

# Newsletter

Ballaarat Mechanics' Institute

April / 2021

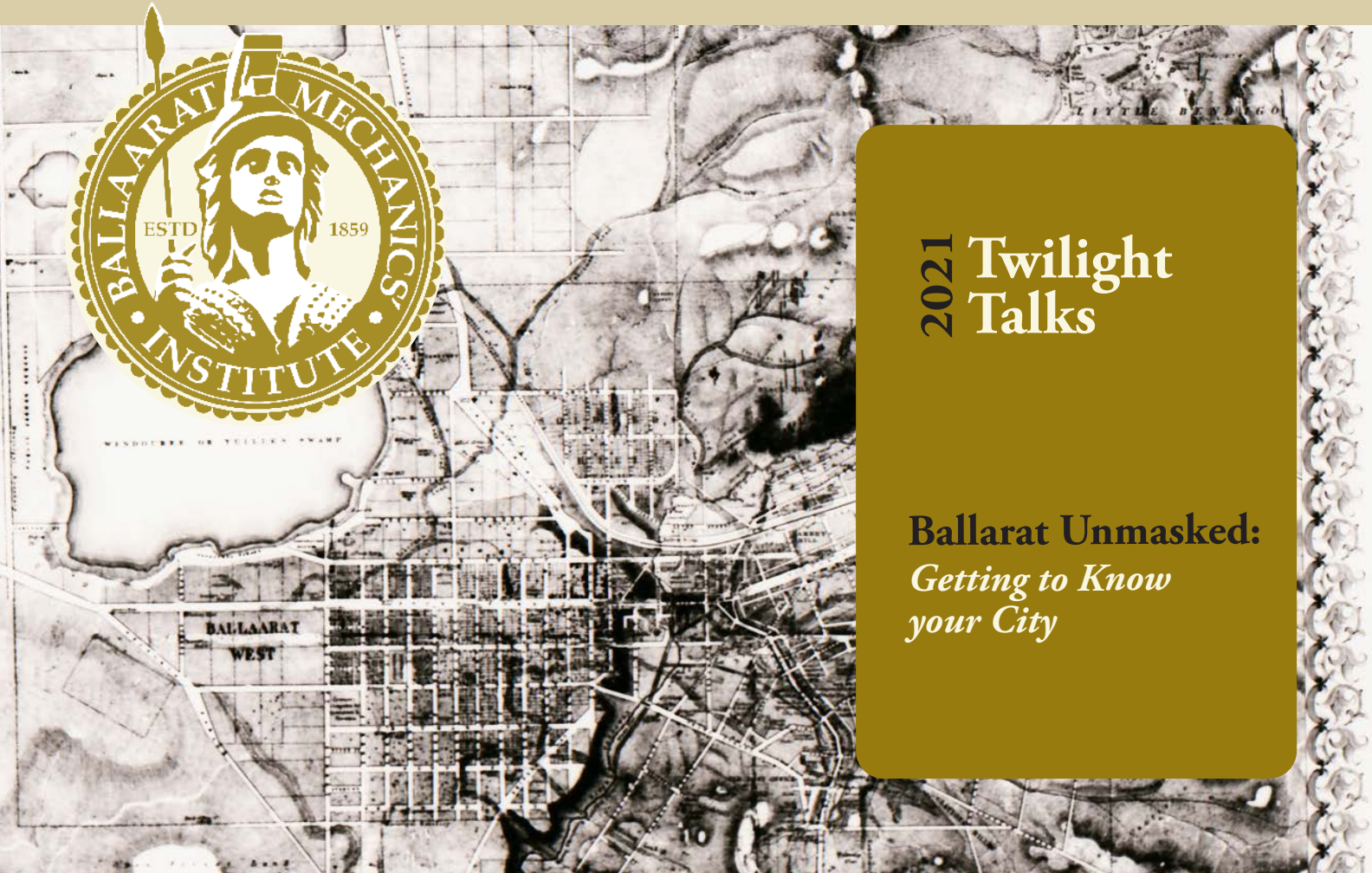


Image: BMI Max Harris Collection

## Dear Members

Members will be pleased to know that the remedial work on the basement has actually started so we are a step closer to being open to members and the public.

The development of the basement is only one of the matters which had been keeping the Board busy. The new series of Talks, under the coverall heading of ***Ballarat Unmasked*** is due to commence on Thursday April 15th and be followed for a further three successive Thursdays. The series, which should be a must attend event for all members, will highlight the city's administrative, cultural, tourism and commercial activities. For more information delve inside the newsletter.

As well as the usual activity in the Minerva Space, the library and the Talks we have hosted busloads of 'out of town' visitors who have been ably guided through the BMI by Phil Roberts and the nearby precinct by Marilyn Furness. Feedback has been very positive. Generally it is reasonable that we are returning to Pre COVID normal.

