



# The Ballarat Mechanics' Institute NEWSLETTER

May 2018

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### Social Media Information

The BMI Board has contracted *Wordsworth communicating* to undertake the Institute's newsletter, web site updating and other social media work. We thank David Berry for his work with the recent newsletters. If any BMI member would like to have an item considered for our newsletter, they need to contact Rosemary McInerney at the Library desk at least ten days before the end of the month for the coming edition.

### Twilight Talks

Once again we are receiving enjoyable presentations. Both the recent talks by Dr Ross McMullin and Glenice Wood Lake were very well received. Details about further talks are contained in this Newsletter. We have added a seventh talk to this second series - on 1 June Peter Griffiths is presenting about the Welsh people in Ballarat.

### Basement Application

On 13 March we



applied to the State Government's "Living Heritage Program" for a \$193,000 grant to address ventilation, damp and storage issues with our basement. We see this as the first stage of making the basement usable in a positive way. In the long term we may have a 'showpiece' museum for visitors' tours.

### Heritage Month

We are gearing up for Ballarat's May Heritage Month with our library exhibition on throughout the month 'Motoring through Time.' The main focus will be on

the weekend 26-27 May with the theme of '100 years of Technology and Innovation.' We will be open in the library and a number of events will be on throughout the building (see more on pages 7 & 8). Our Volunteer Coordinator Marilyn Furness is looking for Volunteers to assist during that weekend. Contact Rosemary at the Library desk if you can help.

**Phil Roberts**



## Ballaarat Mechanics' Institute Inc.

117 Sturt Street  
Ballarat 3350  
[www.ballaratmi.org.au](http://www.ballaratmi.org.au)  
[library@ballaratmi.org.au](mailto:library@ballaratmi.org.au)

@ [bmiballarat](https://www.facebook.com/bmiballarat)



## Library Hours

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

## Venue Hire Enquiries

[bookings@ballaratmi.org.au](mailto:bookings@ballaratmi.org.au)  
0419 677 713

# FRIENDS OF MINERVA

Geraldine Roberts

On the morning of Monday 23 April, 25 "Friends" gathered at the Ballarat Art Gallery for a tour of Eugene von Guerard's amazing sketchbooks and landscape paintings. It was especially enjoyable to hear some stories shared by our group re their own experiences at some of the illustrated locations. Our three winners of the Easter raffle were delighted with their prizes. We were able to contribute \$680 to the BMI. Thank you for all your donations and the time and energy given to selling tickets.

Currently we are working to establish a "pop-up" shop by the BMI's front entrance over the Heritage Weekend of 26-27 May. We are focusing on selling vintage clothing but any good

quality designer clothing will be suitable (a good reason to declutter). We are also on the lookout for three or four older style wardrobes – if you spot some phone Helen 0417 233 373, Jane

0438 303 299 or Geraldine 0418 302 999.

Rosemary is happy for clothing to be dropped off at the BMI Library desk.

Our next get together is on Monday 28 May after the heritage

weekend – we will probably all be recovering, but nothing ventured, nothing gained!!

Cheers

Geraldine Roberts  
Convenor

Do you have good quality vintage and recycled clothing and accessories you'd like to donate for our pop-up shop?



