



TUGGERANONG PROBUS CLUB Inc.

NEWSLETTER No. 386 -18 SEPTEMBER 2025

Meets at Vikings Town Centre Club,
Athllon Drive, Greenway
at 10.00 am, 4th Monday of the month

President: Sharron Blackmore - 0421 373 617

Secretary: Leonie Hancott – 0400 449 839

Membership: Rowena Davey – 0447 888 856

Welfare: Kerry Buik – 0421 737 282

Newsletter Editor: Anne - 0400 772 424

Outings: Bron Heinrich – 0409 895 085

Bank details: Probud Club of Tuggeranong.- BSB: 633 000 Acct No. 194 077 772

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 22 September – General Meeting

Guest Speaker – Kathryn Sullivan, Green Bins and ACT Food Organics & Garden Organics (FOGO)



Wednesday 24 September – COTA EXPO at Old Bus Market Depot

Friday 26 September – day coach trip to Gunning. Payment of \$20 was due at the August meeting. If you haven't paid, please do so **NOW**. On the day, please park at the **BACK** of the Vikings Club.

Tuesday 30 September – Trivia at the Mawson Club commencing at 10.00 am

Friday 3 October - Fun & Games Day at Belconnen Bowling Club in Hawker

Monday 27 October – General Meeting

Cameo – Bert, Lions Youth Haven

Guest Speaker – Don Blackmore, Lake Eyre, the Nile and Murray/Darling Basin

Monday 24 November – General Meeting

Monday 8 December- Christmas Lunch at Tuggeranong Homestead

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If you cannot attend a meeting

please send your apology to Rowena, our Membership Officer

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BIRTHDAYS

Several members celebrate birthdays in October:

Bob Beaver, Helen Beaver, Lloyd Brittle, Leonie Hancott, Carol Mongan, Jan Moore, Allan Sims, Marcia Withell and a special 'milestone' for John Davenport. We wish you all a very Happy Birthday.

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***By replacing your morning coffee with green tea,
you can lose up to 87% of what little joy you still have left in your life.***



FROM THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Management Committee meets each month prior to the general meeting. Among the various item on its agenda, it considers the financial position of the Club, sets the costs of activities, receives and replies to correspondence, receives reports from all members of the committee and where appropriate makes decisions on what 'external events' the Club will participate in.

The hardest working member is the Outing Officer, and I am sure you all appreciate the work Bron and previous incumbents put into that. For example before Bron suggests a venue she and one or two others do a reccie to see if it is appropriate for us (three of us had a pleasant half day out last week checking a possible outing in November).

Any Club member may suggest an outing or venue for a meal and it will be considered at one of our meetings. Roger contributed to our Blue Mountains trip with a couple of suggestions which were incorporated into our tour. So please let us have your suggestions.

DO YOU ENJOY TRIVIA?

A small group attended last month and while they did not win, they agreed it was a pleasant way to spend a morning.

The next session for us will be Tuesday 30 September.



A LITTLE TRIVIA FOR YOU

In Heaven the cooks are French, the policemen are English, the mechanics are German, the lovers are Italian and the bankers are Swiss?

In Hell the cooks are English, the policemen are German, the mechanics are French, the lovers and Swiss and the bankers are Italian!



Keep the mind active



Keeping the mind active is just as important as keeping your body active:

- Read a book, do a word search, or Sudoku (find a puzzle book or search online).
- Watch quiz based TV shows.
- Many museums and art galleries have online access to collections.
- Learn a new skill via the internet, for example, a new language.



CHAT ABOUT BOOKS

THE LITTLE WARTIME LIBRARY by Kate Thompson

What a fascinating insight into a unique World War Two story! Set in Bethnal Green, London, and based on true events, it reveals so much about the lives, relationships, sufferings and joys of East Enders throughout the war.

