

# ***RYDE LIBRARY SERVICES LIVING LIBRARY CATALOGUE***



City of Ryde

# **WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE BOOK TALKS BACK?**

What is a Living Library?

The Living Library is an innovative community based initiative, which aims to bring people together in a one-to-one conversation, to encourage understanding, challenge negative stereotypes and reduce prejudice.

It is a simple yet powerful strategy for building social cohesion between diverse community members who wouldn't ordinarily meet.

Many thanks to our Living Books for donating their time and experiences to Ryde Library's Living Library Program.



Name: Christine  
Title: I'm not Loopy, I have Lupus  
Topic: Four years ago Christine was diagnosed with a chronic illness called lupus. Her symptoms come in different forms including joint pain & kidney failure. She can share her experience of living with this disease that at least 5 million people worldwide have.

Name: Elim  
Title: Meetings with God  
Topic: Elim would like to talk about his journey from traditional religion to a personal relationship with God resulting in a change from medical practitioner to a minister in a christian ethnic church.  
The highlights are the many encounters with divine spirituality along this journey and how these continue to change his life.

Name: Andrew  
Title: Understanding our Universe  
Topic: Astronomy/cosmology, our solar system, our galaxy and its stars, other galaxies & the universe, life as an astronomer, science/physics in general, science & religion, science education & science in schools.

Name: Gregory  
Title: Writing for Children  
Topic: What are the important elements in children's books?  
What language do you use? What is the place & function of illustrations? Do you trial it on an audience or rely on gut feeling? How & in what form to publish?

Name: Gregory  
Title: Local Studies Historian  
Topic: Gregory will talk on local studies & researching & writing history for books, newspaper articles & magazines.

Name: Jackie  
Title: Ten Pound Pom  
Topic: Jackie came to Australia from Sheffield in the UK in 1955 as a Ten Pound Pom. She spent her first 17 years living in Canberra which at the time was a quiet country town much different to the life she was used to.

Name: Jenny  
Title: Keep Guessing - understanding a different culture  
Topic: Jenny migrated from China to Australia where she found everything was different - culture, lifestyle, background, food, language & education. There was plenty of room for misunderstanding due to cultural differences.

Name: Jenny  
Title: Chinese Cooking  
Topic: Jenny can tell you all about South Chinese food - hot dishes, sweet dishes, noodles, dumplings etc.

Name: Jonathan  
Title: Travel Influencing Life  
Topic: Jonathan has travelled & continues to travel widely in the developing world including Africa, Middle East, Central Asia and Caucasus. He will talk about how & why he became interested in travel & how it has influenced his life particularly with regard to understanding different cultures, beliefs & ways.

Name: Judy  
Title: Being the Mother of a Gay Child & representing PFLAG (Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays)  
Topic: My journey on learning that I had a gay child through to acceptance & becoming an advocate on behalf of gay & lesbian rights issues.

Name: Kate  
Title: Transgender Woman  
Topic: Kate was born John in 1935. She grew up in Scotland, Australia, Fiji, New Zealand & the Gilbert Islands, (now Kiribati). From the age of earliest memory she believed she was female but did not know anything could be done. When she was 16 she heard of Christine Jorgensen, the first widely publicised gender reassignment. She transitioned at the age of 52 & since has devoted much of her time to telling others what it is like to be transgender.

Name: Kumud  
Title: Migrating to Australia from India  
Topic: Kumud migrated from India to Australia via New Zealand. She noticed differences between Australian & New Zealand society and has had to cope with settling in & starting all over again with each move. Her story is about the difficulties she found in adjusting to the Australian work place & finding employment that would accommodate a family & children.

Name: Lina  
Title: My Life Journey - from China to Australia  
Topic: In the 1980s in China Lina had a dream that she was a fish trapped in mud & a net. This made her want to seek a way to break these barriers & change her life. In the 1990s she dreamt she was a fish that could jump. Lina felt she went from not even knowing she had choices in life to feeling trapped and finally, as China became freer, to realising she had plenty of options in life. She is now living happily in Australia.

Name: Ling  
Title: Chinese Education System  
Topic: Ling was a primary school teacher in China for approx 8 years. She has lived in Australia since 1997. From Ling's point of view the Chinese education system of 12 years ago was very different to the current Australian education system.

Name: Mahboba  
Title: Mahboba's Promise  
Topic: Mahboba founded Mahboba's Promise in 1998 in response to the suffering, poverty & tragedy that Afghanistan's people have endured for the past 3 decades. Despite personal hardship, Mahboba began to raise money & awareness for the plight of Afghan widows & orphans. Her vision for the Afghan people has crystallised in the form of Mahboba's Promise, a non-profit organisation dedicated to improving the lives of the widows & orphans of Afghanistan. Mahboba is living proof that one courageous person can make a difference.

Name: Marina  
Title: Growing Up Italian in Australia  
Topic: Marina grew up in Newcastle as an Australian citizen with Italian parents. Being born in the 1960s with an Italian background wasn't easy as 'migrants' were not as accepted then as they are these days - customs, food, home life & school were different to those of Aussie friends. Marina has lots of funny stories about her parents' mistakes with speaking English & many other awkward situations.

