

# Newsletter



BALLAARAT  
MECHANICS'  
INSTITUTE

MAY / 2022

## 2022 Twilight Talks

**The Yarrowee:**

*Uncovering the secrets  
of Ballarat's River*

## Author of the Month

**Erica James:** Erica grew up on Hayling Island in Hampshire, England and now lives with her two sons in Cheshire.

She began writing after attending a creative writing course at Arvon Foundation.



Erica James

## Book of the Month

*The Sleeping and The Dead* by Ann Cleeves

North Devon is enjoying a rare hot summer when Detective Peter Porteous is called to Cranford Water, where the body of a teenager has been discovered. After trawling through the missing persons files, he comes to the conclusion that the corpse is Michael Grey, an enigmatic and secretive young man who was reported missing by his foster parents in 1972.

The news that a body has been found leaves prison officer Hannah Morton in shock. Michael had been her boyfriend, and she had been with him the night he disappeared. And now the discovery is bringing back dreaded and long-buried memories from her past.

## Recommended reads

*Don't Be Too Polite, Girls* by Wendy McCarthy

Wendy McCarthy has made her mark on Australia in many extraordinary ways. For more than 50 years, she has been on the leading edge of feminism and corporate and public life in this country, and her trailblazing advocacy and leadership have made her a widely respected and revered figure. Wendy is a woman who shaped her times as much as she was shaped by them, and now, at 80 years of age, she shares her remarkable life and achievements, and the lessons she learned – and taught us all.

This inspiring and enlightening memoir is filled with cautionary tales and insider stories about being

female in Australia – as well as a few helpful survival tips. Above all, it encourages the reader to find her own voice and listen to it.

**Don't miss Wendy at our up-coming Wheeler Centre event.**

*Don't Be Too Polite, Girls* >



*The Crooked Shore* by Martin Edwards

DCI Hannah Scarlett is an acknowledged expert in solving cold cases, but she is struggling under the weight of bureaucracy when Ramona Smith's disappearance from Bowness more than twenty years ago crosses her desk.

The prime suspect was charged but found not guilty. Now the case has come back into the public eye as the result of a shocking tragedy on the Crooked Shore, the found of dark legends south of the Lake District. A ruthless killer, who has already got away with one murder, plans further appalling crimes. DCI Scarlett finds herself racing against the clock as she strives to solve the mysteries and save innocent lives.

*Mothers and Daughters* by Erica James

Since the sudden death of her husband, Naomi has steadily rebuilt the life they shared in the village of Tilsham by the sea.

Her eldest daughter, Martha, is sensible and determined – just like her father was – and very much in control of where her life is going. If she could just get pregnant with her husband life would be perfect.

Willow, the youngest, was always more sunny and easy-going, yet drifted through life, much to her father's frustration. But now, with charming new boyfriend, Rick, she has a very good reason to settle down.

The three women are as close as can be. But there are things Naomi has kept from her daughters. Like the arrival of Ellis, a long-lost friend from way back, now bringing the fun and spark back into her life.

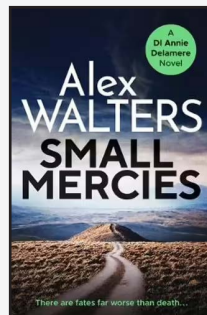
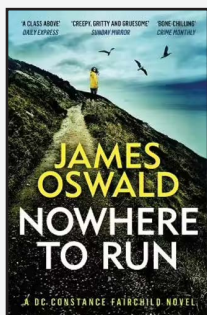
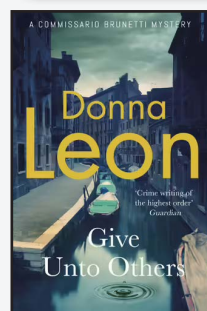
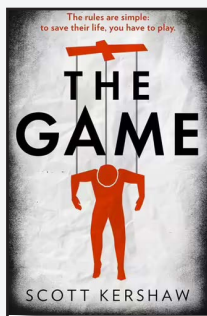
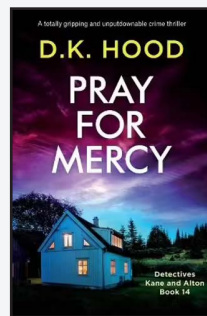
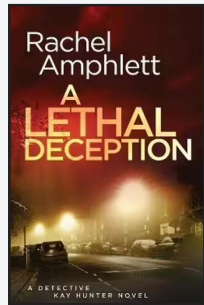


