

# Newsletter

Ballaarat Mechanics' Institute

March / 2021



BMI Basement restoration works

**Dear Members** — When our children were young, because we lived on properties which I managed, we would often take our children on long journeys by car. Sometimes half an hour into a trip of several hours one of the kids would ask 'are we nearly there yet?' The relevance of that story is that we are nearly there in commencing the refurbishment of the basement. The major clearance of one hundred and sixty years of accumulated treasures was completed last year but as we get closer to the builder starting work more had to be done and by the time you read this the whole basement will really be cleared out. It is an amazing space and provides the Institute with significant opportunity for a variety of uses when the refurbishment is completed.

Many people want to know how it will be used. The answer is we don't know yet. We have a small working group of Board, staff and volunteers who will present the Board with some best bet alternatives. There will be ample opportunity for input into the decision process in relation to the eventual use.

One thing is certain. The Board will ensure that BMI members and members of the community can enjoy the wonders of our special underground space. While we aren't nearly there yet we are progressing on the journey.

**Mike Stephens**  
President



# Library news

with Rosemary McInerney



## Author of the Month

### Mike Gayle

Mike is an English freelance journalist who has contributed to a variety of magazines, including Sunday Times and Cosmopolitan. He is the author of 18 novels.



## Book of the Month

*Find you First* by Linwood Barclay

Tech billionaire Miles has more money than he can ever spend, and everything he could dream of – except time. Now facing a terminal illness, Miles knows he must seize every minute to put his life in order. And that means taking a long hard look at his past.

Somewhere out there, Miles has children, and they might be about to inherit both the good and bad from him – possibly his fortune, or possibly something more sinister. So Miles decides to track down his missing children. But a vicious killer is one step ahead of him. One by one, people are vanishing. Not just disappearing, every trace of them is wiped.

## Recommended Books

*The Tour* by Andrew Mackie

Nineteen-year-old identical twins Violet and Daisie Chetle can hardly believe their luck when they are recruited as maids to accompany the Queen's Lady-in-Waiting on the royal tour to Australia in 1954. It's just the ticket they need away from cold, grey England and the tension that's been brewing at home since the loss of their parents.

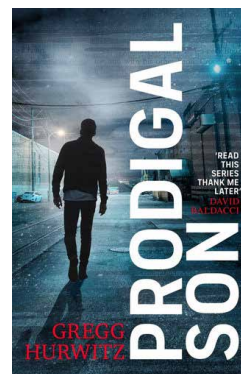
However, life on board the SS Gothic and indeed in the colony is far from the glamorous adventure they expected, and their relationship becomes even more strained when one twin discovers her sister's unconscionable act of betrayal.



As they travel from the bustling streets of Sydney to the remote sheep stations of Dubbo, they try to make the best of it. An opportunity to meet their estranged aunt living in the vast outback promises hope for a new future - but have these girls ventured too far from home to ever find their way back?

*Prodigal Son* by Greg Hurwitz

Evan Smoak used to be known as Orphan X: a figure as elusive as a rumour, until he came to the rescue of those who most desperately needed his help. The kind of help no one else could provide.



As a boy he'd been plucked from a foster home and trained as an off-the-books assassin inside a top secret US government programme.

Which is why, even after being forced into early retirement, he dare not trust the phone call, nor the caller claiming to be his mother, asking him to protect a complete stranger who just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time.

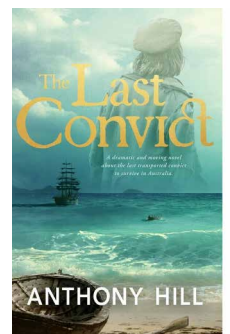
None of it stacks up yet it bears the tell tale signs of the secret world that made him. And from inside it, a deadly new threat to the nation's security. But this time the danger is more personal than he could have ever imagined. Because blood runs deep.

*The Last Convict* by Anthony Hill

Samuel Speed sets a barley stack alight, in the hope it will earn him a bed in a prison for the night. What he receives is a sentence of seven years to be served in the penal colony at Fremantle.

When Samuel boards the transport ship *Belgravia*, he is stripped of his clothing and even his name.

In 1867, Samuel is granted a ticket of leave and a full freedom in 1871. But what sort of life can a man forge for himself in the Colony, with no skills, no money and no family...



# What's on



## Class Clowns 2021 Melbourne Comedy Festival

Wednesday 24 March | 4pm workshop | 7pm performance

The search is on for Australia's funniest teens!

Melbourne International Comedy Festival's one-of-a-kind national comedy competition for young people.

Heats around the country start with a 2-hour workshop, where students rehearse and refine their act with the help of a professional comedian, followed by an opportunity to perform for a live audience.



