

# Newsletter

Ballaarat Mechanics' Institute

August / 2021



Image Courtesy: Edwina Williams, Ballarat Times | The BMI Basement with BMI Board Member Paula Nicholson, Member for Wendouree, Juliana Addison & BMI Venue Manager Sam McColl

## Dear Members

A huge amount of work has been undertaken to restore the basement and deliver a very usable space. We are extremely grateful to the State Government for the Grant from Heritage Victoria and the State's Living Heritage Program. Heritage Architect, Wendy Jacobs has been a wonderful asset to the program and has worked tirelessly with the builders, Peter Broadbent and his team. We're excited about the prospect of working towards the relevant use of this space, the first of which will be our association with the Ballarat International Foto Biennale in the staging *Number One* | Gudinski, which will be held there at the end of the month.

Whilst COVID has been opening and closing our front doors, the team has been hard at work, rearranging and

rescheduling booked events and finalising others, we were fortunate to be able to proceed with our art workshops with Geoff Roderick in July, between closings, these have been popular and we will be running more sessions in October.

We have had a great response from members who are interested in volunteering, this helps tremendously with our increasing BMI tour requests, research requests and event delivery, for projects such as the much loved *Twilight Talks*. Your involvement allows us to pitch the BMI as relevant local community space.

Rosemary has had the library bubbling along, make sure you check the library section of the website to stay across her regular new releases and features. Stay safe.

**Mike Stephens**

# Library news



with *Rosemary McInerney*

## Author of the Month

### Roisin Meaney

Roisin has written fourteen books for adults and two for children. Her books have been translated into several languages and she is currently working on her next book.



She worked as an advertising copywriter for a number of years and has written numerous articles for journals and newspapers..

## Book of the Month

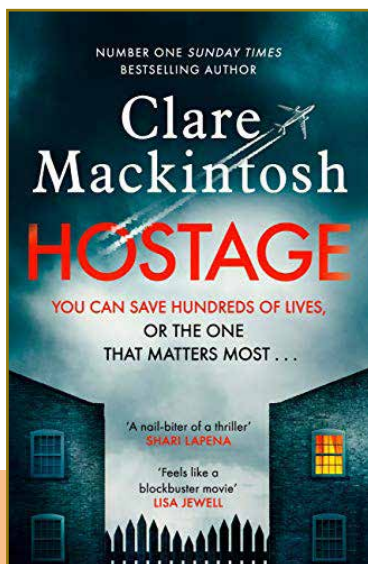
*Rites of Spring* by Anders de la Motte

1986 a young girl is killed on the night of a spring festival. Four younger children witnessed the murder and their confused statements may have sent the wrong man to prison. Now 30 years later, 3 of these children return to the village to open a new hotel. Their ring-leader is bringing his new wife, a doctor recovering from the horrors of Syria. Like him she has secrets and when she begins to delve into the murder, not only will villages secrets be exposed, her own look likely to come tumbling out as well...

## Recommended Reads

*Hostage* by Clare Mackintosh

The atmosphere on board the first non-stop flight from London to Sydney is electric. Celebrities are



rumoured to be among the passengers in business class, and the world is watching the landmark journey.

Flight attendant Mina is trying to focus on the passengers, instead of her troubled five-year old daughter back home.



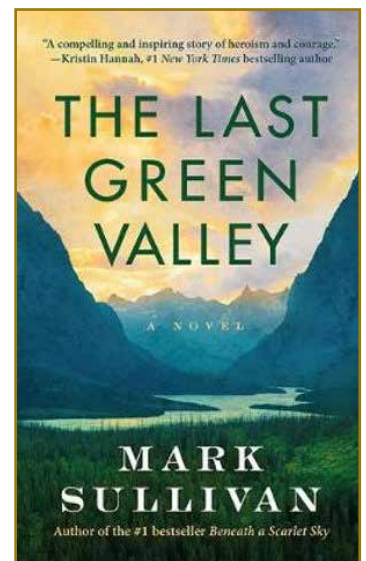
**Rosemary's**  
Book of the Week

Reserve your copy  
[ballaratmi.org.au/library](http://ballaratmi.org.au/library)

But soon after the plane takes off, Mina receives a chilling anonymous note. Someone wants to make sure the plane never reaches its destination. They're demanding her co-operation and they know exactly how to get it...

