

Newsletter

Ballaarat Mechanics' Institute

June / 2021



Dear Members

Image Courtesy: Sam McColl | 2021 Ballarat Heritage Festival

How fantastic to see the BMI playing such an important role in the Ballarat Heritage Festival with events on Suffrage, Jiu Jitsu, Murder Mystery Dinners and lets not talk about Ghosts. What a great effort, it shows that we have some wonderful creative energy in our Events Team, thanks Sam, Katrina and of course the City of Ballarat. Also a callout to our Collections Volunteers who complimented these events with a display in the Heritage Reading Room (Dani Judi and Marian).

Speaking for volunteers many thanks to Marilyn Furness for organising a morning tea to celebrate with our volunteers during National Volunteer Week. I would love to have been there.

Well here we are in lockdown again, we are becoming a little used to this scenario but from what I observe people remain considerate of what these practices mean in safeguarding our loved ones. We hope we are out of this soon.

We have a BMI General Meeting on 28 June in relation to the proposed Constitution and By-laws, the meeting will be held in person if allowed under COVIDSafe restrictions. If not it will be conducted and available to attend via Zoom with details sent to members if needed. A formal meeting notice will be sent next week. Stay well and safe everyone.

Mike Stephens



Library news

with Rosemary McInerney



Author of the Month

D.S. Butler

D.S. Butler writes crime fiction. She has worked as a scientific officer, in a hospital pathology laboratory and as a research scientist. She is currently based in the UK.



Book of the Month

The Secret Life of Shirley Sullivan by Lisa Ireland

When Shirley Sullivan signs her 83 year-old husband, Frank, out of the Sunset Lodge nursing home, she has no intention of bringing him back.

For fifty-seven years the couple have shared love, happiness and heartbreak. And while Frank may not know who his wife is these days, he knows he wants to go home. Back to the beach where they met in the early 1960s.

So Shirley enacts an elaborate plan to evade the authorities...

Recommended Reads

The Girl Remains by Katherine Firkin

For over twenty years the disappearance of fifteen-year-old Cecilia May remains a baffling cold case until human bones are discovered on an isolated beach.

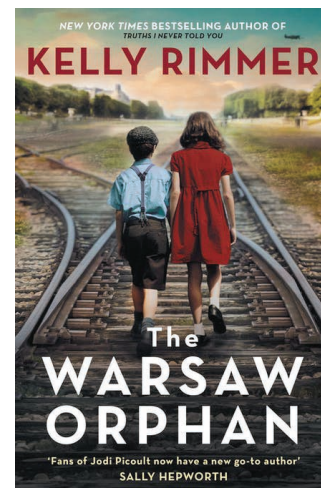
Now it's up to Det. Emmett Corban and his team to dig through decades of trauma, and find the missing piece of an investigation that's as complex as it is tragic.

But the police aren't the only ones hunting for the truth: a mysterious woman has arrived in the seaside town. And she's prepared to do whatever it takes to find her own version of justice...



The Warsaw Orphan by Kelly Rimmer

In the spring of 1942, young Elzbieta is aware of the swiftly growing discord just beyond the courtyard of her comfortable Warsaw home. But she has no idea what goes on behind the walls of the Jewish Ghetto nearby until she makes a discovery that propels her into a dangerous world of deception...



The Jungle Doctor by Dr Chloe Buiting

Fresh from veterinary school, passionate conservationist Dr Chloe Buiting headed for the front line of Africa's

rhino-poaching crisis, going on to live and work in many other remote corners of the globe.

See what life is like in a job where no day is ever the same. Accompany Chloe on her journey into the fascinating world of conservation. And discover humanity's deep connection with the animal



kingdom, one adventure at a time...



Rosemary's
Book of the Week

Around the BMI



Ballarat Heritage Festival

Sam & Katrina

Ballarat Heritage Festival was a great success with events about Witch Craft, Spiritualism, The Suffrajitsu Women, A Ballarat first with our Historical Live Streamed Role Playing Game, *Journey To The Southern Cross*, A Murder Mystery with Dinner and the BMI's very first ghost sighting caught on camera and reimaged on stage!



**Ballarat Hospital Charity Gala Event:
*The Peculiar Demise of William Bailey***
Lady Diamantina Bowen (Hayley Beacham)
Thomas Learmonth (Shannon Nicholls)

A special thanks from the Events Team to everyone involved including Emma Hall, Dr David Waldron and The City of Ballarat Heritage Festival. Stay tuned for more historical events and tours.

