

# THE BOOK CLUB CHRISTMAS SPECIAL: FIVE OF THE BEST



## The **BOOK CLUB** 5 of the Best

**ABC and iView - Tuesday December 19 at 8.30PM**

Host Jennifer Byrne and regular guests Marieke Hardy and Jason Steger are joined by author and screenwriter Benjamin Law, and Wheeler Centre director Michael Williams, in the Book Club's one-hour end-of-year special, **FIVE OF THE BEST 2017**, to celebrate and discuss standout 2017 reads.

As the series comes to an end, it's time to celebrate a year of great reads... and to look back through the archive at 11 years of Book Club guests, disputes, funny moments and in-depth reviews.

Jennifer's choice is the long-awaited *The Book of Dust* by Philip Pullman; Jason has chosen *The Restorer* by Australian author Michael Sala, and set at the time of the 1989 Newcastle earthquake; Marieke looks to her unofficial "life coach", Robert Dessaix, for *The Pleasures of Leisure*. Benjamin brings *Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People About Race* by Reni Eddo-Lodge; and rounding out the list Michael recommends is the Man Booker Prize-nominated *Home Fire*, by Kamila Shamsie.

We'll also discover what other enthusiastic readers – children and booksellers – picked as their top books of 2017; and the big reveal -The Book Club's Audience Poll winners – *your* FIVE OF THE BEST.

Plus, Jimmy Barnes will perform live in the studio his emotive classic, *Flame Trees*.

Michael Williams is the Director of the Wheeler Centre for Books, Writing and Ideas in Melbourne. Previous host of ABC Radio National's *Blueprint for Living*, he now hosts *Talkfest* and is a regular guest on other ABC Radio and TV programs. He has written extensively for *The Guardian*, *The Age*, *Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Australian*.

Benjamin Law is a journalist, TV screenwriter, columnist and the author of two books: *The Family Law* (2010) and *Gaysia: Adventures in the Queer East* (2012), both of which were nominated for Australian Book Industry Awards. *The Family Law* is now an award-winning series on SBS. He was also an associate producer and researcher on the SBS feature documentary *Deep Water: The Real Story*, is the author on the current Quarterly Essay on Safe Schools and has a PhD in writing from QUT.

An ABC production; Executive Producer Jo Chichester; Producer Marie Davies.  
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