

Newsletter

Ballaarat Mechanics' Institute

October / 2021

SPRING

EDITION II



Maker & Community Market Calling for Stallholders >

Dear Members

Thank you to everyone involved in holding this year's Annual General Meeting on Monday 27th September. (My full report to members is available on the BMI website at the link below).

We have had another successful year thanks to the hard work of the Board, our fantastic staff and the continued support of our members. Thank you to members who attended AGM.

Outcomes of the meeting

Election of Board members, The Mayor of the City of Ballarat, Councilor Daniel Moloney took the chair to elect members to the Board. Nominations were received from Prue Bentley, Paulene Barton and Mike Stephens. Prue Bentley and Paulene Barton were appointed for a two (2) year term and Mike Stephens was appointed for a one (1) year term taking effect, September 21.

ballaratmi.org.au/agm2021

Other business

The Chair thanked retiring Board member Dr Phil Roberts OAM for his extensive service to the organisation over more than thirty (30) years and thanked him for agreeing to continue his formal association with the BMI by agreeing to the honoured role of Patron of the Institute. Phil has filled the offices of President and Secretary multiple terms. Following the Board meeting the new Board met and elected Office bearers for the coming twelve (12) months.

Office bearers

- President - Mike Stephens
- Vice President - Jane Valpied
- Treasurer - Peter Dowling
- Secretary - Ross Furness

Mike Stephens

Library news >

with Rosemary McInerney



Author of the Month

Barbara Hannay

Barbara lives in Northern Australia, a fascinating and beautiful location that provides a rich setting for many of her books. When she's not writing, Barbara enjoys refreshing her imagination by traveling with her writer husband to explore exciting new overseas destinations, or to revisit the awe-inspiring mystery of the Australian Outback.



Photography | Elliot Hannay

Book of the Month

If I Should Die by Matthew Frank

When a homeless man walks into Greenwich police station and confesses a killing, it should be the admission that cracks open a murder enquiry, instead, he stumbles out on the street and collapses, bleeding from a stab wound he's attempted to repair himself.

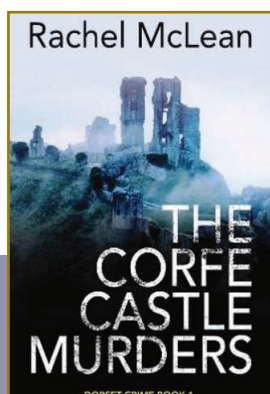
The newest member of the Met's murder investigation team, twenty-five-year-old Afghan veteran Joseph Stark, doesn't believe the man's story. Yet it becomes clear that this could provide the key to unlocking the case.

Soon, the young detective and his colleagues are drawn deeper into a dark, disturbing world as dangerous as anything Stark has known on the frontline. And where there's enough at stake for a man to risk everything.

Recommended Reads

The Corfe Castle Murders by Rachel McLean

After being injured in a bomb attack, Lesley is presented with a choice – early retirement, or a period of respite in a calmer location. But things don't stay calm for long. Before she's even started her new job, Lesley is dragged into investigating a murder at one of England's most iconic landmarks, the imposing Corfe Castle.



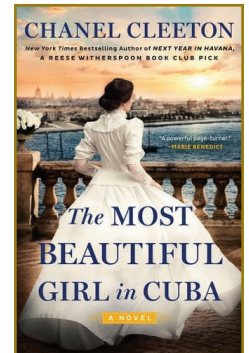
Reserve your copy
ballaratmi.org.au/library

Lesley must hit the ground running. Can she get along with her new partner DS Dennis Frampton, a traditionalist who doesn't appreciate her style? How will she navigate the politics of a smaller force where she's a bigger, and less welcome, fish? And most importantly, can she solve the murder before the killer strikes again?

The Most Beautiful Girl in Cuba by Chanell Cleeton

This book features three women: Evangelina Cisneros – is thrown in jail as a rebel during the Cuban War on Independence. She is dubbed "The Most beautiful Girl in Cuba".

Grace Harrington – a young female reporter who lands a job at William Randolph Hearst's newspaper in 1896. She gets paid by the story and must prove herself and the story of Cuba and it is fight for independence from Spain just might be her ticket to success.

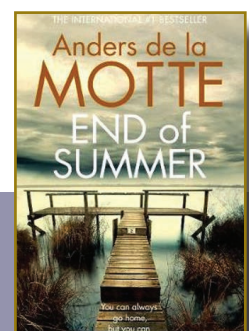


Maria Perez – a young woman who gave up her social standing when she married for love, has become a courier for the Cuban Revolutionaries in Havana. She will help Grace and Hearst's staff attempt to free Evangelina.

The End of Summer by Anders de la Motte

Summer, 1983 – Four-year-old Billy chases a rabbit in the fields behind his house. But when his mother goes to call him in, Billy has disappeared. Never to be seen again.