The Board has been working behind the scenes to review and update the Constitution to ensure its relevance and currency and members will be invited to attend an open session to discuss the new Constitution in the near future.

As always the BMI would not function without our dedicated staff and volunteers and on behalf of the Board, thank you. **Mike Stephens**



# Library news



with Rosemary McInerney

## Author of the Month

### Dervla McTiernan

Dervla was born in County Cork, Ireland to a family of seven. She studied corporate law and practiced as a lawyer for 12 years. Dervla now lives in Perth, where she now works for the Mental Health Commission.



## Book of the Month

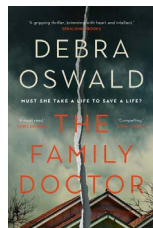
*While Paris Slept* by Ruth Druart

Paris 1944 A young woman's future is torn away in a heartbeat. Hearded on to a train bound for Auschwitz, in an act of desperation she entrusts her most precious possession to a stranger. All she has left now is hope. Santa Cruz 1953 Jean-Luc thought he had left it all behind. The scar on his face a small price to pay for surviving the Nazi occupation. Now he has a new life in California, a family. He never expected the past to come knocking on his door...

## Recommended Reads

*The Family Doctor* by Debra Oswald

Paula is a dedicated suburban GP, who is devastated by the murder of a friend and her children by their estranged husband and father. Stacey and her children had been staying with her after fleeing his control, and Paula is haunted by the thought that she could not protect them when they most needed it.



This is a riveting, provocative novel about women's fury, traumatic grief, new love, and deep friendship.

*From Snow to Ash* by Anthony Sharwood

At the start of the hellish, fiery Australian summer of 2019/20, Walkley Award – winning journalist and suburban dad Anthony Sharwood set off on a journey. Abandoning his post on a busy news website to clear his mind, he solo-tracked the Australian Alps Walking Track, Australia's most gruelling and breathtakingly beautiful mainland hiking trail.

The journey started in a blizzard and ended in a blaze. Along the way, this lifelong lover of the mountains came to realise that nothing would ever be the same...

*A Home Like Ours* by Fiona Lowe

A small town, a cosy community garden, a façade of tolerance and acceptance – but when three women with different loyalties come together, what secrets and lies will be revealed?

## New Releases for March

### Mystery

*Post Mortem*  
*Win*  
*Box 88*  
*Infinite*  
*Silent Voices*  
*Be Mine Forever*  
*The Whole Truth*  
*Drown Her Sorrows*  
*Transient Desires*  
*Cry for Mercy*  
*The Jigsaw Man*  
*The Russian*  
*21st Birthday*

Gary Bell  
Harlan Coben  
Charles Cumming  
Brian Freeman  
Patricia Gibney  
D.K. Hood  
Cara Hunter  
Melinda Leigh  
Donna Leon  
Karen Long  
Nadine Matheson  
James Patterson  
James Patterson

### Novels

*Brass Ring*  
*While Paris Slept*  
*The Fine Art of*  
*Invisible Detection*  
*Away with the Penguins*  
*The Italian Girls*  
*The Rose Code*  
*Shuggie Bain*

Diane Chamberlain  
Ruth Druart  
  
Robert Goddard  
Hazel Prior  
Debbie Rix  
Kate Quinn  
Douglas Stuart

### Scandinavian

*The Creek on the Stairs*  
*Fallen Angels*  
*Passenger 23*

Eva Bjorg Aegisdottir  
Gunna Staalesen  
Sebastian Fitzek

### Australian

*A Widow's Courage*  
*A Home Like Ours*  
*The Family Doctor*  
*The Codebreakers*

Anna Jacobs  
Fiona Lowe  
Debra Oswald  
Ali Sinclair

### Non Fiction

*The Bravest Voices*  
*From Snow to Ash*

Ida Cook  
Anthony Sharwood



# Twilight Talks

*Phil Roberts*  
Co-ordinator Twilight Talks



## 2021 Twilight Talks

### **Ballarat Unmasked: *Getting to Know your City***

Twilight Talks begin again in April we have a great line-up of speakers, so be sure to book early.

#### **Thu. 15 April, 5.30pm – 6.30pm**

The growing city: *Preparing and planning for our bigger population*

**Cr. Daniel Maloney**, Mayor of the City of Ballarat, tells us what the council's priorities are for the future growth of the city.



Mayor Cr. Daniel Maloney

**Michael Buxton**, RMIT Planning expert, explains how cities like Ballarat are at a significant crossroads and now is the time to make good decisions to avoid poor planning and services.



