



THE BALLARAT MECHANICS' INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER JULY 2015



NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is a privilege and a pleasure to take the chair as President of the BMI again in 2015. Well done to Ann Cato, the immediate past president, for her commitment to the position and for the many hours she invested behind the scenes to better our Institute. There is much to build on as the BMI moves forward into the digital age. We are all proud of our new website and how it is tracking. The BMI is now on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram! I encourage you to all visit the site on www.ballaratmi.org.au and familiarise yourselves with all it has to offer. It is pleasing to note that during the past year the BMI experienced a 37% increase in use of the hire facilities – no doubt the website is already proving useful in marketing our venues.

At the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday June 24, BMI elected three new members to the Board. We welcome Professor Terry Lloyd, who has already made the commitment to become Vice President Library. We also welcomed David Berry and Andrew

Oliver and are looking forward to their contribution. Andrew Miller will continue as Vice President Building with Phil Roberts as Secretary, and Grantley Hastings as Treasurer. Ann Cato, David Haymes and Jenny Haymes are remaining on the Board. I would like to thank immediate past Board members who have stepped down this year including John Blythman, Fiona Watson, Jan Ross, Michael Morrow and Michael Unwin. Michael Morrow has stepped away from the Board but is continuing on to champion the new Ballarat Mechanics' Institute Foundation I thank them all for their many contributions.

The BMI Foundation is an important step forward for the BMI and will establish much needed funds for the upkeep of the building. This includes funds for research study and for major maintenance of the building and the magnificent collection of Heritage books. The BMI Foundation's objective is to seek donations and bequests from like-minded persons who wish to assist the continued use of this fine building and to foster the teaching tenets upon which the early pioneers had for the growth of Ballarat.

We encourage all our members and supporters to continue to make good use of our facilities. I am sure, as in the past, capable people will step forward to contribute to the Institute and assist the BMI to continue as a Community Hub that enhances the experience of the arts and the sciences.

Graham Gooding
President

IN THIS NEWSLETTER: WHAT TO TAKE FROM THE AGM, NEW BOOK ARRIVALS, A FRIENDS OF MINERVA CONCERT TO LOOK FORWARD TO, AND OUT AND ABOUT WITH OUR VOLUNTEERS.





BOOK AUDITING

Dani and Marion have been auditing the heritage book collection recently and have found some wonderful books on illumination. The process of auditing the book collection includes checking the condition of the books, and making sure they are being protected and documented correctly.



My year as President was extremely rewarding and challenging. We progressed the BMI Strategic Plan with follow-up sessions to develop Action Plans from all sub-committees; Mark Schultz shared his knowledge at two presentations on Good Governance; the BMI will meet its legal obligations now and into the future by employing an HR consultant to develop a Risk Management Plan and Code of Conduct. The Executive met with the Mayor of Ballarat, Cr John Phillips, Chief Executive Anthony Schinck, as well as State politicians Sharon Knight MLA and Josh Morris MLC to inform them about the need to seek funding for significant work to the structure of the building. It is pleasing to report that the BMI has been successful in securing a \$150,000 grant from Victoria's Heritage Restoration Fund. However an additional \$150,000 is still needed to complete the restoration work.

The new website has been launched and, with the completion of the Finishing Kitchen, we are confident that our venue hire will increase.

Volunteers play an important role in the daily life of the BMI and I am very grateful for their ongoing support. My thanks to all volunteers including the Board of Management and the library volunteers. Together they bring knowledge, skills and vitality to the BMI.

And of course, a huge thank you goes to Jamie Phillips, Marc Castles and Fiona Watson for the development of the website and to William Whiteside for his work on HR and OH&S.

Ann Cato



NEW BOOK ARRIVALS IN THE LENDING LIBRARY, AS YOU REQUESTED!

MYSTERY

- The Water Knife** Paolo Bacigalupi
Time of Death Mark Billingham
Death Wears a Beauty Mask & Other Stories Mary Higgins Clark
A Quiet End Nelson Demille
The Fugitive John Grisham
Last Resort Quintin Jardine
Disclaimer Renee Knight
Knife Gun Poison Bomb Martin O'Brien

NON FICTION

- Five Nights in Paris** John Baxter
From India with Love Latika Bourke
Outback Vets Anabelle Brayley
In Love and War Nursing Heroes Liz Byrski
Forged from a Silver Dollar Li Feng
Being Mortal Atul Gawande
Australian Farming Families Deb Hunt
Blood Hound Ramona Koval
H Is for Hawk Helen Macdonald
Animal Magic Carolyn Press-McKenzie
A Fifty-Year Silence Miranda Richmond Mouillot

NOVEL

- The Blue Between Sky and Water** Susan Abulhawa
The Little Paris Bookshop Nina George
That Girl from Nowhere Dorothy Koomson
Off the Page Jodi Picoult/Samantha van Leer
The Long Hot Summer Kathleen MacMahon
Without a Trace Lesley Pearse
One Summer in Venice Nicky Pellegrino
The Cherry Harvest Lucy Sanna

HISTORICAL

- The Wild Rose and The Winter Rose** Jennifer Donnelly

ROMANCE

- The Beachside Guest House** Vanessa Greene

AUSTRALIAN

- The Soldiers Wife** Pamela Hart
The Governor's House J.H.Fletcher

SCANDINAVIAN

- The Last Lullaby** Carin Gerhardsen
The Bodyguard Leena Lehtolainen
The Lion of Justice Leena Lehtolainen

Congratulations and welcome to our new BMI members. We hope you will always feel welcome and make good use of the lending library and other facilities. We certainly hope this will be first of many enjoyable years' involvement with this wonderful, iconic organisation.

