

**Winx**

By Andrew Rule  
Published by Allen & Unwin  
RRP \$32.99 (pb)

Even if only in the office Melbourne Cup sweep, racegoers will enjoy this up-to-date story of Winx. Some of trainer Chris Waller's clients purchased an unnamed filly at the 2013 Magic Millions yearling sale – the rest is history and racing legend.

Author Andrew Rule has an easy style with a glint of humour. With full access to the 'Winx Camp' and interviews with many of the racing fraternity, he tells the background of this group of trainer, clients and filly.

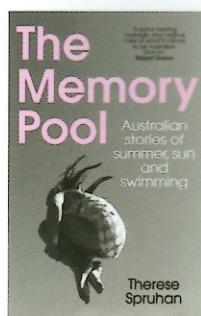
Winx was just one of many young horses being grown-on and schooled at Waller's various properties and stables – but there was an X factor, something hard to describe that lifts the ordinary to extraordinary.

It is also an insight into Waller's methods and thinking, of how a horse is prepared, how stables are run and the pressures and pleasures of being part of Winx's life.

The appendix Race Statistics tells the story; a year to establish, then in May 2015 wins the Sunshine Coast Guineas in a heart-stopping waiting back then speeding to overtake the field. She does that for every race following, until her retirement in April 2019 to become a broodmare.

She has gone down in history – longest unbeaten run among her many accolades.

Winx is also Chris Waller's story; from a farm in New Zealand to building an outstanding racing organisation in NSW, to guiding every aspect of Winx's career, to lurching with the Queen at Windsor Castle before riding in a coach

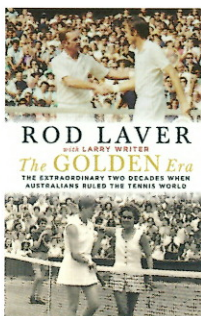


**The Memory Pool**

by Therese Spruhan  
Published by NewSouth  
RRP \$29.99 (pb)

This is a collection of 28 stories remembering the joys of local swimming pools 50 years or more ago, and how important they were. Many have disappeared, their sites now shops and offices, but the memories are still potent.

We read of sea and river pools, or in suburbs or country towns heavily chlorinated pools. Outdoors with grassy banks to congregate or inside structures that were often war memorials, all offered the freedom of days in the sun with siblings or friends,



**The Golden Era**

By Rod Laver with Larry Writer  
Published by Allen & Unwin  
RRP \$39.99 (hb)

A most endearing feature of Rod Laver's book *The Golden Era*, written with Larry Writer, are the stories of the humble beginnings of some of our tennis greats.

Margaret Court, who grew up in Albury, used an old fence paling to hit a "battered and hairless" tennis ball against a wall. Evonne Goolagong grew up in a fibro shack with a dirt floor and no electricity in Barellan, 500 kilometres west of Sydney. A wooden slat from a fruit box was her racquet. Laver himself played on a homemade ant bed

with no more supervision than a pool manager. A place to be taught or just discover how to swim, the social centre of school holidays. To be first in the water when the pool opened, to swim furthest under water, to bomb, to dive, to try and dance like the new synchronised swimmers.

To take the first steps as serious swimmers, to join the pool squad, to eventually win Olympic gold medals.

To learn to be responsible, to care for younger siblings, to have confidence to take risks – some that wouldn't be possible with today's health and safety rules.

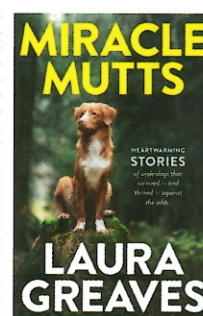
To be brown as berries with no thought of melanoma, to eventually notice the opposite sex, to have the first pash.

The memories of people from all over Australia – actors and musicians, a former Tasmanian premier and social campaigners, coaches and Olympic swimmers, everyday people – the biographies of their lives today finish a delightful and evocative easy read. – JOC

Laver, our greatest player, charts the careers of such luminaries as Lew Hoad, Frank Sedgman, Ken Rosewall, Neale Fraser, Roy Emerson, Fred Stolle and John Newcombe. He recounts the birth of the Open (professional) era, when he played Rosewall in a match that began to blow away the "musty traditions" of the professional-amateur divide. Laver date-stamps Newcombe's Australian Open win over Jimmy Connors in 1975 as the sunset of the Golden Era, when Australians dominated in the 1950s, 60s and 70s.

This eminently readable book brings many memories as it casts back to a more refined time, when finesse, elegance and subtlety ruled on court. Sadly, though, as Laver laments, "Blokes like Bernard Tomic and Nick Kyrgios nowadays don't seem to care." Ash Barty and Alex de Minaur offer hope.

Admirably, Laver, in his acknowledgments, announces that author royalties from this book "will go to the development of tennis talent across Australia"



**Miracle Mutts**

By Laura Greaves  
Published by Penguin  
RRP \$34.99 (pb)

Laura Greaves is a journal book author who admits to being a proud 'crazy dog'. This tells 15 separate true stories of dogs who have adversity and survived. So Australia, others overseas discarded, cruelly treated all with an indomitable spirit helped by caring people find happy lives.

It is also the story of the people. They give their time; care; they organise and set charities that take over the lives; they volunteer to do work, to collect dogs on very short notice and take them to a safe spot; they foster them, nurse and reassure them, permanent home is found. Importantly they give love.

Little Maggie was shot during the fighting in Beirut, mutilated and blinded, locked in a cage until rescued by a charity and finally finding a loving family home in Brighton. In spite of it all, she has a personality, full of the joys

Beagle Guy was part of a hunting pack in Kentucky as was the custom, at the end of the hunting season he was among the dogs discarded and abandoned in the forest. A charity there rescues hundreds of them each year and ferries them north of the Mason-Dixon line to find good homes.

Guy was adopted by a young actress, Meghan Markle, a few years later was photographed in a car with the Queen during the gathering for the famous wedding.

The dogs' photographs are here, as well as their social media details. A good read all, especially 'crazy dog'