

Newsletter



**BALLAARAT
MECHANICS'
INSTITUTE**

November / 2021

SPRING EDITION III



**BMI Maker &
Community Market**

Deborah Klein | *Turtles Sunning II* (detail), 2019 | cut & embossed archival papers

Dear Members

How wonderful to be able to get out and about to catch up with family and friends again after such a difficult period.

The building is open again with events happening as you will see inside the newsletter, the Foto Biennale has now extended to 9 January, the BMI Market is fast approaching and we hope you support this community activity, we have a Book Sale as part of this event which raises funds to support the Library. Rosemary will gratefully receive donated books – we will have another larger Book Sale in January.

We thank Greta Christie for her initiative in setting up *The Reading Room* book club, it's off to a fine start with membership growing. Member lead activities are a great way to use our venue spaces and create events that interest you, our team is there to support these where practicable. Contact Mark at the Library if you would like to lead such an activity.

We often hear of people who haven't visited the building for many years, the extension of the Foto Biennale is a great opportunity to invite your friends to this world class event and also allows you to showcase the wonders of the basement it also gives you the opportunity to venture into the Library and Heritage Reading Room. There is a good chance that you will find Rosemary or one of the team who will be able to talk to your friends about the benefits of belonging to the Ballarat Mechanics' Institute.

The BMI is one of the very few Mechanic's Institutes which still operates a library, has professional staff and is owned by its members. To be strong we need to grow this membership base and an invitation to join from current members is often the most successful way to do so, so please encourage your friends to join, the \$60 annual fee is well worth it.

Mike Stephens



Author of the Month

Amor Towles

Amor was raised in Boston. He graduated from Yale College and received an M.A. in English from Stanford University. He is a principal at an investment firm in Manhattan, where he lives with his wife and two children. He is on the boards of the Library of America and the Yale Art Gallery.



Amor Towles

Book of the Month

The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles.

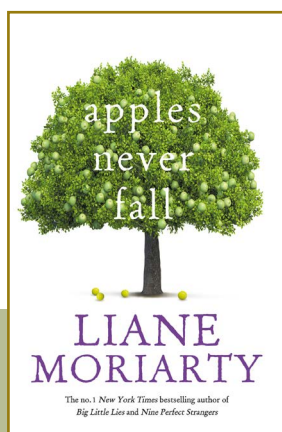
In June 1954, eighteen-year-old Emmett Watson is driven home to Nebraska by the warden of the juvenile work farm where he has just served fifteen months for the only mistake he's ever made.

With his mother long gone, his father recently deceased, and the family farm foreclosed by the bank, Emmett plans to pick up his eight-year-old Brother Billy and head to California to start a new life.

But when the warden drives off, Emmett discovers that two friends from the work farm had been stowed away in the trunk of the warden's car. They have a very different plan for Emmett and Billy's future, one that will take the four of them on a fateful journey in the opposite direction – to New York City.

Recommended Reads

Apples Never Fall by Liane Moriarty.



Joy and Stan had retired after selling their successful tennis school business. One night a stranger, Savannah knocks on their door, bleeding after a fight with her boyfriend. So Joy and Stan are happy to help her.

Later, when Joy goes missing and Savannah is nowhere to be found the police question Stan. But someone who claims to be innocent, he seems to have a lot to hide ...

The Man Who Died Twice by Richard Osman.

Elizabeth has received a letter from an old colleague, a man with whom she has a long history. He needs her help. His story involves stolen diamonds, a violent mobster and a very real threat to his life.

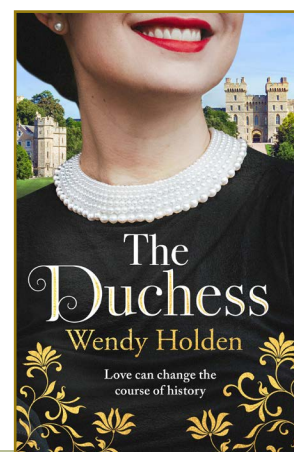
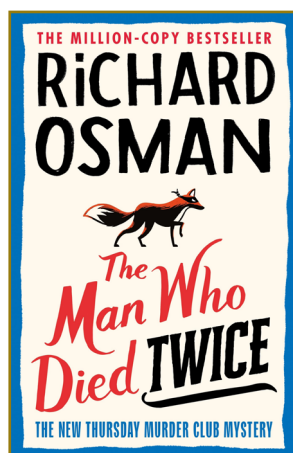
As bodies start piling up, Elizabeth enlists Joyce, Ibrahim and Ron in the hunt for a ruthless murderer. And if they find the diamonds too? Well, wouldn't that be a bonus?

But this time they are up against an enemy who wouldn't bat an eyelid at knocking off four septuagenarians. Can the Thursday Murder Club find the killer, before the killer finds them?

The Duchess by Wendy Holden.

A new historical fiction work about Wallis Simpson, the woman who changed the course of British history. Written in a dual timeline, the story opens in 1972 with Wallis accompanying Edward's V111 body back to England for his funeral. Then the story flashes back to 1928 with the recently married Wallis Simpson moving to London with her second husband Ernest.