**MAX HARRIS**  
PHOTOGRAPHY COLLECTION

## MOTORING THROUGH TIME

**During May**

in the

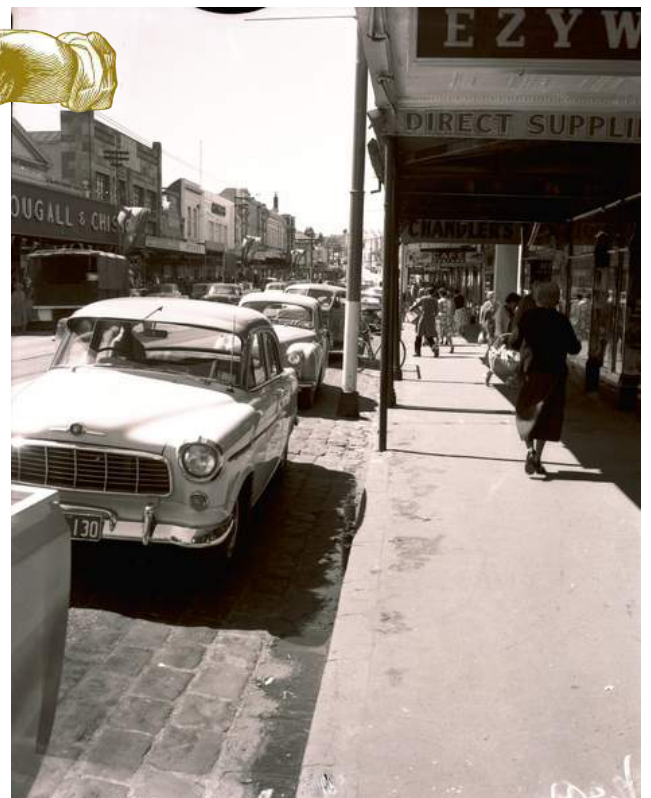
**BMI Library**

enjoy historic photographs of cars from the Max Harris collection

**Saturday 19th May**

**10am to 12 noon**

join car enthusiasts & historians in the library for a chat



## BOOK OF THE MONTH

### **Rather His Own Man**

by Geoffrey Robertson

This is a witty, engrossing memoir, of the long and dedicated legal life of Geoffrey Robertson, who spent a life time defending human rights. This is a beautifully written memoir.

## AUTHOR OF THE MONTH

### **Camilla Lackberg**

Camilla graduated from Gothenburg University of Economics, before moving to Stockholm where she worked for many years as an economist.

A course in creative crime writing became the trigger to a drastic change of career. All of her novels have become best sellers.

## RECOMMENDED READS

### **Bring Me Back**

by B.A. Paris

A young British couple are driving through France on a holiday when they stop for gas. He runs in to pay, she stays in the car. When he returns her car door is open, but she is not inside. No one ever sees her again.

Ten years later he's engaged to be married, until he comes home one night from work and finds an email from his wife or is it someone else ~

### **Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine**

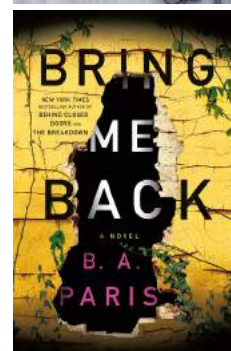
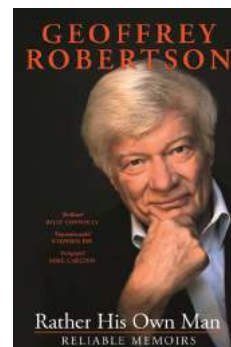
by Gail Honeyman

Eleanor lives a fairly secluded life due to her lack of social graces and crippling self esteem and anxiety issues. She works at a graphic design firm in the finance department and spends the rest of her time at home, usually drinking. Eleanor decides to make some changes in her life. As things change, she is forced to confront the past.

### **The Paris Seamstress**

by Natasha Lester

This Paris Seamstress is set in Paris to New York to Australia. One era is the war years – and the effects on France especially. The other era is one recent and modern. Through the years there is the mystery of family and friendships. It tracks the endeavours of one woman - Estelle and her love of designing dresses and other clothing. When she finds herself in New York her journey begins.



Follow @BMIBallarat on Social Media for Rosemary's Book of the Week and coming releases



## The Nathan Spielvogel Oration 2018

**Professor Janet McCalman**

May 8 at 7.30pm

The Nathan Spielvogel Oration honours the lasting legacy of the Ballarat Historical Society's first President, Nathan Spielvogel and his commitment to the preservation and collection of Ballarat's early history.

The Society is proud to host University of Melbourne lecturer and author Professor Janet McCalman, speaking on the historical findings on the early lives of Tasmanian convicts and men who served in the First AIF, reflecting modern work on the early-life origins of mental illness and criminal offending.

Supper supplied.  
\$5 entry fee (free to members of the Ballarat Historical Society).



