



PROBUS CLUB OF JAMBEROO NEWSLETTER February 2026

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What have Members been up to?

PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS to:

Kim Oborn - koborn22@gmail.com or Shirley Johnston - sj100747@gmail.com

Playing!



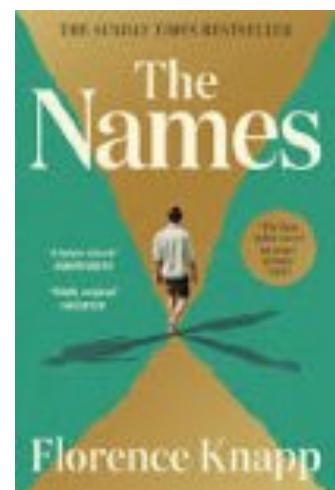
Tony Grainger - showing us how it's done

Reading

Sandra Moores has been busy reading and has a long list for we book-lovers to try...

Florence Knapp

The Names is Florence Knapp's debut novel, first published in 2025. Beginning in 1987, the story follows Cora Atkin, a young mother trapped in an abusive marriage, as she prepares to register her son's birth. Pressured to name him after his domineering father, Gordon, Cora considers calling her son Julian or Bear—names that reflect her aspirations for her newborn son. The story unfolds in three alternate narratives, each based on the name Cora chooses. Spanning 35 years, the book examines the profound impact of that pivotal moment, illustrating how a single decision can alter the course of multiple lives.





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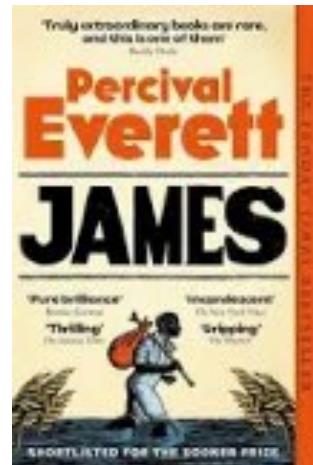
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It takes one woman close to her 100th birthday telling the story of her life in the

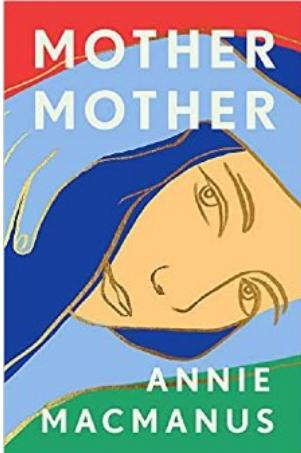
UK and Australia, and you have a social and political history of those times and places.

Oswald, a playwright, screenwriter and novelist, has created a sweeping novel featuring Elizabeth, Betty, Beth or Liz ... a woman who chooses her name according to the

environment and her company at the time.

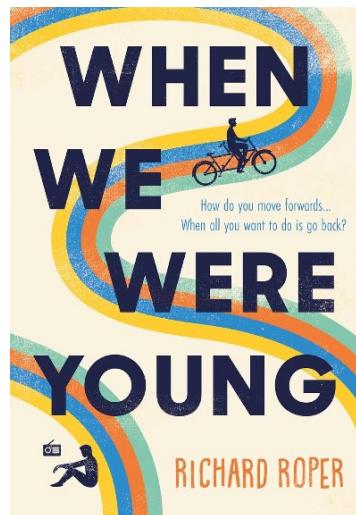


James is a novel by author Percival Everett published by Doubleday in 2024. The novel is a reimagining of Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain but narrated by Huckleberry's friend on his travels, the fugitive slave Jim, rather than by Huck, as in the original. The novel won the 2024 Kirkus Prize, the National Book Award for Fiction, and the 2025 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction.



Mother Mother is a powerful coming-of-age novel and an intimate family study. It's about finding light in dark places, and it examines the cost of unconditional love.

This is a gritty, affecting novel about family, grief, addiction, and motherhood. And it asks the question - if you spend your life giving everything to the ones you love; do you risk losing yourself along the way?



Joel and Theo haven't spoken since the summer they turned sixteen, but that's about to change. One of them is keeping a secret, and the other is living a lie. But can the promise they once made to walk all 184 miles of the Thames Path help them find their way back to the truth--and to their friendship?



