Staff Reader of the Month for July

Peter Woodhams

Science teacher at SSC since 1997
B. SC (Hons) in Zoology and Genetics
M. Sc in History and Philosophy
1979 taught at Northcote Tech then Brunswick East HS
Science/Curriculum advisor with Ed. Dep’t
Industry Placement with Foster’s Brewing and KPMG
Established Philosophy as VCE unit at SSC

How often do you like to read?
“To be honest not as often as I would like but I really enjoy reading on a daily basis”

What do you like to read?
“I really enjoy well written essays in journal eg The New Yorker, the New Yorker Review of Books and also scientific journals such as New Scientist. As for books, I really enjoy those that combine my passions for history, science, travel and philosophy.”

List one book that has left a lasting impression on you and explain why it’s memorable . . . .

“Many books have left lasting impressions on me but three come to mind . . . .
“The Origin of the Species” by Charles Darwin: The scope of this book never ceases to amaze me. Darwin travels the globe collecting, classifying and analyzing individual biological
specimens and draws the connections necessary to suggest that they have evolved through natural selection. A force that not only drives evolution but has occurred without reference to man or God, a not very popular idea in 1859! If ever there was a book that changed the world this has to be it!

“The Lord of the Rings” by J.R.R. Tolkien:

I first read this book (almost in one sitting) as a young high school student over the holidays. I literally couldn’t put it down. I lived and breathed the world he created so well. I have re-read it probably about every seven years since that time when I was about 14 years of age. It sparked my interest in history, anthropology and storytelling.

“The Secret River” by Kate Grenville:

This is a disturbing book that made me think again about the colonisation of Australia and the impacts this had on the original inhabitants of what came to be called Australia as well as the struggles of those who settled here and carved out a life in what to them must have seemed like a different planet. To me, she suggests that the “secrets” of the colonisation of Australia are visible psychic scars we all bear to this day.”