

Newsletter



**BALLAARAT
MECHANICS'
INSTITUTE**

JUNE / 2022



**BALLAARAT
MECHANICS'
INSTITUTE**

Annual Appeal 2022

Dear Members

We are grateful to our members who support us each year, by renewing their membership and providing additional financial support in the form of donations that go directly to improving the Institute's facilities, programs and continual operation.

In recent years we have experienced significantly reduced income, and increasing operating costs, and we are now looking to our community to help us secure the future of the BMI, and to support us financially through these tough times.

We are grateful to have a loyal and active membership base that supports our library and

heritage collections, and also shares in a feeling of pride when attending the many social and cultural events that are held throughout the year, many of which we produce and present in-house.

Your donation will help to maintain and strengthen the service that we provide to our members and broader community.

Thank you for your continued support, it is greatly appreciated.

President - Mike Stephens

Author of the Month

Lauren Chater: Lauren writes historical fiction with a particular focus on women's stories.



Lauren Chater

After working in the media sector, she turned her passion for reading and research into a professional pursuit.

She lives in Sydney with her husband and children. *The Lace Weaver* is her first novel.

Book of the Month

The Winter Dress by Lauren Chater.

Jo Baaker, a textiles historian, and Dutch expat is drawn back to the island where she was born to investigate the provenance of a 17th – century silk dress. Retrieved by local divers from a sunken shipwreck, the dress offers tantalising clues about the way people lived and died during Holland's famous Golden Age.

Jo's research leads her to Anna Tesseltje, a poor Amsterdam laundress turned ladies' companion who served the enigmatic artist Catharina van Shurman. The two women were said to share a powerful bond, so why did Anna abandon Catharina at the height of her misfortune?

Jo is convinced the truth lies hidden between the folds of this extraordinary dress. But as she delves deeper into Anna's history, troubling details about her own past begin to emerge.

Recommended reads

The Jane Austen Remedy by Ruth Wilson.

As she approached the age of seventy, Ruth Wilson began to have recurring dreams about losing her voice. Unable to dismiss her feelings of unexplainable sadness, she made the radical

decision to retreat from her conventional life with her husband to a sunshine-yellow cottage in the Southern Highlands where she lived alone for the next decade.

As Ruth settled into her cottage, she resolved to re-read Austen's six novels and rediscover the heroines who has inspired her.

This is a beautiful life-affirming memoir of love, self-acceptance and the curative power of reading.

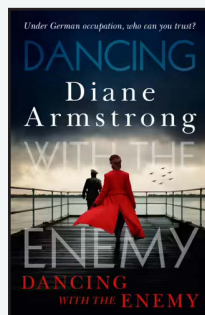
Dancing With The Enemy by Diane Armstrong

Dancing with the Enemy is based in Jersey, Channel Islands between England and France 1940 German occupation with the story told from three characters perspectives. 1940 to 1945 events recorded in a journal by an admired doctor, Dr Jackson who wished to capture his thoughts on paper to calm his mind during the occupation, not knowing how valuable his written recordings would become.

The Devil's Bargain by Stella Rimington

In 1988 Harry made one mistake; he took a bribe, letting a man he knew as Igor into Britain – and he's regretted it ever since. So when he recognises Igor many years later as his newly elected MP, he knows he has to come clean. But the MP recognises him too- and Harry fears what he might do next.

Peter Robinson entered Britain in 1988 as an illegal, deep undercover, but the break-up of the Soviet Union cut Robinson of from Moscow. He's been working alone to inch closer to Britain's levers of power – until the one man who knows his secret reappears. Now he must act fast to preserve his position, at any cost.