After the Bethnal Green Library was hit early in the Blitz, resourceful locals 'colonised' the disused Tube station and this amazing community lived out the war underground with 5000 locals sleeping on bunks and the community growing to include a 300 seat theatre, café, health support, children's nursery, mobile hairdresser, and famously the Library. Clare Button and Ruby Munroe, close friends though such different characters, are the heart and soul of the Library and are tested to their limits in their efforts to provide something very special to this diverse community. Resistance from Library hierarchy, difficult husbands, rules and regulations, is met with determination, persistence and sometimes devious strategy to enable the children, women and even some men to find solace, entertainment, education, distraction and escape from the bombs.

The characters of Clare and Ruby are developed throughout the novel as they face personal challenges in their complex roles and relationships. Clare is a young widow, a trained children's librarian in a man's world and only allowed to pursue her goals because the men are at war. Ruby, best described perhaps as a 'good time girl' has a strength of character and her own set of ethics that sustain her throughout as she comes to terms with a tragedy in her own recent past. Will these brave, resourceful women find love and rewarding futures as the war crawls to an end? You'll have to read it to find out. You won't be able to put it down - but keep the tissues handy!

At the end of the story there are a series of articles relating to the actual wartime underground Bethnal Library that are as interesting as the novel itself.

Don't skip this section. Interviews with some survivors who had lived in the underground, then known as an Iron Lung, provide a very real context to the novel. The author also reports on the many interviews she had with librarians while researching the book. My favourite quotation in this section is by Bernard Kops, British playwright and poet:



*.... The reference library where my thoughts were to rage.
I ate book after book, page after page,
I scoffed poetry for breakfast, novels for tea.
And plays for my supper. No more poverty.
Welcome young poet, in here you are free
To follow your star to where you should be.*

"Libraries are part of what it is to be human. It is one of our greatest human achievements. We should nurture them and support them." Kathleen Mine, Librarian in The Hebrides who services her libraries by ferry.

This is all so relevant when our own libraries seem to be under threat of cutbacks today!

Leonie

It seems that during the winter months and trips north to avoid the cold, members have been reading more. Last month we had two reviews and there are two again this month. My thanks to the contributors.

Editor



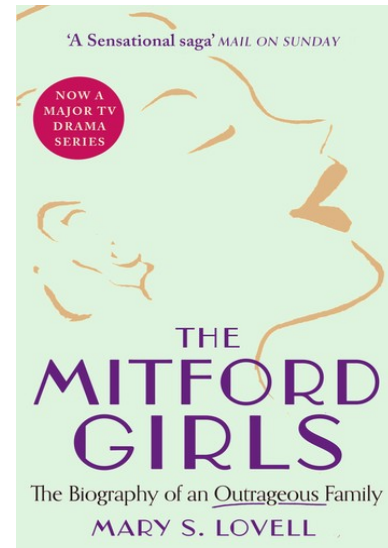
MORE CHAT ABOUT BOOKS

THE MITFORD GIRLS by Mary S Lovell

There have been many biographical accounts of this fascinating, infamous family - Lord David Redesdale and Lady Sydney Redesdale/Mitford and their six daughters and one son: Nancy, Pamela, Thomas, Diana, Unity, Jessica and Deborah.

This British minor aristocratic family, very socially conservative, believed daughters “came out” and married, however many of the daughters wanted to go to school, be educated and maybe university. Shock horror! Whenever the subject of school was raised their father David’s mantra was “you are not a boy, only males are educated.”

David was hugely eccentric, prone to loud rages when anyone disagreed with him; even dinner guests experienced his unbelievable rages.



Diana, the third daughter, did the correct thing – at the age of 19, she married Bryan Guinness the heir to the Guinness fortune. However this marriage was short lived lasting two children and three years. In 1932 Diana met Oswald Mosley the fascist “Black Shirt” leader, became madly in love with him and to the horror of her parents, divorced Bryan Guinness.

During this period the fourth daughter Unity, at the age of 17, had become obsessed with Adolph Hitler and his policies. She managed to talk her parents into letting her do her “finishing year” in Germany. During this year she almost stalked Hitler, attending all his political/propaganda rallies and making sure she would be at the restaurant where he always had lunch, giving the Nazi salute as he passed. Eventually Hitler noticed her continual attendance and invited Unity to dine with him. Over the following years Unity became personally involved with Hitler (although not sexually) spending many hours privately in his company.

