



The Ballarat Mechanics' Institute Newsletter

November, 2020



Welcome to the November newsletter.

It's great news that restrictions are starting to lift—just in time for us all to enjoy the better weather.

As we return to a more normal lifestyle we are hoping to see you all back at the BMI.

We are looking at running some events during December and January so please check our web page where we will keep you updated.

You will see from this newsletter that Twilight Talks are starting up again. Please check

dates and times as there are changes to the traditional scheduling—some can be attended in person (subject to COVID-19 restrictions) and others will be live streamed. The first of this season's talks is this coming Friday the 13th, Hugh Mackay AO. This event will be live streamed.

If you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact us.

Hoping to see you soon.

Colin Jackson
Executive Manager

Updates to BMI events and news are published regularly on the BMI website and on social media.

@bmiballarat



website



Image: by Shannon McCarthy
The Minerva Space pre COVID-19. Local performers, The Winter Berries, playing to a full house. Behind them a multimedia presentation displays the Max Harris collection.

AUTHOR OF THE MONTH

Chris Hammer

Chris has been a journalist for over 25 years. He has been an international correspondent for the Bulletin and a senior political journalist for The Age. He lives in Canberra with his wife and two children.

BOOK OF THE MONTH

A Song for the Dark Times

When his daughter Samantha calls in the dead of night, John Rebus knows it's not good news. Her husband has been missing for two days.

Rebus fears the worst—and knows from his lifetime in the police that his daughter will be the prime suspect. He wasn't the best father—the job always came first—but now his daughter needs him more than ever. But is he going as a father or a detective.

As he leaves at dawn to drive to the windswept coast—and a small town with big secrets—he wonders whether this might be the first time in his life where the truth is the one thing he doesn't want to find.

RECOMMENDED BOOKS

Trust by Chris Hammer

He violated her past and haunts her present.

Now he's threatening their future.

She breathes deeply, trying to quell the rising sense of panic. A detective came to her home, drugged her and kidnapped her. She tries to make sense of it, to imagine alternatives, but only one conclusion is possible; it's her past come to claim her.

Letters from Berlin by Tania Blanchard

As the Allied forces edge closer, the Third Reich tightens its grip on its people. For eighteen-year-old Suzanna Gottmann this means her adopted family including the man she loves, Leo, are at risk.

Desperate to protect her loved ones any way she can, Susie accepts the help of an influential Nazi officer. But it comes at a terrible cost—she must abandon any hope of a future with Leo and enter the frightening world of the Nazi elite.

The Return by Nicholas Sparks

Trevor Benson never intended to move back to New Bern, NC. But when a mortar blast outside the hospital where he worked as an orthopedic surgeon sent him home from Afghanistan with devastating injuries, the dilapidated cabin he inherited from his grandfather seemed as good a place to regroup as any.

Tending to his grandfather's beloved bee hives while gearing up for a second stint in medical school, Trevor isn't prepared to fall in love with a local—and yet, from their very first encounter, his connection with Natalie Masterson can't be ignored. But even as she seems to reciprocate his feelings, she remains frustratingly distant, making Trevor wonder what she's hiding.

NEW RELEASES FOR NOVEMBER

Mystery

House of Lies	D.S. Buttler
The Last Agent	Robert Dugoni
Total Power	Vince Flynn
Troubled Blood	Robert Galbraith
The Postscript Murders	Elly Griffiths
See Her Die	Melinda Leigh
I Follow You	Peter James
The Stolen Sisters	Louise Jensen
A Song For the Dark Times	Ian Rankin
American Blood	Ben Sanders
Confessions on the 7.45	Lisa Unger

Novel

Life Without Flowers	Marci Bolden
The Tuscan Contessa	Dinah Jeffries
The Peppermint Tea Chronicles	Alexander McCall Smith
The Offing	Benjamin Myers
Home Stretch	Graham Norton
Song of the Crocodile	Nardi Simpson
The Return	Nicholas Sparks
The Weekend	Charlotte Wood

Australian

Letters from Berlin	Tania Blanchard
The Girl In The Painting	Tea Cooper
Trust	Chris Hammer
Sisters at War	Lana Kortchik
Honey Bee	Craig Silvey

Scandinavian

Anxious People	Fredrik Backman
The Secret Life of Mr Roos	Hakan Nesser
Gallows Rock	Yrsa Sigurdardottir

Non Fiction

Step By Step	Simon Reeve
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The BMI is now open for borrowing
Monday to Friday 10am – 4pm
Saturday 9.30am – 12 pm

Friday November 13

Hugh Mackay

Hugh Clifford Mackay AO is the founder of the Australian quarterly research series The Mackay Report 1979-2003, which later became The Ipsos Mackay Report. He is a psychologist, social researcher and writer.

His latest book, *The Inner Self* is about the ways we hide from the truth about ourselves and the psychological freedom we enjoy when we finally face that most searching question of all: 'Who am I, really?'

Hugh Mackay explores our 'top 20' hiding places - from addiction to materialism, nostalgia to victimhood. He explains how it is our fear of love's demands that drive us into hiding.

He argues that love is our highest ideal, the richest source of life's meaning and purpose, and the key to our emotional security, personal serenity and confidence.

