

# Newsletter

Ballaarat Mechanics' Institute

February / 2021



*Fountain & Steamboat Houses — Yachts Starting a Race (detail) c 1878 | Reproduced by Harris House of Photography, 2001 | Hand coloured by Sandra Doggett*

**Dear Members** — In late January the Board held the first in person meeting since July. It was good to be able to interact in person and to properly welcome out newest Board member, Paulene Barton.

I can report that the contract has been let for the work on the basement. This work would not be commencing if the preparatory work of cleaning out had not been undertaken by an enthusiastic group of volunteers including Marion Blythman. Thank you all.

Thanks also to Rosemary for keeping the library open in challenging circumstances and remaining flexible and cheerful.

Picking out individual volunteers is dangerous but Geraldine Roberts is doing a sterling job in the *Pop-up Shop*.

Although the Institute is holding its own financially we are always seeking ways of attracting funds. Donations to the BMI or the Foundation are fully tax deductible go to: [ballaratmi.org.au/about-us/memberships](http://ballaratmi.org.au/about-us/memberships)

I hope to have the opportunity to see all members during the year and look forward to discussing ideas which will make your membership more valuable.

**Mike Stephens**  
President



# Library news



*with Rosemary McInerney*

## Author of the Month

### Ellery Kane

Ellery is a Forensic Psychologist by day and novelist by night. Ellery's writing is often inspired by her day job.

She lives in San Francisco bay area. Her debut novel *Legacy* has received several awards.

## Book of the Month

*The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah

Texas 1934, Elsa Martinelli had finally found the life she'd yearned for. A family. A home and a livelihood on a farm in the great plains, but when drought threatens all she and her community hold dear. Elsa's world is shattered to the winds. When Elsa wakes to find her husband has fled, she is forced to make the most agonizing decision of her life. Fight for the land she loves, or take her beloved children west to California to a better life.

## Recommended Books

*Danger Music* by Eddie Ayres

Eddie Ayres has a lifetime of musical experience – from learning the viola as a child to playing with the Hong Kong Philharmonic and moving to Australia to present an extremely successful ABC Classic FM morning radio show.

In 2014 Eddie was spiralling into a deep depression. He quit the radio, travelled and decided on a surprising path to salvation - Eddie applied for a position at Dr Sarmast's renowned Afghanistan National Institute of Music in Kabul, teaching cello to orphans and street kids in a war zone...

*The Valley of Lost Stories* by Vanessa McCausland

Four women and their children are invited to the beautiful but remote Capertee Valley, west of the Blue Mountains.

Once home to a thriving town, only enigmatic Art Deco hotel remains – and an unsolved mystery. In 1948, Clara Black walked into the night, never to be seen again.

As the valley beguiles these four friends, and haunts them in equal measure, each has to confront secrets of her own: Nathalie, with a damaged marriage; Emmie yearning for another child; Pen, struggling as a single parent; and Alexandra, hiding in the shadow of her famous husband. But as the story of what happened seventy years earlier unravels, one of the women also vanishes into this bewitching place, forcing devastating truths to the surface.

*Hard Road* by J.B. Turner

Jon Reznick is a "ghost" black-ops specialist who takes his orders from shadowy handlers, and his salary from the US government. Still mourning the loss of his beloved wife on 9/11, he's dispatched to carry out a high-level hit. Reznick knows only that it must look like suicide. It's textbook ...

## New Releases for February

### Mystery

*Our Daughter's Bones*

*Blood Will Be Born*

*Promises In The Dark*

*Watch her Vanish*

*Desperate Creed*

*Deadly Cry*

*Deadly Wishes*

*Breathe Your Last*

*Hard Road*

*The Hidden Girls*

Ruhi Choudhary

Gary Donnelly

D.K.Hood

Ellery Kane

Alex Kava

Angela Marsons

Rachel McLean

Lisa Regan

J.B. Turner

Rebecca Whitney

### Novels

*The Bermondsey Bookshop*

Mary Gibson

### Scandinavian

*X Ways to Die*

*The Tenant*

*In Bad Company*

*In The Shadow of the Mountain*

Stefan Ahnhem

Katrine Engberg

Viveca Sten

Christoffer Petersen

### Australian

*The Valley of Lost Stories*

Vanessa McCausland

### Non Fiction

*Danger Music*

*Stories of Hope*

*The Salt Path*

Eddie Ayres

Heather Morris

Raynor Winn

# Venue & Events

*Sam McColl*  
*Venue & Events Manager*



## Victorian Live Music Venues Program

Welcome to a new year, new staff, and new events!