During the next eight years Diana also became a confidant of Hitler through her connection with her sister Unity, as well as being the lover of the fascist Mosley, and becoming an intimate confidant of Hitler and many of the Nazi party members.

Diana and Mosley were secretly married in the drawing room at the home of Goebbels. Hitler was a witness. It is thought that because both Diana and Unity would often dine with their cousin Winston Churchill, Hitler may glean some secret British information. At this time the second youngest daughter Jessica “Decca” becomes obsessed with communism, elopes with Winston Churchill’s nephew to fight in the Spanish Civil War and goes on to become a staunch member of the Communist Party

in America, remaining in America and a member of the party her entire life.

This is a fascinating family, with many tragedies and strong determined women.
A huge read but well worth it.

Nasonie

BOOK QUOTES

I can never get a cup of tea large enough or a book long enough to suit me.

C S Lewis

Never underestimate the power of a girl with a book.

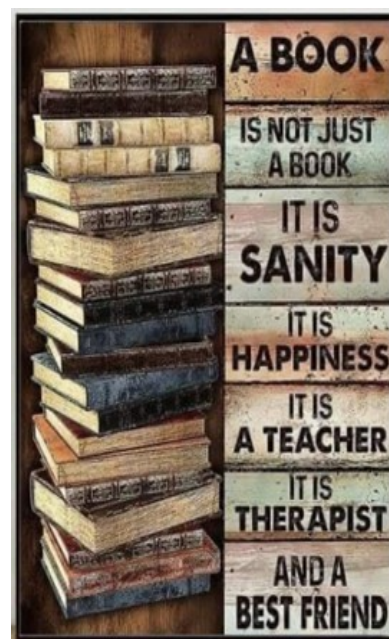
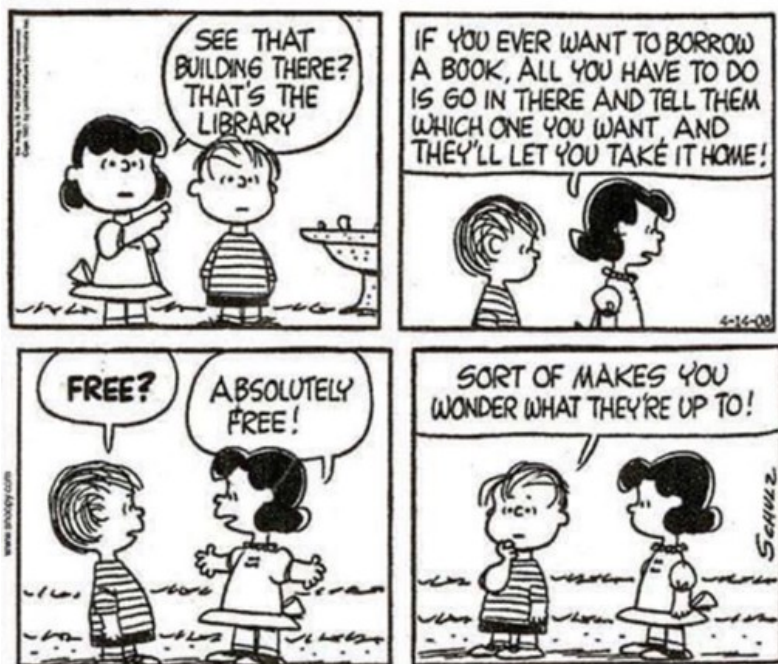
Ruth Bader Ginsburg

A book is a dream that you hold in your hands.

Nel Gaiman

Books are uniquely portable magic.

Stephen King



FACTS ABOUT

BOOKS

- Charles Dickens was paid by the word which is why many of his books were so lengthy.
- There are over 20,000 books written about chess.
- The most stolen book is the Bible.
- Roosevelt read an average of one book per day.
- Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables* contains a sentence with 823 words.

Remembrance Day

To be honoured not by sadness but by
popular music by composers
who served in World War II
Tuesday 11 November at
Tuggeranong Arts Centre at 4.00 pm