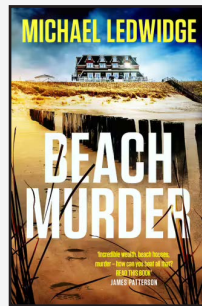
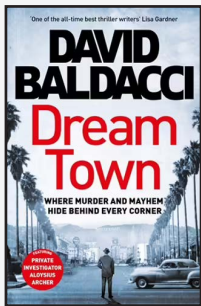


New Releases for June

Mystery

Dream Town
The Match
Grimm up North
Evil Intent
City of the Dead
Vanished
Beach Murder
Dead Man's Stone
Everyone in My Family has Killed Someone

David Baldacci
 Harlan Coben
 David J. Gatward
 Jane Isaac
 Jonathan Kellerman
 Lynda La Plant
 Michael Ledwidge
 T.G.Reid
 Benjamin Stevenson



Historical

Beautiful Little Fools
Sister Stardust
The Nurses War
The Diamond Eye

Jillian Cantor
 Jane Green
 Victoria Purman
 Kate Quinn

Romance

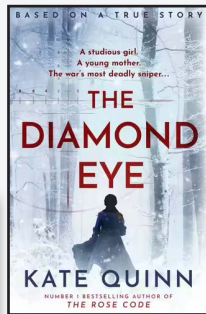
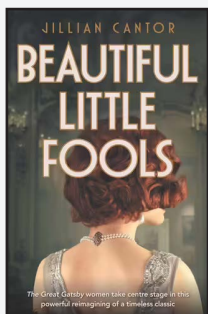
What Eden Did Next

Sheila O'Flanagan

Scandinavian

The Sorrow Stone

Kari Gislason

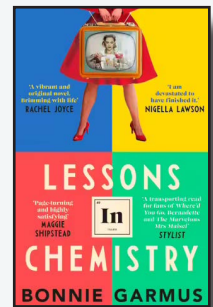
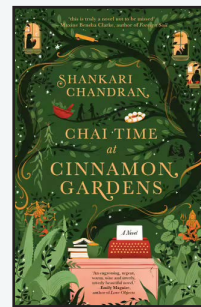


Novels

Chai Time at Cinnamon Gardens
Mothers and Daughters
Lessons in Chemistry
Three Sisters
Rosie's Travelling Tea Shop

Shankari Chandran

Erica James
 Bonnie Garmus
 Heather Morris
 Rebecca Raisin



Literature

French Braid

Ann Tyler

Australian

The Winter Dress
Brunswick Street Blues
The Scarlet Cross
The Murder Rule

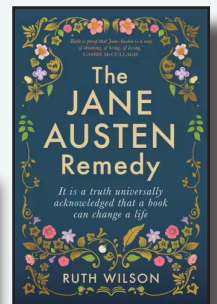
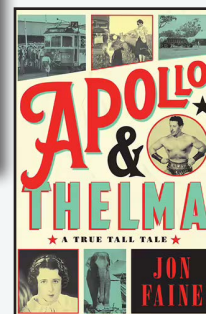
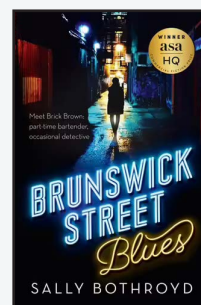
Lauren Chater
 Sally Bothroyd
 Lyn McFarlane
 Dervla McTiernan

Non-Fiction

Apollo & Thelma
The Ghost in the Rock
Not Just, The Wife of the General Manager
The Jane Austen Remedy

John Faine
 Ron Southern
 Sally Warriner

Ruth Wilson



Reserve your copy >

Victorian Government Living Heritage Grants Program

Grimwade Centre for Cultural Materials
Conservation, The University of Melbourne

(Text taken from The University of Melbourne project update)

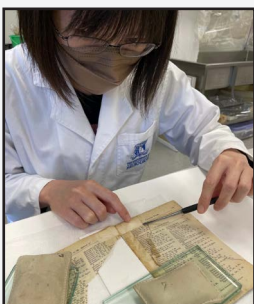
Ferdinand von Mueller

The conservation treatment of the Ferdinand von Mueller book collection has continued throughout April and May 2022 and is due to be completed shortly.

The conservation treatment has focussed on cleaning and minimally-interventive repairs to stabilise the books for future use. This included the removal of old bulky, discoloured, or failing repairs or repairs that concealed the text. Torn pages were repaired using strong lightweight tissue made from Japanese paper mulberry fibre, and adhered with wheat starch paste, which is long-lasting, stable, and inert. Damage to the spines and covers were repaired using tissue toned with acrylic paints to match the original colours making the repairs inobtrusive.