*The Last Green Valley* by Mark Sullivan

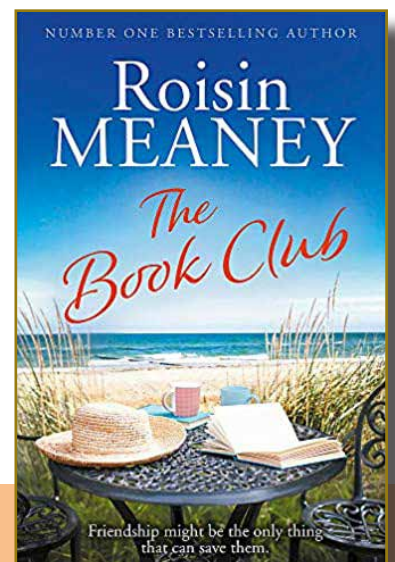
In late March 1944, as Stalin's forces push into Ukraine, young Emil and Adeline Martel must make a terrible decision. Do they wait for the Soviet bear's intrusion and risk being sent to Siberia? Or do they reluctantly follow the wolves- murderous Nazi officers who have pledged to protect "pure-blood" Germans?



Caught between two warring forces and overcoming horrific trials to pursue their hope of immigrating to the West, the Martels' story is a brutal, complex tale that illuminates the power of love, faith and one family's incredible will to survive...

*The Book Club* by Roisin Meaney

A tragic accident leaves the tightly knit book club in the small seaside town of Fairweather reeling – especially Beth and her twenty-something granddaughter Lil. But when Tom McLysaght arrives to the community, the members of the group find their lives changing in ways they never could have imagined...



Friendship might be the only thing that can save them.

# What's on



## The Wheeler Centre | Ross Garnaut

Wednesday 11 August | 5.30pm – 7.30pm

This event is going ahead as scheduled.

'Post-pandemic times, Ross Garnaut argues, this presents us with the opportunity to reimagine economic structures and build a more prosperous and equitable society. Calls for the introduction of a new tax system, and for employment, Garnaut believes, should raise its economic ambition higher.'



Not proceeding  
Check website for updates

Tickets are \$10 per person plus booking fee. 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](http://ballaratmi.org.au/bmi-events)



The Wheeler Centre  
Books Writing Ideas

## Royal South Street Competitions

Sam McColl | Venue Manager

The BMI is proud to be hosting the Royal South Street Society for a number of their events over the month of August.

The Minerva Space is the annual home of the Contemporary Vocal Competition, and this year we are hosting the Pianoforte and Instrumental Solo competitions. The BMI will also be used as warm up space for the Victorian Bands League finals, as well as our usual allowance for calisthenics groups to hire the space during October.



This will be a very busy time in our building, made all the more lively as we prepare to host a Ballarat Foto Biennale exhibition in our basement, as well as our usual weekly hirers, and a number of casual users including people hosting weddings, some live music, and our much loved Twilight Talks returning in September.

The BMI continues to work closely with the RSSS team, as well as all building users, to ensure that everyone is safe while visiting the BMI.

We hope that you may have a chance to come and visit the BMI, and participate in some of the events that we have on!

## Ballarat International Foto Biennale Number One | Gudinski

Saturday 28 August – Sunday 24 October

This element of the Foto Biennale will be held in the Basement of the Ballarat Mechanics' Institute.

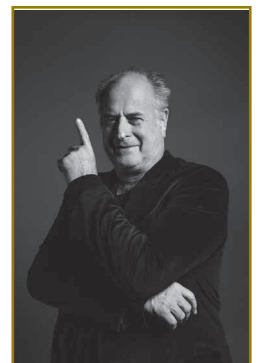
We are thrilled to be a part of this wonderful event.

### About this installation

In celebration of Michael Gudinski's legacy, the Ballarat International Foto Biennale in partnership with Mushroom Group presents an exhibition of music photography. Through an Open Call, music photographers were given the opportunity to submit photographs featuring artists under the Mushroom Group and Frontier Touring banner. *Number One | Gudinski* is an ode to Michael Gudinski, whose passion for music was legendary. This exhibition celebrates his advocacy for the arts and lasting impact.

The exhibition features photographs of Elton John, Paul McCartney, Vance Joy, Courtney Barnett, Troye Sivan and many more.