Image by Jim Lee, Class Clowns National Final 2019, Melbourne International Comedy Festival

P Sam 0419 677 713 | E [sam@ballaratmi.org.au](mailto:sam@ballaratmi.org.au) | W [ballaratmi.org.au/arts-events](http://ballaratmi.org.au/arts-events)

## Keep The Circle Unbroken

Sunday 28 March | 3pm – 5pm

Keep The Circle Unbroken is a series of concerts to be presented across Victoria's iconic regional towns this March, featuring an incredible line-up of Australian musicians spanning two generations performing songs inspired by the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band's 1972 album *Will the Circle be Unbroken*. Keep an eye on the BMI website for updates.



P | Sam 0419 677 713 E | [sam@ballaratmi.org.au](mailto:sam@ballaratmi.org.au)

W | [ballaratmi.org.au/arts-events](http://ballaratmi.org.au/arts-events)

## Card-making with Fay Marshall

Wednesday 31 March | 10am – 3pm

Fay's Creations



Easter is not far away, get making before the rush, create your own Easter greeting. Book now places are still available..

E | [mark@ballaratmi.org.au](mailto:mark@ballaratmi.org.au)

Bookings | [ballaratmi.org.au/arts-events](http://ballaratmi.org.au/arts-events)

# more Library News & Around the BMI



## New Releases for March

### Mystery

<i>Find You First</i>	Linwood Barclay
<i>The Shadow Man</i>	Helen Fields
<i>Before She Disappeared</i>	Lisa Gardner
<i>The Step Daughter</i>	Georgina Cross
<i>Lies People Tell</i>	Liam Hanson
<i>Prodigal Son</i>	Greg Hurwitz
<i>The Hunting</i>	Stephen Leather
<i>The Snowdonia Killings</i>	Simon McCleave
<i>Shiver</i>	Allie Reynolds

### Novels

<i>All The Lonely People</i>	Mike Gayle
<i>The Four Winds</i>	Kristin Hannah
<i>The Last Convict</i>	Anthony Hill
<i>The Royal Correspondent</i>	Alexandra Joel
<i>The Secret Messenger</i>	Mandy Robotham
<i>The Moroccan Daughter</i>	Deborah Rodriguez
<i>The Paris Library</i>	Janet Skeslien Charles

### Scandanavian

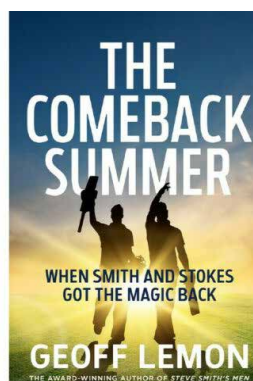
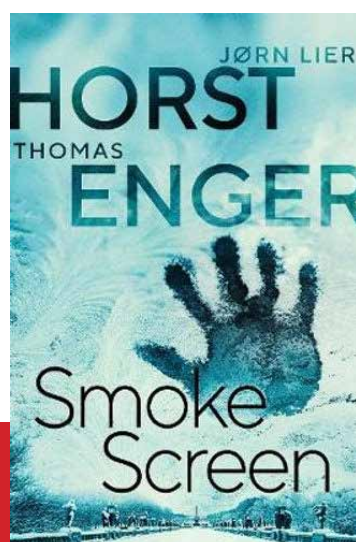
<i>Smoke Screen</i>	Jorn Lie Horst/Thomas Enger
<i>The Vanished</i>	Lotte & Soren Hammer
<i>Winterkill</i>	Ragnar Jonasson
<i>The Shaman's House</i>	Christoffer Petersen

### Australian

<i>Sargasso</i>	Kathy George
<i>The Tour</i>	Andrew Mackie
<i>The Imitator</i>	Rebecca Starford

### Non Fiction

<i>With My Little Eye</i>	Sandra Hogan
<i>The Comeback Summer</i>	Geoff Lemo



## Digitization Workshop

Geraldine Brault | Digitisation Officer, AMaGA

As part of the Australian Museums and Gallery Associations Regional Digitisation Project, Geraldine Brault conducted a workshop for our Research & Conservation Volunteers and BMI Officers. The workshop covered topics such as photographic techniques and equipment requirements for Museum standard conservation and record keeping. This event is part of a series of workshops, made possible by funding from Creative Victoria.



This is a region-wide project with the aim of assisting the preservation of items and artifacts held in small collections around Western Victoria. Geraldine is anchored to the BMI for the Western Region, she was only able to conduct one workshop last year due to COVID-19, this year she will conduct five workshops at the BMI.

