

Newsletter



**BALLAARAT
MECHANICS'
INSTITUTE**

DECEMBER/ 2021

I wonder what it's like to be
The angel on a Christmas tree.
Perched above the tree so high
Have you ever wondered why?
Have you thought in modern times
You are committing workplace crimes.

Unless you've followed all the law
For workers high above the floor.
Have you a scaffolding in place,
Provided guards for ears and face,
To give protection from the noise
Of lively children with new toys?

Have you an egress system there,
A notice – Working High – Beware?
Did you give training, full and free,
Or simply plonk her on the tree.
Thus causing her to feel distress,
Pine needles sticking up her dress?

And when her annual vigil's done,
Will you all thank her? – Everyone.
Or shove her with the balls and bells,
In some old darkened box that smells?
Now truly would you like to be
The angel on your Christmas tree?

Dear Members

The Angel on a Christmas Tree | Mike Stephens

We hope you have a wonderful festive season and you get the chance to enjoy getting together with family and friends in the next couple of weeks. The BMI will be hosting a staff Christmas get together on Monday 13 December at 4.30pm in the Humffray Room, members are welcome to attend, if you wish to do so please RSVP to mark@ballaratmi.org.au prior to COB Friday 10 December.

Our fundraising Book Sale will take place in January, we rely heavily on members having their annual stock take of books some of which might deserve another home. This is our biggest yearly fundraiser and is a great way to support the operation of our much loved cultural institution.

You will have noticed Rosemary's friendly face has been missing from the Library, she is not only enjoying a well

earned rest but is also recovering from recent surgery. We hope she will have a speedy recovery. She has received many well wishers from regular visitors to the Library.

Many of you would know that the The Ballarat International Foto Biennale has been extended through until 9 January 2022. **Gudinski | Number One**, has been the second most popular exhibition after the **Linda McCartney Retrospective** at the Gallery. Hosting this exhibition has been a great opportunity to introduce visitors to the BMI with most visitors curious to see our magnificent building. To capitalise on this opportunity we need more volunteers, if this is something that appeals to you than Marilyn Furness would love to hear from you. Read more inside...

The very best of the season to all our members.

Mike Stephens

Library news >

with Rosemary McInerney



Author of the Month

Hannah Kent

Hannah was born in Adelaide, and is the co-founder and deputy editor of Australian literary journal *Kill Your Darlings*, and is completing her PhD at Flinders University. In 2011 she won the inaugural Writing Australia Unpublished Manuscript Award.



Hannah Kent

Book of the Month

My Adventurous Life by Dick Smith

Dick Smith is a remarkable and proud Australian. He has been part of our national consciousness for over fifty years as an innovative and astute businessman, a ground-breaking adventurer general philanthropist and a provocateur for the causes he feels deeply about. Yet despite his great success and achievements, Dick has remained down to earth and close to his roots.

Dick shares his inspiring story and the lessons he's learned about staying true to yourself. He has welcomed the freedoms that wealth brings, but has found the simple life more fulfilling. His responsibility is to the world and the people we share it with.

Recommended Reads

The Way It Is Now by Garry Disher

Charlie is living in his family's holiday house, on forced leave since he made a mess of things at work.

Things have never been easy for Charlie. Twenty years earlier his mother went missing in the area, believed murdered. His father has always been the main suspect, though her body was never found.

Until now the foundations are being dug for a new house on a vacant block. The skeletal remains of a child and an adult are found and Charlie's past comes crashing in on him...

The Spy's Wife by Fiona McIntosh

Evie, a widow and station master's daughter, helplessly looks out for the weekly visit of the handsome man she and her sister call The Southerner on their train platform in the wilds of northern England. When polite salutations shift to friendly conversations, they become captivated by each other's reticent manner.

With rumours coming out of Germany that Hitler may be stirring up war again, local English authorities have warned against spies. Even Evie becomes suspicious of her new suitor, Roger, but all is not what it seems

The Women of Pearl Island by Polly Crosby

When Tartelin Brown accepts a job with the reclusive Marianne Stourbridge, she finds herself on a wild island with a mysterious history.

