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JOIN THE EASTER EGG HUNT

Follow the Easter Bunnies to find at least SIX eggs. Send us a message by:

Email: BMI@invictoria.com.au

or drop in to the Lending Library and tell us what number eggs you found and what colour they are.

FOR $5 OFF
Max Harris Photography Collection DVD (usually $25) with slideshows of hundreds of images.

Ends Monday, 22 April 2019

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

Venue Hire Enquiries
venue@ballaratmi.org.au
0419 677 713
Welcome to the latest edition of our ever-evolving BMI newsletter. There is definitely plenty going on at the moment, and this newsletter provides a great connection to current BMI activity.

Every now and then a visitor or venue hirer asks me to explain what it is that the BMI is on about. To make sense of that question I have gone back to our Vision, Mission and Values, as clearly laid out in our governance documentation.

Our Vision
The activities of the Ballarat Mechanics’ Institute will reflect a sense of its history while evolving over time to achieve the original objectives in contemporary ways.

Our Mission
The Institute will responsibly maintain its heritage buildings and collection of print and photographic materials. It will develop and use its facilities and resources, in consultation and concert with other organisations, to enhance the cultural, intellectual, social, economic and recreational life of its members and the community.

Our Values
Within our membership and in our dealing externally we value; respect, integrity, commitment, accountability, transparency and continuous improvement.

There is much to note and acknowledge from these statements, and of course the greatest challenge is to move from seeing them as statements on a piece of paper, to how they are represented and lived in our work, volunteering and business operations. I also look to test myself and my work against the above values and encourage us all to consider them as we connect with each other and our broader community through the BMI.

Board - 2019 Operational Plan
Considering the above, it is important for the Board and myself to hold ourselves accountable against agreed priorities and actions. At the February meeting, the Board considered, amended and ultimately ratified the 2019 Operational Plan.

This plan details and prioritises key actions into 3 blocks of 3-month periods, to take us to the end of 2019.

The key priorities for this first block of 3 months (March - May) include:

- Commence implementation of an overarching Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) system to attend to our safety commitment for visitors, members, volunteers and staff.
- Develop support for volunteers around use of the venue - hospitality, bar and various event requirements.
- Review our Venue Hire documentation, and the end to end system of booking enquiry through to invoicing and payment.
- Lodge Grant application - 4th round of State Government Living Heritage funding - in relation to rectification and safety works in the BMI basement and vaults.
- Forward planning re use of space priorities - member and volunteer facilities, employee work areas, storage and display.

Clearly there will be more information to
share as these and other projects unfold, but as always, I am keen to hear any feedback from members about key operational priorities.

Member Survey
As part of the communication and feedback process we will undertake a member-based survey. This survey will be undertaken both electronically and in paper form, and will be seeking feedback about current participation levels, suggestions for further BMI member services, member communication, web site and volunteering.
I hope to have this organised by the end of April, and further communication will follow.

Special Events
Friday April 26 & Saturday April 27
I know further detail is provided elsewhere in this newsletter, so I will not duplicate it here, however I do want to really encourage your consideration and hopefully participation in the various events that weekend.
There will be much to get involved with, and certainly a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the significant work that has been undertaken by some impressive BMI people.

Social Media & Newsletter
I am regularly reminded of the many great people and BMI supporters who contribute in different ways to our work. In that context I do want to acknowledge and thank WordsWorth communicating. Over the last 12 months or so Adel Urie (WordsWorth communicating) has guided, facilitated, challenged and supported us in the development of our electronic and web site communication, social media, and monthly newsletters.
Adel and Barb will now be stepping back from this work in the coming month and on behalf of the BMI I do want to sincerely thank them.
Finally,……There is always someone worse off……
I recently met with Sue Westwood from the Melbourne Athenaeum (Melbourne’s fantastic Mechanics’ Institute). Sue is the Business Manager at the Athenaeum, and she was saying that in the process of recently investigating some water damage, the library ceiling collapsed, damaging books, some fittings, and unfortunately injuring a library visitor. Consequently, the library was closed for a couple of months to sort out insurance and repairs. Who knows what the day will bring!

