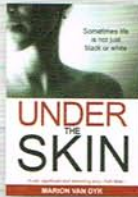
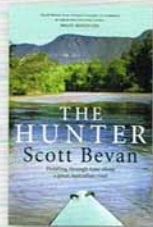


page this month as we get to know two Australian authors and their amazing adventures.

We kick off October by chatting with author Marion van Dyk about her book **Under the Skin**, which has been nominated for the Finch Memoir Prize. In this memoir, Marion looks back on her life in racially segregated South Africa from the 1950s to the 1980s. Classified as 'coloured' - neither black nor white - by the apartheid government, Marion and her family are forced to live as second-class citizens until they migrate to Australia. Through her firsthand experiences she relates this dangerous time in South Africa's history with insight and humour. Head to the website where the Q&A with Marion is now live.



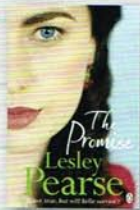
In the second half of October we chat with Australian author and journalist Scott Bevan. In Scott's latest book, **The Hunter**, the intrepid ABC journalist recounts his journey along the Hunter River of NSW. Scott paddles hundreds of kilometres in his kayak, *Pulbah Raider*, starting in the Barrington Tops and ending at the Pacific Ocean at Newcastle. Along the way Scott connects with the people who live and work along its banks - some eking out an existence and others who have prospered and are living the high life. He finds out how the river has inspired artists and writers, helped some to build fortunes and then washed them away during floods.



Be sure to check out the website for the exclusive extracts and discussion questions mentioned below.

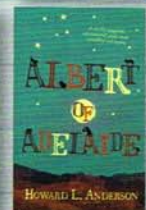
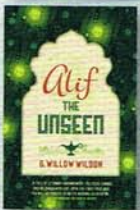
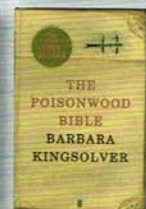
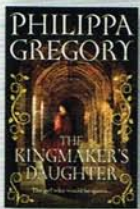
EXTRACTS

- *The Promise* by Lesley Pearse
- *Round the Bend* by Jeremy Clarkson
- *Second Chances* by Charity Norman
- *Under the Skin* by Marion van Dyk
- *Still Alice* by Lisa Genova



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- *The Kingmaker's Daughter* by Philippa Gregory
- *Still Alice* by Lisa Genova
- *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver
- *Alif the Unseen* by G Willow Wilson
- *Albert of Adelaide* by Howard L Anderson



Check out our online calendar for dates of upcoming author tours, writing courses, festivals and other book-related events.

THE WILL TO LIVE, THE COURAGE TO DIE

by Tracey Roberts

On Easter Sunday in 2010, Peter Bilsborough suffered a surfing accident that left him a quadriplegic. His niece, **TRACEY ROBERTS**, recounts the heroic struggle that Peter fought to regain some independence.

Goodbye My Friend

Doctors looked into every aspect of pain management and recovery for Peter, and as part of that care he was eventually able to go up to the gym in the spinal ward on the seventh floor and start an exercise-training program. The physical therapist provided a variety of exercise interventions, including passive range of motion exercises and upper body wheeling called arm crank ergometry. They would strap Pete's arms into the arm crank ergometer, which was a specially adapted bicycle for arm cycling. It involved Pete sitting upright in his wheelchair and pedalling with his arms strapped onto the pedals and moving them in a circular motion. Later they were able to do the same with his legs. The idea behind this program was to help lessen stress, pain and other associated symptoms of his spinal cord injury. After several weeks of this it was then time for Pete to try using a chin-control wheelchair; this was a big day for Pete.

As soon as Peter was strapped into the wheelchair and the chin control was placed in the perfect position, he was on his way like a duck to water. Pete dashed across the room of the physical therapy gym and manoeuvred the chair on his own by shifting a sensitive lever positioned under his chin. The wheelchair was very heavy due to the weight of the ventilator and battery of the chair being attached to the back as one complete mobile unit. However, Pete was still able to control the chair almost immediately and with absolute precision - his focus was intense. Up until this day Pete had always been reliant on others to be moved around in the wheelchair. Now he could smell freedom in the air, and it was his for the taking.

The psychological demands on Pete were as real as the physiological ones and his efforts in the chin-control wheelchair seemed to lift him from his own personal purgatory. It made him feel like he wasn't as trapped, and for a short time he whizzed around the room with the skill of an expert, passing the graveyard of broken wheelchairs in the corner of the gym. My attention was diverted for a moment as I thought how symbolic the wheelchairs were of broken bodies and dreams of the individuals who had tried to use them in lives gone by. At the time I wondered why the wheelchairs that appeared to be broken sat idle and unused.

The Will to Live, the Courage to Die by Tracey Roberts is published Short Stop Press, np \$34.99.

Tracey is currently trying to raise \$20 000 to purchase a chin-control wheelchair and to repair broken wheelchairs for Royal North Shore Hospital's Intensive Care Unit.

