



Ballarat Mechanics' Institute Newsletter

April 2018

President's Report



Executive Manager

It is with a great amount of pleasure that we announce our new Manager is Tony Godfrey. Tony starts work in the 0.5 role on Tuesday 3 April. He brings a breadth of previous experience, financial capability, enthusiasm about the Executive Manager role and commitment to future directions of the Institute. His previous positions have included Special Projects Manager at Ballarat Clarendon College, Executive Assistant to the CEO at North Ballarat Football & Sports Club, Director of Finance and Corporate Services at St John of God Hospital and the Business Manager at the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat. Tony's main roles at the BMI will be to manage Institute activities and work towards its long-term sustainability. We welcome him to the BMI and wish him every success.

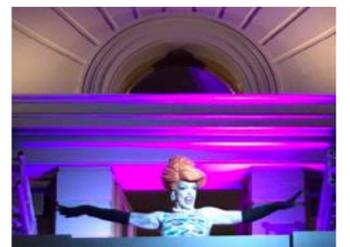


Twilight Talks

These talks have continued to be of a high quality and to be well attended. The last talk in the first series was on 23 March and Series Two starts on 20 April with Dr Ross McMullin. Dr Joan Hunt is completing the scheduling of the speakers extremely well and thank you to all those volunteers who have assisted with the first series of talks. Details of the forthcoming series are included in this Newsletter.

White Night

The event was a major success for the BMI – thousands of visitors flocked to the Institute to see and participate in many of the events and activities put on during the night. We had many volunteers and a general thank you has been sent to them. In particular, I wish to mention the sterling work of David Dahlenburg, Wendy Graham and Malcolm Roberts in coordinating many aspects of the evening that has proved financially profitable for us.



Heritage Room Furniture Grant

The Library Committee members have overseen the expenditure of a \$10,000 State Government grant for signage and new furniture in the Heritage Library. Our Curator Amy Tsilemanis has been strongly involved.

BMI Basement

Building Committee members are preparing a submission for a State Government Living Heritage Program Grant to address the water, ventilation and storage issues. We are working with Heritage Architect Wendy Jacobs, Mayor Cr Samantha McIntosh and City Council staff to address the issues.

Phil Roberts

Ballarat Mechanics' Institute

117 Sturt Street
Ballarat 3350

www.ballaratmi.org.au
library@ballaratmi.org.au
(03) 5331 3042



Library Hours

*Monday – Friday: 10 am – 4 pm
Saturday: 9:30 am – 12 noon*

Venue Hire Enquiries

*bookings@ballaratmi.org.au
0419 677 713*



BMI Events



Vale Roger Burrows

It is with regret that we announce the passing of our long term and active member, Roger Burrows.

Roger was a past BMI board member, a member of the library and building committees, and assisted with the building renovations.

He was active in the formulation and shelving of the Heritage book collection, a speaker at Twilight Talks, a prodigious and expert photographer of BMI archives and artefacts, and researched and presented many articles for public display. Projects he was involved in include the newspaper cataloguing, the photographic database and documenting and photographing the Von Mueller Plant collection. Lately he had been involved in the reproduction of photographs from the extensive Australasian newspaper collection.

Roger was a regular and informative tour and visitor guide, and organised many special interest tours over the years. We will all miss our Monday morning teas with Roger where he could always be depended upon to come up with a good story or two. ~ Rex Bridges

A **Memorial Gathering** for Roger will be held in the Humffray Room at 3:00 pm on Friday 6 April 2018.



White Night at the BMI

White Night 2018 was another great success at the BMI and we would like to send a big thank you out to all the volunteers and artists who contributed their time and skills and to the visitors who came and enjoyed the activities. The variety and breadth of what the BMI has to offer was evident to the many thousands who visited.



BHS Spielvogel Oration

The Ballarat Historical Society is proud to announce the inaugural **Nathan Spielvogel Oration** during Ballarat Heritage Month. The Oration honours the lasting legacy of the Ballarat Historical Society's first President, Nathan Spielvogel and his commitment to the preservation & collection of Ballarat's early history.

Professor **Janet McCalman** from the University of Melbourne has kindly accepted our invitation as the inaugural speaker. Professor McCalman is a respected author and has made a significant contribution to Australian history in the fields of population health, social health and demography. She is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities and a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia.