Ballarat Chess Club
Thursday 6.30 pm
Ballarat Mechanics’ Institute
HOOPER ROOM
Tournament games begin 7:30 pm
Everybody Welcome!

Patric Cook, Club President
T: 0499 255 240   E: president@ballaratchess.com

The BMI Foundation is a charity registered with the Australian Charities & Not-for-profits Commission.
Gifts of $2 or more are tax deductible.
Well, oh my lordy, has March just been busy! We have had so much happen and things move so fast!

March 8th, 9th, and 10th was so busy I could almost sleep standing up.

Friday we had the Ballarat and Grampians Community Legal Service come into the Minerva and hold a training session on LGBTQ+ family violence, this was followed by a short play performed on the stage. I was honoured to volunteer my time and expertise to assist this group and I am fortunate to have learnt a few things while doing this!

On the Saturday we had the Ballarat Revival Fellowship and people from their head office in Adelaide travel down to produce a family stage show called Don’t Knock Noah. This was a very large operation with heaps of people involved. That night, in the Humffray Room we had a 50th Birthday as well, so crowd control was a little chaotic. Thank you to all parties for their cooperation to make sure the night went as smooth as possible. On Sunday the Ballarat Revival Fellowship continued to use the Minerva Space to have a church service and bump-out.

During March we had a number of visits from different stakeholder groups to inspect our spaces and talk about usage. One of these was a visit from the South Street volunteers on March 19th. We hosted a building tour and afternoon tea to show off our facilities. Thank you to Marilyn who coordinated all this.

On March 29th we held our large Motor City Sounds event. We had over 230 attendees! It was such an amazing night with awesome music. There was positive feedback from everyone involved, including the band who can not wait to return! So watch this space for future gigs with Motor City Sounds! I would really like to thank all those who assisted in ensuring this went off without a hitch, including Ross, our amazing bar manager, Marilyn, who made sure we had volunteers galore, Chris and Jamie, our hired help (Sound Tech and Security respectively) and also to the band for just being great and cooperative while we figured out what to do for the first time.

After a massive event on the Friday we had another event in the Humffray Room on the Saturday night. Small Space Music presented Jazz in the Humffray. Those who attended told me that the music was beautiful. This will be returning later this year, and I have been told that it will be unmissable!

Coming up in April we have the Ballarat Scottish Dance (6th April), Ballarat Film Society presenting “Mary Shelley” (11th April), Ballarat Rockers Dance (20th April), and Twilight talks starting back up again on April 26th with our first one in the Minerva with Amy Tsilemanis and Max Harris! We also have a few private events including an engagement party and a wedding! All the while hosting our regular booking from training providers, Chess Club, Kadampa Meditation, and Sing Australia.

Again, if you think The BMI would be a great place to host your event, come and have a chat today! Or contact me on the below details.

Sam McColl
venue@ballaratmi.org.au

Learn about the BMI Venue Spaces and our competitive hire fees on the BMI website.
When I started my volunteer role with the Ballarat Mechanics Institute, I also started to spend a lot more time in the spaces that make up this truly amazing place. 

Sometimes I just hang out in the entrance/foyer area and chat with passersby. Often they are visitors to Ballarat who want to take a look inside, but are not sure if it is OK to wander in. So naturally I invite them to walk on in and enjoy what our historical gem offers.

I have visited more museums than I can recall and the one thing the standout successful museums have in common, is the warm greeting upon arrival. The Old Treasury Building in Melbourne is an excellent example.

Here is a testimonial from Richard Keller, a Visitor Service Volunteer:

“Since retirement I have taken on several volunteering roles as a guide and usher as well as a Visitor Service Volunteer. I particularly enjoy chatting with visitors at the museum, explaining what there is to see, and engage with. People sometimes ask how long it takes to see round the museum (often because they are on a coach tour and have a tight schedule). A difficult question to answer! On Tuesdays, I normally work with a buddy who does the volunteer rota as well as dealing with enquiries on the telephone. Hopefully I can take some of the burden off her by selling items from the shop. One of the best aspects is when a happy visitor leaves saying how much they have enjoyed their visit and that they hope to be back. We had several of these this morning!”

