

# Newsletter

Ballaarat Mechanics' Institute

September / 2021

SPRING EDITION



## Dear Members

This year has been such a challenging one for everyone both personally and professionally. For those of us who live in regional Victoria, have space, are accustomed to working from home and are not trying to home school children the effects of COVID have been irritating but minimal. For others who do not have this privileged position the effects have been universal and will be long lasting. For all, I hope that the experience will lead to greater tolerance and understanding of the situation of others. Disadvantage is relative and watching snippets of the Paralympics has been inspirational and a great leveller.

The BMI has been a constant in Ballarat's social fabric for more than 160 years and, as then we remain conscious of our member's needs, we are again offering *Click & Collect* from the Library. If you need instruction on how this operates go to the Library

*Wolf Alice* (detail), Corner Hotel, 25 September, 2018. Photo, Brett Schewitz  
Ballarat International Foto Biennale | *Number One* | Gudinski

section of the website or contact Rosemary. We will continue to operate this service when we get back to business as usual.

We are still planning a series of *Twilight Talks* for September/October, we will keep you updated on this progress. We have had to cancel our art workshops in September, but local artist Melinda Muscat is gearing up for two workshops in October, don't miss the opportunity to support our creatives.

It was unfortunate that we didn't get the chance to welcome Ross Garnaut to the BMI to discuss his latest book, but find out more inside on how you can be a part of his conversation with Prue Bentley. The Wheeler Centre and Sam McColl worked very hard to bring this event to you in August but it just wasn't possible. Happy Spring everyone.

**Mike Stephens**

# Library news

*with Rosemary McInerney*



## Author of the Month

### Shari Lapena

Shari was a lawyer and English teacher before turning to writing fiction.

She now lives in Toronto. Her work has been shortlisted for the CBC Literary Awards and in 2004 she won the Great Toronto Literary Project.



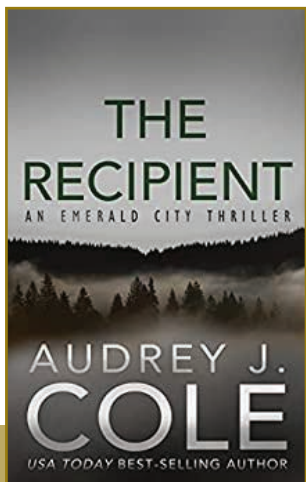
## Book of the Month

*Sisters of the Resistance* by Christine Wells

Paris 1944 The war is nearly over, but for members of the resistance in occupied France, it is more dangerous than ever before. Gabby Foucher loathes the Nazis, though as the concierge of number 10 rue Royale, she does her best to avoid conflict – unlike her bolder sister, Yvette who finds trouble at every turn.

Then both sisters are recruited into the resistance by Catherine Dior and swept into a treacherous world of spies, fugitives and intrigue. While Gabby risks everything for the man she is hiding from the Nazis. Yvette must decide whether to trust an enigmatic diplomat who seems to have guessed her secret. As the threat of betrayal draws ever closer, one slip could mean the deaths of many. And Gabby and Yvette must make choices they might regret.

## Recommended Reads



*The Recipient* by  
Audrey J Cole

A year after serial killer Michael Rhodes is executed and allowed to donate part of his brain as an organ transplant. Wade gets called to a murder scene that shares uncanny similarities to those of the late Michael Rhodes.

Elle is overjoyed when her husband Brian receives a life saving organ transplant. There lives seem to return to normal, but Elle notices a disturbing change in Brian's behaviour. Elle learns that her husband's organ donor was Michael Rhodes, she fears that Brian now has the mind of a serial killer...

*Aria's Travelling Book Shop* by Rebecca Raisin

Aria Summers knows what she wants.