This is a dramatic and richly detailed book about one of the most iconic romances of the 20th Century.



Reserve your copy
ballaratmi.org.au/library

Building Tours > The Reading Room >



Explore the BMI

The Ballarat 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

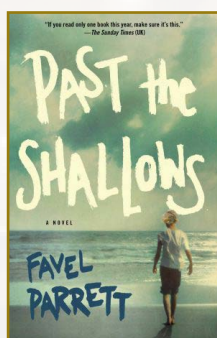
Group tours by arrangement

Bookings

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

Join our BMI Book Club - The Reading Room >

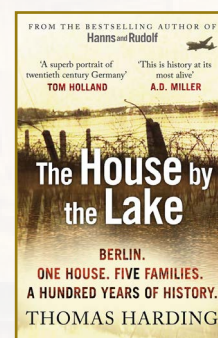
These free sessions are staged for BMI members. The day sessions will be held monthly



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

Past the Shallows | Favel Parrett
House by the Lake | Thomas Harding

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 November >

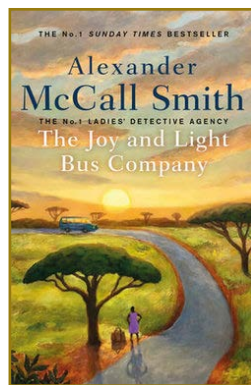
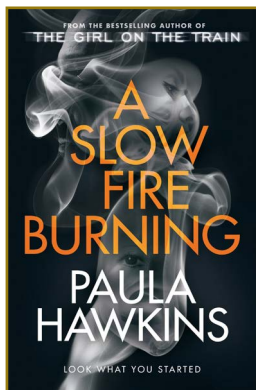
Mystery

Inspired by Murder
The Warning
Enemy at the Gates
Between the Crosses
The Killer Inside
The Unheard
Little Bones
A Slow Fire Burning
A Narrow Door
Savage Road
Unholy Murder
Right Behind Her
The Joy and Light Bus Company
The Dark Remains

Audrey J. Cole
Kathryn Croft
Vince Flynn
Matthew Frank
Matthew Frank
Nicci French
Patricia Gibney
Paula Hawkins
Joanne Harris
Chris Hauty
Lynda La Plante
Melinda Leigh

Alexander McCall Smith
William McIlvanney/Ian Rankin
Frank Muir
Richard Osman
James Patterson
Louise Penny
J.D.Robb

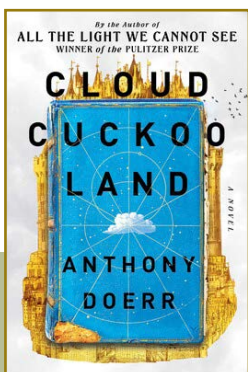
Hand for a Hand
The Man Who Died Twice
The Shadow
The Madness of Crowds
Faithless in Death



Literature

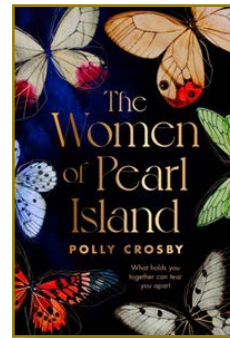
Cloud Cuckoo Land

Anthony Doerr



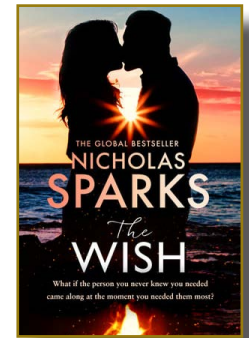
Novels

The Women of Pearl Island
Snow Country
Beautiful World where are You
The Wish



Polly Crosby
Sebastian Faulks
Sally Rooney

Nicholas Sparks



Australian

The Inheritance
At the end of the Day
Corporal Hitler's Pistol
Apples Never Fall
Showtime
The Cuckoo's Cry
When you are Mine
Birds of a Feather

Gabriel Bergmoser
Liz Byrski
Tom Keneally
Liane Moriarty
Judy Nunn
Caroline Overington
Michael Robotham
Tricia Stringer

Historical

Echoes of War
The Duchess
Daughters of War

Tania Blanchard
Wendy Holden
Dinah Jefferies

Scandinavian

The Jealousy Man
Snow Drift

Jo Nesbo
Helene Tursten

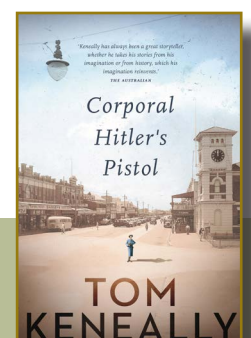
Non-Fiction

Daring to Fly
The Nine

Lisa Millar
Gwen Strauss

Summary of each title
on Our Library webpage >

Reserve your copy
ballaratmi.org.au/library



Around the BMI



Ballarat International Foto Biennale >

Number One | Gudinski

Until – Saturday 9 January

Open only Thursday to Sunday

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.