## New Releases for April

### Mystery

*A Lethal Deception*  
*The Sleeping and the Dead*  
*The Engine House*  
*The Crooked Shore*  
*One for Sorrow*  
*The Locked Room*  
*Pray For Mercy*  
*The Game*  
*Dead Man's Grave*  
*Give Unto Others*  
*Nothing to Hide*  
*Nowhere to Run*  
*Lies to Tell*  
*Small Mercies*

Rachel Amphlett  
 Ann Cleeves  
 Rhys Dylan  
 Martin Edwards  
 Helen Fields  
 Elly Griffiths  
 D.K. Hood  
 Scott Kershaw  
 Neil Lancaster  
 Donna Leon  
 James Oswald  
 James Oswald  
 Marion Todd  
 Alex Walters



### Australian

*The Mother*  
*A Family of Strangers*  
*Rising Dust*  
*The Long Weekend*

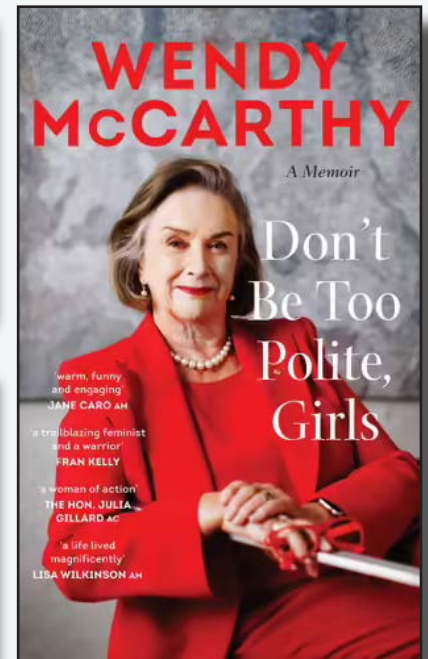
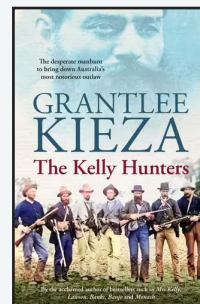
Jane Caro  
 Fiona Lowe  
 Fleur McDonald  
 Fiona Palmer



### Non-Fiction

*Under A Venice Moon*  
*The Kelly Hunters*  
*The Chancellor: The Remarkable Odyssey*  
*Mary Ann & Captain Piper*  
*Don't Be Too Polite, Girls*  
*Sunset in Spain*

Margaret Cameron  
 Grantlee Kieza  
 Angela Merkel/  
 Kati Marton  
 Jessica North  
 Wendy McCarthy  
 Erna Walraven



Reserve your copy >

# The BMI Collection

Preserving Ballarat's history for future generations

Collection News >

## BALLARAT ANZACS

### Display Talks & Research

Library & Heritage Reading Room



Many thanks to Garry Snowden, President of the Arch of Victory & Avenue of Honour Committee, thanks also to Yvon Davis, Neil Leckie and Phil Roberts for the generous amount of time dedicated to staging this exhibition, talks and research assistance they offered to more than 250 people

who attended activities in April.