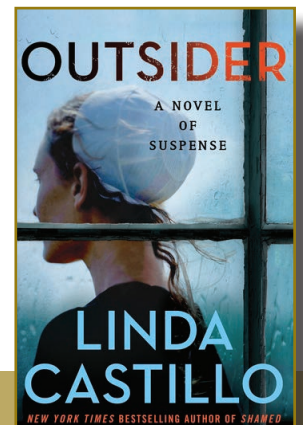
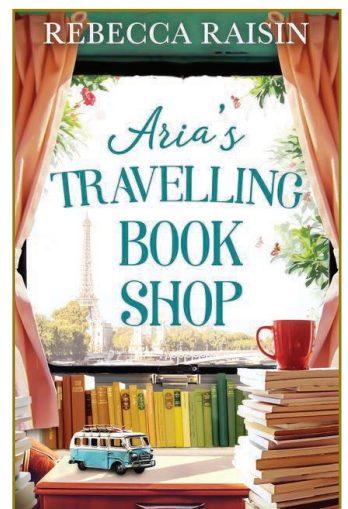
A life on the road with best friend Rosie and her beloved camper-van-cum-book shop, and definitely, no romance.

But when Aria finds herself falling-after one too many glasses of wine, from a karaoke stage into the arms of Jonathan, a part of her comes back too life for the first time in years.

Since her beloved husband died Aria has worn off love, unless it's the kind you can find in the pages of a book. One love of her life is quite enough. And so Aria tries to forget Jonathan and sets off for a summer to remember in France. But could this trip change Aria's life forever?

*Outsider* by Linda Castillo

While enjoying a sleigh ride with his children, an Amish widower, Adam Lengacher, discovers a wrecked car with an unconscious woman inside, Chief of Police Kate Burkholder is shocked to recognize the driver: fellow cop Gina Colorosa. Years before, Kate and Gina were best friends. Now Gina reveals a shocking story of betrayal- and murder that has forced her to run for her life...



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



# Annual General Meeting

*Ross Furness, Secretary*



## Notice of Annual General Meeting 4pm, Monday 27 September

All members of the Institute are invited to attend.

This year, we again need to make special attendance arrangements to ensure we meet restrictions and requirements due to COVID-19. Currently we are planning for the meeting to be held completely online (via Zoom) with members able to attend by registering.

We are requesting those members who wish to attend the AGM, register via the BMI website **no later than 4pm, Wednesday, 22 September.**

**[ballaratmi.org.au/agm2021](https://ballaratmi.org.au/agm2021)**

If any arrangements change, we will advise members accordingly, however you will still be able to attend the meeting via Zoom regardless of changes (as long as you are registered).

Attendees are able to access a copies of the 2020 AGM minutes, the 2020/21 Annual Report and the 2021 Financial Update via the BMI website.

**[ballaratmi.org.au/agm2021](https://ballaratmi.org.au/agm2021)**

These documents will also be sent via email to all who have registered to attend the AGM.

**Ross Furness, Secretary  
Ballarat Mechanics' Institute**

# Library new releases

*All title summaries @ Our Library*

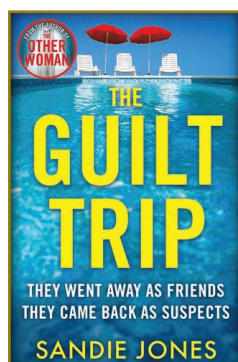
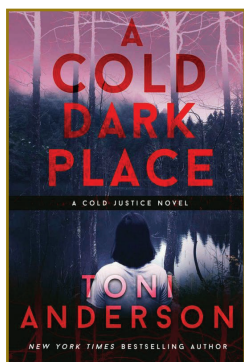


## New Releases for September

### Mystery

*A Cold Dark Place*  
*Dry Bones in the Valley*  
*Sixteen Horses*  
*Outsider*  
*The Recipient*  
*City of Ghosts*  
*Cry for Help*  
*The Dead Woman of Deptford*  
*Cross My Heart*  
*The Third Grave*  
*The Guilt Trip*  
*Local Woman Missing*  
*Run For Cover*  
*Killsong*  
*Suspects*  
*The Cellist*  
*False Witness*