Can we have a team of Welcoming/Greeting volunteers at the BMI?
Yes we can!!!
And yes.... you can put your hand up to support your BMI.

Training is provided.

For interest in the volunteer role of Visitor Service Volunteer (or any of the areas listed below) contact me on the details shown below.

March volunteering
Fantastic effort volunteers for:
- Community Day and Heritage Book Sale
- Bar Operations March 2, 9, 30...... and especially the Motor City Sounds event on the 29th
- Twilight Talks catering
- Tour and morning tea
- Vintage Clothing Shop
- Library
- Archives
- Heritage Books
- Board and Committee work

Marilyn Furness
Volunteer Coordinator | volunteers@ballaratmi.org.au | 0403901053
### The BMI Twilight Talks

#### Series 2: 2019

**26th April – Amy Tsilemanis**

**Curator of the Max Harris collection for the past three years.**

In the Minerva Space
Hear about curatorial work and projects at the BMI over the last three years, and help us launch another 1000+ images from the Max Haris Photography Collection being available online at Victorian Collections.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>3 May</td>
<td>Maria Sozanski</td>
<td>Justice of Peace work</td>
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<td>10 May</td>
<td>Lorraine Harvey</td>
<td>Colonial Photographs of Ballarat</td>
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<td>17 May</td>
<td>Barbara Hughes</td>
<td>The Exile &amp; The Orphan</td>
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<td>24 May</td>
<td>Michael Tubb</td>
<td>Glamour on the Queen Mary in the 1950s</td>
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<td>31 May</td>
<td>Anne Rowland</td>
<td>Female Donors to the Art Gallery</td>
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<td>7 June</td>
<td>Alison Steel</td>
<td>Maude Glover Fleay’s Legacy</td>
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<td>14 June</td>
<td>Peter Freund</td>
<td>The Curries of Ercildoune</td>
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More detail about coming talks will be published on the BMI website. Watch for alerts on the BMI Facebook page, and other social media.

Talks are 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.

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Follow @BMIBallarat on Social Media for all our latest news, coming events, and Rosemary’s Book of the Week.
BALLARAT FILM SOCIETY

April 11
Mary Shelley

British Historical Biopic

UK/Luxembourg/USA, 2017, 120 min.
Directed by Haifaa Al-Mansour.

How did a 19 year-old girl come to write a classic of horror fiction, and adapt classical myths of the over-reaching hero to create the trope of the mad scientist? The daughter of radical intellectuals, Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley had carried four babies, and lost three of them, since eloping at 16 with the poet Percy Bysshe Shelley. The novel Frankenstein, unlike many horror film adaptations, asks what it means to be responsible for creating life, and what it means to be human.

Transmission Films.

Minerva Space

Doors open at 7.00pm with refreshments for a 7.30 start.

For film enquiries, phone Sue: 5341 2266

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Are you on the BMI Newsletter email list?

Don't miss an edition, subscribe now

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Kadampa Meditation

Ballarat Drop-In Meditation

Tuesdays: 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Buddhist teacher: Christielli Portela

Humffray Room

In each class a different aspect of meditation and Buddhism is explained. The classes are self-contained so you can drop in any week. There is no need to book or bring anything. Classes begin with a simple guided breathing meditation followed by a teaching and a second guided meditation based on the topic. There is also an opportunity for discussion, followed by refreshments. Class fee $15.

No meditation experience is necessary, the classes are suitable for beginners and experienced meditators, and everyone is welcome.

If you have any enquiries please email: info@kadampa.org.au
AUTHOR OF THE MONTH

Donna Leon

Donna has lived in Venice for over 25 years. She has worked as a lecturer in English Literature for the University of Maryland in Europe, then as a professor from 1981-1999 at the American Military base of Vicenza and now as a writer. Her crime novels are situated in or near Venice.

BOOK OF THE MONTH

The Hollow Bones by Leah Kaminsky

Berlin, 1938. The eve of war. Ernst Schafer, a young ambitious zoologist, keen hunter and devoted husband of the beautiful Herta, has come to the attention of Heinrich Himmler, who invites him to lead a group of SS scientists to the frozen mountains of Tibet. Their secret mission: to search for the origins of the Aryan race.
Using material discovered in field diaries, letter, films, photographs and secret documents, the novel tells the story behind Schafer through the eyes of his ill-fated lover, Herta.