Bookings | [ballaratmi.org.au/bmi-events](http://ballaratmi.org.au/bmi-events)



Brian Purnell,  
Michael Gudinski,  
Courtesy Mushroom  
Creative House

**BALLARAT  
INTERNATIONAL  
FOTO  
BIENNALE**

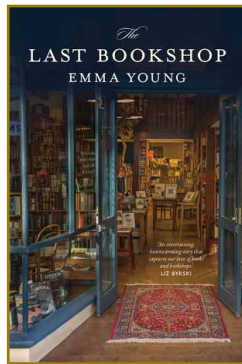
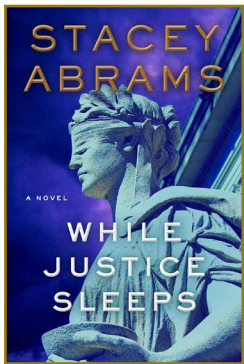
# more Library News



## New Releases for June

### Mystery

|                              |                 |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>While Justice Sleeps</i>  | Stacey Abrams   |
| <i>Savage Son</i>            | Jack Carr       |
| <i>Vanished</i>              | James Delargy   |
| <i>Shadow Falls</i>          | Wendy Dranfield |
| <i>Who Cares if they Die</i> | Wendy Dranfield |
| <i>The Paris Affair</i>      | Pip Drysdale    |
| <i>Eye For An Eye</i>        | T.F.Muir        |
| <i>Laidlaw William</i>       | McIlvanney      |
| <i>Both of You</i>           | Adele Parks     |
| <i>Bloody January</i>        | Alan Parks      |
| <i>The Second Son</i>        | Lorraine Peck   |
| <i>The Coldest Case</i>      | Martin Walker   |



### Novels

|                                    |                 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>The Bee and the Orange Tree</i> | Melissa Ashley  |
| <i>My Legendary Girlfriend</i>     | Mike Gayle      |
| <i>Mrs England</i>                 | Stacey Halls    |
| <i>Protector</i>                   | Conn Iggulden   |
| <i>The Secrets We Left Behind</i>  | Soraya M. Lane  |
| <i>A Town Called Solace</i>        | Mary Lawson     |
| <i>The Road Trip</i>               | Beth O'Leary    |
| <i>The Last Bookshop in London</i> | Madeline Martin |
| <i>Legacy of War</i>               | Wilbur Smith    |
| <i>The Last Green Valley</i>       | Mark Sullivan   |
| <i>The Clockmaker's Wife</i>       | Daisy Wood      |
| <i>The Last Bookshop</i>           | Emma Young      |

### Romance

|                                     |                |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| <i>The Vineyard at Painted Moon</i> | Susan Mallery  |
| <i>The Book Club</i>                | Roisin Meaney  |
| <i>Finding Ashley</i>               | Danielle Steel |

### Australian

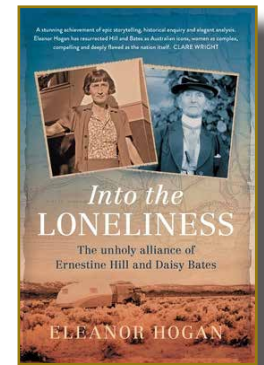
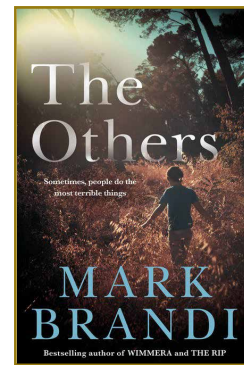
*The Others*  
*Secrets my Father Kept*  
*Mirror Man*  
*Still*  
*When You Are Mine*  
*Hostage*  
*The Inside Man*  
*The Vet From Snowy River*

Mark Brandi  
 Rachel Givney  
 Fiona McIntosh  
 Matt Nable  
 Michael Robotham  
 Clare Mackintosh  
 James Phelps  
 Stella Quinn