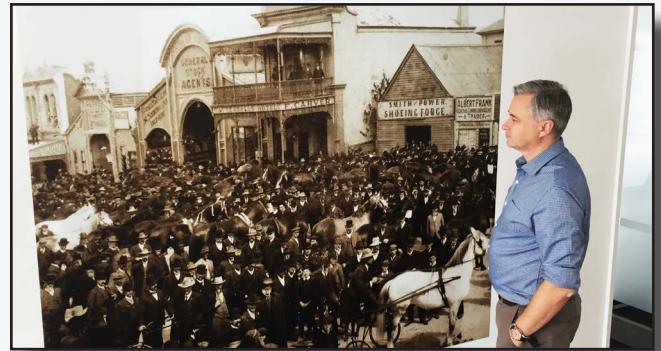
Thank you also to Victoria Rushton from Integra, who provided the wonderful story boards. Thank you also the Mayor and Garry Snowden for making available *The Grieving Mother* and the *Brother's in Arms* maquettes respectively, as well as other meaningful items that Garry was able to provide. Thanks to the Ballarat Ranger Military Museum and Ballarat RSL for memorabilia display items. It is also noted that some of our own members loaned display items, we thank you. We are also grateful to Marian Blythman's team of Collections Volunteers, Dani, Judy and Mary who contributed with a beautiful display of ANZAC related books from our own Heritage Collection. The Ballarat Times supported us with news items each week of the Exhibition relating to each of the four talks. This gave the exhibition and activities great community reach. We are hoping to expose more stories next year and hope you enjoyed the series.



Phil Roberts Talk | Arch of Victory,  
Avenue of Honour

## The Max Harris Collection

### Butler, Ballarat



Brendan Allan from Butler Chartered Accountants & Butler Private (Financial Planners), have purchased the use of one of Max's images (MH1460) from Our Collection and it graces the entrance of their offices in Doveton Street North. The image has been printed on vinyl and creates a spectacular entrance. Brendan has researched the image, finding an article via Trove (Ballarat Courier, 11 September 1915) identifying the date the of the photo as 10 September 1915, we have provided a clearer representation of the article by sending him a photo of the printed page of the news item from Our Collection of heritage newspapers. This information will be placed as a *News Item* on our website.

This image is relevant to Butler as it was taken directly opposite their offices and is a point of conversation with clients and visitors. Brendan is happy for you to drop into 18 Doveton Street North to see how stunning it looks.

### Auntie Chrissie's

Kerry Clarke has recently created a lovely bed & breakfast here in Ballarat (Auntie Chrissie's - 1904 Cottage) which has been enhanced by adding touches of Ballarat heritage in the form of Max Harris Collection images.

This is a new venture for Kerry and we wish her well.



Brendan Allen  
Butler Offices, Doveton Street

Interior of Auntie Chrissie's with frame  
Max Harris Prints. Supplied Kerry Clark

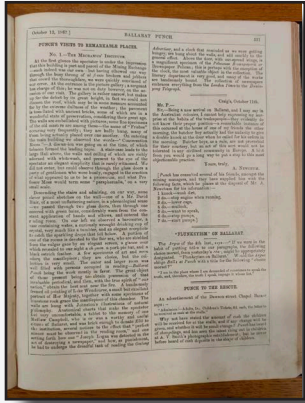


# The BMI Collection

Preserving Ballarat's history for future generations

Around the BMI

## Annie Thomas | *Ballarat Punch*



Annie was a regular visitor to the BMI a couple of months ago, she was doing research whilst utilising Our Collection of *Ballarat Punch*. Annie has forwarded the pictured article from October 12, 1867 in the *Ballarat Punch*. she said, "It describes a trip to the

Ballarat Mechanics' Institute and while it is quite tongue in cheek in parts as you would expect from Mr Punch, it has some nice descriptions of the building, reading material and the general feel for the time."

This article will be placed as a *News Item* on our website. It is truly worth the read.

## 2022 Twilight Talks

It's great to see Twilight Talks back again, it's clear our members are passionate about local issues.

This member led project is professionally run by members donating many voluntary hours with major contributions from Prue Bentley, Phil Roberts, Ross and Marilyn Furness with a special thanks to our engaging speakers and Kath Chapman and the amazing support we received from the Ballarat Times and the City of Ballarat.