Yet Mackay exposes the great paradox of human nature, that while love brings out our best, we don't always want our best brought forward.

Powerfully written and drawing on a lifetime of research, *The Inner Self* is a work of extraordinary insight by one of Australia's most respected psychologists.

Mackay is also known as the author of *Why Don't People Listen*, *Re-Inventing Australia*, *What makes People Tick*, *Advance Australia Where* and many other books on social research as well as a dozen novels.



Online only



BOOK NOW

\$5 BMI members

Email events@ballaratmi.org.au for discount code

\$8 Non-members

All prices exclude fees

Friday November 20

Marion Snowden

Another Look Behind the Gates

Come behind the impressive gates of the Ballarat Old Cemetery for some further stories prompted by observations during Marion's regular 'walks with a Westie'.

The headstones can't speak, but the stonemason often leaves enough of a clue for many hours of absorbing searching to complete the tale.

Marion was a very well received previous speaker and she has taught at Sovereign Hill's 19th century school.

Online

Venue audience (max 15)



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Please follow current COVID-19 guidelines as displayed when visiting BMI venues.

Twilight Talks

Friday November 27

Peter Morey

A Potted Postal History of Ballarat and Victoria 1850s - 1950s

A brief Report of some of the earliest General Post Office dramas in Ballarat.

An introduction to the classic Victorian postage stamps and postal items and the huge colourful Revenue Stamps from the period through to Federation in 1901 and on to Ballarat's involvement in the famous 1956 Melbourne Olympics at Lake Wendouree.

Online

Venue audience (max 15)



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Thursday December 3

Peter Hiscock AM

The first 30 years of Sovereign Hill

Sovereign Hill first opened its doors to visitors on November 29th 1970. Peter Hiscock, CEO from 1980 to 2002, was crucially involved in the growth and direction which Ballarat's famed Outdoor Museum took. By 2000 it encompassed three sites and, with its ground-breaking son e lumiere *Blood on the Southern Cross*, was attracting 600,000 visitors per year and was recognised Nationally among its museum piers.

Peter Hiscock's AM was for services to museums, tourism and conservation.

Online

Venue audience (max 15)



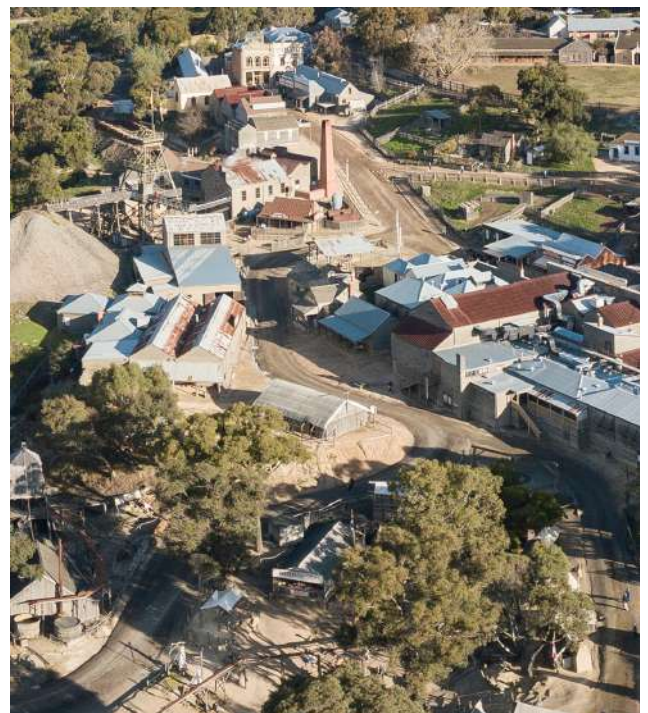
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Twilight Talks Booking Information

All events will be available to view online

Selected events are open for attendance by a limited venue audience

Bookings for online and in-person attendance is essential



BOOK NOW

Twilight Talks

Thursday December 10

Dr Nicola Cousen

Dr James Stewart and the Ballarat Mechanics' Institute

Ballarat's pioneers contributed greatly to the establishment of the city and its institutions. Dr James Stewart was one of these pioneers who significantly advanced the needs of the goldfields community through his medical, civic and philanthropic activities. His name can be found in the history of many of the city's nineteenth century institutions as patron, trustee, committee member and chairman. This talk delves into some of his involvement in Ballarat including the Ballarat Mechanics' Institute where he was a trustee and a supporter of its work throughout his life.

Dr Nicola Cousen is a historian and consultant to the UNESCO Memory of the World program. Her research involves the history of Ballarat and medical care available during the city's first two decades, particularly in relation to the life of Irish doctor and philanthropist, Dr James Stewart.



Online only

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BOOK NOW

Thursday December 17

To be announced

Christmas Speaker

Online

Venue audience (max 15)

\$5 BMI members

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\$8 Non-members

All prices exclude fees



BOOK NOW

We would like to thank all members for their support during this difficult time. Renewing your membership subscription enables us to continue updating the library, buying new books, and assisting members under COVID-19 regulations.

RENEW MEMBERSHIP

or

JOIN ONLINE NOW



The Ballarat Mechanics' Institute acknowledges the support of the Ballarat City Council.

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Library Hours

Visit our website for updates on COVID-19 hours and guidelines

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