The lecture will reflect on the findings of two large studies of the life courses of convicts transported to Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) from 1818 to 1853 and on the war experience and life courses of men who embarked from Victoria to serve in World War 1. These historical findings reflect modern work on the origins of mental illness and criminal offending, and on the historical vulnerability of unsupported mothers.

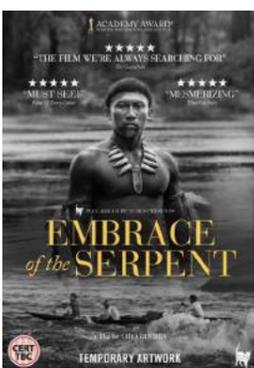
Contact **Andrew Wallace** for details on 0497 191 453 or email ballarathistoricalsociety@gmail.com.

Ballarat Film Society

12 April 2018: **Embrace of the Serpent**

Colombia/Venezuela/Argentina/The Netherlands, 2015, b/w and colour, 120 min. Dir: *Ciro Guerra. Amazonian Drama*

Inspired by the journals of real-life explorers German Theodor Koch-Grünberg and American Richard Evans Schultes, this film is the story of a dream-like examination of an Amazonian shaman called Karamakate. Karamakate leads the explorers into the Amazonian jungle in the first half of the 1900s as they search for a rare flower alleged to have healing properties. Shot in both colour and black and white, the film charts each man's treacherous and life-changing journey through the aftermath of the rubber boom. The director *Ciro Guerra* has claimed that the film is an attempt to build a bridge between Western and Amazonian storytelling. **Embrace of the Serpent** has been the winner of numerous festival prizes. *Palace Films*



The Ballarat Historical Society presents

The inaugural **NATHAN SPIELVOGEL** ORATION

At the Ballarat Mechanics Institute
Tuesday May 8, 2018 @ 7.30 pm

Professor JANET Mc CALMAN
AC FAHA FASSA
Redmond Barry Distinguished Professor
Centre for Health Equity
Melbourne School of Population & Global Health
University of Melbourne

Research and reflection on the life courses of Tasmanian convicts and World War 1 diggers.

Admission \$5.00



Twilight Talks



20 April 2018 – Dr Ross McMullin

'Never Forget Australia – Transformation at Villers-Bretonneux'

The immense German onslaught in March 1918 caused Britain's gravest crisis of World War One. Australians, rushed to the rescue, influenced the world's destiny more than in any other year. Their stunning counter-attack at Villers-Bretonneux on 25 April 1918 was acclaimed as the war's most brilliant feat. Ross McMullin will tell the stirring story.



27 April 2018 – Dr Glenice Wood Lake

'The Land They Learnt to Love – Ten years in the life of a squatting family in the Port Phillip district, 1839 -1849.'

After the Scotts family arrived at Melbourne in January 1839, they settled at Mt Bonan Yowang (Buninyong) on 16,000 acres ten months later. They survived drought, a severe economic downturn and sheep success and failures to eventually increase their flock to 100,000 by 1869. The family visited Scotland for long holidays but all returned to the country they had learnt to love. Glen's recently published book will be available to purchase.



4 May 2018 – Jenny Debney

'Dr Fanny Reading (1884-1974) Part 2

In her previous talk Jenny shared her research about Zipporah Rubinovitch, who became Dr Fanny Reading, a member of Ballarat's vibrant nineteenth century orthodox Jewish community. In this talk she will tell us about Fanny's achievements as a medical practitioner and activist who founded the Australian Jewish Women's Organisation with international links.



11 May 2018 – Julian Laffey

'Ballarat Memory Atlas – The Future of History'

The internet has spoiled us for ways to record and store information. But what about the stories that don't really fit anywhere? – the service records and photos of your old army buddy – your memories of the dress shop that was down the road from your grandmother's house. Tonight we discuss the ways these informal personal histories can be captured.



18 May 2018 – Dr Anne Doggett

'The History of St Paul's, Bakery Hill'

In 1854, a year famous for the Eureka uprising, the people of Ballarat East were struggling to establish a church of their own. St Paul's, Bakery Hill is still a living part of the Ballarat community, with a story that has much to tell us about the society we live in today. Anne's book will be launched by the Bishop of Ballarat, Garry Weatherill, at this Twilight Talk.