If you missed Hedley Thomson's presentation or would like to have a closer look at his video, it is listed as a *News Item* on our website. Don't miss the May Sessions.



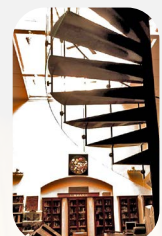
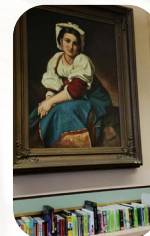
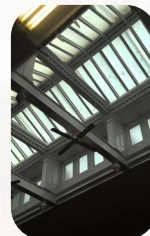
Article from *Ballarat Punch*  
Supplied Annie Thomas.

*Albert Hall* 1953, (detail)  
MH1615

## Our Tours

### 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



Book a Tour >

The BMI  
Collection  
Preserving Ballarat's history for future generations

WHAT'S'ON	TUE 3 MAY	WED 4 MAY	THU 5 MAY	FRI 6 MAY	SAT 7 MAY	SUN 8 MAY
	10am-3pm   Library	10am-4pm   Library 11am-3pm   Vintage & Collectables <b>5pm-6pm   Twilight Talks</b> 7.30pm-9pm   Kadampa Meditation	10am-3pm   Library 11am-3pm   Vintage & Collectables 6.30pm   Ballarat Chess Club	10am-4pm   Library 11am-4pm   Vintage & Collectables	9.30am-12noon   Library <b>11am-3pm   Vintage &amp; Collectables</b>	Closed   Library  MOTHER'S DAY
MON 9 MAY	TUE 10 MAY	WED 11 MAY	THU 12 MAY	FRI 13 MAY	SAT 14 MAY	SUN 15 MAY
10am-4pm   Library	10am-3pm   Library	10am-4pm   Library 11am-3pm   Vintage & Collectables <b>5pm-6pm   Twilight Talks</b> 7.30pm-9pm   Kadampa Meditation	10am-3pm   Library 11am-3pm   Vintage & Collectables 6.30pm   Ballarat Chess Club <b>7pm-9.30pm   Ballarat Film Society, <i>Lamb</i></b>	10am-4pm   Library 11am-4pm   Vintage & Collectables	9.30am-12noon   Library	Closed   Library
MON 16 MAY	TUE 17 MAY	WED 18 MAY	THU 19 MAY	FRI 20 MAY	SAT 21 MAY	SUN 22 MAY
10am-4pm   Library	10am-3pm   Library	10am-4pm   Library 11am-3pm   Vintage & Collectables 7.30pm-9pm   Kadampa Meditation	10am-3pm   Library 11am-3pm   Vintage & Collectables 6.30pm   Ballarat Chess Club	10am-4pm   Library 11am-4pm   Vintage & Collectables	9.30am-12noon   Library	Closed   Library
MON 23 MAY	TUE 24 MAY	WED 25 MAY	THU 26 MAY	FRI 27 MAY	SAT 28 MAY	SUN 29 MAY
10am-4pm   Library	10am-3pm   Library	10am-4pm   Library 11am-3pm   Vintage & Collectables 7.30pm-9pm   Kadampa Meditation	10am-3pm   Library 11am-3pm   Vintage & Collectables 6.30pm   Ballarat Chess Club	10am-4pm   Library 11am-4pm   Vintage & Collectables	9.30am-12noon   Library	Closed   Library <b>2pm-3pm   Nellie in her own Write</b>
MON 30 MAY	TUE 31 MAY	WED 1 JUN	THU 2 JUN	FRI 3 JUN	SAT 4 JUN	SUN 5 JUN
10am-4pm   Library	10am-3pm   Library 10.30am-2pm   The Reading Room	10am-4pm   Library 11am-3pm   Vintage & Collectables 7.30pm-9pm   Kadampa Meditation	10am-3pm   Library 11am-3pm   Vintage & Collectables 6.30pm   Ballarat Chess Club	10am-4pm   Library 11am-4pm   Vintage & Collectables	9.30am-12noon   Library <b>11am-3pm   Vintage &amp; Collectables</b>	Closed   Library



