

Newsletter



**BALLAARAT
MECHANICS'
INSTITUTE**

AUGUST / 2022

2022 Twilight Talks

Season 2

Innovators:

Uncovering
some of
Ballarat's
best minds



Glass Plate, Henry Sutton, Colour Photograph, 1890s
Courtesy Federation University Australia Historical Collection.



Wed 7 Sep | 5:30pm

Back to the future:

From Henry Sutton to artificial intelligence

Wed 21 Sep | 5:30pm

Health innovations:

Medicine's genius leaps forward

Wed 14 Sep | 5:30pm

The climate & ecology:

Local researchers protecting the planet

Wed 28 Sep | 5:30pm

Ballarat industry:

Businesses making waves on the world stage

Author of the Month

Neil Lancaster:

Neil was born in Liverpool in the 1960's. He recently left the Metropolitan Police, where he served over 25 years predominantly as a Detective,



Neil Lancaster

leading and conducting investigations into some of the most serious criminals across the UK and beyond. Since retiring from the Metropolitan police, Neil has relocated to the Scottish Highlands with his wife and son, where he mixes freelance investigations with writing.

Book of the Month

Lying Beside You by Michael Robotham

Twenty years ago, Cyrus Haven's family was murdered. Only he and his brother survived. Cyrus because he hid Elias because he was the killer.

Now Elias is being released from a secure psychiatric hospital and Cyrus, a forensic psychologist, must decide if he can forgive the man who destroyed his childhood.

As he prepares for the homecoming, Cyrus is called to a crime scene in Nottingham. A man is dead and his daughter, Maya, is missing. Then a second woman is abducted... The only witness is Evie Cormac, a troubled teenager with an incredible gift: she can tell when you are lying. Both missing women have dark secrets that Cyrus must unravel to find them-and he and Evie know better than anybody how the past can come back to haunt you...

Recommended reads

Bluebird by Genevieve Graham

Cassie Simmons, a museum curator, is enthusiastic

about solving mysteries from the past, and she has a personal interest in the history of the rum-runners who ferried illegal booze across the Detroit river during Prohibition.

Corporal Jeremiah Bailey of the 1 st Canadian Tunnelling Company is tasked with planting mines in the tunnels beneath enemy trenches. After Jerry is badly wounded in an explosion, he finds himself in a Belgium field hospital under the care of Adele Savard, one of Canada's nursing sisters, nicknamed "Bluebirds" for their blue gowns.

By war's end, both Jerry and Adele return home to Windsor, scarred by the horrors of what they endured overseas. When they cross paths one day, they have a chance to start over. But the city is in the grip of Prohibition, which brings exciting opportunities as well as new dangerous conflicts that threaten to destroy everything they have fought for.

The Bitter Taste of Murder by Camilla Trinchieri

Nico, a retired NYC homicide detective, is a widower who now lives in northern Italy. When an arrogant wine blogger dies, questions arise. Is his death due to an auto accident? Or was it murder? Nico helps the local police with the investigation while he works in his late wife's cousin's restaurant and enjoys life in the small village, he and his formerly stray dog now all home.

The Sun Rose in Paris by Penny Fields-Schneider

It is 1928 in Melbourne and young Jack Tomlinson boards a cruise liner to England to visit his family in London. Jack's hobby is art, and on the cruise, he spends most of his time drawing the people he sees on board. He meets Margaret who recognises his talents and introduces him to the art world in London and Paris.

Finally, Jack gets admission to one of the colleges to pursue his passion for art. His parents didn't like his decision, but creative people hardly listen to anyone else...