Ferdinand von Mueller Educational Collection

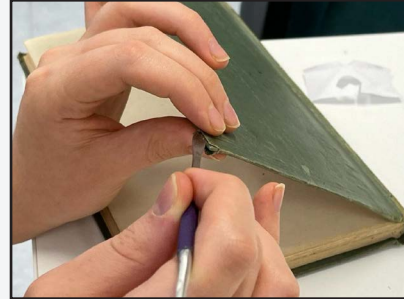
In May conservation treatment of von Mueller's botanical specimens commenced with them being placed in a low-oxygen environment for approximately two weeks to kill any insects, eggs or larvae. While no pests had been observed in the collection, an infestation could be catastrophic for plant material. Treatment with the low-oxygen environments doesn't leave residues like pesticides, and are largely safe for complex material like botanical specimens – particularly in comparison to other processes such as freezing.



Pei-Shan Li removes an old bulky cloth tape repair in *Key to the system of Victorian plants, 1887-8* (BMI 8126) that is concealing the text and causing stress to the binding



Documentary photograph of *Gentiana saxosa* from *Ferdinand von Mueller Educational Collection – Australian Plants – Volume Index C.*



Hayley Nolle repairs the corner of the cover of *Fragmenta photographiae Australiae vol 3, 1864* (BMI 3733) using paper toned to match the original colour.

Photography and documentation of the first volume is in progress and expected to be completed in the next few weeks.

Bonneted Girl with Dog

In April, the oil painting *Bonneted Girl with Dog* was lined onto new canvas using conservation-grade adhesive (BEVA 371) using a heated vacuum table to provide both heat and pressure. A polyester inter-layer was included to add stiffness, ensuring the painting is flat and protecting the brittle original canvas from further damage. Once the adhesive had cooled, the losses were infilled with an acrylic filler. The painting was varnished with an archival resin varnish to protect the original paint layer. Losses and damages are currently being retouched using watercolours and stable reversible paints designed specifically for conservation of oil paintings. Once this has been completed, the painting will be varnished a second time so the new paint is almost indistinguishable from the original.



Principal Painting Conservator, Caroline Fry ensures the painting is well adhered to its new lining.



Caroline applies new paint to conceal an area of damage. The new paint is isolated from the original surface with a layer of varnish. It will not be visible with the naked eye but is easily identifiable with ultraviolet light.

The BMI Collection

Preserving Ballarat's history for future generations

'Nellie in her own Write'

Last Sunday's performance, in partnership with the Melba Opera Trust was stunning. The Humffray Room was the perfect afternoon venue and shelter from the cold. Three wonderful performers benefiting by scholarship from the Trust, Natalie Grimmett, Nathan Bryon and Tom Nicholson wowed our full house. The performance was enhanced by a wicked narration much of which was taken from Melba's memoir *Melodies and Memories*. This was delivered with style and wit by Stefan Cassamenos who also joined the Trust's Artistic Director, Sharolyn Kimmorley in some thrilling piano duets – Many of you would know that the piano was donated to the BMI by Eileen Anderson, it was wonderful to enjoy the quality of this instrument.

Don't miss our July *Salon Sessions*, again with the Melba Opera Trust. Sharolyn is planning a different program of song arias and duets. Check our events page for the performer bios.

Many thanks to Alfredton Rotary Club for supplying the afternoon tea, we had fine china, sumptuous jam, cream and scones from one end of the library to the other.

Thank you also to our volunteers Beryl and Lynden who helped on the day and Our Collection volunteers who came to the party by mounting a lovely exhibition *The Many Roles of Melba*, which will stay in the Heritage Reading Room until mid June, much of the source material is chosen from Our Collection of heritage books and newspapers as well as some items from private collections.

Geraldine Roberts and Dona Pentland and the Vintage & Collectables shop added some extra class by dressing *Myrtle* (mannequin loaned to us from our new retailer, Malcolm from *Tickety Boo*) in some fine opera-ware, transforming her into *Make-do Nellie*.



Natalie Grimmett, Nathan Bryon & Tom Nicholson, scholars from Melba Opera Trust

MELBA
OPERA
TRUST

2022 Twilight Talks

Around the BMI

'The Secrets of the Yarrowee River'

The success of Season 1 of the 2022 Twilight Talks is a testament to the interest our members and our local community have in local stories. The quality, generosity and passion of our speakers was warmly rewarded by wonderful attendance figures, thank you and to all who supported us by spreading the word through media channels and community groups. We are gearing up for Season 2 in August and the program will be uploaded to our events page as program details become firm.