Today – Veronica is a bereavement counsellor. She's never fully come to terms with her mother's suicide after her brother Billy's disappearance. When a young man joins her group, he looks familiar and when he talks about the trauma of his friend's disappearance in 1983, Veronica feels a flicker of hope. Could Billy still be alive after all this time? Needing to know the truth, Veronica goes home – to the place where her life started to fall apart.



Building Tours



Explore the BMI

The Ballaarat Mechanics' Institute was established in 1859 on the top floor of the Ballarat Fire Station in Barkly Street. It moved to its present location in 1860 with a crowd of 10,000 people attending the ceremony to lay the foundation stone. By 1869 the Institute consisted of four floors, with shops on the ground floor, a grand entrance, a library on the second floor, and a museum on the top floor.

Join a BMI tour to learn about the history and features of Ballarat's oldest cultural institution. Recently restored to its heritage condition, with stunning architecture and a large collection of heritage photographs dating back to the 1850s.



Tours depart each Tuesday at 2pm | \$10per person | 1.5hrs duration

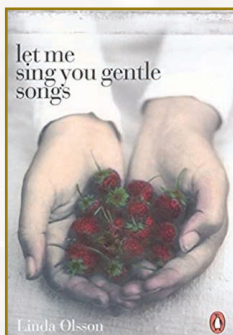
Group tours by arrangement

Bookings

(03) 5331 3042 | mark@ballaratmi.org.au | ballaratmi.org.au/tours | bookings essential

Join our BMI Book Club - The Reading Room >

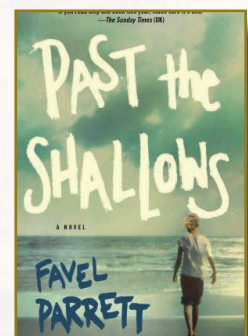
These free sessions are staged for BMI members. The day sessions will be held monthly commencing 25 October.



The Novels to be read and discussed
October and November are:

Let me sing you gentle songs | Linda Olsson
Past the Shallows | Favel Parrett

Contact Rosemary to express interest or go to the library page to register, where you will also find details on where these books can be purchased.



Book Club Expression of Interest
ballaratmi.org.au/library

Library new releases >

All title summaries @ Our Library

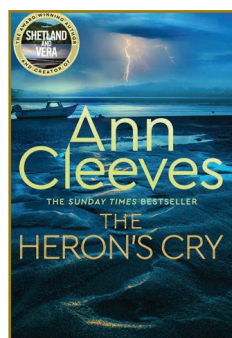
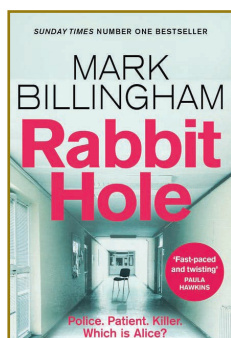


New Releases for October

Mystery

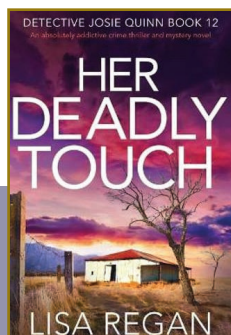
A Darker Place
Rabbit Hole
The Devil's Hand
The Heron's Cry
Little Girl Taken
If I Should Die
Double Deal
The Night Hawks
From The Shadows
A Line to Kill
I Know What I Saw

Rachel Amphlett
 Mark Billingham
 Jack Carr
 Ann Cleeves
 Wendy Dranfield
 Mathew Frank
 John M. Green
 Elly Griffiths
 G.R. Halliday
 Anthony Horowitz
 Imran Mahmood



A Narrow Door
 1979
The Corfe Castle Murders
Her Deadly Touch
Say Goodbye
Murder on Astor Place

Joanne Harris
 Val McDermid
 Rachel McLean
 Lisa Regan
 Karen Rose
 Victoria Thompson

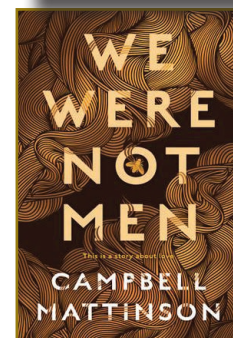
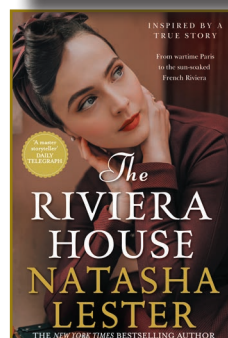
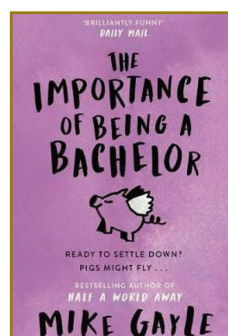


Novels

The Most Beautiful Girl in Cuba
Fast Ice
The Importance of Being a Bachelor
Life and Soul of the Party
The House Guest