25 May 2018 – Viktor Sheludko

'Of Brick and Bluestone'

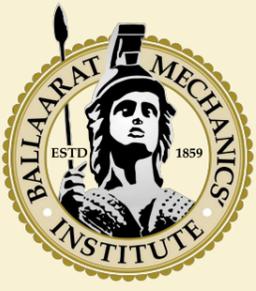
Brim Brim, built in Buninyong 1859 by Mr. Justice John Warrington-Rogers, is one of the early masonry homes in the Ballarat district. Its 159 year existence has included being a family home, private school, a proposed luxury country stay (which failed to get traction), an institutional home and fresh vegetable source, restoration to a family home, a bed and breakfast and a wedding venue. This history, recorded and published in a short publication 'Of Brick and Bluestone' is available in the BMI library. A few copies will be available at the talk.



Talks 1-6 are to be held in the Humffray Room commencing at 5:30 pm

Wine, cheese and nibbles will precede the talks beginning at 5:00 pm

Admission: BMI Members – \$6.00, Non-members – \$10.00



BMI Library



Author of the Month

Rachel Amphlett

Rachel who is originally from the UK, is currently based in Brisbane.

Rachel worked in the UK publishing industry, played lead guitar in rock bands and worked with BBC radio.



Book of the Month

Bella and Chaim: The Story of Beauty and Life – Sara Rena Vidal

This memoir is the story of Vidal's parents, who lay in a small hole in the ground under a wood cutting machine in the backyard workshop of a retired Polish policeman, in a suburb of occupied Warsaw. This is their story.



Recommended Reads

The Gathering Dark

– James Oswald

A truck driver loses control in central Edinburgh, ploughing into a crowded bus stop and spilling his vehicle's toxic load. The consequences are devastating.

This is the 8th book in the Inspector McLean Series.

Hidden Lives – Judith Lennox

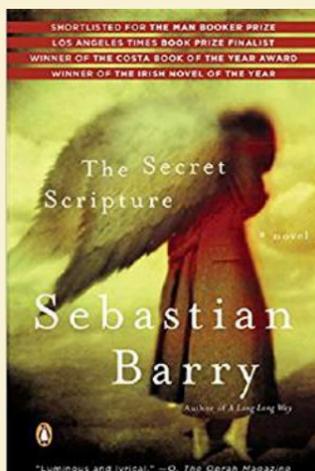
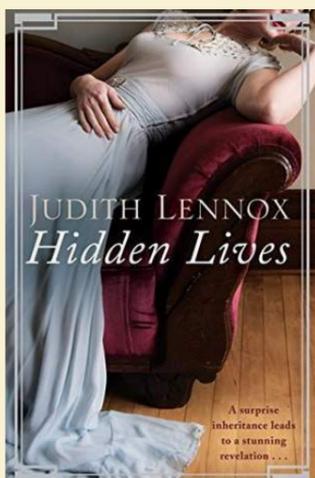
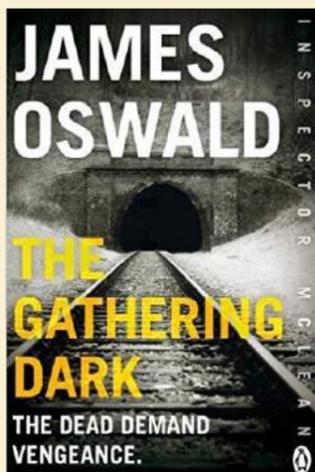
A surprise inheritance reveals the hidden lives of two sisters, torn apart by tragedy. This is an epic tale of secrets, scandal, jealousy & passion spanning the twentieth century.

The Secret Scripture

– Sebastian Barry

Rosanne McNulty is nearing her hundredth birthday in the mental hospital where she was committed as a young woman. Finishing up his case notes before the hospital is closed, psychiatrist Dr Green finds himself intrigued by the story of his elderly patient.

When Dr Green finally uncovers the circumstances of her arrival at the hospital, it leads to a shocking secret.