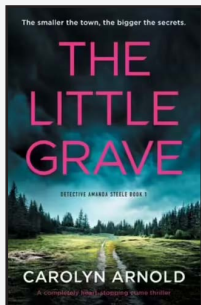
New Releases for August

Mystery

The Little Grave
The 6.20 Man
Local Gone Missing
The Murder Book
The Good Mother
Her Last Whisper
Sparring Partners
Kiss Her Goodnight
With A Mind to Kill
The Blood Tide
Unhinged

Carolyn Arnold
 David Baldacci
 Fiona Barton
 Mark Billingham
 Rae Cairns
 Jennifer Chase
 John Grisham
 D.K. Hood
 Anthony Horowitz
 Neil Lancaster
 Jorn Lie Horst/
 Thomas Enger
 Kathy Reichs
 Jo Spain
 B.R. Spangler
 Marion Todd
 Martin Walker

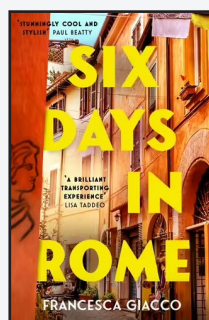
Cold Cold Bones
The Last to Disappear
The Innocent Girls
What They Knew
To Kill a Troubadour



Novels

The Omega Factor
Six Days in Rome
Trespases
Deception
Nightwork

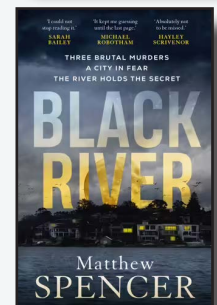
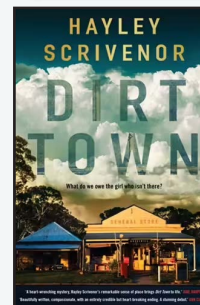
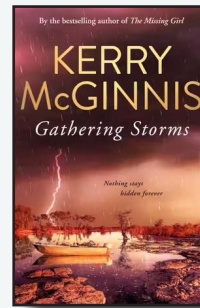
Steve Berry
 Francesca Giacco
 Louise Kennedy
 Lesley Pearse
 Nora Roberts



Australian

Horse
The Islands
Outback Skies
The Coast
Gathering Storms
The Ghosts of Paris
The War Widow
Lying Beside You
Dirt Town
Black River

Geraldine Brooks
 Emil Brugman
 Barbara Hannay
 Eleanor Limprecht
 Kerry McGinnis
 Tara Moss
 Tara Moss
 Michael Robotham
 Hayley Scrivenor
 Matthew Spencer



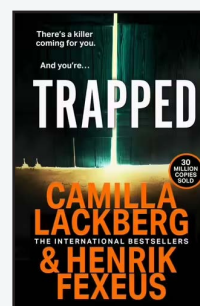
Scandinavian

Trapped

Camilla Lackberg
 & Henrik Fexeus

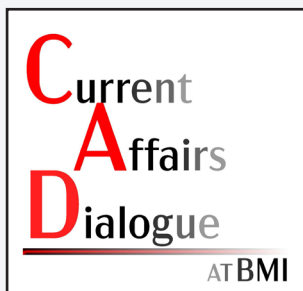
Psychological
One Fatal Secret

Jane Isaac



Around the BMI

Current Affairs Dialogue



Current Affairs Dialogue (CAD) at the BMI launched in the Heritage Reading Room on Thursday 28 July.

CAD arose from a suggestion from long-time BMI member

Greta Christie to Cultural Development Services Manager, Mark Potter, that a current affairs discussion group be initiated. Seven members responded to Mark's invitation for expressions of interest. Four attended the first get-together; three were unable to attend. Former BMI President and Patron Frank Hurley facilitated discussion.

Locating CAD in the BMI's suite of activities

Discussion focused on establishing the group, its purpose and procedures. It was noted that informed discussion of current affairs fits well the original and contemporary goals of Mechanics' Institutes as places for "the diffusion of knowledge". CAD sits appropriately with other BMI cultural activities such as the library, research collection, Twilight Talks, Wheeler Centre events, book, art, photography, chess and movie groups.

Some agreed operating conventions and arrangements:

- CAD is not intended to be a "class with a lecturer".
- Dialogue, not monologue is the aspiration.
- CAD aspires to promote relaxed, respectful, informed, insightful, open-minded and enjoyable conversation on significant global, national and local issues.
- Meetings to be in the Heritage Reading Room once a month 1.30 – 3.00 p.m. on the last Thursday of the month, February - November.
- Topics to be nominated at least one month in advance to enable participants to focus some attention on that topic in their viewing, listening and reading through the coming month.
- A group member to be nominated a month in advance to be facilitator of the next meeting.
- A group membership of 10-12 wanting and able to participate in most monthly gatherings will be needed to make CAD viable, continuing and refreshing.