BALLAARAT  
MECHANICS'  
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OPENING HOURS

Library: Mon-Fri 10am-4pm  
Sat 9.30am-12noon  
Sun Closed

Vintage & Collectables Sun-Tue Closed  
Wed-Thu 11am-3pm  
Fri 11am-4pm  
First Sat of month 11am-pm



BALLAARAT  
MECHANICS'  
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117 – 119 Sturt Street, Ballarat VIC 3350  
ballaratmi.org.au  
library@ballaratmi.org.au  
(03) 5331 3042



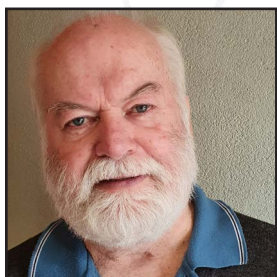
# 2022 Twilight Talks

5pm 5.30pm start | 4 May | Humffrey Room

## Liquid gold down under, and the “sludgy” history of Yarrowee Creek

### Featuring:

**Prof. Susan Lawrence**, Professor of Archaeology at La Trobe University &  
**Prof. Peter Dahlhaus**, Principal Research Fellow at Centre for eResearch & Digital Information at Federation University.



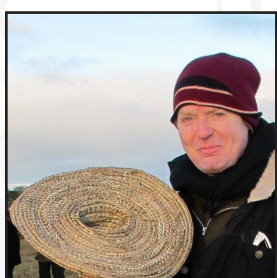
5pm 5.30pm start | 11 May | Humffrey Room

## From eel traps to bluestone, our changing use of the Yarrowee.

### Featuring:

**Dr David Waldron**, Senior Lecturer in History, Federation University &  
**Dr Fred Cahir**, Researcher in Aboriginal History, Federation University.

Go to our [Events Page](#) for more information.



## Ballarat Film Society

Thursday 12 May, 7pm | *Lamb*



*Lamb*, Iceland  
2021 | 106min  
Dir. Valdimar  
Johannsson

## Salon Sessions

### Nellie in her own Write

Sunday 29 May, 2pm

Nathan Bryon (tenor), Natalie Grimmett (soprano) and Tom Nicholson (baritone) share Dame Nellie Melba's colourful life story through song with associate artist Sharolyn Kimmorley AM.

Beloved arias and songs are interspersed with/ accentuated by/ highlighted with entertaining stories and anecdotes from Melba's memoir, *Melodies and Memories* narrated by Stefan Cassommenos.

Some items in the program will be repertoire Melba performed in Ballarat.

Afternoon tea is included, the proceeds of which will go to the *Rotary Club of Alfredton*

Go to our [Events Page](#) for more information.

## Display | Melba

16 May – 29 May | Heritage Reading Room

In the lead-up to the event our Heritage Collections Volunteers will have a small display of heritage news-items and books that featured Nellie. These will be on display in the Heritage Reading Room.



Nathan  
Bryon



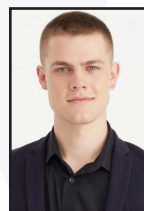
Natalie  
Grimmett



Stefan  
Cassommenos



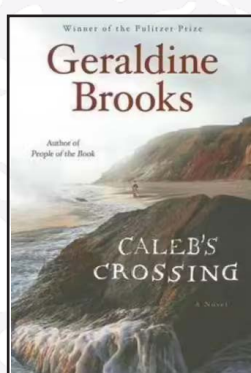
Sharolyn  
Kimmorley AM



Tom  
Nicholson

MELBA  
OPERA  
TRUST

BALLARAT  
HERITAGE  
FESTIVAL



10.30am | 31 May

Find out more about this member lead book discussion group, go to our [Events Page](#).

## Painting basics with Geoff Roderick

Wednesdays June 8, 15, 22 & 29 at 10.30am

A workshop in painting basics. In these sessions Geoff will be using water based artists quality Gouache (poster paint).