## Word Banquet

Wednesday May 9th

7pm in the Hooper Room

Let's talk—it's Word Banquet's first ideas conversation! How has travel changed you? Has it rescued you from too-comfortable thinking and behaviours? If you pore over books and maps before leaving, do you still stay open to the surprise of terrains that for you are unstored, unfabled? Do you recall particular events (pale scalloped ranks of misty Scottish highlands gazed

## STRESS MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

Wednesday 30th May at 6.30 pm  
in the Hooper Room

**Fight stress, build resilience, be happier  
It's not stress that kills us, it is our reaction to it!**

With Bill Zammit

Attendees will learn to:

- Understand the health and longevity benefits of being in a happier frame of mind;
- Recognise their own stream of thoughts;
- Consciously redirect thoughts from the negative to the positive;
- Calm turbulence in their mind;
- Use gratitude to reframe thoughts;
- Recognise suicidal tendencies in friends and colleagues and what to do about it.

**Duration:** 3 Hours

**Cost:** \$85

Book Now

[bill@talentteam.com.au](mailto:bill@talentteam.com.au)

at from a Skye mountaintop; choppy sounds of cars whizzing over cobbled Parisian boulevards; a tender, still-warm almond-and-ricotta pastry from a backstreet pasticceria in Florence), and/or does the whole-body-psyche saturation of immersion stay with you?

Despite the inescapable familiarity of 'ourselves' on these pilgrimages, travel can electrify and enlarge us, restore our enthusiasm and sense of possibility. In other places, with other people, we know ourselves in new ways. As an oyster builds a pearl, travel lays down permanent new layers. It shines light on truths and insights we may have become blind to at home, restores reverence for what's ours and banishes ennui. And afterwards, traveller's treasure — an ever-available inner cargo of experiences in faraway places.

Bring your stories, your impressions, your emotions. How has travel transformed you? Feel free to come up with your own angles. And remember, we'll continue over the road at The Lost Ones Basement Bar after 8.30 if we have more to say!

**PS** Before May, you may want to investigate well-known 20thC travel/adventure writers like Bruce Chatwin, Eric Newby, Dame Freya Stark, Wilfred Thesiger, Getrude Bell, Richard Burton. Or read Alain de Botton's 'The Art of Travel'.

# CURATOR'S CORNER

Amy Tsilemanis

Enjoy 'Motoring through Time' in the library throughout May as part of Ballarat Heritage Month, featuring historic photographs of cars from our collection, with a Saturday session on May 19th in the library 10-12 to chat with car enthusiasts and historians Rex Bridges, Norm Darwin, and Pete Butters.



Also see new images to the collection contributed by member Neil Leckie whose grandfather built this car in Ballarat in 1901.

Over Heritage Weekend, May 26th & 27th, explore our library spaces and enjoy themed displays and activities for a gold coin donation.

We will also have a pop up vintage shop in the front of the BMI where clothes, books, photographic prints and other goodies will be for sale, come check it out! Thanks to all our amazing volunteers for their help.

Thinking about all the different things that have happened in our front shops and spaces over the years, here is a fascinating piece from our archive listing the tenants from 1948.

THE BALLARAT MECHANICS' INSTITUTE  
Dr. to the CITY OF BALLARAT

Municipal Rates for the year ending 30th Sept., 1948 as per rate list attached:-

NO.	TEENANT	PREMISES	AMOUNT
236	B. Virgona, fruiterer	121 Sturt St.	£12 3 8
37	A.F. Douglas, optometrist	119 "	12 15
40	T.R.F. Chapman	Mezzanine floor	4 10 8
42	H.A. Dunn, dancing mistress	1st floor	6 10 4
43	H.B. John Social Club	top floor	5 13 4
44	H.H. Middleton, confectioner	115 Sturt St.	9 18 4
45	C.H. Johansen	113 "	12 15

(sixty-four pounds 6/4)

264-6-4

PASSED FOR PAYMENT  
Chairman  
Date: 22 MAR 1948



Come and check out our new signage and display cases in the Reading Room, helping us share our stories and collection and increasing accessibility for visitors.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Get in touch with Amy at ballaratmi@gmail.com



## BALLARAT FILM SOCIETY

May 10: Loving Vincent

Doors open at 7.00pm with refreshments for a 7.30 start in the Minerva Space

Loving Vincent is an investigation into the mysterious circumstances around the death of Vincent Van Gogh. It is also a unique experiment, being an animated film in the style of the artist himself, with many scenes designed to recall particular paintings.