Chanel Cleeton
 Clive Cussler

Mike Gayle
 Mike Gayle
 Emilie Richards



Australian

The Riviera House
We Were Not Men

Natasha Lester
 Campbell Mattinson

Psychological Thriller

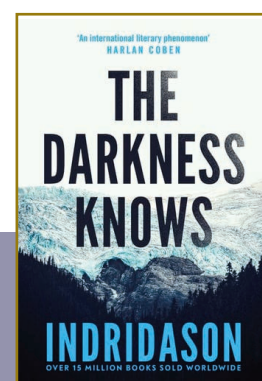
The Stranger in the Mirror

Liv Constantine

Scandinavian

End of Summer
The Darkness Knows

Anders de la Motte
 Arnaldur Indridason



Summary of each title
 on Our Library webpage >

Reserve your copy
ballaratmi.org.au/library

Around the BMI



Heritage Grants

Paula Nicholson | Member of the Board



Pimelea phylloides,
Family, Thymeleae
Collected Port Phillip
(Von Mueller Collection)

We are thrilled to have been awarded a grant of \$170,000 to fund conservation works to 53 significant books and folios and one oil painting held within our Heritage Collection. The Collection includes over 16,000 items and is the largest and most intact collection of material relating to Mechanics Institutes in Victoria. We will be working with Grimwade Conservations Services to complete the urgent and necessary works which

include conservation treatment, stabilisation, cleaning and rehousing. The works will stabilise the objects for storage or display and improve safe handling.

The items include: original volumes of Australian plant specimen books compiled by Baron Ferdinand von Mueller, and associated books, an original artwork known to have belonged to the BMI from the early days of the institute, various other valuable books needing cleaning and restoration work. This work will improve accessibility to these much valued items.

More > Baron Ferdinand von Mueller Collection.



Ballarat International Foto Biennale >

Number One | Gudinski

Until – Sunday 24 October

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 links below.

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 Muscat
Be My Valentine 2, 2020

Melinda will have a small exhibition of her works on display in the Library from Saturday 2 October. Some of these works will be for sale with all commission earned supporting Arts & Cultural activities at the BMI.

Maker & Community Market >

20 November | 9am – 2pm

The influence of COVID-19 has caused us to post-pone the market date (i.e. from 6 November). We are currently looking for stallholders so if you know of anyone who may be interested please contact Mark at the email address below or go to the events section of our website.



Deb Weston Maker

We have reduced our stallholder fees this year due to the fact that most makers have had a very tough year, we hope you will come along and support them.

We will have entertainment provided by the Ballarat Centre of Music & the Arts, their brilliant performers are a highlight of the day. We will also be having a BMI book sale. What's not to like.

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

Next Film 9 December, when back to usual business, 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 | *Stage Mother*, Canada, 2020, 93 min.
Directed by Thom Fitzgerald.

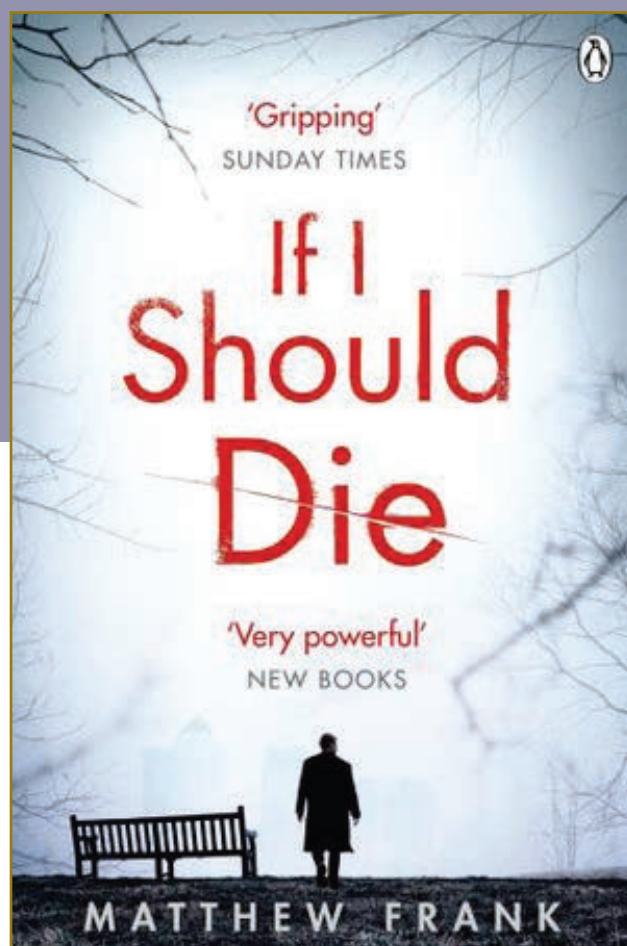
P | (03) 5341 2266



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



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

Ballarat Mechanics' Institute Inc.
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ballaratmi.org.au
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
0419 677 713