Informed and open-minded

It was noted that modern media blasts out information and commentary like a fire-hose. Where do we go for a sip to inform ourselves about current affairs? Members attending the July meeting identified some of their primary sources of news, analysis and commentary.

- TV and radio news and current affairs programs
- Newspapers: The Age, The Australian, The Courier, The Guardian were mentioned, in print and on-line editions.
- On-line journals & blogs : The Conversation (<https://theconversation.com>), Pearls and Irritations (<https://johnmenadue.com>) were mentioned.
- The internet: Google, Wikipedia for links background were mentioned
- No-one mentioned social media platforms

NEXT CAD: Thursday 25 August 1.30 – 3.00 p.m.
Heritage Reading Room | [Events Webpage](#)>

Topic: The USA: what's the state of the union and why? Three core issues are suggested to frame discussion:

1. Mass shootings and the gun culture;
2. Division around the Supreme Court overturning the Roe v Wade ruling on abortion;
3. The ongoing fall-out from the contested 2020 Presidential election.

The Reading Room



This Member led book discussion and reading group meet the last Tuesday of the Month, the next being Tuesday 30 August at 10.30am.

This month's meeting will discuss favourite pieces of poetry.

All are welcome, please contact Greta Christie via the Library or complete your expression of interest via our [Events Webpage](#)

Around the BMI

The BMI Collection

Preserving Ballarat's history for future generations

Curator | Sarah Kelly

The BMI team is pleased to announce that Sarah Kelly has been appointed Photographic and Visual Image Curator. She has a relevant tertiary degree and has worked with other highly rated Cultural Institutions.

BMI Collections Team - This role will deliver guidance and support for our Collection Management Team and it's volunteers. It will also provide executive support and/or other duties, as required as well as ensure compliance with relevant regulations, standards, policies and guidelines.

Main Responsibilities

- Public interpretation and presentation of social history by curating dynamic exhibitions and experiences using the BMI's audio-visual collection.
- Work collaboratively with BMI staff and volunteers.
- Identify and support exhibition development.

We're very excited to have Sarah as part of the team, she is generally in the office on Thursdays.

Researcher | Jan Tozer

Jan Tozer (Wendouree *Inner Wheel*), with the assistance of Research Volunteer, Chrissy Stancliffe has spent many hours reviewing our heritage collection of newspapers, creating a montage of articles and events that occurred in Ballarat 90 years ago. All this for her brother's hallmark birthday. Research really does create some wonderful connections. We understand Jan's brother loved the gift.



Jan Tozer & Chrissy Stancliffe

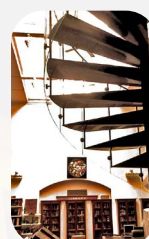
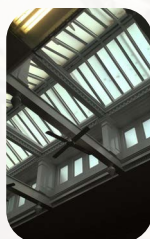


This research activity has also created a wonderful association with *Inner Wheel Australia* and the BMI is grateful for their kind donation.

[Inner Wheel Australia](#)

Explore the BMI

Join a BMI tour to learn about the history and features of Ballarat's oldest cultural institution. Recently restored to it's heritage condition, with stunning architecture and a large collection of heritage photographs dating back to the 1850s.