David Waldron & Kath Chapman



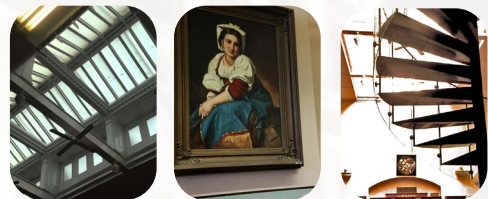
Fred Cahir



Hedley Thomson & Prue Bentley

Photos: Cheryl Russell

We are looking for
Tour Guides
discover
Minerva's Secrets



Must have confidence to speak to larger groups of up to 25 people and happy to learn new information and deliver that information in a fun and enthusiastic way.

Apply: ballaratexpressionofinteresttovolunteer

If you already volunteer contact Marilyn:
volunteers@ballaratmi.org.au

Book a Tour >

The BMI
Collection
Preserving Ballarat's history for future generations



**BALLAARAT
MECHANICS'
INSTITUTE**

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



**Wednesday 8 June
Doors open 5.30pm
6pm-7pm**

BOOK NOW
\$10 plus booking fee

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
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117 – 119 Sturt Street, Ballarat VIC
3350
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(03) 5331 3042



WHAT'S'ON



	TUE 7 JUNE	WED 8 JUNE	THU 9 JUNE	FRI 10 JUNE	SAT 11 JUNE	SUN 12 JUNE
	10am-3pm Library 10am-3pm Nellie Exhib	10am-4pm Library 10am-4pm Nellie Exhib 10.30am-1pm Painting, Geoff Roderick 11am-3pm Vintage Shop 7.30pm-9pm Kadampa 6pm-8pm The Wheeler Centre, Wendy McCarthy	10am-3pm Library 10am-3pm Nellie Exhib 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables 6.30pm Ballarat Chess Club 7pm-9.30pm Ballarat Film Society, Herself	10am-4pm Library 10am-4pm Nellie Exhib 11am-4pm Vintage & Collectables 9pm Lance Live in Concert with Motor City Sounds	Closed Library QUEENS BIRTHDAY	Closed Library QUEENS BIRTHDAY
MON 13 JUNE	TUE 14 JUNE	WED 15 JUNE	THU 16 JUNE	FRI 17 JUNE	SAT 18 JUNE	SUN 19 JUNE
Closed Library QUEENS BIRTHDAY	10am-3pm Library 10am-3pm Nellie Exhib	10am-4pm Library 10am-4pm Nellie Exhib 10.30am-1pm Painting with Geoff Roderick 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables 7.30pm-9pm Kadampa Meditation	10am-3pm Library 10am-3pm Nellie Exhib 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables 6.30pm Ballarat Chess Club	10am-4pm Library 10am-4pm Nellie Exhib 11am-4pm Vintage & Collectables	9.30am-12noon Library	Closed Library 2.30pm-4pm Toying With The Classics, Ballarat Symphony Orchestra
MON 20 JUNE	TUE 21 JUNE	WED 22 JUNE	THU 23 JUNE	FRI 24 JUNE	SAT 25 JUNE	SUN 26 JUNE
10am-4pm Library	10am-3pm Library	10am-4pm Library 10.30am-1pm Painting with Geoff Roderick 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 27 JUNE	TUE 28 JUNE	WED 29 JUNE	THU 30 JUNE	FRI 1 JULY	SAT 2 JULY	SUN 3 JULY
10am-4pm Library	10am-3pm Library 10.30am-2pm The Reading Room	10am-4pm Library 10.30am-1pm Painting with Geoff Roderick 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 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables	Closed Library
MON 4 JULY	TUE 5 JULY	WED 6 JULY	THU 7 JULY	FRI 8 JULY	SAT 9 JULY	SUN 10 JULY
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

The Many Roles
Of Nellie Melba



The BMI
Collection

The Many Roles Of Nellie Melba

Until 17 June | Heritage Reading Room

This exhibition is a celebration of the Ballarat Heritage Festival and will run through until 17 June.

