

Ballaarat Mechanics' Institute to celebrate Spring with three days of music & events



ESTD 1859

August 2016

Spring Celebrations at the Ballaarat Mechanics' Institute September 1 - 3, 2016 117 Sturt Street, Ballarat

A curiosity to some, but a place of culture, learning and entertainment to many, the Ballaarat Mechanics' Institute invites everyone to be a part of Spring Celebrations from September 1 – 3, with three days of live music and events, culminating in Open Day on Saturday September 3. With much of the grand Victorian-era building recently restored both inside and out, the 'Mechanics' community is excited to welcome patrons into this Ballarat treasure.

Saturday, September 3 is Open Day at the BMI, with something for everyone to see, hear, experience and enjoy. Kicking off at 10am, the program is jam-packed full of exhibitions, photography, displays, music, film, theatre, poetry, talks, and unique items from the BMI collection. Highlights include performances from Ballarat Memorial Concert Band, Sing Australia choir, Federation University Arts Academy students, and the launch of the Max Harris photography collection, now to be housed at the BMI.

The entertainment won't be stopping as the sun goes down, as from 6:30pm on September 3, the BMI hosts Vintage Night. Dress up in your favourite vintage wear and dance to surf rockers Surf Shadows, relive the days of the Vegas 70 with a short film by artist Erin McCuskey incorporating historic footage of Ballarat, and catch jazz quintet Sounds of Silent performing live to Buster Keaton's classic film Steamboat Bill Jr.

BMI Curator Amy Tsilemanis was inspired by the public's general puzzlement with what the Mechanics' Institute is about to put the Spring Celebrations together. "Many people walk past this building every day but have no idea what it is or what is inside. It's such a beautiful building and a wonderful organisation, so we can't wait to

welcome the public in to enjoy all the unique wonders the BMI and the Ballarat community have to offer.”

In the lead up to the Open Day, the BMI will be rocking to two nights of live music on September 1 & 2. Thursday September 1 is Ballarat Songwriters Night, showcasing musicians from local record label Heart of the Rat Records, including AMiner, The Dead Salesmen Duo, Freya Josephine Hollick & Matt Malone. End your working week with a sultry night of Jazz and Soul on Friday September 2 with Liana & The Petite Mort, Caribbean sounds of Geoffrey Williams & Windrush Band plus the soul stylings of Motor City Sounds.

Tickets and more information available at ballaratmi.org.au/springcelebrations.

Media Contact:

Amy Tsilemanis

0403 716 420

a.tsilemanis@googlemail.com

###