **White Night** **F MAR:E**

In Bo Mitchell's country town, a 'White Night' light-show event has the potential to raise vital funds to save the skate park. And out of town, a girl from a secretive off-the-grid community called Garden of Eden has the potential to change the way Bo sees the world. But are there too many secrets in Eden?

Marsden, John **Tomorrow, When the War Began** **F MAR:J**

Also available as an eBook.

Seven teenagers take a weekend trip to Hell, an isolated valley. Upon their return they find their families have disappeared and their small country community has been invaded by a foreign army. The teenagers take on new maturity and responsibility when they realise that they must not only survive but try to counteract this foreign invasion.

McDonald, Roger **Slipstream** **F MCD:R**

The story of a famous Australian aviator, Roy Hilman who first achieved glory as a pilot in WWI and then as a stuntman in the early days of Hollywood.

McHugh, Evan **Black Sunday** **F MCH:E**

Nipper only wants to be one thing: a lifesaver. In his world they're larger than life, walking, talking heroes. He's too young, but he starts to train in secret, challenging himself in the Bondi surf. But his secret comes to light one hot Sunday in 1938 - a day that was to become infamous.

AUSTRALIAN FICTION – READING LIST

McPherson, Sue **Grace beside me** **F MCP:S**
Life is not ordinary for Fuzzy Mac. What could possibly be exciting about growing up with her nan and pop in a small country town? Rivalry, romance, Nan's mysterious premonitions, an encounter with a particularly unusual kind of ghost and the mix of characters who live in this high-country town make Fuzzy's life far from boring.

Masson, Sophie **Ned Kelly's secret** **F MAS:S**
Hugo and his father are travelling through Australia, on the trail of tales of the gold rush. But after they're ambushed on the road by the notorious outlaw Harry Power, they decide to chase something wilder and far more exciting - the stories of the bushrangers. In Benalla, Hugo befriends a boy from the bush, a boy with a dark and dangerous secret - 15-year-old Ned Kelly!

Masson, Sophie **The Hunt For Ned Kelly** **F MAS:S**
North-east Victoria, 1879. Jamie Ross and his older sister Ellen are alone in the world after the death of their father. Determined to make their fortune, they head to Beechworth – and straight into the midst of the search for Ned Kelly, the most notorious bushranger of all time.

Metzenthén, David **Tigerfish** **F MET:D**
Ryan lives in a tough suburb. His brother is a bouncer. His best mate owns weapons. Ariel works in a surf shop and has never seen the sea. And the year that lies ahead is a minefield for them all.

Mitchell, Euan **Feral Tracks** **F MIT:E**
Survival on the road means growing up fast. The true story of the author as a 16-year-old who ran away from home with four dollars in his pocket and hitchhiked around Australia.

Moloney, James **A Bridge to Wiseman's Cove** **F MOL:J**
Carl Matt - even his name mocks him. The people of Wattle Beach do their best to grind him under foot. Why are the Matts such pariahs? The answer lies in Wiseman's Cove, a short ride across the strait where Carl finds refuge in the most unlikely place.

Monk, Scott **Raw** **F MON:S**
Brett is on his last chance - sent to The Farm in outback NSW for rehabilitation, next stop Detention Centre. Despite Brett's determination not to change, the ex-stockman warder Sam, and Caitlyn, a local girl he falls for, both influence him.

Morgan, Michelle **Racing the Moon** **F MOR:M**
Joe Riley has to be a little creative to make pocket money in his rough and tumble neighbourhood of Glebe. He has watched his dad keep ahead of the law and he's sure that he can too, gambling on billycart races and selling farm-fresh eggs from his uncle's chook farm. But when his parents send him off to St Bartholomew's - a Catholic boarding school, his carefree existence is a thing of the past. Homesick and lonely, he meets the darker side of human nature and finds himself at odds with the school, especially Brother Felix.

Morgan, Sally **My Place** **920 MOR**
'My Place' begins with Sally Morgan tracing 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.