Painting basics with Geoff Roderick

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



Seville Oranges (detail) | Geoff Roderick

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

This workshop is now fully booked.

Wendy McCarthy: Don't Be Too Polite, Girls

Wednesday June 8, 6pm-7pm



Wendy McCarthy & Tierney Khan

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



The Wheeler Centre
Books Writing Ideas

Ballarat Film Society

Thursday 9 June, 7pm | *Herself*



Herself, Ireland/UK, 2020, 98min.2021, 106min
Dir. Phyllida Lloyd. | Madman.

Lance TV – Live in Concert with Motor City Sounds

Friday 10 June, 9pm (doors open 8.15pm)

Join us in the beautiful Minerva Space for a night of pure entertainment and cheesy disco classics with Ballarat's most notorious television duo **Lance DeBoyle** and **Gabriella Labucci**.

This event will be broadcast live to community television station C31 Melbourne and to selected Facebook pages.



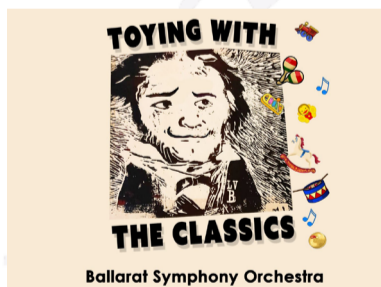
Lance and Gabriella will be joined by Ballarat's premiere big band – **Motor City Sounds**, with special appearances by Dani Fry and Stella Savy and live voice-overs by Mr. Randal Smith.

Finger food and a glass of bubbles will be waiting for you on arrival.

Toying with the Classics – Ballarat Symphony Orchestra

Sunday 19 June | 2.30pm - 4pm

The Ballarat Symphony presents classical music with a twist. A Toy Symphony with real toys. Beethoven letting the cat out of the bag. Mozart outdoing P.D.Q. Bach. And Haydn being more surprising than the Surprise Symphony. Music by famous composers...with something funnyhappening!



Conductor: Hugh McKelvey.

Program:

- Beethoven: Symphony No.1
- Leopold Mozart: Toy Symphony
- W.A. Mozart: Musical Joke (presto)
- Haydn: Symphony No. 45

Salon
Sessions

MELBA
OPERA
TRUST

The BMI in partnership with Melba Opera Trust

Sunday July 17, 2pm-3pm

Trust scholars, 2022, Soprano, Samantha Hargraves, Baritone, Nathan Breeze and back to Ballarat for an encore will be Tenor, Nathan Bryon. Also we will have Su Choung as Associate Artist.



Paper bead-making with Faye Heininger

Wednesday 20 & 27 July

Faye started *Lilli Pilli Beads* (a paper bead jewellery and accessories company) after moving to Ballarat in September 2019.

'I make beads from paper and turn them into jewellery.

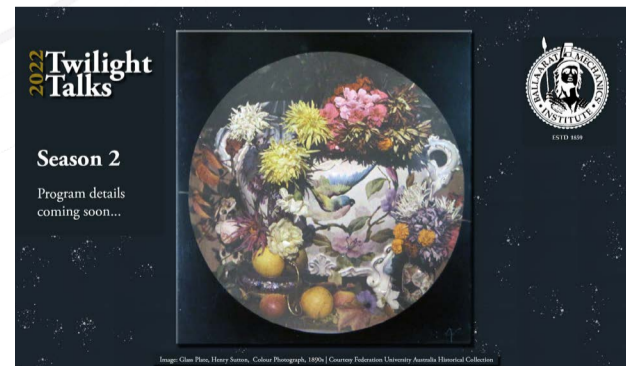
My jewellery is lightweight, comfortable, beautiful and are bespoke creations.

I am always looking for sustainable materials to include in my bead creation and jewellery making process.'



We only have a couple of places left in this workshop, go to our events page to do so, or contact Rosemary at the Library.

2022 Twilight Talks



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

5.30pm, 6pm start - 7pm
Program details are still being finalised but don't miss this opportunity to diarise the dates. Keep an eye on our Events page for details.

[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



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 & Fri | 11am – 3pm
Thur | 11am – 4pm
First Saturday of the Month

In line with the new Library
operating hours and the
enlivening of our Front of
House shopping strip
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
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
0419 677 713