

THE BOOK CLUB RECOMMENDS ...

(SURFERS PARADISE CATHOLIC PARISH)

Members of two book clubs (at Clear Island Waters and at Runaway Bay) talked about their "book of the year" at our last meetings for 2007. You may find a book to enjoy among their choices!

Lost For Words by Hugh Lunn. "Australia's lost colourful language told with humour and delightful surprises. Reading this book makes us passionate to ask for our language back." Cheri said. She "opened it up and just laughed."

Another enjoyable read is **A Short History of Nearly Everything** by Bill Bryson - chosen by Letty, who is "interested in science but not the heavy stuff."

Val says, "It would be hard to imagine better, or more important books than" **The Weather Makers** and **We Are The Weather Makers**, both by Tim Flannery, 2006 Australian of the Year. "His books give insight into our current destructive policy yet he remains hopeful that it lies within our power to combat the problems which threaten the future of our civilisation."

Real life stories are always popular. Yvonne suggests you try **Almost French** by Sarah Turnbull. Sarah found her life as wife of a French lawyer challenged lots of her Aussie attitudes and habits.

Letty says of **Never Tell Me Never** by accident victim Janine Shepherd. "The way she recovers her shattered morale as well as her shattered body must surely inspire."

Marie was surprised at the spiritual depth of **The Measure of a Man** by Sidney Poitier. "It is no shallow Hollywood biography," she said.

Meditation, a book about living a life of belief, chosen by Jai, was written by a local girl, Shanti Gowans.

Also try **The Power of Now** by Eckhart Tolle A very suitable summer holiday read.

Yvonne found the story of Ayaan Hirsi Ali in **Infidel** an alarming picture of life as a refugee.

Refugees were also the intriguing heroes of Di's choice, **The Family Frying Pan** by Bryce Courtney. They were fleeing the programs in Russia and shared stories and recipes on their journey.

Phyllis brought along a much loved cookbook **Standard Recipes for 50** and shared her story of how she used it to cook at a Bridgine convent.

Anna also shared special **handmade story books** she had written for her grandchildren and illustrated with family photos. A great creative idea!

Our members chose relatively few novels this year!

Of the classic **The Great Gatsby** (by F Scott Fitzgerald) Carmen says "Its one of those books I have read many times and each time my attitude towards it has changed. I first read it when I was very young and its basic love story appealed to me." Now she says she sees it as a book about the illusions of the characters - about power and wealth.

The Memory Keeper's Daughter by Kim Edwards. This book was enjoyed by a few of our members. It has a "real life feeling and is easy to read".

Margaret liked **The Secret Life of Bees** by Sue Monk Kidd. She says it's "a hard, emotional book," which "draws you deeply into the entangled lives of two families."

My own choice was **The Secret History** by Donna Tartt. Complex, dark, elegant. Classical Greece meets drugs, sex and rock and roll- utterly compelling!



HAPPY CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS AND GOOD READING!

Jean from the Surfers Paradise Catholic Book Clubs