AUSTRALIAN FICTION – READING LIST

Noonan, Michael **McKenzie's Boots** **F NOO:M**
Rod McKenzie, a Sydney schoolboy, over-size but underage, manages to enlist and is sent to New Guinea.

Nowra, Louis **Into that Forest** **F NOW:L**
This is the story of Hannah and Rebecca and two Tasmanian tigers. Two young girls go into a forest and come out changed forever.

O'Brien, Deborah **Mr Chen's Emporium** **F OBR:D**
In 1872, seventeen-year-old Amy Duncan arrives in the Gold Rush town of Millbrooke, having spent the coach journey day-dreaming about glittering pavilions and gilded steeples. What she finds is a dusty main street lined with ramshackle buildings. That is until she walks through the doors of Mr Chen's Emporium, a veritable Aladdin's cave, and her life changes forever.

Park, Ruth **Harp in the South** **F PAR:R**
The classic novel of the Darcy family of Sydney who, despite the brothels and the razor gangs, the tenements and the fish and chip shops, still find life exuberant and full of promise.

Park, Ruth **My Sister Sif** **F PAR:R**
Erika Magnus is a 14-year-old stirrer with complete confidence that she alone knows best. So, when her homesick sister Sif longs to return home to the island of Rongo, Erika successfully plots to get her there, and runs away to join her shortly after. Arriving on the island she finds the locals frightened by the changes happening to their world, and the cracks beginning to form in their once-perfect environment.

Patric, A.S. **The Butcherbird Stories** **F PAT:A**
Eleven stories. This collection of stories reveals the author, best known for his award-winning novels, as a true master of the short story form.

Phipson, Joan **The Cats** **F PHI:J**
Two boys are kidnapped when their father wins the lottery. They are taken into the wilderness while their captors bargain for their ransom. Willy, who is at home in the wilderness, uses his knowledge of feral cats to help them survive.

Pyers, Greg **Double Cross** **F PYE:G**
A thrilling, fast-paced story of life in the future, where genetic cloning has created a world of designer plants and animals. The year is 2029. It's a future where the boundaries that separate species are blurred, where genetic manipulation produces whatever organisms people want.

Reilly, Matthew **The Secret Runners of New York** **F REI:M**
When Skye Rogers and her twin brother Red move to Manhattan, rumours of a coming global apocalypse are building. But this does not stop the young elite of New York from partying without a care. And then suddenly Skye is invited to join an exclusive gang known as the Secret Runners of New York. But this is no ordinary clique - they have access to an underground portal that can transport them into the future. And what Skye discovers in the future is horrifying.

AUSTRALIAN FICTION – READING LIST

Robinson, Sue **Whale Rising** **F ROB S**
This eco-thriller is set in the not too distant future, when the earth has been ravaged and whales have been horrifically exploited. The whales are now looking for revenge. Ellie and Per, unlikely friends, risk everything to try and put things right.

Rodda, Emily **Bungawitta** **F ROD:E**
It's crunch time in The Bungawitta land is as dry as a dead galah, there's no rain in sight, and only twelve people left in town. But a shower of money would help keep Bungawitta alive. And a festival would attract city tourists with money to spend, Jay's sure of it. But can twelve people, two dogs and a Shetland pony put on a proper festival?

Rushby, Pamela **Bungawitta** **F RUS:P**
It's 1900. Thirteen-year-old Issy McKelvie leaves school and starts her first job - very reluctantly - as a maid in an undertaking establishment. She thinks this is about as low as you can go. But there's worse to come. Issy becomes an unwilling rat-catcher when the plague - the Black Death - arrives in Australia.

Scott, Bill **The Currency Lad** **F SCO:B**
It is 1851 and young Snowy Woolcott has finally come face to face with the man who had murdered his father three years before. Now he must take his revenge.

Scott, Kim **Taboo** **F SCO:K**
Also available as an eBook.
One may as well begin, 'Once upon a time...' We thought to tell a story with such momentum; a truck careering down a hillside, thunder in a rocky riverbed, a skeleton tumbling to the ground. There must be at least one brave and resilient character as its centre, Tily Coolman (one of us), and the story will speak of magic in an empirical age; of how our dead will return, transformed, to support us again and from within. Except this is no fairy tale.