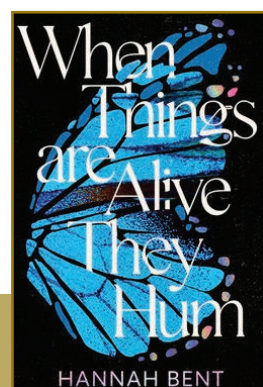
Toni Anderson  
Tom Bouman  
Greg Buchanan  
Linda Castillo  
Audrey J Cole  
Ben Creed  
Wendy Dranfield  
Ann Granger  
D.K. Hood  
Lisa Jackson  
Sandie Jones  
Mary Kubica  
Michael Ledwidge  
Mark Mannock  
Lesley Pearce  
Daniel Silva  
Karin Slaughter



### Novels

*When Things are Alive*  
*They Hum*  
*Two Women in Rome*  
*The Eighth Wonder*  
*Aria's Travelling Book Shop*  
*The Girl Behind the Wall*

Hannah Bent  
Elizabeth Buchan  
Tania Farrelly  
Rebecca Raisin  
Mandy Robotham

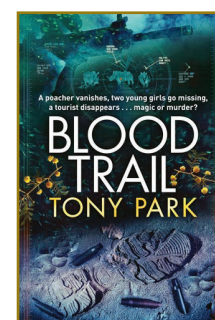


### Australian

*The Good Wife of Bath*  
*The Garden of Hopes and Dreams*  
*The Missing Girl*  
*Blood Trail*  
*Sisters of the Resistance*

Karen Brooks

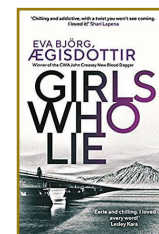
Barbara Hannay  
Kerry McGinnis  
Tony Park  
Christine Wells



### Psychological Thrillers

*Magpie Lane*  
*The Night She Disappeared*  
*Not a Happy Family*

Lucy Atkins  
Lisa Jewell  
Shari Lapena



### Scandinavian

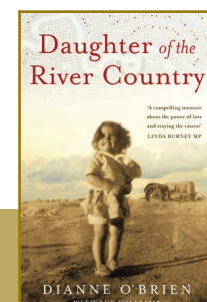
*Girls Who Lie*  
*Silver Tears*  
*Rites of Spring*  
*The Doll*

Eva Bjorg Aegisdottir  
Camilla Lackberg  
Anders de la Motte  
Yrsa Sigurdardottir

### Non Fiction

*Daughter of the River Country*  
*A Week in September*

Dianne O'Brien  
Peter Rees &  
Sue Langford



Summaries of all these titles are on  
Our Library webpage

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



# What's on



## The Wheeler Centre | Ross Garnaut Podcast

COVID-19 prevented us from hosting this event with the Wheeler Centre but fortunately our very own Prue Bentley sat down with Ross to record a conversation about his roadmap out of the pandemic. The podcast is available via the Wheeler Centres podcast feed:



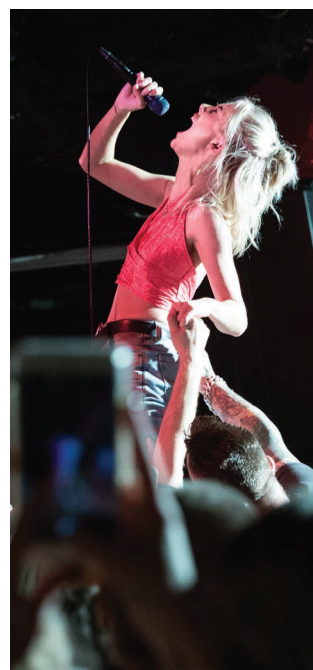
Ross Garnaut, image courtesy the Wheeler Centre

[Wheelercentre.com/broadcasts/podcasts/the-wheeler-centre/ross-garnaut-reset](https://wheelercentre.com/broadcasts/podcasts/the-wheeler-centre/ross-garnaut-reset)

Or, go the News Section of the BMI website to find the link – [ballaratmi.org.au/news-and-newsletters](https://ballaratmi.org.au/news-and-newsletters)

## Ballarat International Foto Biennale Number One | Gudinski

Until – Sunday 24 October



*Wolf Alice* (detail) Corner Hotel, 25 September, 2018  
Photo, Brett Schewitz

This exhibition of photography is an ode to Michael Gudinski, whose passion for music was legendary. This exhibition celebrates his advocacy for the arts and lasting impact.