## Greeting Cards by Fay's Creations

Don't forget whatever the occasion, check-out *Fay's Creations* at the BMI Library, only \$3.00



*Fay's Creations*

# What's on



## BMI Maker & Community Market

Saturday 13 March | 9am – 2pmw

Come along and meet our marketeers.

## Book Sale

Our Book Sale will be a part of the markets so come along and see what's on sale.

W | [ballaratmi.org.au/arts-events](http://ballaratmi.org.au/arts-events)



Robyn Burnside  
*Je t'aime Baby*



Holly-Anne Baker  
*Holly Would*



Bethany Jacob  
*Bethany Alice Clothing Design*



Gary Johnston  
*Gary Johnston Illustrator*



Kathleen Cullinan  
*Kate Cullinan Visual Art*



Debbie Weston  
*Debbie Weston Maker*



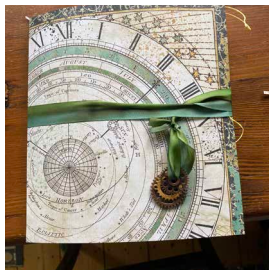
Melinda Muscat  
*Surrealist Visual Artist*



Faye Heiningor  
*LilliPilli Beads*



Tegan Crosby  
*Tegan Crosby Art*



Jenny Peers  
*Bookbinding & cardmaking*



Jodie Porter  
*Vintage & Country Babes*



Christine Crawshaw  
*Sothis Books & Sartorial*



Deborah Klein  
*Deborah Klein Visual Art*



Christine Sellers  
*Holo Bones*



Nyibol Deng  
*ATUK*



Jen Paynter  
*108 Yoga Road*

# Rosemary's Book of the month

## Ballarat Chess Club

Thursdays at 6.30pm

Tournament games begin 7.30pm and the Junior Chess Club meet 6pm, everyone welcome.

P | 0499 255 240

E | [president@ballaratchess.com](mailto:president@ballaratchess.com)



## BALLARAT FILM SOCIETY

Every 2nd Thursday of the month  
7pm for 7.30pm start

Ballarat Film Society.

- 11 Mar - *Birds of Passage*, Columbia, 2018, 125min.
- 8 Apr — *Adam*, Morocco, 2019, 101min.



*Adam*, Morocco, 2019, 101min.

Join up \$60, for a great line-up of films.

P | (03) 5341 2266



## Books wanted

We are looking for old or excess books to sell as part of our ongoing fundraising activities. Please drop them into Rosemary during usual business hours.

P | (03) 5331 3042

E | [library@ballaratmi.org.au](mailto:library@ballaratmi.org.au)

Ballaarat Mechanics' Institute  
acknowledges the support of  
Ballarat City Council

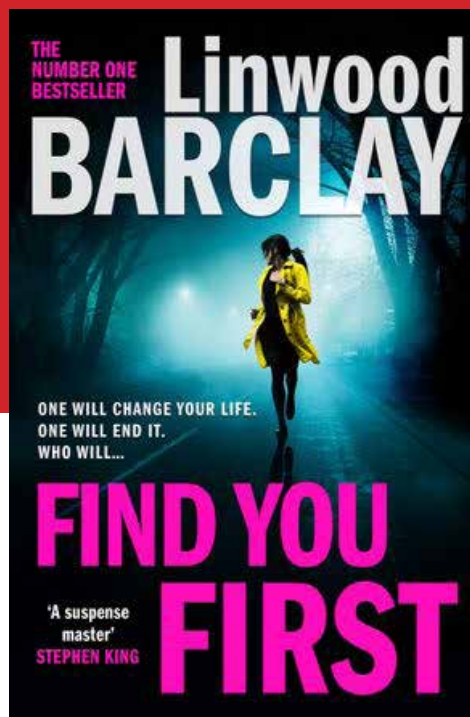
Ballarat Mechanics' Institute Inc.

117 – 119 Sturt Street, Ballarat VIC 3350

[ballaratmi.org.au](http://ballaratmi.org.au)

[library@ballaratmi.org.au](mailto:library@ballaratmi.org.au)

(03) 5331 3042



## BMI Pop-up Shop

Thursdays & Fridays | 11am – 3pm

If Thursdays and Fridays don't suit your shopping joy, we can open by appointment, just contact the Library to arrange a time.

P | (03) 5331 3042

E | [library@ballaratmi.org.au](mailto:library@ballaratmi.org.au)

## Hot Items!

Boho chic, med. \$20



Wayne Cooper  
Lounge dress, fully lined, sml. \$40

CITY OF  
**BALLARAT**

**Library Hours**  
Monday to Friday 10am – 4pm  
Saturday 9.30am – Noon  
**Venue Hire Enquiries**  
[venue@ballaratmi.org.au](mailto:venue@ballaratmi.org.au)  
0419 677 713