New books

Beyond words: what animals think and feel by Carl Safina. London: Souvenir Press, 2016. 591.56 SAF

“Weaving together up-to-date scientific discoveries into consciousness with intimate observation of free-living animals … Carl Safina takes the reader into their lives and minds … In understanding that animals think, mourn, and have unique personalities (as well as having distinctive roles within their social structures) as well as the capacity for perception, self-awareness and emotional connection Carl Safina demonstrates how humans – with their friends, families, career plans – are similar to other animals that live in structured groups, from elephants and great apes to dolphins.” – Book jacket.


“Driving school improvement: a practical guide is designed to support school leaders in meeting their improvement challenge in ways that can be contextualised to their circumstances. Its focus is implementation, and it therefore contains tools, activities and pro formas that have been used successfully in a range of schools. These can be adapted to suit a particular context.” – Back cover.

Engaging maths: higher order thinking with Thinkers Keys by Catherine Attard. [Brookvale, NSW]: Modern Teaching Aids, 2013. 372.7 ATT

“This book uses a critical and creative thinking tool called Thinkers Keys by Tony Ryan … The [more than 200] activities are organised into grids of nine activities. In the first section of the book the grids are based on content from the Australian Curriculum: Mathematics and organised into the three content strands of the curriculum: Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. In the second part of the book there is a group of grids based on specific concrete materials that are found in most primary mathematics classrooms.” – p. 5. Suitable for students in Years 3 to 6.

I'm Australian too by Mem Fox; illustrated by Ronojoy Ghosh. Gosford, NSW: Omnibus Books, 2017. CHC F FOX

“From countries near and far, many have made their home in Australia, sharing it with the original inhabitants, and living in peace beneath the Southern Star. Mem Fox celebrates Australia’s incredible multicultural heritage in this beautiful book, illustrated by Ronojoy Ghosh.” – Back cover.

In the middle: a lifetime of learning about writing, reading, and adolescents by Nancie Atwell. 3rd ed. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann, 2015. 428 ATW

“With 80 percent new material, In the middle, third edition brings Nancie Atwell’s methods up to date for newcomers and those who have made it their teaching touchstone … Nancie provides: detailed procedures for organizing and launching a workshop classroom; hundreds of minilessons and reproducibles; hundreds of new pieces of student writing to use as mentor texts; new studies of eight genres; a new look at writing conferences, including red flags to notice and strategies for responding; techniques for conferring with readers.” – Book jacket.

Insights into the modern classroom: essays on the nature of contemporary schooling by John R. Frew. [Gordon, NSW]: Xlibris, 2017. 371.1 FRE

“The essays track his journey over forty years of teaching; a significant amount of that time was spent working with children who displayed severely dysfunctional behaviours. Working with these extremely difficult kids allowed John to develop a philosophy around education that differs from the mainstream in that it is inclusive of problem children. It has also allowed him to acquire a set of techniques that will help all teachers manage difficult behaviour in their classrooms.” – Back cover.


“The authors discuss the non-evidence-based interventions that proliferate in the fields of children's speech, language, literacy, fluency, voice, communication, attention, cognition, working memory, behaviour and social connectedness. They explore the science – or lack thereof – behind the interventions and suggest evidence-based alternatives that enjoy stronger scientific support … Written in lively, readable, plain English, [this book] provides: Clear descriptions of each intervention and the populations to whom they are marketed; Reasoned explanations of why the intervention should be approached with caution or rejected outright; and Suggestions for interventions with proper scientific support, suitable for the children in question.” – Back cover.

“Are Australian schools safe? And if they’re not, what happens when kids are caught in a bleak collision between ill-equipped teachers and a confected scandal? In 2016, the Safe Schools program became the focus of an ideological firestorm. In Moral panic 101 [Quarterly essay issue 67], Benjamin Law explores how and why this happened. He weaves a subtle, gripping account of schools today, sexuality, teenagers, new ideas of gender fluidity, media scandal and mental health.” – Back cover.


“There was a time when ‘work’ was inextricably linked to survival. But what was once an integral part of life has slowly morphed into a painful and meaningless routine, colonising almost every part of our lives … Blending theory with accounts of job-related suicide, office-induced paranoia, fear of relaxation, managerial sadism and cynical corporate social responsibility campaigns, Fleming provides a damning report on the way work consumes our lives in modern capitalist society.” – Back cover.

Not just lucky: why women do the work but don’t take the credit by Jamila Rizvi. [Melbourne]: Viking, 2017. 305.42 RIZ

“Not just lucky exposes the structural and cultural disadvantages that rob women of their confidence – often without them even realising it. Drawing on case studies, detailed research and her own experience in politics and media, Jamila Rizvi is the warm, witty and wise friend you’ve been waiting for. She’ll give you everything you need to start fighting for your own success and for a more inclusive, equal workplace for all.” – Back cover.

The number games by Adam Spencer. QVB Post Office, NSW: Xoum Publishing, 2017. 513.2 SPE

“Who’s smarter – a four-year-old chimp or a four-year-old human? How much does it cost to stop a computer virus? And will you really become a billionaire at 31? The answer to all these questions – as well as over 100 brain-busting and mind-bending number games, puzzles and quizzes – are in Adam Spencer’s The number games.” – Back cover.


“… This book explores the central role and responsibility of education in ensuring the wellbeing of children and young people. Vignettes are presented at the beginning of each chapter to identify particular wellbeing issues in education and provide proactive educational wellbeing initiatives to address the issues of learner and teacher wellbeing, alternative education, disabilities, cyber citizens, initial teacher education, rural education and leadership of community wellbeing.”– Back cover.


“World history has been made by countless lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and otherwise queer people … In Queer, there, and everywhere, activist Sarah Prager gives voice to twenty-three people who invented, radicalized, and trailblazed. These inspiring true stories demonstrate how rich and varied gender and sexuality have always been in every culture, in every millennium.” – Book jacket.

LGBTIQ resources for young adults: For ages 13+

Understanding behaviour in the early years: a practical guide to supporting each child’s behaviour in the early years setting by Kay Mathieson and Bridie Raban. Albert Park, [Vic]: Teaching Solutions, 2013. 372.21 MAT

“The word ‘behaviour’ is often taken to only refer to inappropriate behaviour. However, by opening out our thinking and recognising behaviour as a means of communication we are much more likely to be able to support children’s development more effectively. This book offers essential guidance on: promoting positive behaviour in the early years; recognising the complexities of understanding behaviour and the impact it has on children’s social development.” – Back cover.

New Audiobooks

The happiest refugee by Anh Doh; read by the author. 6 hours, 32 minutes, on 6 CDs. CD B DOA

The woolgrower’s companion by Joy Rhoades; read by Edwina Wren. 12 hours, 40 minutes, on 11 CDs. CD A823.4 RHO