Anne Bell, Rex Hardware, Denise Humphries, Tina Kalokathis, Terry Lloyd, Kaye Makovec, Rosemary Manion, Lesley Melody, Roger Permezel, Tiaree Ruffin, Jill Ward, and Pamela Worth.

AN APT SPEECH FROM THE VIC PRESIDENT OF MI'S



Robert Kingston was our guest speaker at the AGM. He spoke about the future of Mechanics' Institutes around the world, and how they need to stay relevant to communities. Robert aptly used the metaphor of an aeroplane to describe the upkeep of Mechanics' Institutes. An aeroplane is an engine. It needs fuel, people on board, and a whole team to keep it running. Well, the BMI is a very big "aeroplane" indeed. We are always ready for change and value the donations and volunteers that keep it running. Thank you Robert for your inspiring speech. We will take it "on board", no pun intended!

FAY'S FLOWERS

For the last five or so years, the BMI has always been decorated with beautiful flower arrangements, and that's all thanks to Fay Marshall.

Fay is one of those creative types who has a gift of throwing a bunch of stems, branches and flowers here and there, and it becomes an artwork.

Rosemary the librarian says she's a perfectionist. "This is modern art!" She said. "All the colours are very fitting for the institute." Fay is just one of the countless volunteers who dedicates her precious time to the BMI. And in this case, it's by coming in in every week or so to assemble her next creation. She often brings in materials from her garden. Most recently, it was Smoke Bush. Next time you come in, look behind the lending library desk to see another bouquet of flowers. Not that you're going to miss it!



STORY BOX BY AMY T



Hi there, my name is Amy and I want to share with you some rumours going around about the the history of Sturt Street. In recent research for the digital history tour Ballarat Revealed I spoke to the BMI team about intriguing myths of Ballarat's underground, including that Sturt St used to be a level lower evidenced by the remains of shops in the BMI basement.

It was explained to me that there in fact used to be a grate on the footpath above that would let light down into the shop windows beneath, but they were always part of the building's basement level.

It is still fascinating to imagine the restaurant and lolly store that possibly operated from below. If you haven't been on a tour of the historic Ballarat Mechanics' Institute yet, do some exploring there on a Thursday afternoon at 2pm. It's just a gold coin donation away to finding out more about the history of what used to lie within the walls of the Ballarat Mechanics' Institute.

Happy exploring!

TAKIN' TIME

SUSAN & COLIN PARRISH

PRESENTED BY THE FRIENDS
OF THE MINERVA

If Wintery Sunday afternoons are better spent indulging, then the Friends of Minerva has one covered for you!

Picture this. Ethereal live music, good company, cheese and wine, and all set in the historical Ballarat Mechanics' Institute.

Folk band Takin' Time is Susan and Colin Parrish, a duo who've played in many folk and music festivals around Victoria. Susan's voice has been compared to Judith Durham, Nana Mouskouri and Linda Ronstadt. That paired with her husband Colin's guitar is a match made in heaven. Takin' Time's tunes have been described as deeply moving and tranquil, and even at times, inspirational.

Janice Haase, a member of Friends of Minerva, was blown away recently when she visited Darnum Musical Village. It was there she discovered Takin' Time and thought them perfectly fitting for the next Friends of Minerva event. So take her word for it and book your tickets through www.ballaratmi.org.au or in the lending library. This special event will raise funds to refurbish the new Finishing Kitchen.

Tickets: \$20 (including wine and cheese)

Date: Sunday 19 July 2015

Time: 2.00 pm

Venue: BMI, 117 Sturt Street, Ballarat

For further information, contact Janice Haase on 0417397550.

UPCOMING TWILIGHT TALKS

JULY 10

DR MARGUERITA STEPHENS
'THE JOURNAL OF WILLIAM THOMAS'

Dr Stephens will speak on the topic 'The Journal of William Thomas' with references to the Ballarat and Buninyong Tribes.

AUGUST 21

MARY ROSS-VOLK
'THE HISTORY OF TERROR IN NEW YORK'

Ms Ross-Volk is a PhD student in the Department of Creative Arts and English at La Trobe University. She will speak on the history of terror in New York City with special reference to the September 11th terrorist attacks.

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BMI Address: 117 Sturt St, Ballarat, 3350.

Phone: (03) 5331 3042

Library email: library@ballaratmi.org.au

Venue Manager: +614 1967 7713

Venue hire email: bookings@ballaratmi.org.au