Silvey, Craig **Jasper Jones** **F SIL:C**
Late on a hot summer night in 1965, Charlie Bucktin, a precocious and bookish boy of thirteen, is startled by an urgent knock on the window of his sleep-out. His visitor is Jasper Jones, an outcast in the regional mining town of Corrigan. Rebellious, mixed-race and solitary, Jasper is a distant figure of danger and intrigue for Charlie. So when Jasper begs for his help, Charlie eagerly steals into the night by his side, terribly afraid but desperate to impress.

Stone, Louis **Jonah** **F STON:L**
The streets of Sydney in the late 19th century are the setting for this lively kaleidoscope. This is where Stone lived after emigrating from England in 1871 aged 13. The authenticity of the dialogue he picked up as he pretended to look in shop windows while listening to the talk of the gangs lounging on the street corners.

Thiele, Colin **Sun on the Stubble** **F THI:C**
Set in a South Australian farming district between the Wars. The images and pictures are brought to life through a boy's keen observation of the mood and atmosphere. The landscape and surroundings are rural: farmers discussing crops and the weather, their harvest, the church, and quality of life.

AUSTRALIAN FICTION – READING LIST

Tucker, Clancy

Gunnedah Hero

F TUC:C

14-year-old Gunnedah 'Gunnie' Danson is despondent because he has an assignment on the drought. As a 'Townie' he knows nothing about the effects of this blight on the rural industry; but that is about to change. When he returns home from school, he receives a surprise gift. His late grandfather has left him a box containing a manuscript. It's NOT to be opened until Gunnie has read the entire story.

Walker, Kate

Peter

F WAL:K

Peter is 15 and like most kids his age he goes along with the gang. His free time is spent mostly in the paddock where you must talk tough and act tougher to belong. Sex, of course, is the constant topic, and if you don't want to be labelled a poofster you have to make out with girls.

Wheatley, Nadia

The House that was Eureka

F WHE:N

Evie is 16, on the dole and ordinary. Noel is 15, still at school (sometimes) and weird. Noel's grandmother is 87, bedridden and horrendous. When they meet in adjoining terrace houses in Sydney's dilapidated inner city, something more powerful than a dream sets the past back in motion.

Wheeler, Paul

Bodyline: the Novel

F WHE:P

Bodyline is the story of the 1932-33 fateful test series between Australia and England. It tells how cricket, once the sport of gentlemen and honourable fair play, was pitched into the realms of war.

Winch, Tara June

The Yield

F WIN:T

Tara June Winch's *The Yield* is the story of a people and a culture dispossessed. But it is as much a celebration of what was and what endures, and a powerful reclaiming of Indigenous language, storytelling and identity.

Winton, Tim

Lockie Leonard, Legend

F WIN:T

Life becomes tough for Lockie and his family when his mother has a nervous breakdown and goes to hospital. But life can still have its lighter moments and it's not all bad!

Wrightson, Patricia

The Nargun and the stars

F WRI:P

When Simon Brent's parents are killed in a car accident he is taken to live with his mother's second cousins, Edie and Charlie, on Wongadilla, their 5000 acre sheep run in the Hunter Valley. Simon, with his city attitudes, feels like an outsider, unable even to bring himself to call his cousins by name. But Simon is not the only thing that doesn't belong in Wongadilla. The arrival of heavy machinery intent on clearing the land brings to life the Nargun, a great rock, older than time itself, that has slowly dragged itself into the valley - and with it, a simmering rage that drives it to kill.

Zusak, Markus

The Messenger

F ZUS:M

Also available as an eBook.

Meet Ed Kennedy - cab driving prodigy, pathetic card player and useless at sex. He lives in a suburban shack, shares coffee with his dog and he's in nervous-love with Audrey. His life is one of peaceful routine and incompetence - until he inadvertently stops a bank robbery. That's when Ed becomes the messenger.