RECOMMENDED READS

The Lost Girls of Paris by Pam Jenoff

This is a historical fiction novel about woman working with the SOE as spies during the World War 11. The setting takes place in France and is inspired by true events. These are girls who are recruited and trained. Grace has lost her husband during the war, where she finds a suitcase that was abandoned, hidden beneath a bench. Grace finds photographs inside.

Dead Memories by Angela Marsons

On the fourth floor of Chaucer House, two teenagers are found chained to a radiator. The boy is dead but the girl is alive. For Detective Kim Stone every detail of the scene mirrors her own terrifying experience with her brother Mickey, when they lived in the same tower block thirty years ago.
When the bodies of a middle-aged couple are discovered in a burnt-out car, Kim can’t ignore the chilling similarity to the deaths of Erica and Keith - the only loving parents Kim had ever known.
Faced with a killer who is recreating traumatic events from her past, Kim must face the brutal truth that someone wants to hurt her in the worst way possible.

Stone Country by Nicole Alexander

South Australia 1919. Ross Grant has always felt like the black sheep of his wealthy Scottish family. An explorer at heart, he dreams of life on Waybell, their remote cattle station in Australia’s last remaining wilderness, the Northern Territory. Then his brother Alastair is branded a deserter after going missing during the Great War. To help restore the Grants’ damaged reputation, Ross is coerced into marrying Darcey Thomas, a woman he has never met.
# NEW RELEASES FOR APRIL

## MYSTERY
- The Scent of Death
- To Kill the Truth
- Her Last Word
- On The Marshes
- Never Tell
- Close to Home
- Life Ruins
- The Secretary
- Secrets Never Die
- Unto Us A Son is Given
- Dead Memories
- The Department of Sensitive Crimes
- Where the Crawdads Sing
- 18th Abduction
- The Chef
- Where She Lies

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<td>Simon Beckett</td>
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<td>Sam Bourne</td>
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<td>Mary Burton</td>
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<td>Carol Donaldson</td>
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<td>Lisa Gardner</td>
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<td>Cara Hunter</td>
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<td>Danuta Kot</td>
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<td>Renee Knight</td>
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<td>Melinda Leigh</td>
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<td>Donna Leon</td>
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<td>Angela Marsons</td>
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<td>Alexander McCall Smith</td>
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<td>Delia Owens</td>
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<td>James Patterson</td>
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<td>James Patterson</td>
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<td>Michael Scanlon</td>
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## NOVEL
- Small Blessings
- Nature of the Lion
- The Room on Rue Amelie
- Swallowtail Summer
- The Huntress
- The Runaway Daughter
- The Things We Cannot Say
- Bonnie and Stan

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<tr>
<td>Emily Brewin</td>
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<td>T.M. Clark</td>
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<td>Kristin Harmel</td>
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<td>Erica James</td>
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<td>Kate Quinn</td>
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<td>Joanna Rees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kelly Rimmer</td>
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<td>Anna Stuart</td>
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## AUSTRALIAN
- Stone Country
- The Rip
- The Chocolate Maker’s Wife
- Hunter
- The Woman from Saint Germain
- Home Fires

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<td>Nicole Alexander</td>
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<td>Mark Brandi</td>
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<td>Karen Brooks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jack Heath</td>
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<tr>
<td>J.R. Lonie</td>
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<td>Fiona Lowe</td>
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## ROMANCE
- Silent Night

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<th>Author</th>
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<tr>
<td>Danielle Steel</td>
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## HISTORICAL
- The Lost Girls of Paris

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<th>Author</th>
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<tr>
<td>Pam Jenoff</td>
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## LITERATURE
- Islands
- The Hollow Bones

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<th>Author</th>
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<tr>
<td>Peggy Frew</td>
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<td>Leah Kaminsky</td>
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## SCANDANAVIAN
- The Ice Swimmer
- After She’s Gone

