



The Ballarat Mechanics' Institute NEWSLETTER

June 2019

From the EXECUTIVE MANAGER'S DESK with Tony Godfrey

One of the challenges of a member based, volunteer supported, not for profit organisation like the BMI is to connect and understand the various demands and expectations. Each stakeholder group - paid staff, members, volunteers, hirers, key partners and the broader community - have a perspective of what is important, and an expectation around how that is best achieved. This is indeed understandable and appropriate. Clearly then communication is critical, and we know that communication is a 2-way process that involves the sharing of ideas and information, and also reflective and respectful listening. The invitation, and challenge, for us all is to use this shared communication to build on the great work over the last 160 years that has enabled the BMI to get to the where we are now. We are all really very fortunate to be part of this continuation of the BMI story.

Forward Planning

In the context of a commitment to continuous improvement, the Board's focus is currently on several key strategic projects, including the best use of library and building space, planning for financial sustainability, and the management and activation of the various BMI collections.

The easy part is to list such matters off in a report like

this, however there are many complex layers and impacts to each of these projects that need to be carefully considered and worked through. This is the important strategic work, and we know that Board Members (as volunteers themselves) devote a significant amount of their time and expertise to the BMI.

Busy at the BMI

At an operational level the 'business' and 'busyness' of the BMI continues. These events have included the Ballarat Heritage Weekend, Melbourne International Comedy Festival Roadshow, Plays, Concerts, Orations, Meetings and the regular monthly bookings. Amongst and around that of course is the operation of the Lending and Heritage Libraries. In recent weeks particularly I have witnessed the conscientious and committed work of Rosemary in the Library, Sam as Venue and Facilities Coordinator, and especially Marilyn, Ross and the key volunteers involved in so much over this month..... Heritage Weekend, Comedy Festival Roadshow!!.

There is indeed much we should be proud of, and I appreciate the hard work of so many staff and volunteers in furthering the interests of the BMI.

Annual General Meeting

This newsletter includes the notice regarding the BMI Annual General Meeting - Wednesday June 26th at 5.00pm. This is a great opportunity to be involved and the participation of all members in this process is certainly encouraged.



Ballaarat Mechanics' Institute Inc.

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Library Hours

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

Venue Hire Enquiries

venue@ballaratmi.org.au
0419 677 713

Annual General Meeting - 2019

The Institute's 2019 AGM will be held in the Humffray Room on Wednesday, 26 June at 5pm.

The guest speaker will be Ms Louise Tegart, Director Art Gallery of Ballarat.

All members of the Institute are invited to attend the AGM.

Elections for the 2019-20 Board will be held and attendees will receive an Annual Report and a Financial Update.

Nomination forms for the Board and office-bearer positions will be available from early June in the BMI Library.

Retiring Directors eligible to stand for a two-year term are:

David Berry, Wendy Graham, Terry Lloyd, Mike Stephens and Phil Roberts.

Directors with one-year remaining are:

Ross Furness, Grantley Hastings, Andrew Miller, Paula Nicholson and Jane Valpied.

Ross Furness
Board Secretary



Volunteering with Marilyn Furness

Thank you to all volunteers who assisted over Heritage Weekend.



AUTHOR OF THE MONTH

Katherine Webb

Katherine was born in 1977 and grew up in rural Hampshire England. She studied history at Durham University and has spent time living in London & Venice and now lives in Berkshire.

Katherine has worked as a waitress, potter, bookbinder, library assistant and former housekeeper at a manor house. She now writes full time.

BOOK OF THE MONTH

The Bones She Buried by Lisa Regan

Arriving with her partner Noah for dinner at his family's countryside home, Josie is devastated to find Noah's mother, Colette, lying lifeless in the back garden, her mouth clogged with soil.

Searching the house for answers, Josie's team don't know what to make of the rosary beads buried in the dirt near the body, or the hidden file labelled Drew Pratt, the small town of Denton's most famous missing person.