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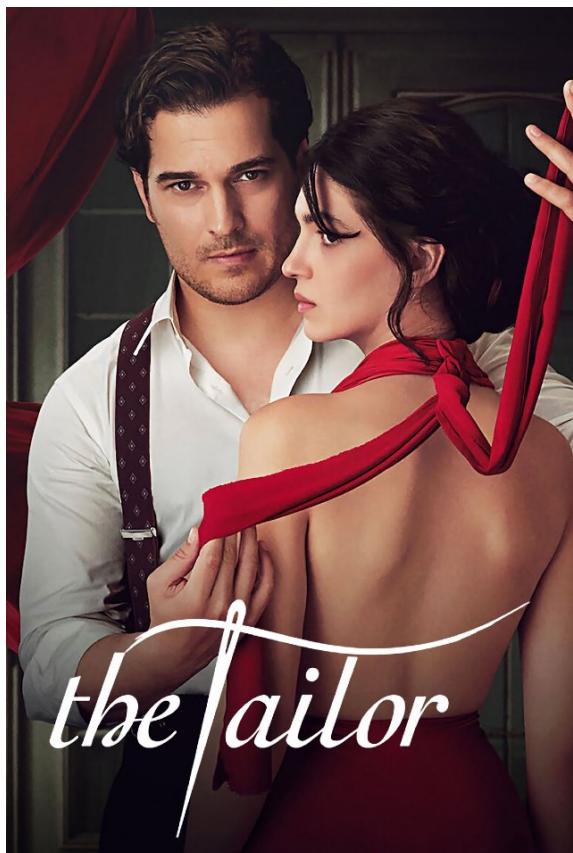
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Watching

Thanks To Carole Parsons for these recommendations

Little Voice:

A comedy, this is the story of a reclusive girl who spends all day in her bedroom listening to her late father's collection of old records... until her talent for imitating famous singers is recognised.



The Tailor is a Netflix series set in Turkey.

A famous tailor begins to sew a wedding dress for his best friend's fiancée, but all three have dark secrets that will soon upend their lives.



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And the winners are... Thanks to Anne Edwards for showing us these entries in the Kiama Show by some of our talented members



Left: Susan Alexander's first prize Fluid Art entry

Right: Fiona Turner's painting of her grandson won the top public voting for the Kia-bold competition.



Below: Lynn Franzeskow took out a first and third in the Crochet, including Best Exhibit in Crochet.





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Leaving us

GOING NORTH.

John and Cheryl are moving to Queensland early February to be with their sons, Adrian and Jeremy, daughter-in-law, Paige, and grandchildren, Cameron (16) and Mackenzie (2). Following is a message from Cheryl.

We expected to retire permanently in Kiama having moved here from Melbourne in 1999.

Brisbane is a familiar city being the birthplace of my mother, Noela. There are ancestors and friends in Brisbane's Towong, Balmoral, Mt Thomas and Gold Coast cemeteries. Cultural pursuits will be tracking down Australian master artworks including Sidney Nolan's. There are cousins and friends of the family. Traffic is a nightmare but the public transport system is good.

We will be able to pursue hobbies and interests and yes, we will have air conditioning to survive seasonal humidity. Our initial home is located in the hospital district of the CBD.

We will miss all of you. We say au revoir because we always expect to see you again, either here or there.

May Jamberoo Probus continue to flourish and bring heart to the community.

John and Cheryl

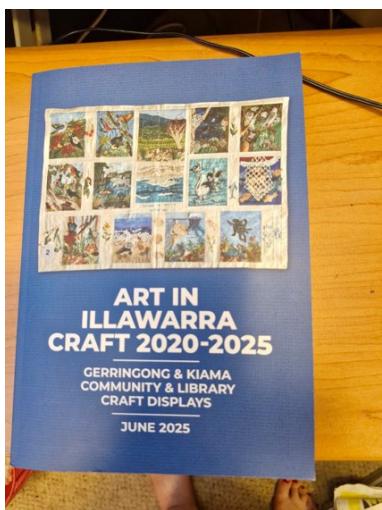
John and Cheryl
with their sons
Jeremy (left) and
Adrian (right)





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The next few pages include some contributions from Cheryl, who certainly is not leaving our Club quietly

Cheryl recommends this book ART IN ILLAWARRA. CRAFT 2020-2025 - Gerringong & Kiama Community & Library Craft Displays. 127pp. Coloured photos.

Launched at the 2026 Kiama Show at a cost of \$20 each or three for \$50 from Boni Maywald who published the book with her husband, Peter.

It has quality photographs of selected creations and biographical notes about selected craftworkers.

Cheryl has long been involved with the CWA and gives us here a heads up on the sale of their current property.

Being located behind Dalmeny House was never ideal. CWA bought Dalmeny House as seaside holiday flats for country people in the post-WWII years and as a CWA meeting place and the location of the Baby Health Centre in Kiama. Dalmeny House at the time was in disrepair and it became too difficult to maintain.

Dalmeny House was sold in the early 1950s and a purpose-built structure clad in asbestos-cement sheeting was erected. The solid building has stood the test of time and has seen countless meetings and events. However, regulations on handling asbestos-containing materials became tougher and extremely costly. Another impediment was the unsurfaced Right of Way access laneway to the property. Unfortunately, entitled users allowed heavy vehicles with heavy loads to use the right of way and consequently destroyed the surface. The cost of remedial work, including on decaying adjoining fences, and on paving, became unworkable. Volunteers were working to save a building and were not adhering to the wonderful CWA program of Agricultural & Environmental matters, Cookery, Cultural studies, Handicrafts, International studies and a new portfolio of Social Issues.

The property is somewhere in the selling process, conducted by the CWA of NSW State Executive Property Sub-Committee located at Mascot and its legal support. CWA Kiama Daytime Branch plans to continue operations but at suitable locations. Monthly Branch meetings will be held in the Meeting Room at Kiama Catholic Church on the third Tuesday from 09.45am–12.45pm.