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<tr>
<td>Kell Ola Dahl</td>
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<td>Camilla Grebe</td>
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## PSYCHOLOGICAL
- Keep You Safe
- If I Die Before I Wake
- The Orchid Girls

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<tr>
<th>Author</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rona Halsall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emily Koch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lesley Sanderson</td>
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## NON FICTION
- Thirty Thousand Bottles of Wine
- And a Pig Called Helga
- The Last Sanctuary in Aleppo
- The Hunt for the MH 370

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<th>Author</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tom Alexander</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alaa Aljaleel</td>
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<tr>
<td>with Diana Darke</td>
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<td>Ean Higgins</td>
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Curator's Corner - with Amy Tsilemanis

It's another busy time here, with many interesting visitors (see Ailsa's piece on some lovely UK theatre academics who were in on a research trip) and including preparations for our Talking Shop closing celebrations.

2019 marks 160 years since the BMI was founded and first established as a small library in the Ballarat East Fire Station before the existing Sturt St building being erected in 1860. So look out for cake, history, and dreaming for the future, kicking off with these April events and continuing throughout the year and into 2020.

Look out for the detailed April program shortly but get a taste here and pop these dates in the diary:

**Friday April 26th**
**Twilight Talk with Amy Tsilemanis and guests**
5-7pm in the Minerva Space
$10 non members
$6 members

Featuring special live performance and viewing of Talking Shop exhibition. Hear about curatorial work and projects at the BMI over the last three years, and help us launch another 1000+ images from the Max Harris Photography Collection being available online at Victorian Collections. Also a chance to honour supporters including the Haymes Family and grants from City Of Ballarat and DELWP Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, and look to the future.

**Saturday April 27th**
**Final day of Talking Shop exhibition**
10am-4pm in the library spaces
Gold coin donation
• Special items on display from collector John Kerr
• Displaying creative work of artist in residence Pauline O'Shanessy Dowling (POD) and community contributions

**POD and curator talk at 11am**
• Displaying work by Margie Balazic in collaboration with Dana St Primary School (and with kind support from the Ballarat Tech School). Artist and researcher Margie Balazic has been working with the Grade 5/6 class to produce a mini shop of Klines Bakery circa 1901, lots of fun!

**Margie and students talk at 1.30pm**
• Roving performance and activities with Marg Dobson as Minerva!

The Talking Shop exhibition has also partnered with the City of Ballarat's current planning consultation around Bridge Mall and Bakery Hill with a shop people can visit at 16 Bridge Mall to provide feedback.


Whilst there you can view many great images from the BMI photo collection as well as a window installation POD and I have created to link in with the Talking Shop exhibition explorations.
As we have been busily cataloguing photographs from the collection we noticed these fascinating ones of Civic Hall being constructed in the 1960s.

Did you know the Civic Hall site was formerly Market Square?


Remember all images are available for sale as prints and you can purchase unique BMI wrapping paper (featured in the window installation) in the library.

See you soon!

June 7th at 7.30pm
with
Luke Howard solo piano & Eugene Ball-Louis Armstrong Project
Meet the Board - Paula Nicholson

A recent inductee to the Zonta Club’s Honour Roll of Ballarat’s Great Women, Paula is well known and respected in Ballarat - and beyond - for her generosity of time, philanthropy, deep-seated community values, and her ability to engage with all people - very often uniting them in a worthwhile cause.

We are very grateful to have Paula as a BMI Board Member.

Paula has always had a keen interest in all things community. She has been involved in the Not-for-Profit sector in Ballarat as a Board, committee, working party member and volunteer for many years, including The Fiona Elsey Cancer Research Institute, The Ballarat Arts Foundation, Sovereign Hill and Her Majesty’s Theatre Fundraising Committee.

Paula has lived in Ballarat with her husband and family for over 20 years, having initially attended Ballarat College for Year 11 and 12 in the 1980s after growing up in Nhill, a small country town in the Wimmera.

Post secondary education, she completed a Science Degree at Melbourne University, majoring in Psychology. Her career then took her into business analysis, customer service and management along with roles in human resources mostly in Melbourne, until she and her husband returned to Ballarat to purchase the family building business in the mid 1990s.

