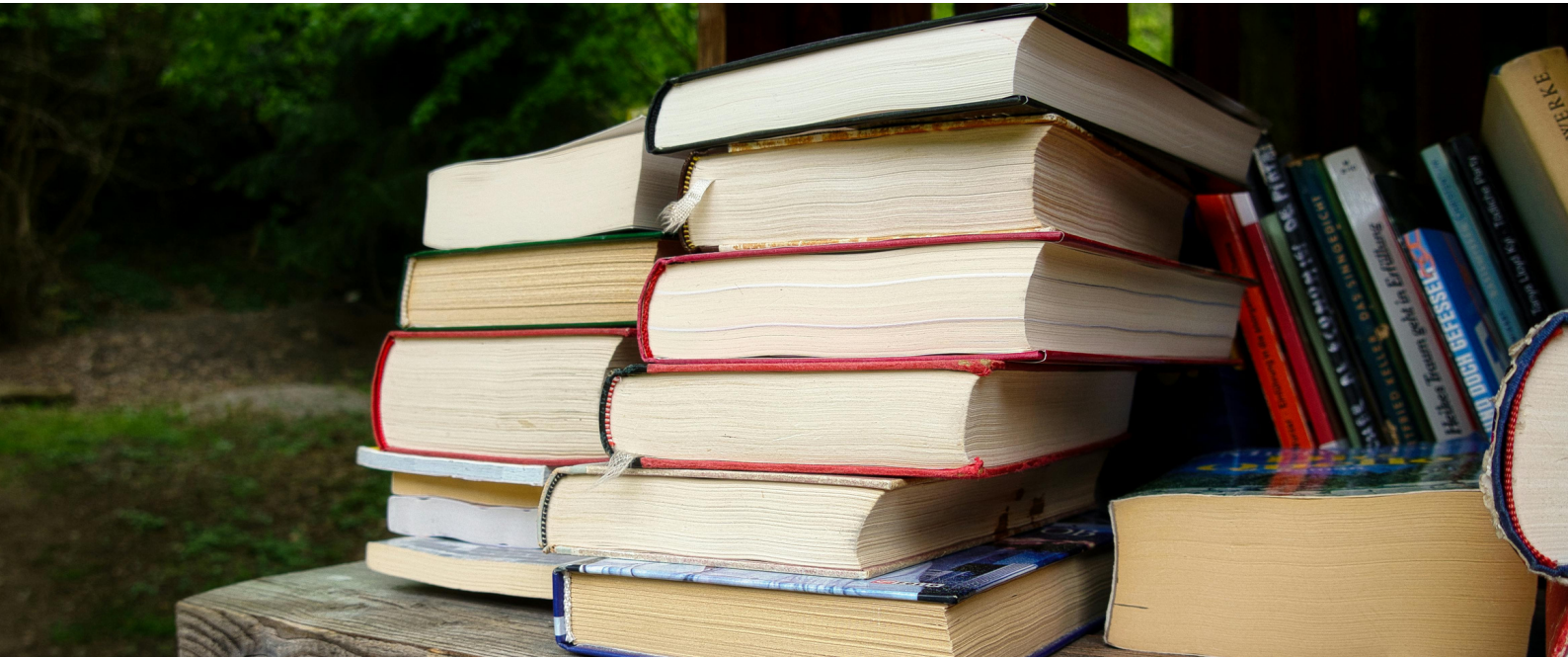




Book Club

July 2026



The Overstory

by Richard Powers

The second book club of the year focussed on *The Overstory* by Richard Powers, first published in 2018. It was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize that year and won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 2019.

This book gives a historical and continent-scale view of Americans' relationship with their land and forests and their diverse paths towards activism for forests.

The first section, 'Roots', gives us eight long short stories that establish the characters. Then follow sections called 'Trunk' and 'Crown', which weave the stories together. The final section, 'Seeds', is an epilogue.

The book is literally full of wonderful quotes and observations about trees and forests, and the diverse connections that people make with forests and nature – from the wheelchair-bound game designer Neelay, to the cluster of activists, and the academic documenting the communication systems between plants and animals.

The book challenged us: 'As a species, why are we so bad at recalibrating how the world works?'

It also helps us to be humble about what we know in the face of so much scientific development in understanding forests, and the importance of being courageous in embracing that new knowledge.

We also had a long conversation about the roles and limits of activism in creating changed forest management.

This book is a big, stimulating read and we would encourage all FA members to have a look at it.

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We would also encourage you to join us in our next conversation about a book called Jacksons Track by Daryl Tonkin and Carolyn Landon, a non-fiction book set in West Gippsland. We will meet online on Thursday 1 October 2026 – **get the book and get reading!!**

