

The Media

Again the local media have supported BMI activities. Thank go to Alan Marini at *The Miner*, *The Courier*, and Alan Steinman at *Voice FM*. The BMI has received a great deal of local publicity.

Vale

It is with much sadness that we note the passing of former Board member Roger Burrows in March 2018. Roger was a dedicated Tour Guide and Library Committee member for many years.

Life Membership

In recognition of his dedicated involvement with the BMI, I am delighted to announce that the Board has decided to award Graham Gooding a life membership. Graham has had two terms as BMI President and has made a very strong contribution especially in initiating many upgrades to the BMI building.

Board of Management

I wish to thank all Board members for their interest and expertise. I thank each of them for their diligent work in dealing with many issues and note that our Secretary Ross is a 'tower of strength'. At the June 2018 AGM two Board members are retiring - Professor John McDonald and Andrew Wallace. We thank them for their contributions and interest and wish them all the best in future.

Committee Membership (President Ex-Officio on each committee)

Building

Mike Stephens (Chair), Ross Furness, (Board), Graham Gooding, David Dahlenburg (Venue Manager), Rex Bridges, Graham Gooding, Ken Wright (Community Representatives)

Finance

Grantley Hastings (Chair), David Berry, Ross Furness (Board) Robert Hook, Michael Morrow, Andrew Oliver, Jan Ross, Sue Tuddenham (Community Representatives).

Library

Terry Lloyd (Chair), John McDonald, Andrew Wallace (Board), Rosemary McInerney (Librarian), Amy Tsilemanis (Curator), Marion Blythman, Wilma Bridges, Roger Burrows (Vale), Judy Peters, Danny Stonehouse (Community Representatives)

Marketing

Wendy Graham (Chair), David Berry (Board), David Dahlenburg (Venue Manager), Elizabeth Gilfillan, Geraldine Roberts, Malcolm Roberts, Jane Valpied (Community Representatives).

Staff and Volunteers

Rosemary McInerney has continued to be the front desk 'face' of the BMI and with her cheerful manner greet visitors. She is supported by a wonderful group of happy volunteers who from 2018 have been coordinated by Marilyn Furness. I wish to thank all staff for their dedication - Venue Manager David Dahlenburg, Michael Zala who has assisted him, Bookkeeper Sue Tuddenham, contact cleaner Lyle McInerney and Library assistant David Richardson. Life members Rex & Wilma Bridges and Frank Hurley continue to assist the BMI in many ways. In retiring from the position of President, I would like to thank, most warmly, the members of the Board, the staff members, the volunteers and any others who have assisted us in our endeavours to keep the BMI as a viable organisation and to hold an important place within the community.

Phil Roberts
President
June 2018



Ballarat Mechanics' Institute

2017-18 Annual Report

For the financial year ending 30 April 2018

To be presented for adoption at the 159th
Annual General Meeting
To be held in the
Humffray Room
117-119 Sturt Street, Ballarat
Wednesday 26 June 2018 at 5.00 pm

President: Phil Roberts, OAM

Vice Presidents: Prof Terry Lloyd, Mike Stephens

Secretary: Ross Furness

Treasurer: Grantley Hastings

Other Members of the Board of Management July 2017-June 2018

David Berry, Wendy Graham, Prof John McDonald, Andrew Miller,
Andrew Wallace

Executive Manager: Tony Godfrey

Patron: Dr Frank Hurley, OAM

Auditors: Prowse, Perrin & Twomey

President's Report

In my second year of my second term as President our focus was to continue to make the Institute an important cultural institution for the people of Ballarat and District. This report will outline highlights and achievements during 2017-18.

Many people are continuing to be involved in supporting our Institute and many Ballarat community members use the BMI. Financially we have had another sound year with increased costs balanced by increased income. Our membership has remained fairly static. We have 24 new members but others have left – the May 2018 figure was 610 (480 financial, 130 to pay).

Highlights

1. The main highlight in the 2017-2018 year was the appointment of an Executive Manager Tony Godfrey for a three-year term. Before his appointment there was considerable planning concerning the details of the role and obtaining finances to support the position. Through a detailed submission to the City of Ballarat, a grant of \$100,000 for a strategic partnership between the City and the BMI was obtained in early 2018. Portion of this grant money is being used to support the Executive Manager role and the rest of the salary is coming from BMI resources.

Tony has had extensive experience in a number of management roles, especially in the Ballarat region and was an ideal candidate among the 18 applicants for the position. We are confident in the years ahead he will assist the BMI in becoming a sustainable and invigorated institution.