For Film Society enquiries, phone Sue: 5341 2266

## TWILIGHT TALKS • Series 2

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.



1 June 2018 – Peter Griffiths

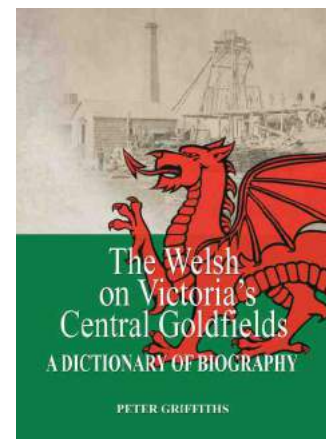
### Welsh Dictionary of Biography

#### New to Series 2

Historian and journalist Peter Griffiths will speak on his new book, *The Welsh on Victoria's Central Goldfields: A Dictionary of Biography*. The book contains more than 600 individual biographies, tied together by the theme of the Welsh, as a minority in the cultural melting pot of the goldfields, ultimately losing the battle to retain their language and culture.



You are invited to arrive at the Humffray Room from 5pm for drinks, cheese and conversation, followed by a 30 to 40 minute talk commencing at 5.30pm.  
\$6 for members and \$10 for non-members



BALLAARAT  
MECHANICS'  
INSTITUTE

# Foundation

The BMI Foundation is a charity registered with the Australian Charities & Not-for-profits Commission.

Gifts of \$2 or more are tax deductible. If you would like to discuss your donation and uses to which it might be put, you are invited to contact one of the listed Trustees via the BMI website.