BMI Maker & Community Market

Saturday 19 June | 9am – 2pm

Come along and meet our makers and community groups, free entry. Meet some of our makers:



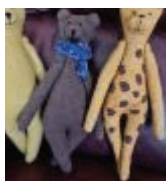
Monique Doust
Designs



Gary Johnston



A-TUK
Nyyibol Deng



Marcia King



Jenny Peers



Melinda Muscat
Art



Eureka Rebelles
CWA



Cocomoe Studio
Sylvia Agguire

Painting with Geoff Roderick

Wednesday 7, 14, 21 & 28 July | 10.30pm – 1.00pm

Come along and meet Geoff for this 4 part series.

In these sessions Geoff will be using water based artists quality Gouache (poster paint).



Seville Oranges (detail) | Geoff Roderick

All standards are welcome, for more information on

Geoff and the workshops go to the links below.

P | (03) 5331 3042

E | mark@ballaratmi.org.au

Bookings | ballaratmi.org.au/bmi-events

The Wheeler Centre | Ross Garnaut

Wednesday 11 August | 5.30pm – 7.30pm

This event has been postponed from 2 June due to COVID restrictions.



'Post-pandemic times, Ross Garnaut argues, this presents us with the opportunity to reimagine economic structures and build a more prosperous and equitable society. Calling for the introduction of a basic income, a new business tax system, and a push towards full employment, Garnaut believes Australia should raise its economic ambitions higher than ever before.'

Tickets | \$10 – per person plus booking fee.

Online: You can name your own price for this event, any amount helps keep Wheeler Centre events accessible. Bookings are essential.

Bookings | ballaratmi.org.au/bmi-events

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Bookings | ballaratmi.org.au/bmi-events



The Wheeler Centre
Books Writing Ideas

POSTPONED

more Library News & Around the BMI



New Releases for June

Mystery

Before You Knew

My Name

The Wicked Sister

Her Dark Lies

Fadeaway Girl

Sooley

Left you Dead

The Night Gate

The Bone Code

Jacqueline Bublitz

Karen Dionne

J.T.Ellison

Martha Grimes

John Grisham

Peter James

Peter May

Kathy Reichs

Novels

Half Life

The Ripping Tree

The Warsaw Orphan

The Secret Path

Jillian Cantor

Nikki Gemmell

Kelly Rimmer

Karen Swan

Romance

Other Women

The Jam Queens

You Need to Know

Three Weddings and

a Proposal

Cathy Kelly

Josephine Moon

Nicola Moriarty

Sheila O'Flanagan

Australian

The Emporium

of Imagination

O

Tabitha Bird

Steven Carroll

Non Fiction

Wild At Heart

Barrenjoey Road

Alienor le Gouvello

Neil Mercer & Ruby Jones

Psycholgia Thriller

The Whispers

Heidi Perks

BMI 2021 Fundraising Appeal

Colin Jackson | Executive Manager

After a turbulent year that saw the BMI close for a significant period, we soon hope to be back and operating with full services. We are sincerely grateful to our loyal and active members who support our library and heritage collections, and share in a feeling of pride when attending the many social and cultural events that are held throughout the year, many of which we produce and present with in-house resources.

Following a year with significantly reduced income, we are looking to our members and the wider community to help secure the future of the BMI through these tough times.

We have identified a number of key areas that need significant investment to ensure the BMI continues to be a leading player within the Ballarat arts and culture scene, some of these are:

- continue with the repairs and restoration of the basement
- purchase new books
- repair and binding work required on our heritage collection
- upgrade our IT and security systems, and
- program and run more community events

Your donation to the 2021 BMI Appeal will enable us to maintain and strengthen the services we provide to members and the general community.