New Releases

MYSTERY

Thirteen – **Steve Cavanagh**
No Middle Child – **Lee Child**
Need to Know – **Karen Cleveland**
Killed – **Thomas Enger**
Redemption Point – **Candice Fox**
The Voice Inside – **Brian Freeman**
The Dark Angel – **Elly Griffiths**
The Gathering Dark – **James Oswald**
17th Suspect – **James Patterson**

NOVEL

The Secret Scripture – **Sebastian Barry**
Typhoon Fury – **Clive Cussler**
The Pearler's Wife – **Roxane Dhand**
Sign – **Colin Dray**
The Wildflowers – **Harriet Evans**
The Last Train – **Sue Lawrence**
Hidden Lives – **Judith Lennox**
Still Me – **Jo Jo Moyes**
The Cull – **Tony Park**
Happiness for Humans – **P Z Reizin**
Differently Normal – **Tammy Robinson**
On the Blue Train – **Kristen Thornell**
An Unsuitable Match – **Joanna Trollope**
Where You Once Belonged
– **Kent Hartford**

ROMANCE

Fall from Grace – **Danielle Steel**
This Could Change Everything
– **Jill Mansell**

PSYCHOLOGICAL

Lies – **Helen Callaghan**
This is How it Ends – **Eva Dolan**
The Perfect Girlfriend – **Karen Hamilton**
The Confession – **Jo Spain**
The Wife Between Us
– **Greer Hendricks & Sarah Pekkanen**

AUSTRALIAN

The Family Next Door – **Sally Hepworth**
One Kind Man – **Anna Jacobs**
Differently Normal – **Tammy Robinson**
Before I Let You Go – **Kelly Rimmer**
Come Back to Me – **Annie Seaton**
The Secrets at Ocean's Edge'
– **Kali Napier**

The Memories that Make Us

– **Vanessa Carnevale**

SCANDANAVIAN

Killed – **Thomas Enger**

HISTORICAL

The Poppy Girls – **Margaret Dickinson**



Upcoming Events



Her Majesty's Events in Minerva Space

Tuesday 10 April 2018 – 'That's Not a Daffodil' **10:30 am and 1:30 pm**

Grow a flower, make a friend, wake up your world

Her Majesty's Ballarat presents an outstanding new children's theatre show about friendship, music, planting and playfulness.

This funny, playful, child-sized drama for young kids and their families is the story of friendship between a solitary little boy and his elderly Turkish neighbour, who grow a daffodil together.

Inspired by a much-loved picture book by Elizabeth Honey, it's a nimble two-hander performed with captivating music, surprising puppetry and animation. Its themes of growth, transformation, tuning into nature, and caring for other people across age and cultural difference are timely and universal.

Duration: 45 minutes **Suitability:** Ages 3-6 **Tickets:** \$15 / \$50



Tuesday 17 April 2018 – 'A Fine Romance: The Magic of Fred Astaire' **2:00 pm**

This is an all singing, all dancing tribute to the man who went on to become the most famous dancer of all times.

A Fine Romance recreates the legendary dance routines of the era and takes the audience from Fred's humble beginnings on Broadway, all the way to his Hollywood days and on screen romances with his many leading ladies, including Judy Garland, Audrey Hepburn, Rita Hayworth and of course Ginger Rogers.

A Fine Romance is a show with a big heart, capturing the story of a dancing legend and an all-round entertainer who was and still is, adored by millions of fans around the world.

With beautiful costumes, plenty of glitz, extraordinary dancing and of course, the timeless music of Irving Berlin, Cole Porter, the Gershwins, with songs including *The Way You Look Tonight*, *They Can't Take That Away From Me*, *Let's Call the Whole Thing Off*, *Cheek to Cheek*, *Puttin on the Ritz*, *Top Hat*, *That's Entertainment* and more, this show has something for everyone.

Tickets: Adults – \$25, Concession – \$22, Her Majesty's Members – \$20



Word Banquet

Looking for a new participatory experience with other lovers of the words and ideas that move, inspire, and change us?

WORD BANQUET meets each 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm at the BMI from March to November. Gold coin donation!

Read and/or listen to a different form of words each month (yours or someone else's)—themed poetry, prose, plays and so on. Or join moderated conversations on a pre-posted topic. For details / event information visit – and kindly 'like' – Word Banquet's FaceBook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/susiesurteeshost/>