Tartelin is tasked with hunting butterflies for Marianne's research. But she quickly uncovers something far more intriguing than the curious creatures that inhabit the landscape.

Because the island and Marianne share a remarkable history, and what happened all those years ago has left its scars, and some terrible secrets.

As Tartelin pieces together Marianne's connection to the island, she must confront her own reasons for being there. Can the two women finally face up to the painful memories that bind them so tightly to the past.?

What Will Burn by James Oswald

The charred remains of an elderly woman are discovered in a burned out gamekeeper's cottage, hidden away in woodland to the west of Edinburgh.

What is at first assumed to be a tragic accident, begins to take on a more sinister aspect as Detective Inspector Tony McLean digs deeper.

There is far more to the victim than her humble surroundings suggest...

Donate your pre-loved books our
January Book Sale Fundraiser

BMI Tours > The Reading Room >



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

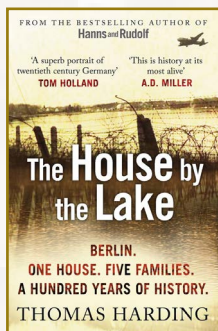
Group tours by arrangement

Bookings

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

Join our BMI Book Club - **The Reading Room** >

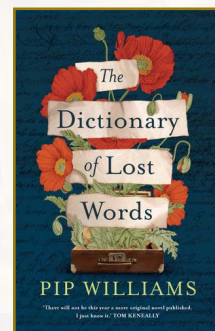
These free sessions are staged for BMI members. The day sessions will be held monthly



The Novels to be read and discussed
January & February are:

House by the Lake | Thomas Harding
The Dictionary of Lost Words | Pip Williams

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

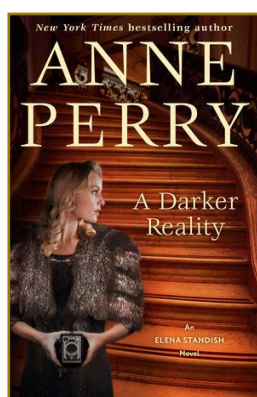
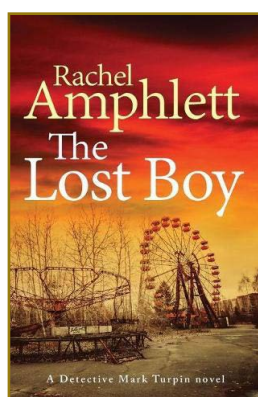


New Releases for December >

Mystery

The Lost Boy
Mercy
The Last Thing He Told Me
The Judge's List
What Will Burn
A Darker Reality

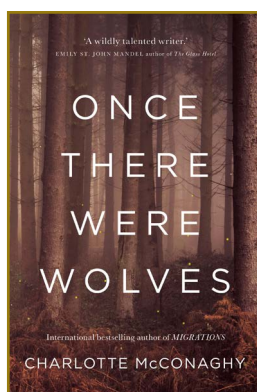
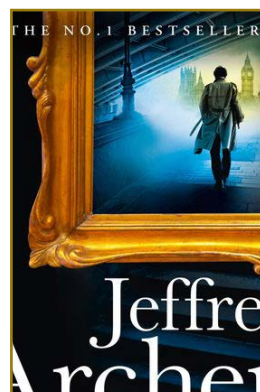
Rachel Amphlett
 David Baldacci
 Laura Dave
 John Grisham
 James Oswald
 Anne Perry



Novels

Over My Dead Body
The Women of Pearl Island
Silverview
Once There Were Wolves
The Magician
The Lincoln Highway