# POP UP VINTAGE

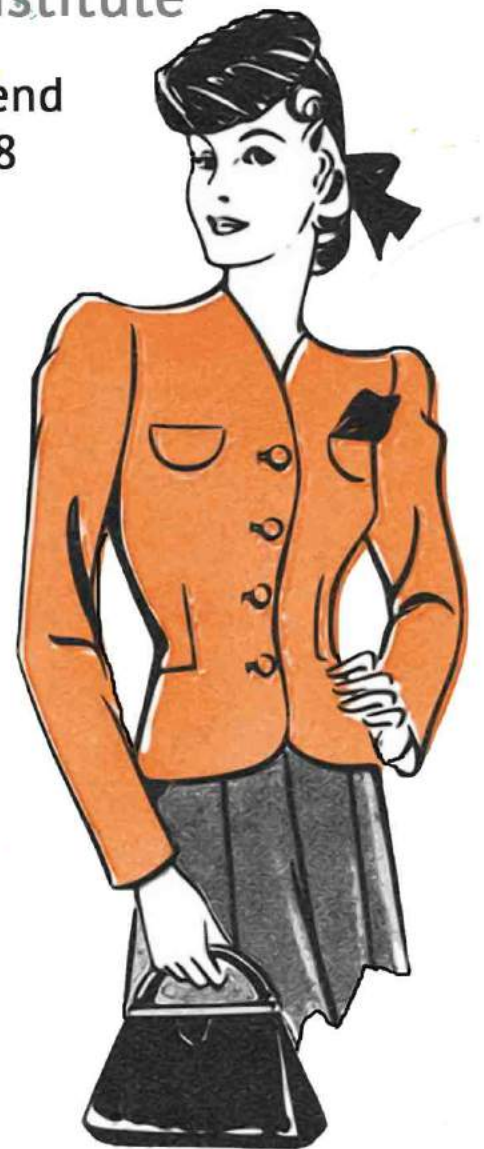
at the  
Ballarat Mechanics' Institute

Ballarat Heritage Weekend  
May 26th & 27th, 2018  
10am to 5pm

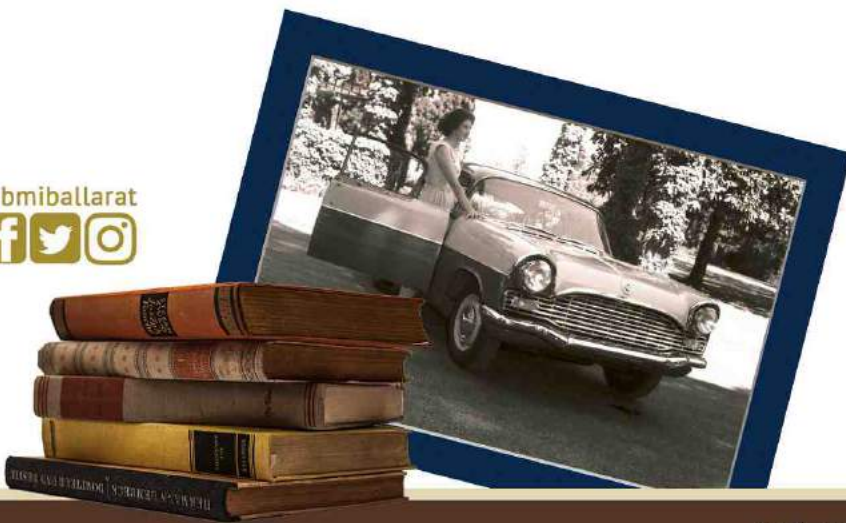
Selling books, prints, photos,  
jewellery, handbags, shoes & much more...

Excellent quality recycled & vintage clothing.

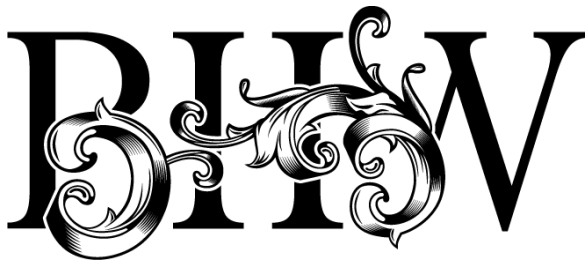
Stunning Max Harris Photos &  
BMI merchandise available for purchase.



@bmiballarat



117 - 119 Sturt Street, Ballarat, Vic 3350  
P: (03) 5331 3042 [www.ballaratmi.org.au](http://www.ballaratmi.org.au) @bmiballarat



# Ballarat Heritage Weekend

## 26 - 27 May, 2018

These events will be held in the lovely heritage spaces at the BMI throughout Ballarat Heritage Weekend

### 100 YEARS OF MUSIC

Over two nights, one song from every year since 1918 will be played live by local performers. Witness the evolution of instruments, music styles, amplification and trends in live music over the past century, from the ragtime sounds of the 1920s, to rock'n'roll, disco, pop, grunge and more. With a fully-stocked bar and plenty of room for dancing, this is an event not to be missed.

**Where:** Ballarat Mechanics' Institute

**When:** 7pm Friday, 7pm Saturday

**Doors and Bar open from 6pm**

**Cost:** Free

**Registrations:** [heritageweekend.com.au](http://heritageweekend.com.au)



### REMEMBERING BTV6

Did you know Ballarat had its own TV Station during the 60s, 70s and 80s? Join us as we bring back the glory days of BTV6, with panel discussions, variety shows and plenty of laughs.

**Where:** Ballarat Mechanics' Institute

**When:** 10am to 5pm daily

**Cost:** Free



### DAVID HUNT

#### -The History of Australian Innovation

David Hunt tells stories from Australia's past that are still relevant today, exploring the factors that have made Australians so successful on the world stage.

He's a TEDx speaker and best-selling, award-winning author of *Girt: The Unauthorised History of Australia* and the sequel, *True Girt*. David also wrote and co-presented the ABC Radio Australian history podcast, *Rum, Rebels and Ratbags*, which was one of Rolling Stone's four hottest podcasts of 2016.

**Where:** Ballarat Mechanics' Institute

**When:** 10am, Saturday and Sunday

**Cost:** Free



### NEW TECHNOLOGIES IN HERITAGE INTERPRETATION

Join David Hunt, Sue Hodges and George Fong as they discuss new technology and methods being used in discovering more about our past.

**Where:** Ballarat Mechanics' Institute

**When:** 12pm, Saturday and Sunday

**Cost:** Free

### THE LONGEST HISTORY LECTURE EVER

Join local historian Neil Huybregts as he attempts to break the world record for the longest history lecture. Drop in for five minutes or five hours!

**Where:** Ballarat Mechanics' Institute

**When:** 10am - 4pm, Saturday

**Cost:** Free