Name: Mary  
Title: A Journey from Ireland to Australia  
Topic: Mary came to Australia from Ireland by ship when she was a young bride on her honeymoon. She will discuss her first thoughts of Australia, how she settled down to work & what it was like for a young couple with no children.

Name: Mary  
Title: Life in Belfast during the 1940s & 1950s  
Topic: Mary grew up in Belfast, Northern Ireland during the war & lived in the gatehouse at Stormont, the Northern Ireland Parliament building. Recollections of her time include going to the village school after living in the city.

Name: Mary  
Title: Widowhood at 30 in a New Country  
Topic: After coming to Australia as a bride Mary was widowed at 30. She will talk about what it was like living in a new country with no family.

Name: Narelle  
Title: Being the Mother of a Gay Child & representing PFLAG (Parents & Friends of Lesbian & Gays)  
Topic: My journey on learning that I had a gay child through to acceptance & becoming an advocate on behalf of gay & lesbian rights issues.

Name: Peter  
Title: Archaeology in Australia  
Topic: Does Australia have any archaeology? Yes, & much of it is a great deal older than the pyramids of Egypt. Peter works as a consultant with numerous archaeologists mainly on Aboriginal sites but also on European sites in NSW. Come & explore some of our local treasures. They are much closer to home than you would expect.

Name: Peter  
Title: Constructing the Snowy Mountains Scheme  
Topic: Peter played a small role in one of Australia's biggest post war development projects - the Snowy Mountains Scheme. The scheme changed alpine NSW & had a huge impact on Australian engineering & social conditions. What experience did this young man have in construction camps of 1000 immigrants & how he feels about the project today.

Name: Sarkis  
Title: Armenian Migrant  
Topic: Sarkis, who is of Armenian ancestry, migrated to Sydney in 1979, from Beirut, Lebanon. He immediately became involved in the Armenian community helping to set up a magazine & radio program. He also helped establish Community TV Sydney CH31 with the intention of producing programs for Sydney's culturally diverse non-English speaking communities. Sarkis has been closely involved with the multicultural community in Ryde & is happy to discuss his experiences as a migrant in Australia.

Name: Sunita  
Title: Transition  
Topic: Sunita is from India & migrated to Australia in 1995 with her family. Her daughter is studying at the University of Sydney. Sunita is a tutor in primary schools in a program called 'STAP', which is conducted by the Migrant Resource Centre. She has found that raising children in Australia is very different to her experience in India.

Name: Sunitha  
Title: South Indian Cooking  
Topic: Sunitha is happy to discuss traditional South Indian cooking breakfast, lunch & dinner menus, healthy cooking.

Name: Sunitha  
Title: Post Natal Problems  
Topic: Sunitha has dealt with overcoming post natal depression, getting back into shape & taking care of her child on her own. She would like to share her experience on prioritising life & making career decisions while raising a family.

Name: Sunitha  
Title: Life in Singapore  
Topic: Sunitha has lived in Singapore for approx. 4 years. She will talk about the people of Singapore, places to visit (tourist attractions), the advantages & disadvantages of living in Singapore.

Name: Susana  
Title: My Good Friend, Bipolar  
Topic: "What a relief when my doctor said to me: 'Susana, you are very lucky, because I can now diagnose your condition; you have Bipolar Mood Disorder, a manageable illness.'  
This is a story of successfully conquering the extreme highs (psychosis) & major depression experienced during 2 episodes of Bipolar Disorder.

Name: Susanne  
Title: My Life - Immigration to Australia from Hungary  
Topic: Susanne migrated to Australia from Budapest, Hungary. She has worked as an educator, is a volunteer with 2MBS-FM, a volunteer run classical music station (Classical music is her passion) & is an Authorised Civil Celebrant presiding over marriage, naming, funeral, commitment (same sex) & renewal of vows ceremonies. She speaks, English, French & Hungarian. An interesting person with diverse interests including speaking on behalf of voluntary organisations about health matters for elderly people.

Books Attending Living Library Sessions:

Session	Living Book
Session 1 - Tues 17th Nov 12.30pm - 2.30pm North Ryde Library	Andrew, Judy, Lina, Mary, Peter, Susana
Session 2 - Wed 18th Nov 10.30 - 12.30pm Eastwood Library	Jenny, Kate, Mary, Peter, Susana, Susanne
Session 3 - Thurs 19th Nov 6 - 8pm West Ryde Library	Christine, Elim, Gregory, Kate, Lina, Marina, Narelle, Peter, Sunitha, Susanne

## Steps for Readers

1. Register as a Reader: complete form & hand to Library staff (please ask staff for help)
2. Go to Catalogue & choose which books you are interested in.
3. Go to the bookings board to see what times your chosen book is available.
4. Ask Library staff to book you in.
5. Enjoy your book & come back to read another!
6. Fill out a Readers Evaluation form to help us improve for next time (please see staff for help).