J. Archer
 Polly Crosby
 John LeCarre
 Charlotte McConaghy
 Colm Toibin
 Amor Towles



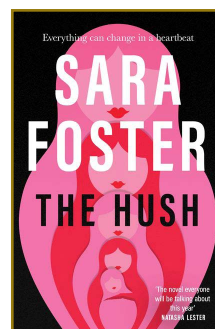
Historical

A Bookseller's Secret
A Woman of Intelligence

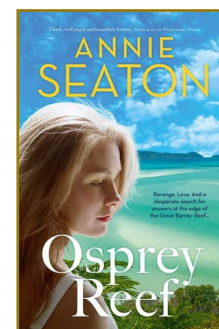
Michelle Gable
 Karin Tanabe

Australian

The Hush
Osprey Reef



Sara foster
 Annie Seaton



Romance

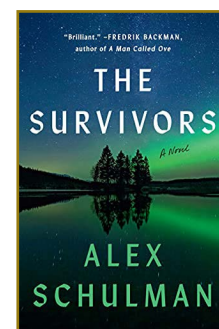
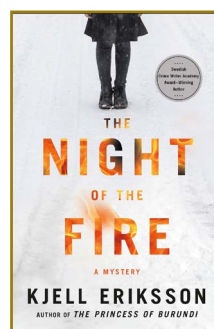
The Party Crasher
Midnight in the Snow

Sophie Kinsella
 Karen Swan

Scandinavian

The Night of the Fire
The Girl Who Died
The Survivors

Kjell Eriksson
 Ragnar Jonasson
 Alex Schulman



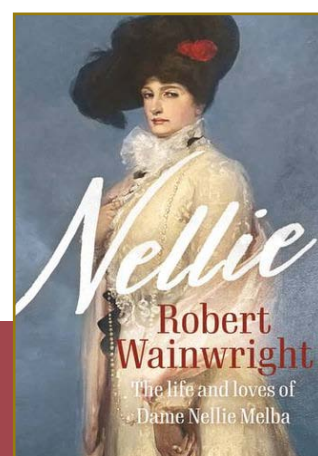
Non-Fiction

Nellie
Funkytown

Robert Wainwright
 Paul Kennedy

Psychological

The Rising Tide
 Sam Lloyd



Summary of each title
 on Our Library web-page – Reserve your copy >

Around the BMI

**Annual Book Sale Fundraiser
Saturday 22 January**



Ballarat International Foto Biennale >

Number One | Gudinski
Until – Saturday 9 January
Open only Thursday to Sunday

This exhibition of photography is a tribute to Michael Gudinski, whose passion for music was legendary. This exhibition celebrates his advocacy for the arts and its lasting impact. Exhibition features photographs of Elton John, Paul McCartney, Vance Joy, Courtney Barnett, Troye Sivan and many more.

Would you like to Volunteer to showcase the Biennale and the Ballarat Mechanics Institute? Go to

ballaratmi.org.au/volunteers

A Very Motown Christmas with Motor City Sounds | Buy Tickets >

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 >**



BMI Book Sale Fundraiser >

Saturday 22 January | 9am – 2pm | Minerva Space

Our annual fundraising Book Sale will take place in January. Please donate your pre-loved books to the Library during normal operating hours. This is a great fundraising activity and we hope you take the time to spring clean your book shelves.



Book donations are welcome at the library during normal operating hours.

The Push All-Ages Tour >

Sunday 13 February | Doors open 7pm
1pm – 3.30pm



Supported by the Victorian Government, this event is being staged by a team of local young people, as a part of the Victorian Government FReeZA program – a youth development initiative that provides young people with industry skills and experiences in staging events in their local communities.

The 2021/22 All-Ages Tour will take to regional centres and outer-suburban centres from Wodonga to Warrnambool, Healesville to Hoppers Crossing across seven spring weekends. Get your mates together for an all-ages road trip to remember!

Buy Tickets >

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



ballaratfilmsociety

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



BMI Vintage

& Collectables

Thursdays & Fridays
11am – 2pm

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

The shop is an important BMI
fundraiser.

More >



LIBRARY HOURS OVER CHRISTMAS

The Library will be closed from

23 December – 3 January

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
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