Pride in our Past, Faith in our Future. Cheryl.



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LIVING WITH SEVERE AGE-RELATED MACULAR DEGENERATION (ARMD) AND PROFOUND HEARING LOSS – Cheryl's journey so far and what I am learning about this doubly whammy.

My ARMD is inherited from both parents. You're twice as likely to inherit if one parent has it, you are four times likely if both parents have it. My symptoms started in my early seventies and gradually worsened. I can see the world and people but cannot focus and lighting conditions matter hugely.

Also, unexpectedly, colours factor in enormously as do natural and artificial light. Interestingly, backlit devices such as mobile phones, iPads and PC monitors are easier to manage. Cinema screens are as good as the brightness. Generally, I can cope with black print on white background, the more contrast the better. Factor in colour such as coloured print and coloured backgrounds and this renders the medium unreadable. So posters, charts, overheads, magazine headings, colourful advertisements, labels on products, all become unreadable. Equally problematic is lighting.

I could drive in broad sunny daylight. However, problems come from shadowing, overcast or night conditions. I can't see pot holes or problematic road surfaces as there is not much contrast. I just surrendered my driver's licence. The reward for volunteering was ten year's FREE photo ID cards!! After 10 years, what then??

While I can generally identify people I know well, it is nightmarish at social events and shopping centres that I cannot recognise people anymore. I cannot distinguish facial features. Case in point at Kiama Show, I passed a group of diners and one person appeared to recognise me as I walked by. She reacted as though I had snubbed her but I picked up her movement and returned to ask if I knew her and yes I did. Socially, distorted eyesight is anti-social.

I am seeing a specialist to help me to cope with the impacts on me of the double whammy of sight and hearing loss. The natural instinct is to retreat which is the worst possible thing to do. Just figure that in a group I can't see adequately and I cannot hear clearly even with top level hearing aids. Background noise distorts sounds.

My medical counsellor insists that social groups running meetings and events need to be mindful that there will be a percentage of people with vision and hearing loss in every gathering and that it needs to be acknowledged from the top table. All very well to say but it isn't easy to manage as there are so many variations in room lighting from different types of artificial lighting to proximity to window light both large and small expanses .



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I have found some success with yellow lighting and yellow or orange lenses over my glasses/spectacles. I believe it is a science in itself and while optometrists and ophthalmologists address eye health, I am not seeing any sign of recognition of the importance of lighting conditions and of the distorting effect of coloured print and backgrounds.

I do comment to specialists that I can't read their wall charts, posters, signs or see their art works on display. At recent Kiama art exhibitions, I missed a lot in the detail. I'm advocating everywhere I go now. I didn't understand it before I had the conditions and now, I can speak from experience. So, I'm urging researchers and inventive folk to come up with practical solutions to the world of sight and sound to make it a better experience for the afflicted.

I don't mind wearing labels. I probably need a white walking stick.
A helping hand is always deeply appreciated as I am wobbly on my feet.

My hearing loss is attributable to inherited (paternal), industrial noise and ear infections. The last is suspected to be SARS caught on an overseas flight via Dubai where symptoms started after Dubai, and on return, after Dubai, symptoms started again. Medical treatment was inadequate, UK was experiencing a short supply of medications.

The home GP at the time would not refer me to an ENT specialists. You need to be forceful if you know what you need. You are your own best advocate!

Cheryl

Photo Showcase

Our Next Photo Showcase will be....**Beaches**

Send photos in jpeg to Ali and Graeme Relf at jamberooprobusinfo@gmail.com by 18 February 2026

To the right is one of our local beaches, Bombo, from the Kiama end.





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PROBUS HUMOUR by Gerard, Bruce, Anne and Jim

WARNING

When you drink vodka over ice, it can give you kidney failure. When you drink rum over ice, it can give you liver failure. When you drink Whisky over ice, it can give you heart problems. When you drink Gin over ice, it can give you brain problems. Apparently, ice is really bad for you;

WARN ALL YOUR FRIENDS!!!



**It's another hot day, so
I've taken all my
clothes off and opened
every window...**

**I feel so much better,
although the other
people on the bus don't
seem so pleased!**

**Why is everyone at the
gym asking me why I am
sitting still on a stationary
bike?**

**I'm going downhill dude,
mind your own business.**





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PROBUS MINDBENDERS by Jim

Answers on last page

Rebus puzzles

Can you guess the words and expressions?

M1Y L111F1E

Get it
Get it
Get it
Get it

Try stand
 2

TRAVEL

CCCCCC

FAST

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EYE
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SECRET
SECRET



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ANSWERS:

1. For once in my life (four ones in my life)	5. Breakfast	9. Once Upon a time
2. Forget it	6. Downtown	10. Potatoes
3. Try to understand	7. Eyeshadow	11. 3D movie
4. Travel overseas or overseas travel	8. Stepfather	12. Top secret