

Newsletter



**BALLAARAT
MECHANICS'
INSTITUTE**

FEBRUARY / 2022



**BMI Maker &
Community Market**

Dear Members

Paul Simon's lyrics *Slip slidin' away, Slip slidin' away, you know the nearer your destination the more you're slip slidin' away*, could have been written with the current pandemic in mind.

At the end of 2021 bookings for events looked strong, then as Omicron invaded our society the events started to *slip slide away*.

Even though we are still enduring the pandemic restrictions we are hopeful of a better year this year but like all venues we have been severely effected by the restrictions and the hesitancy of people (of our membership demographic) to mingle unless it is necessary.

We are currently operating the library with restricted opening hours. Reducing operational expenses was a

priority as we struggle like other community and event based businesses.

We have had great support from members and volunteers for our recent book sale which generated over \$1,500.

Thank you to the many members and Ballarat community who donated books for the sale.

We won't promise to bring you Paul Simon but there will be a good variety of events and for them to be successful we will need your support by attending.

Keep looking at the **events webpage** > for updates.

If you stay at home you will find the year is just *slip slidin away*

Mike Stephens

Library news

with Rosemary McInerney



Author of the Month

Wendy grew up in Yorkshire. As well as writing her novels, she regularly writes features for newspapers and magazines on a range of social, topical and lifestyle subjects.

Wendy is married and lives in England with her family.



Wendy Holden

Book of the Month

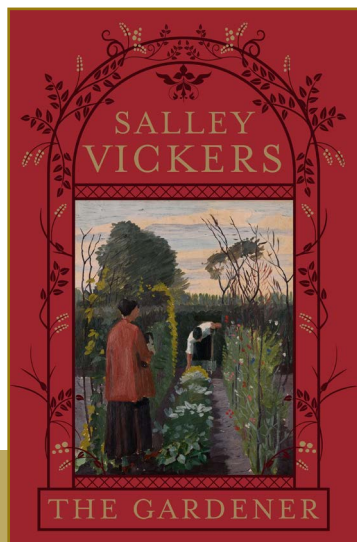
The Russian Wife by Barry Maitland

When the Russian wife of the owner of one of the most valuable private collections of modern art in the UK is found dead, Detective Chief Inspector David Brock is drawn into a high-stakes world very different to his own. From the dealers and galleries in London's West End, his investigations take him to Hanover, Miami and New York on the trail of international forgery and fraud.

At the same time, his old colleague Detective Chief Inspector Kathy Kolla, who now leads one of the Metropolitan Police Murder investigations teams, finds herself at the wrong end of a corruption charge. With her whole career in the balance, she will do almost anything to clear her name.

Recommended Reads

The Gardener by Salley Vickers



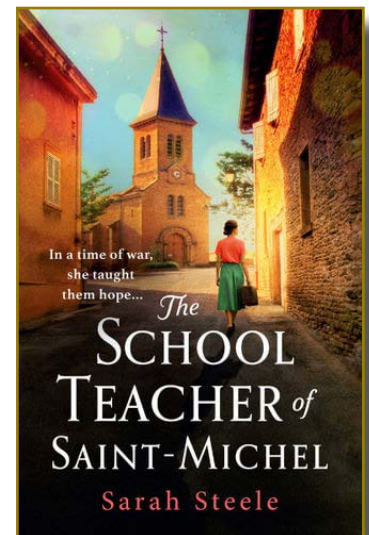
Artist Hassie Days, and her sister, Margot, buy a run-down Jacobean house in Hope Wenlock on the Welsh Marches. While Margot continues her London life in high finance, Hassie is left alone to work the large, long-neglected garden.

She is befriended by eccentric, sharp-tongued Miss Foot, who recommends Murat, an Albanian migrant, out of place among the locals, to help Hassie in the garden. But as she begins to explore the history of the house and the mysterious nearby wood, old hurts begin to fade as she experiences the healing power of nature and discovers other worlds.

As she works the garden in Murat's peaceful company, Hassie ruminates on her past life: the sibling rivalry that tainted her childhood and the love affair that left her with painful, unanswered questions.

The School Teacher of Saint-Michel by Sarah Steele

France, 1942 At the end of the day, the school teacher releases her pupils. She checks they have their identity passes, and warns them not to stop until the German guards have let them through the barrier that separates occupied France from free France. As the little ones fly across the border and into their mothers' arms, she breathes a sigh of relief. No one is safe now. Not even the children.



Berkshire, present day. A letter left to her by her beloved late grandmother Gigi takes Hannah Stone on a journey deep into the heart of the Dordogne landscape. As she begins to unravel a forgotten history of wartime bravery and sacrifice, she discovers the heartrending secret that binds her grandmother to a village schoolteacher, the remarkable Lucie Laval...