RECOMMENDED READS

Women to the Front by Heather Sheard & Ruth Lee

At the outbreak of World War 1, 129 women were registered as medical practitioners in Australia, and many of them were eager to contribute their skills and expertise to the war effort. For the military establishment, however, the notion of women doctors serving on the battlefield was unthinkable. Undaunted, at least twenty-four Australian women doctors ignored official military policy and headed to the front lines. This book explores the stories of the Australian women who served as surgeons, pathologists, anaesthetists and medical officers between 1914 and 1919.

The Strawberry Thief by Joanne Harris

Vianne Rocher has settled down. Lansquenet-sous-Tannes, the place that once rejected her, has finally become her home. With Rosette, her special child, she runs her chocolate shop in the square, talks to her friends on the river, is part of the community. Even Reynaud, the priest, has become a friend. But when old Narcisse, the florist, dies leaving a parcel of land to Rosette and a written confession to Reynaud, the life of the sleepy village is once more thrown into disarray.

Under the Midnight Sky by Anna Romer

When an injured teenager goes missing at a remote bushland campground, local journalist Abby Bardot is determined to expose the area's dark history. The girl bears a striking resemblance to the victims of three brutal murders that occurred twenty years ago and Abby fears the killer is still on the loose.

NEW RELEASES FOR JUNE

MYSTERY

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| The Malta Exchange | Steve Berry |
| Run Away | Harlan Coben |
| The Neighbour | Fiona Cummins |
| The Women in Darkness | Charlie Donlea |
| The Time is Now, | |
| Monica Sparrow | Matt Howard |
| The Guilty Party | Mel McGrath |
| Out of Sight | James Patterson |
| The Bones She Buried | Lisa Regan |
| Neon Prey | John Sandford |

NOVEL

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|------------------------|------------------|
| The Book of Dreams | Nina George |
| The Strawberry Thief | Johanna Harris |
| The Place on Dalhousie | Melina Marchetta |
| One Summer in Paris | Sarah Morgan |
| The Tiger Catcher | Paullina Simons |
| King of Kings | Wilbur Smith |

AUSTRALIAN

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|------------------------|-----------------|
| Fled | Meg Keneally |
| Machines Like Me | Ian McEwan |
| The Land Girls | Victoria Purman |
| Under The Midnight Sky | Anna Romer |

ROMANCE

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| The Gift of Life | Josephine Moon |
|------------------|----------------|

PSYCHOLOGICAL

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| Sleep | C.L. Taylor |
|-------|-------------|

HISTORICAL

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|------------|-------------------|
| Lost Roses | Martha Hall Kelly |
|------------|-------------------|

NON FICTION

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|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Driving Miss Norma | Tim Bauerschmidt & Ramie Liddle |
| The Reading Cure | Laura Freeman |
| See You in the Piazza | Frances Mayes |
| Esther | Jessica North |
| One Hundred Years of Dirt | Rick Morton |
| Women to the Front | Heather Sheard & Ruth Lee |

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



TWILIGHT TALKS Series 2: 2019

7 June – Alison Steel

**ART GALLERY of BALLARAT DONORS:
MAUDE GLOVER FLEAY**



Maude Glover Fleay was a prize-winning local art student who built a successful career depicting botanical and animal subjects. The funds received from her bequest have been used largely to buy works by women artists. Gallery Archivist Alison Steel reviews her life and legacy.

Entry: members \$6, non-members \$10

Talks commence at 5.30pm
Drinks and Nibbles from 5pm

14 June – Peter Freund

**ART GALLERY of BALLARAT DONORS:
THE CURRIES OF ERCILDOUNE**



The 1949 gift by Lady Currie of most of the contents of the historic house Ercildoune, including books and artworks collected by her and her husband's families, is one of the most significant in the Gallery's history. Peter Freund explores this enigmatic couple, their house and their connections across the Western District.

The Series Three Twilight talks are to commence on Friday 9 August 2019

See more on the BMI **WEBSITE** 

**BALLARAT
MECHANICS'
INSTITUTE** *Foundation*

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