**BALLARAT
INTERNATIONAL
FOTO
BIENNALE**

Sparkling Wine Workshop with Dr Aimee Brûlée >

Friday 19 November | 5.30pm – 7pm



Discover the secrets of sparkling wine with a tasting workshop at the Ballarat Mechanics' Institute with Amie Brûlée, Doctor of Wine.

We'll take you and your taste buds through a range of sparkling wines - including Champagne, Cava, Prosecco, and Australian sparkling - explaining the difference between the styles. You'll learn about the history, production methods, varieties, food and wine pairing, and most importantly, tasting.

The perfect way to start the weekend.

\$44.00 | [Buy Tickets >](#)

Maker & Community Market >

20 November | 9am – 2pm

Stallholder applications
close 12 November.

We hope you come along
and enjoy the day.

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.



Effie | Hand painted bags & fabrics



A Very Motown Christmas with Motor City Sounds >

Saturday 18 December | Doors open 7pm
Support act 7.30pm | MCS 8.30pm

Live music is back, just in time for the holiday season!
The BMI presents: A Very Motown Christmas.

Dance your way into Christmas with the sound of
Motown and Soul. Motor City Sounds will be playing
their biggest gig since 2020 here in the heart of Ballarat!

This is the perfect event for your work breakup, a
holiday outing with friends, or just a fantastic Saturday
night out (especially now that we can get out of the
house)!

The BMI Bar will be open. \$25–\$30 | [Buy Tickets >](#)



P (03) 5331 3042 – E culturalservices@ballaratmi.org.au
More ballaratmi.org.au/events

Rosemary's

Book of the month

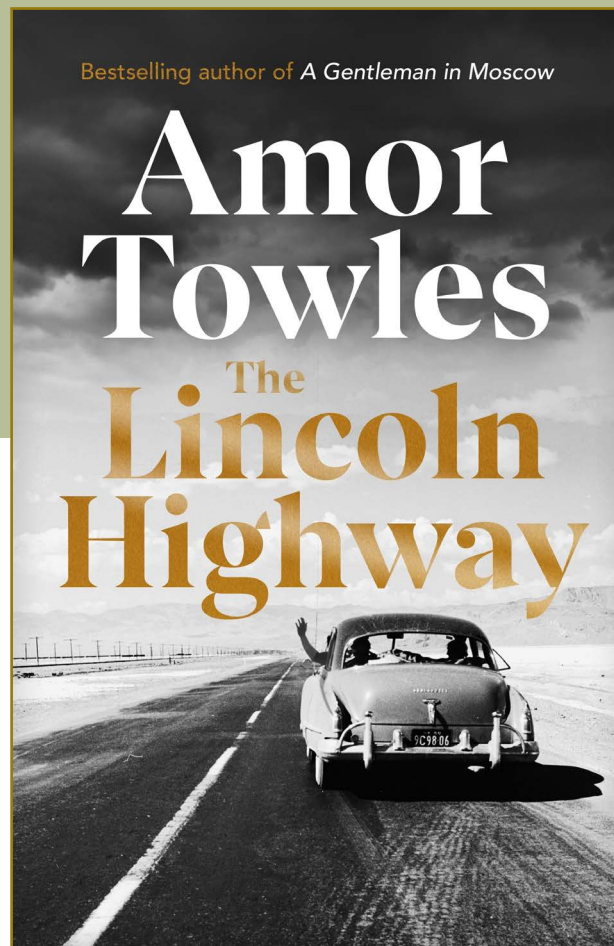
Ballarat Chess Club

Thursdays at 6.30pm

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

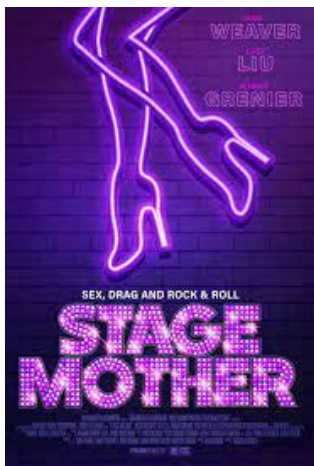
P | 0499 255 240

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.

Check website, as screening still to be confirmed

P | (03) 5341 2266



[ballaratfilmsociety](https://www.facebook.com/ballaratifilmsociety)

BMI Vintage

& Collectables

Thursdays & Fridays
11am – 2pm

Go to the shop webpage for details on operating hours, how you can be involved in this volunteer lead initiative.

The shop is an important BMI fundraiser.

ballaratmi.or.au/vintage&collectables



LIBRARY BOOK SALE

We will be hosting a fundraising Book Sale in January – We would appreciate you donating books you no longer read for this important fundraiser. Contact Rosemary.

Ballaarat Mechanics' Institute acknowledges the support of Ballarat City Council

CITY OF BALLARAT

Ballarat Mechanics' Institute Inc.
117 – 119 Sturt Street, Ballarat VIC 3350
[ballaratmi.org.au](https://www.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