Through voluntary community based activity, she gained extensive experience in fundraising and event management. She enjoys using her skills to bring people together in community engagement utilising the wonderful resources that exist in Ballarat, including the built environment, the long standing community spirit, and resourcefulness that identify Ballarat as having huge potential as a desireable place to live and work in the future.

Paula believes her membership of the BMI Board allows her to assist in the facilitation of the maximum usage of this iconic facility in the CBD, inspiring collaboration with organisations concentrating on education, research, heritage, information dissemination and community building.

Stories from the Choir

Saturday 6 April, 7pm
Humffray Room

Choral Edge is bringing award-nominated Stories from the Choir (Melbourne Fringe Festival, 2018) to Ballarat.

Join us for stories of climbing mountains, drinking Midori, finding friends and falling in love – all set to a live soundtrack enacted by Melbourne’s finest choral singers.

BOOK NOW
Looking for a laugh? The Melbourne International Comedy Festival Roadshow is coming to town. Forget I-Spy, spotto and stale servo snacks, this road trip is jam-packed with a crew of fantastically funny comedians, specially selected to bring the fun of the Festival to towns and cities nationwide. With a line-up of artists sure to tickle anyone’s funny bone, the Roadshow has something for everyone. Grab a mate, grab a date... grab a ticket to the Roadshow!

Tickets are also available for purchase at the BMI Library (117 Sturt Street, Ballarat)

Show running time is approximately 2 hrs 15 mins including 20 min interval

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW**

Performances often contain coarse language, sexual references and material that can offend. It is recommended for people aged 15 years or older.

**Ours** is the second major work for the ADC Impact Ensemble after their successful debut production of Transience: a Triple-Bill, and will be taking place in Ballarat on the

**May 4th**

@ the BMI
A BMI EXHIBITION
until
27th April 2019
Mon-Fri 10-4
Sat 9.30-12

The current exhibition at Ballarat Mechanics’ Institute explores historic local shops and businesses through photography, advertising and ephemera.

Enter a world of Peters ice cream cones, milk bars, beautifully illustrated and ingenious advertising, photographs of Ballarat's main streets and well-known shops through the eras, invoices, stories of family businesses and add your own memories of days gone by.

Contemporary Imagery
You will also enjoy contemporary photography selected from The Ballarat Life, a visual love letter to the city on social media.

Artist in Residence
The work of Artist in Residence, Pauline O'Shannessey-Dowling, will also be available to engage with.

Pauline can be found in the Reading Room every Thursday during the exhibition, so do drop in and say hello.

Detailed April program coming soon.
Eminent British theatre historians visit BMI

We were privileged to receive a visit from two of Britain’s most eminent theatre historians during March: Emeritus Professor Jacky Bratton and Emeritus Professor Gilli Bush-Bailey, of University of London’s Royal Holloway and Royal Central Schools’ of Speech and Drama.

This esteemed duo were here to research the visit of Miss Emma Stanley in 1859, and her one woman show ‘The Seven Ages of Woman’, which she toured across the Victorian Goldfields.

These scholars spent time with the Curator, Amy Tsilemanis, and I, considering our collection and enjoying a tour of the building, including our marvellous Minerva Room. Thank you so much to everyone for making them feel welcome. It was a sincere honour to host them. Amy and I also greatly look forward to reading their book chapter on the topic, when it publishes.

By Ailsa Brackley du Bois

Jacky, Ailsa, Amy & Gilli at BMI

Programme and words of the songs of the Seven ages of woman: a new lyric entertainment written expressly for Miss Emma Stanley.

Main Author: Blanchard, E. L. 1820-1889. Published: [London, 185-?]

View the programme for the Egypt Theatre, Piccadilly performances. Includes an Illustrated Times (Sydney) article/review of the Australian tour.

Gilli, Ailsa & Jacky exploring in the Reading Room
‘STARDUST’ AND ‘THE MISSION’

Saturday 25 May 2.00pm and 7.30pm
The Minerva Space

Adult: $35
Concessions: $32
Member: $30
Child: $15

More information and Bookings