2. A second highlight was the Launching of a BMI Foundation by the Hon Michael Ronaldson in November 2017. The Foundation is a separate body to the BMI and has been founded with the aim of creating a substantial fund that will ensure the longevity of the Institute. At the Launch our patron Dr Frank Hurley supported the address of Michael Ronaldson and pointed to the many advantages of the community investing in the BMI. It is hoped in the future, the Institute will benefit from bequests and that this will ensure we have an effective Foundation. The Trustees for the Foundation are all former BMI Board members - Michael Morrow, Frank Hurley, Graham Gooding, David Haymes and Andrew Oliver. The Treasurer Grantley Hastings and myself as BMI President have attended the meetings of the Foundation and Tony Godfrey is to become its Executive Officer. Donations are tax deductible and in June 2018 there is about \$18,444 in the Fund. In the future a Donors Board for contributions of \$1000 and above is planned.

3. Events in 2017- 2018 – again we have had many BMI events including opening during Ballarat's 'White Night' in February, events during Ballarat's heritage month of May, the many Twilight talks and other events in the Humffray Room or Minerva Space or both areas.

Strategic Planning 2018-2022

The Board has continued to concentrate on its Strategic Planning process and now that we have our Strategic Plan 2017-2020 and an Executive Manager is in place, the Board intends to concentrate on producing a viable Business Plan, ensuring the BMI complies with all requirements of a not-for-profit organisation and working closely with Board members and the Chairs of the Building, Finance, Library and Marketing Committees.

With at least three new Board members in place after the 2018 AGM, the Board intends to review its planning at a half-day workshop in late July 2018 and will develop future goals.

Max Harris Photographic Collection and Amy Tsilemanis

Once again, it should be reiterated that the BMI is indebted to the Haymes Foundation for the loan of the 3,000 strong Max Harris Collection. This wonderful collection of photographs of early Ballarat scenes has been a real asset for the BMI. In addition, the Haymes Foundation has funded the Curator and Federation University doctoral student Amy Tsilemanis who has been seconded to the BMI to work as a Curator for five hours a week in 2018. As well as curatorial work with the BMI Library and the Max Harris collection, Amy has co-ordinated a number of events especially with Federation University and through social media has assisted in bringing a younger cohort of people into the BMI.

Building Improvements

The main item of concern for the Building Committee has been the long-term future of the BMI Basement and due to water damage and the poor air quality the basement has been shut since October 2016. Using the February 2017 Polaris Report concerning basement water issues and the April 2017 Environmental Health Solutions Report about mould and air quality, through Heritage Architect Wendy Jacobs an application was made to the State Governments Heritage Fund for a grant of \$200,000. We are due to find out this July if our application is successful. We see this as Stage One of the Basement works. Stage Two is to involve setting up the basement as a possible tourist venue with displays and useful meeting spaces. The City of Ballarat thought Mayor Cr Samantha McIntosh has shown great interest in Ballarat's underground area and recent discussions between the BMI and the City have been conducted.

Website & Newsletter

During the second half of 2017 Board member David Berry produced our Newsletter and we thank David for this task. For 2018 we have contracted Wordsworth Communications principals Adel Urie and Barb Shriver to undertake the production of our monthly Newsletter and all our website postings and we are pleased with the results.

Twilight Talks

We have changed from the 2017 three series of eight weeks in autumn, winter and spring to a set of four series over six weeks each in 2018 as this enables us to miss the school holiday time. Once again we are very pleased with the high standard of the talks and the strong attendances. I have continued to coordinate the many volunteers who assist us and Dr Joan Hunt has coordinated the speakers. Joan & Gary Hunt, Marilyn & Ross Furness and Geraldine Roberts and myself have undertaken the catering for the Talks and Board members have assisted as 'greeters'. Also David Berry, David Dahlenburg, Graham Gooding and Neil Leckie have assisted with the technical setup. Overall the talks have been most successful throughout the year.

Friends of Minerva

The Friends under Geraldine Roberts as Convener have continued to meet at the BMI on the fourth Monday of the month for a social morning tea and to plan fundraising activities. The Christmas and Easter Raffles were very successful and recently a Vintage Pop-Up Shop has been established in the BMI's front shop. Over the Heritage Weekend over \$1000 was raised from the many generous donations of vintage clothing. It is planned to keep the shop open on Fridays from 10am to 4pm and Saturdays from 10am to 2pm – all contributions go back to BMI funds.