

Gold Coast Book Lovers

It's all about good books...

[Home](#)

[Blog](#)

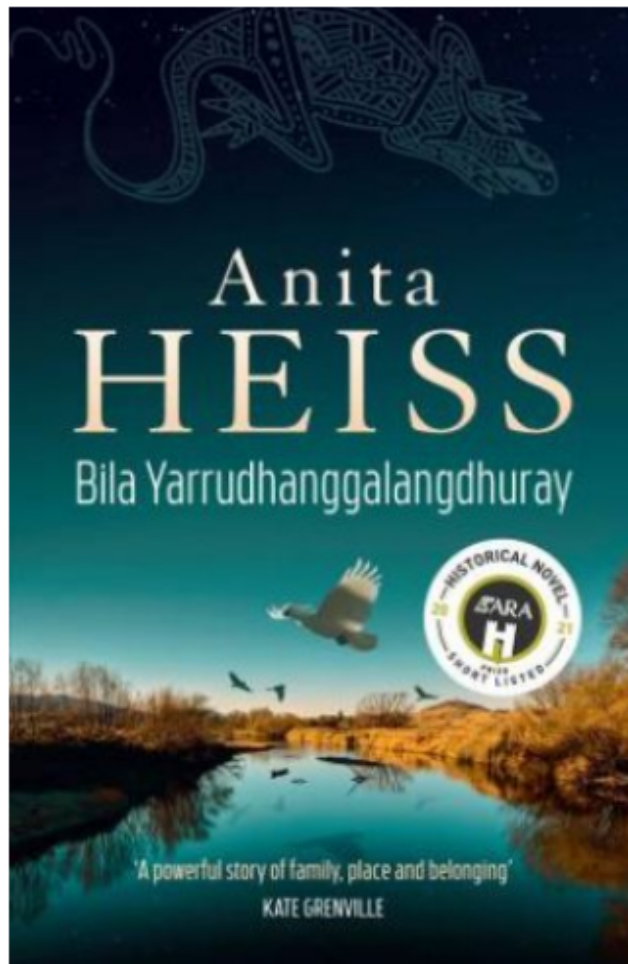
[Other Books We Read](#)

[Book of the Month Reviews](#)

[Links](#)

[Articles](#)

March 2022



Gundagai, 1852

The powerful Murrumbidgee River surges through town leaving death and destruction in its wake. It is a stark reminder that while the river can give life, it can just as easily take it away. The Gundagai flood of 24 June 1852 remains Australia's deadliest, with 89 lives lost. A pair of Wiradyuri men, Yarri and Jacky Jacky, saved more than 60 townsfolk from the seething river; Yarri spent three days and nights ferrying survivors to safety in his bark canoe, one by one. The flood

Based on true events of the flood, the story centres on the life of Wagadhaany, a young aboriginal girl forced into domestic service for the white settler family, the Bradleys.

This is a story that encapsulates an enduring love of Country, family and belonging. The loss of language, loss of country is the force which drives Wagadhaany and compels her to break free of her servitude to her white employers and return to her country.

It is also a love story when Wagadhaany meets Wiradjuri stockman Yindyamarra, who helps her return to her country and family.

The narrative is written in a very simplistic style to reflect the simplicity and naivety of Wagadhaany's voice, however the group found the writing over simplistic, too sanitised and there was no depth of character, but everyone really enjoyed the use of the Indigenous language scattered throughout the book. There was nothing raw or powerful about the period, and conversations and feelings were contemporary. Other historical inconsistencies were evident.

The group thought the book lacked what could have been a powerful story of early Colonial times and perhaps it was a good introduction for a white audience to indigenous culture. The author Anita Heiss said " Bila Yarrudhanggalangdhuray is a book that families can share; a book that belongs in every high-school classroom in the country. It's a simple story, simply told: a young woman searching for herself and home."

Ratings/5 :Jenny, Pauline and Janet 3, Sandy, Viv, Lynda, Kim, Cheryl, Nicola and Margie 2.5.

Our Book Club has moved day and location, and our next meeting will be Tuesday 11/04/2022 at 6:30pm at the QWCA Mermaid Beach Centre located in 43 Ventura Rd, Mermaid Beach.

Come and join us to discuss *China Room by Sunjeev Sahota*. Hope to see you there and Happy Reading!

Other Books We Read

March 2022

Daring to Fly by Lisa Millar, 3

Taste by Stanley Tucci, 3

How to End a Story by Helen Garner, 4

The Glovemaker by Ann Weisgarber, 2.5

Klara and the Sun by Kazuo Ishiguro, 3.5

Plague of Doves by Louise Erdrich, 4

The River Wife by Heather Rose, 4

The Fortune Men by Nadifa Mohamed 3.5

Tar Baby by Toni Morrison, 3.5

The Stranger by Albert Camus, 3.5

Past the Shallows by Favel Parrett, 4

There Was Still Love by Favel Parrett, 4

Towards Another Summer by Janet Frame, 3.5

The Labyrinth by Amanda Lohrey, 3

7 1/2 by Christos Tsolikas, 2.5

All My Mothers by Joanna Glen, 2

Silverview by John Le Carre, 2.5

Love Stories by Trent Dalton, 4