These intimate sessions sold out last year. Geoff brings a wealth of experience to the workshops, he has been painting for more than 40 years and has a humble, gentle approach to teaching.

Go to our [Events Page](#) for more information.



Seville Oranges (detail) | Geoff Roderick

## Wendy McCarthy: Don't Be Too Polite, Girls

Wednesday June 8, 6pm-7pm

Wendy McCarthy has been a trailblazer in the feminist movement in Australia for over 50



Wendy McCarthy & Tierney Khan

years. At this in-conversation event, she'll discuss her tireless spirit for activism and change, as recounted in her new book

*Don't Be Too Polite, Girls.*

For more go to our [Events Page](#). For bookings go to The Wheeler Centre link.



## SOON...



Salon Sessions | Melba Opera Trust  
Second program in July



Paper bead-making with Faye Heiningar  
In July

# 2022 Twilight Talks

Season 2

24, 31 August & 7, 14, & 21 September

[Our Events web-page >](#)



# 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

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

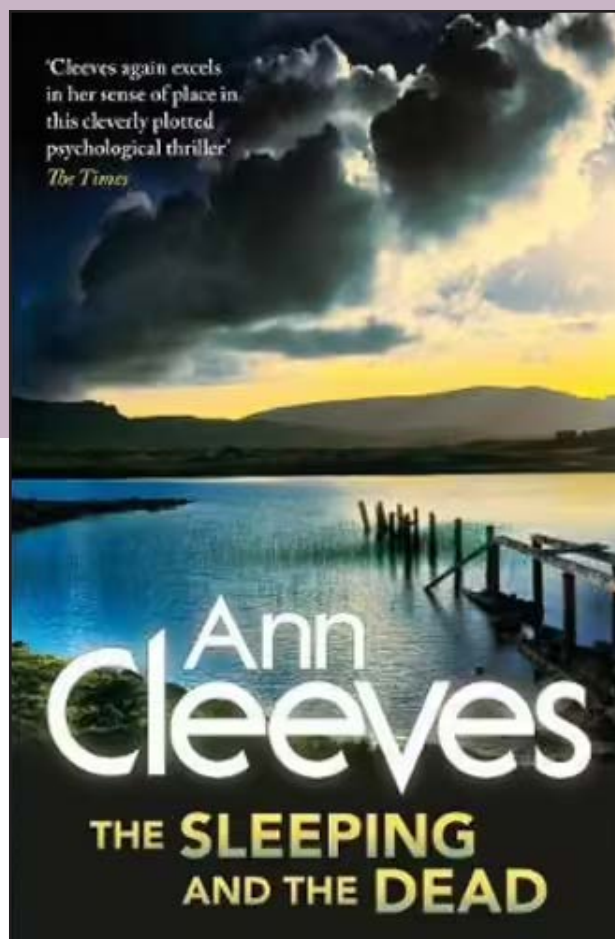
& Collectables

Wed & Thu | 11am – 3pm

In line with the new Library  
operating Hours and the  
enlivening of our Front of  
House shopping stripe  
Geraldine Roberts is  
experimenting with extended  
operating hours. Keep an eye  
on our website for details.

The shop is an important BMI fundraiser.

[vintage&collectables >](#)



Ballaarat Mechanics' Institute  
acknowledges the support of  
Ballarat City Council

CITY OF  
**BALLARAT**

Ballarat Mechanics' Institute  
117 – 119 Sturt Street, Ballarat VIC 3350  
[ballaratmi.org.au](http://ballaratmi.org.au)  
[library@ballaratmi.org.au](mailto:library@ballaratmi.org.au)  
(03) 5331 3042



Library Hours  
Mon. Wed. & Fri. 10am – **4pm**  
**Tue. & Thu. 10am – 3pm**  
Saturday 9.30am – Noon  
Venue Hire Enquiries  
[venue@ballaratmi.org.au](mailto:venue@ballaratmi.org.au)  
0419 677 713