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

For more information go to the events section of our website or to the Ballarat International Foto Biennale link below.

Watch these spaces for opening updates.

## September Art Workshops

COVID-19 has also prevented us from hosting our September art workshops:

- Cardmaking | Fay Marshall
- *Contemplative Spaces* | Yuria Okamura
- Floral Arrangement | Fay Marshall

We hope to reschedule in the New Year.

Melinda Muscat's, Tin Art Workshops have already proven popular, these are going ahead in October all things being equal. Tickets are still available

## Tin Art Workshops | Melinda Muscat

October 9 & 20 | 10am – 1pm

In this workshop you will get to make your very own piece of ready to hang tin art.

Melinda has a range of designs and templates you can use or you can create your own simple design. You have four colours of thin aluminium shim to choose from.

You will be guided through how to cut out your design and how to etch them and make different marks. We will then glue the different layers together, including a thread from which to hang them.

Melinda will have a small exhibition of her works on display in the Library from 20 September. Some of these works will be for sale with all commission earned supporting Arts & Cultural activities at the BMI.



Melinda Muscat | *Burst of Sunshine*, 2020

# 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** | *Amazing Grace*, USA 2018, 90min.  
Directed by Sydney Pollack.

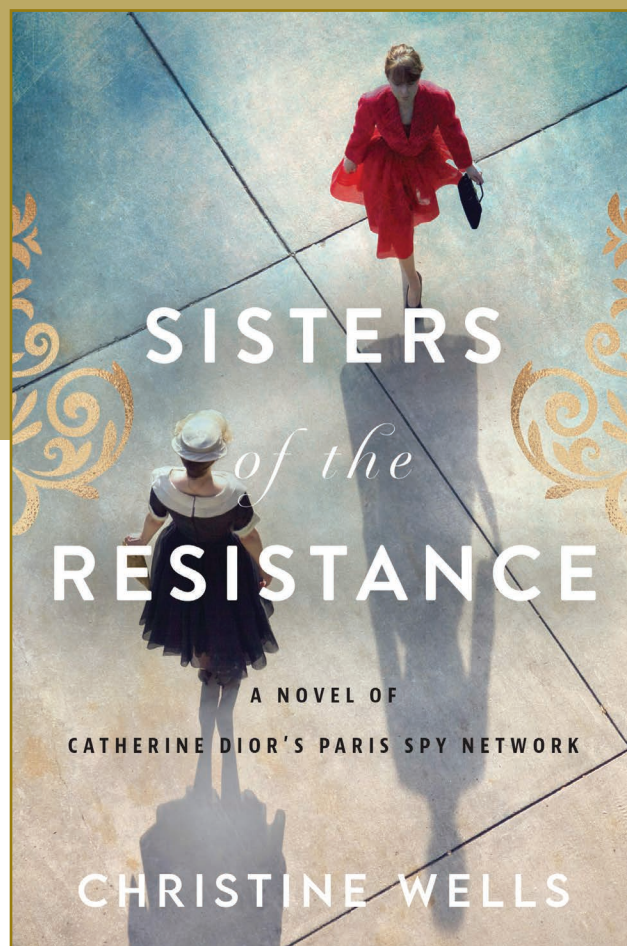


P | (03) 5341 2266

#### Our Library | Click & Collect

Go to the Library section of our website for September New Releases, each with Rosemary's book summary.

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



### BMI Pop-up Shop

Thursdays & Fridays |  
11am – 3pm

A great range of stock.  
Open Thursdays and Fridays.

**Contact the Library**  
for enquiries.



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