Why not write a review

If you read any of these titles and you want to share your reading experience then we would love to hear from you. Go to our Library web-page to do so. We will share these reviews in future newsletters.

Our Library web-page
Reserve your copy >

More Library news & Around the BMI

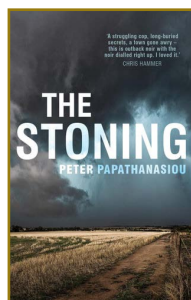
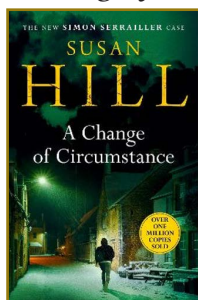


New Releases for February

Mystery

A Change of Circumstance

Susan Hill



Australian

The Stoning

Peter Papathanasiou

Novels

The Stranger in the Lifeboat

Mitch Albom

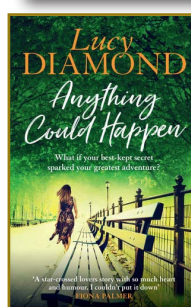
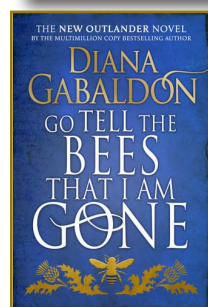
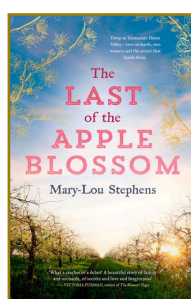
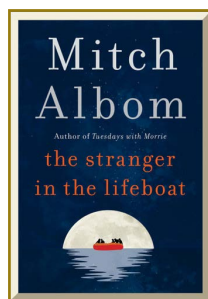
Go Tell The Bees that

I Am Gone

The Last of the Apple Blossom

Diana Gabaldon

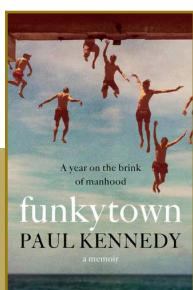
Mary-Lou Stephens



Romance

Anything Can Happen

Lucy Diamond



Non-Fiction

Funkytown

Paul Kennedy

Volunteering

To support our fundraising efforts we would love to hear from you if you would like to be involved at the BMI as a volunteer, to assist with our events, and library services & fundraising. Roles include:

- Event planning & marketing
- Marketing preparation & distribution
- Pre-event set-up and de-installation
- Event-day liaison and provision of BMI services
- Building Tour Guides (Tuesdays)
- Assist with community art workshops
- Customer Service - Vintage & Collectables Shop
- Fundraising engagement

If you would like to assist with our upcoming events season please complete the on-line form:

ballaratmi.org.au/about-us/volunteers

Explore the BMI

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 essential

Tours web-page
Book a Tour >

What's on

ballaratmi.org.au/events



The Push All-Ages Tour

Sunday 13 February | 1pm – 3.30pm



Taking in the sights and scenery throughout 20 regional and outer-suburban locations across Victoria this September and October, the All-Ages Tour will bring thousands of young music fans to locations across the state, in what are hotly

tipped to be some of the biggest and best all-ages events in recent memory.

With the 2019 tour seeing Ruby Fields and Baker Boy take to sold out stages across regional Victoria, the 2021 All-Ages Tour will see Mallrat and Ninajirachi bring their talents to Ballarat... an all-ages experience like never before.

Tickets: ballaratmi.org.au/events >

Melbourne International Comedy Festival

Saturday 26 February

This much loved Festival is on again this year and expect to see it here at the BMI in February, details as still being finalised but keep an eye on our website and social media for updates.



BMI Maker & Community Market

Sunday 20 March | 9am – 2pm

We will again be hosting a Maker & Community Market in March if you are interested in being involved as a stallholder go to our event listing.

Salon Sessions

MELBA
OPERA
TRUST

In partnership with Melba Opera Trust
Sunday 29 May & Sunday 17 July | 2pm – 3pm

The BMI in partnership with Melba Opera Trust will stage two exciting programs in 2022. Program coming soon... Keep an eye on our website for updates

Tickets: ballaratmi.org.au/events >

BMI Retailers

Trudy McLauchlan, *Playing in the Attic*, has relocated her shop to Talbot (13 Ballarat Street, Talbot to be precise) whilst we will miss her little shop of curiosities she is not far away, so don't be a stranger when you are next visiting the Talbot Farmers Market.

Melinda Muscat, *The Ballarat Imaginarium*

will be opening in this same location (119A Strut Street) soon.