Firstly, we can now officially announce that we have been successful recipients of the Victorian *Live Music Venues Program*! We received \$75,250 from Creative Victoria to support the BMI in producing, creating, and engaging live music in our venue! We have already been able to use a majority of this funding to upgrade our lighting and audio equipment (thanks to SLC Ballarat for helping us do this), purchase professional live streaming equipment, and the funding has also allowed us to hire new staff (welcome Mark, Katrina, Sam, and Nick).

Once again, thank you to Creative Victoria and the Victorian Government for supporting live music venues.



The first few months of 2021 have been very busy with bookings flying in and enquiries from large artists looking to book the space! We have events from rock music and comedy to weddings and conferences! Make sure you keep an eye on our events calendar for updates on upcoming events!

We have already been able to fit in some great events in January, one of which was hosting a beautiful wedding and reception (congrats **Keenan and Elizabeth**).

## Fanny Lumsden

In January we also hosted a concert from Fanny Lumsden - country musician with 5x 2021 Golden Guitar wins, and 2020 ARIA winner of best country album - who played to a sold out Minerva Space.



We are busy preparing for the months ahead and creating programs for Ballarat Heritage Festival, Twilight Talks and working closely with other presenters including The Wheeler Centre for Books, Writing and Ideas.

If you have visited recently you may have noticed that we have also had a few updates with our point of sales hardware! We have just changed over to using Square for all cash and EFTPOS sales. This will streamline our record keeping and change how we take sales over the bar! It helps us keep track of stock as well as monitoring sales trends. This upgrade has been supported by the Victorian Government's Small Business Digital Adaptation Program.

We will also be updating our website within the next few weeks! We have been working very closely with Small Dog Design to overhaul our online presence and ensure our website has a cleaner look that is more in-line with the rest of our branding and style.

We would also like to announce that we are now stocking Michael Unwin Wines for events and functions that use the BMI Bar. The entire One Goat range is available for all events, and the Umbrella Man and Tattooed Lady will be available on request of event organisers. This will also allow us to have tasting sessions and other experiences throughout the year.

Make sure you keep an eye on your emails, the BMI website, and our social media channels for more announcements and news!

If you would like to book the spaces at the BMI for your next event, feel free to get in touch

**P | Sam 0419 677 713**

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

# Around the BMI

## BMI Tours

We are now re-starting tours of the BMI. The tours generally take one hour and can be arranged for both small and large groups.



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

## Fundraising

Congratulations to Karin Miller, who won the first prize, two magnificent framed prints from the Max Harris Collection. Second prize: A \$100 book voucher went to Susan Bennet. Third prize a \$95 cruise on Lake Wendouree with the Golden City Paddle Steamer & Museum went to Sadie Donegan.

Prints of these images are for sale at the Library or can be purchased at: [trybooking.com/BNIAV](http://trybooking.com/BNIAV)

Ballaarat  
Mechanics' Institute

## 2020 Book Sale

## Fay's Greeting Cards



## Twilight Talks

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

**P | Library on (03) 5331 3042**  
**W | [ballaratmi.org.au/arts-events](http://ballaratmi.org.au/arts-events)**



# What's on



## Class Clowns 2021 Melbourne Comedy Festival

Wednesday 24 February

4pm workshop | 7pm performance

The search is on for Australia's funniest teens!

Melbourne International Comedy Festival's one-of-a-kind national comedy competition for young people.

Heats around the country start with a 2-hour workshop, where students rehearse and refine their act with the help of a professional comedian, followed by an opportunity to perform for a live audience. Keep an eye on the BMI website for details



P | Sam 0419 677 713 E | [sam@ballaratmi.org.au](mailto:sam@ballaratmi.org.au)  
W | [ballaratmi.org.au/arts-events](https://ballaratmi.org.au/arts-events)

## BMI Maker & Community Market

Saturday 13 March | 9am – 2pm



On Saturday 13 March we will be hosting a Maker & Community Market, we hope to make this a regular occurrence giving opportunity for local makers to get their product out there.