Michael Buxton

#### **Thu. 22 April, 5.30pm – 6.30pm**

Why heritage matters in Ballarat: *Now and into the future.*



Wendy Jacobs

**Wendy Jacobs**, Architect and Heritage Consultant, takes us through heritage in Ballarat, its identification and management and some of the challenges of maintaining heritage places in the modern world.



Dr. Michael Whitehead

**Mike Whitehead**, local anaesthetist will talk us through the trials and tribulations of restoring his 1867 Baptist Church in Ballarat to a modern architectural masterpiece.

#### **Thu. 29 April, 5.30pm – 6.30pm**

A creative city: *Finding Ballarat's creative identity*

**Tara Poole**, Coordinator of Creative Cities Ballarat on the city's long legacy of supporting and developing the creative arts and how finding and nurturing a distinct creative identity benefits the whole city.



Tara Poole

**Paige Duggan**, Jazz Artist, on why it's more important than ever for regional cities to support local creatives, and why Ballarat wouldn't be the same if it were lost.



Paige Duggan

#### **Thu. 6 May, 5.30pm – 6.30pm**

Ballarat business: *Not just surviving, but thriving.*



Sara Quon

**Sara Quon**, CEO of Sovereign Hill, tells of how the pandemic forced her organisation to rethink their business model and plan for a future in a very different economic world.



Alicia Linley

**Alicia Linley**, Co-owner of Mitchell Harris Wines, on how the pandemic has affected small businesses in Ballarat, and what they need from Local Government and community members to ensure a thriving post-pandemic business ecosystem.

#### **Tickets**

\$10 per person (free drink on arrival for BMI members)

\$8 per person for bookings of 10 people or more

**P | Mark on (03) 5331 3042**

**Bookings | [twilighttalks1-2021.eventbrite.com.au](https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/twilighttalks1-2021)**



# Rosemary's

# Book of the month

## Probus Club Tour

Phil Roberts organised a tour from the Croyden Probus Club of over 50 people to the BMI on Wednesday 24 March, the group was split into two with Marilyn Furness taking the external tour and Phil conducting the internal one. It was a great effort, not only supporting the BMI as a fundraising activity but introducing interested parties to the wonders of the BMI.

Tours can be arranged either through the Library Desk or contact Mark Potter (Cultural Development & Services Manager).

P | Library on (03) 5331 3042  
E | [mark@ballaratmi.org.au](mailto:mark@ballaratmi.org.au)

## Fay's Card-making Workshop

Fay's workshop was a tremendous success with lots of work completed and take-aways.

Fay will be conducting another workshop in July/August so stay tuned.



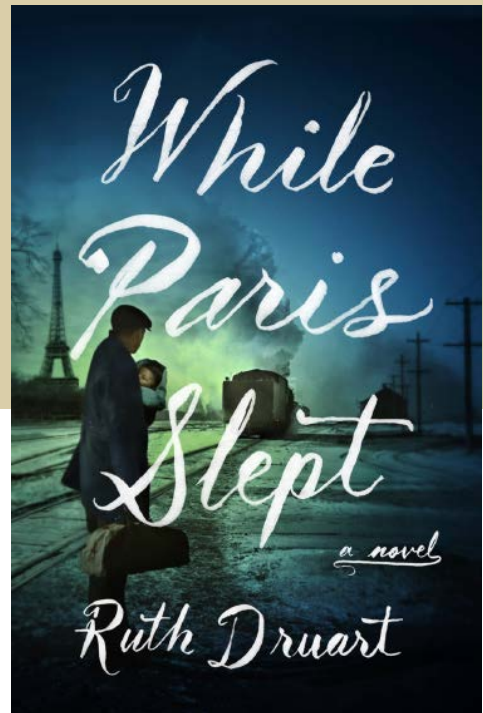
## BMI Maker & Community Market

Saturday 12 June | 9am – 2pm



The Maker & Community Market will be on again in June we hope you can come along to support the event. Details will be on our website soon.

E | [mark@ballaratmi.org.au](mailto:mark@ballaratmi.org.au)



## BMI Pop-up Shop

Thursdays & Fridays | 11am – 3pm

Don't forget our Pop-up shop we have a great range of stock to browse through. If Thursdays and Fridays don't suit your shopping joy we can open by appointment on Saturdays, just contact the Library to arrange a time.



P | (03) 5331 3042  
E | [library@ballaratmi.org.au](mailto:library@ballaratmi.org.au)

**Ballaarat Mechanics' Institute**  
acknowledges the support of  
**Ballarat City Council**

CITY OF  
**BALLARAT** 

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**Library Hours**  
Monday to Friday 10am – 4pm  
Saturday 9.30am – Noon  
**Venue Hire Enquiries**  
[venue@ballaratmi.org.au](mailto:venue@ballaratmi.org.au)  
0419 677 713