Melinda is a local artist who has conducted Community Art Workshops at the BMI, she will be hosting an opening of her shop on 18 February. Melinda will not only carry her own high quality, locally produced designer made gift-ware and artworks but she will also showcase other local artists.



Other offerings will be books and albums by local writers and musicians, as well as curated retro items and a small selection of art materials.

If anyone would like more information on the opening or the shop product, please contact Mark.

mark@ballaratmi.org.au

Bookings opening night - The Ballarat Imaginarium >

Our Events web-page
[BMI Events>](#)

Around the BMI



New Discussion Group

Do you enjoy vibrant, stimulating, thought provoking conversations? Are you interested in discussing current affairs or interesting topics and listening to others viewpoints and perspectives?

If this sounds like you, well there's a new discussion group meeting fortnightly at the library. We would develop agreed protocols to ensure a respectful space where everyone could express their opinion and ideas. Depending on the group's interests and choices, we could have a set topic or maybe, people could present a topic of personal interest and knowledge. All would be decided at first meeting.

If this sounds appealing, please contact BMI to register your interest or get more information.

ballaratmi.org.au/arts-and-culture

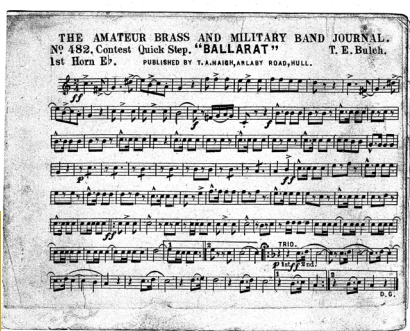
Visitors to the BMI

Dr John Whiteoak, a Professor of music and dance history (Monash University) and his partner and research and writing collaborator, Dr Aline Scott-Maxwell, popped into the BMI last week to have a quick look at our Book Sale but spent most of their visit in the Heritage Reading Room immersed in our wonderful collection of heritage books. With his personal history deeply steeped in brass and keyboard music-making, archival collecting and other things, he related stories from his own research into the Eureka Stockade, which included the episode of the German band that accompanied the diggers out of Creswick on their way to Ballarat and the Stockade playing *La Marseillaise*.

View his - *Nineteenth-Century Music Review* >

Supplied Dr. John Whiteoak | © Cambridge University Press, 2017

Supplied Dr. John Whiteoak



Dr Jill Waterhouse, Historian, Australian History, Australian National University.

Visiting the Mechanics Institute Library from Canberra, historian Jill Waterhouse looked along the shelves,



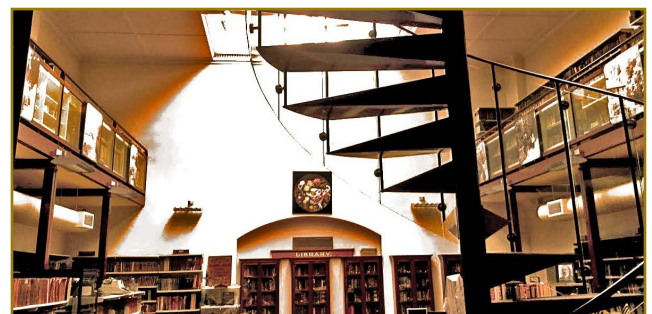
seeking inspiration from book titles that have stood the test of time. *Portrait of a Genius...But* caught her eye. While this was certainly intriguing, possibly the most adaptable title for any work is *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens.

The library itself could well be described as 'Expectations Fulfilled'. She explained that she

had conducted research in the amazing libraries of Oxford, Cambridge, and the Australian National University but had never enjoyed such easy access to old newspapers and leather-bound volumes housed in comfortable rooms noted for their nineteenth-century architectural features (and with the welcome addition of the internet). The Library offers genuine sense of discovery of treasure and a warm welcome from staff, experiences increasingly rare in this digital and bureaucracy-laden age.

Join our BMI Book Club The Reading Room

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



The Reading Room
ballaratmi.org.au/library

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

We meet , every 2nd Thursday of the month
7pm for 7.30pm start.



Check the website for program updates and screenings.

P | (03) 5341 2266
[ballaratfilmsociety](http://ballaratfilmsociety.com)



BMI Vintage

& Collectables

Thursdays & Fridays
11am – 3pm | Opening in February.

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.

ballaratmi.org.au/shop/bmi-vintage-and-collectables >



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

Ballaarat Mechanics' Institute
Ballarat's Oldest Cultural Institution



Library Hours
Monday to Friday 10am – **2pm**
Saturday 9.30am – Noon
Venue Hire Enquiries
venue@ballaratmi.org.au
0419 677 713