Donations | ballaratmi.org.au/about-us/donations/

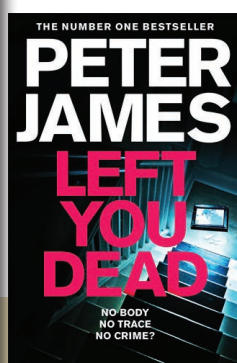
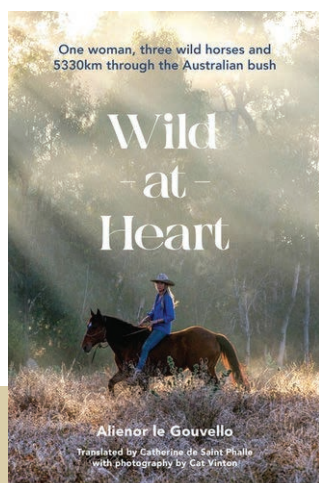
Thank you for your support

Colin Jackson

Executive Manager



**Annual Giving
Appeal 2021**



Volunteers



National Volunteer Week

Marilyn Funness | Volunteer Coordinator

We celebrated our BMI volunteers with a morning tea on 18 May in the Heritage Reading Room. There is always tireless work being done behind the scenes it's this dedication that makes the BMI such a unique community space.



Two new Volunteers

Marilyn Funness | Volunteer Coordinator

We are grateful to announce two new volunteers joined us in May:

**Bernadette Fulle,
Archives**

**Valerie Shiel,
Cushion Project**



The Cushion Project

Marilyn and Valerie have been busy... they have set-up a workshop in the Hooper Room, upgrading the seat covers in the Library, unassuming and working unnoticed, making a difference.



Vale Kath Blackwell

Kath Blackwell was a highly respected and much loved person over the many years of service that she gave to the BMI. We were all saddened to learn of her death on Tuesday 18 May 2021.

Kath was a part-time employee in the library until a few years ago. During that long period and in the years after her retirement, she also gave countless hours of volunteer work to the Institute. She loved the BMI, books and reading and helping members in their choice of books.

Beyond the BMI, she was actively involved with the Ballarat Observatory and in care of the Linton cemetery in her home community. She loved and cared for animals.

President, Board members, staff, volunteers and members of the Institute are united in gratitude for Kath's long and generous service to the BMI. All associated with the Institute will greatly miss her. We express our sincere condolences to her family.

Rosemary's

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



BALLARAT FILM SOCIETY

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

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



Next film | *The Young Karl Marx*, Germany 2017, 114min. Directed by Raoul Peck.

UPDATE: This film is now to be screened on Thursday 17 June.

P | (03) 5341 2266



NOTICE BMI MEMBERS OF GENERAL MEETING

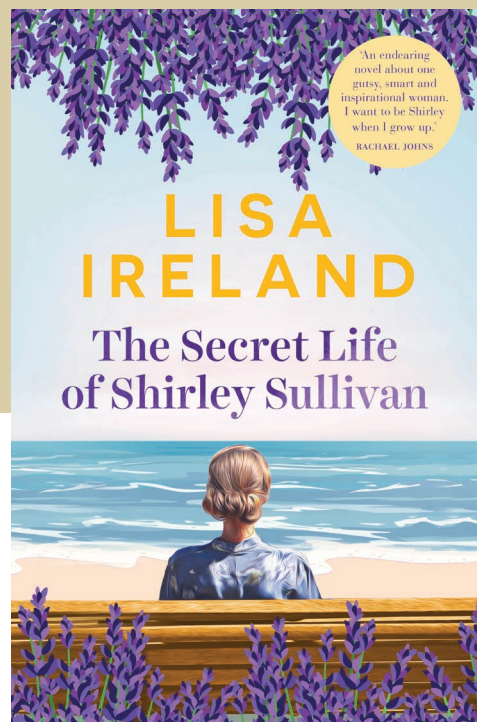
Members of the Ballarat Mechanics' Institute (BMI) are advised that a General Meeting of the Institute will be held at the BMI - 117-119 Sturt, Ballarat Central

28 June at 4pm

Refer to the website for details | ballaratmi.org.au/general-meeting-june-28-2021

Ballaarat Mechanics' Institute
acknowledges the support of
Ballarat City Council

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



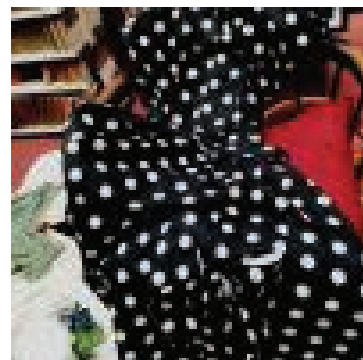
BMI Pop-up Shop

Thursdays & Fridays | 11am – 3pm

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



CITY OF BALLARAT

Library Hours
Monday to Friday 10am – 4pm
Saturday 9.30am – Noon
Venue Hire Enquiries
venue@ballaratmi.org.au
0419 677 713