### Non Fiction

*Into the Loneliness*

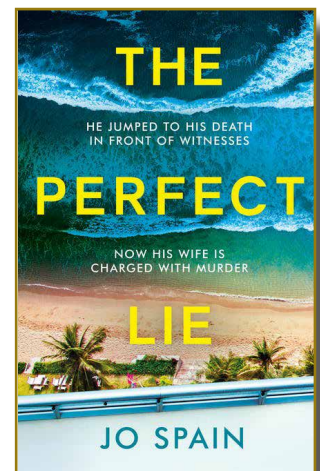
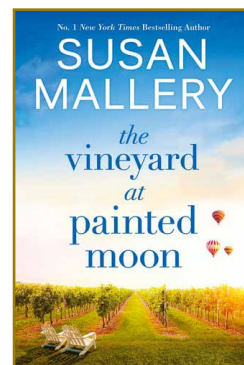
Eleanor Hogan



### Psycholgial Thriller

*The Heights*  
*One Good Lie*  
*The Perfect Lie*

Louise Candlish  
 Jane Isaac  
 Jo Spain



Reserve your copy  
[ballaratmi.org.au/library](http://ballaratmi.org.au/library)

# more What's on



## Workshops with Fay Marshall

Cardmaking | Tuesday 14 September

11am – 3pm

In this workshop you will use your creativity and style to produce amazing greeting cards that speak to your friends, family and colleagues with personality and heart.



Happy Birthday | Fay's Creations

## Floral Arrangement | Tuesday 21 September

11am – 3pm

In this workshop you will learn how to make stunning floral displays for Christmas.



Image courtesy Avonne Spalling

## Contemplative Spaces | Yuria Okamura

Wednesday 15 September | 1.30pm – 3pm

Yuria Okamura is a Melbourne-based artist whose practice encompasses drawing, painting and installation. She brings together and reinterprets diverse metaphysical imaginings from across cultures through the utopian language of geometry and diagrammatic aesthetics, referencing patterns in nature, esoteric symbolism, alchemical diagrams, religious architecture and decoration, and spiritualist abstract painting.



Yuria Okamura | *Spring Fountain*, 2020  
acrylic and pen on paper, 78. x 65cm | Photo by Simon Strong

In this workshop, Yuria will discuss how she incorporates architectural and decorative elements in her work to visualise *contemplative spaces*. She will demonstrate how to set up preliminary sketches using different outlining techniques with colour pencils or carbon paper, and how to employ different watercolour staining techniques, including layering and detailing. There will be time for participants to try some of the different techniques during the workshop.

# Rosemary's

# Book of the month

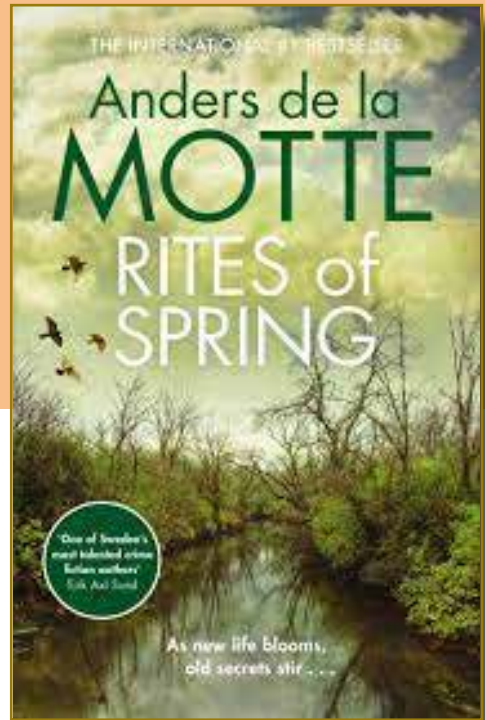
## Ballarat Chess Club

Thursdays at 6.30pm

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

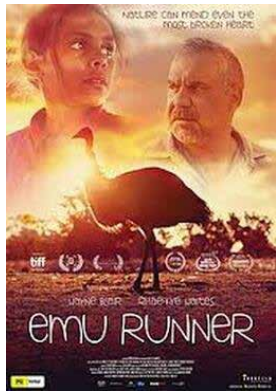
P | 0499 255 240

E | [president@ballaratchess.com](mailto: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** | *Emu Runner*, Australia 2018, 98min. Directed by Imogen Thomas.



P | (03) 5341 2266

## 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](mailto:library@ballaratmi.org.au)

**BALLARAT INTERNATIONAL FOTO BIENNALE**

Volunteering  
Ballarat International Foto Biennale

[Click here to apply as a volunteer >](#)

Ballaarat Mechanics' Institute acknowledges the support of Ballarat City Council

CITY OF **BALLARAT**

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



**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