We have had good early expressions of interest which

close 19 February.

If you know any makers who may be interested please contact me.

E | [mark@ballaratmi.org.au](mailto:mark@ballaratmi.org.au)  
W | [ballaratmi.org.au/arts-events](https://ballaratmi.org.au/arts-events)

## Keep The Circle Unbroken

Sunday 28 March | 3pm – 5pm

Keep The Circle Unbroken is a series of concerts to be presented across Victoria's iconic regional towns this



March, featuring an incredible line-up of Australian musicians spanning two generations

performing songs inspired by the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band's 1972 album *Will the Circle be Unbroken*. Keep an eye on the BMI website for updates.

P | Sam 0419 677 713 E | [sam@ballaratmi.org.au](mailto:sam@ballaratmi.org.au)  
W | [ballaratmi.org.au/arts-events](https://ballaratmi.org.au/arts-events)

## Card-making with Fay Marshall

Wednesday 31 March | 10am – 3pm

Fay will be conducting a workshop hopefully bringing out the creativity and style you've discovered during COVID induced lockdown.

The greeting card search is often a very real disappointment, the image doesn't always match the text sentiment or visa versa, now is your opportunity to change all this.

Fay has been associated with the BMI for more than 15 years and supplies the magnificent floral displays in the Library, she has conducted research on behalf of the BMI and supplies the personalised greeting cards available for sale at the BMI Library.



E | [mark@ballaratmi.org.au](mailto:mark@ballaratmi.org.au)  
Bookings | [ballaratmi.org.au/arts-events](https://ballaratmi.org.au/arts-events)

# Book of the month

## Ballarat Chess Club

Thursdays at 6.30pm

Tournament games begin 7.30pm and the Junior Chess Club meet 6pm, everyone welcome.

P | 0499 255 240

E | [president@ballaratchess.com](mailto:president@ballaratchess.com)



## BALLARAT FILM SOCIETY

Every 2nd Thursday of the month  
7pm for 7.30pm start



Ballarat Film Society has now published their 2021 program, pick one up next time you are in the Library.

Next film is *Birds of Passage*, Columbia, 2018.  
Thursday 11 March.

P | (03) 5341 2266



## Books wanted

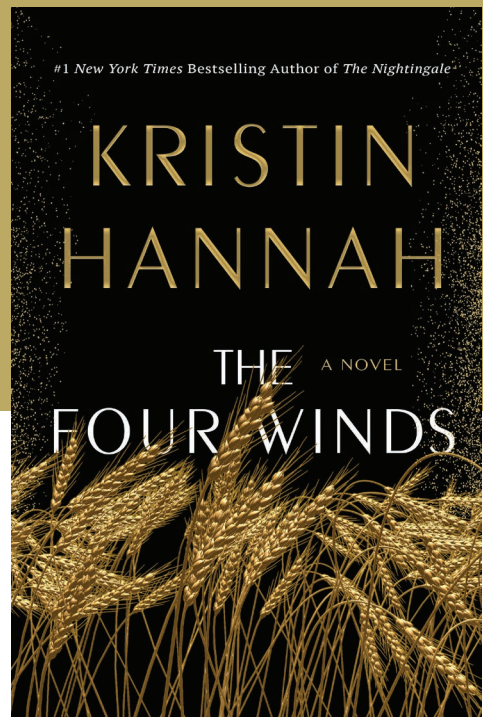
Do you have old or excess books? We are preparing for our next book sale. Please drop them into the library.

P | (03) 5331 3042

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

Ballaarat Mechanics' Institute  
acknowledges the support of  
Ballarat City Council

Ballarat Mechanics' Institute Inc.  
117 – 119 Sturt Street, Ballarat VIC 3350  
[ballaratmi.org.au](http://ballaratmi.org.au)  
[library@ballaratmi.org.au](mailto:library@ballaratmi.org.au)  
(03) 5331 3042



## BMI Pop-up Shop

Thursdays & Fridays | 11am – 3pm

We are open again at the 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)



CITY OF  
**BALLARAT**

**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