Book a Tour >

The BMI Collection
Preserving Ballarat's history for future generations

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

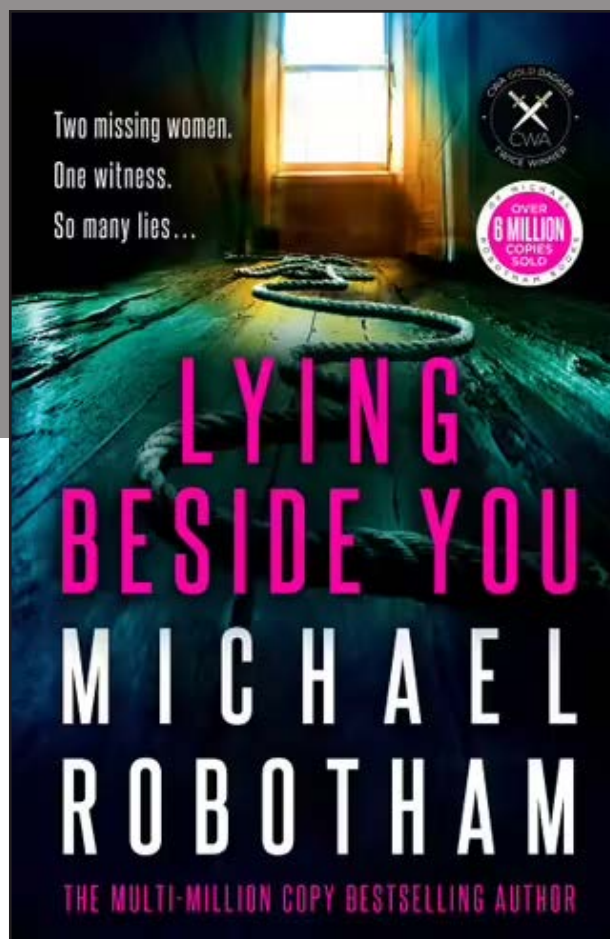
& Collectables

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

Some wonderful finds, quality
garments and collectables.

The shop is an important BMI
fundraiser.

[vintage&collectables](http://vintage&collectables.com) >



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



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OPENING HOURS

Library:	Mon-Thu -Fri, 10am-4pm Wed & Thu 10-3pm Sat 9.30am-12noon Sun Closed	Vintage & Collectables	Sun-Tue Closed Wed-Thu 11am-3pm Fri 11am-4pm First Sat of month 11am-3pm	117 – 119 Sturt Street, Ballarat VIC 3350 ballaratmi.org.au library@ballaratmi.org.au (03) 5331 3042
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WHATS' ON



<div>WHAT'S ON</div> <div></div>	<div>TUE 9 AUG</div> <div>10am-3pm Library 10am-3pm Innovators Exh 2pm- 3pm BMI Tours</div>	<div>WED 10 AUG</div> <div>10am-4pm Library 10am-4pm Innovators Exh 11am-3pm Vintage Shop 7.30pm-9pm Kadampa Meditation</div>	<div>THU 11 AUG</div> <div>10am-3pm Library 10am-3pm Innovators Exh 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables 6.30pm Ballarat Chess Club 7pm-9.30pm Ballarat Film Society, <i>Little Woods</i></div>	<div>FRI 12 AUG</div> <div>10am-4pm Library 10am-4pm Innovators Exh 11am-4pm Vintage & Collectables</div>	<div>SAT 13 AUG</div> <div>9.30am-12noon Library 9.30am- 12noon Innovators Exh 8pm Sing a Song of Sixpence, Minerva Space</div>	<div>SUN 14 AUG</div> <div>Closed Library</div>
<div>MON 15 AUG</div> <div>10am-4pm Library 10am-4pm Innovators Exh</div>	<div>TUE 16 AUG</div> <div>10am-3pm Library 10am-3pm Innovators Exh 2pm- 3pm BMI Tours</div>	<div>WED 17 AUG</div> <div>10am-4pm Library 10am-4pm Innovators Exh 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables 7.30pm-9pm Kadampa Meditation</div>	<div>THU 18 AUG</div> <div>10am-3pm Library 10am-3pm Innovators Exh 11am-3pm Vint. & Coll. 6.30pm Ballarat Chess Club 6.30pm Ann Cleeves in Conversation, Minerva Space</div>	<div>FRI 19 AUG</div> <div>10am-4pm Library 10am-4pm Innovators Exh 11am-4pm Vintage & Collectables</div>	<div>SAT 20 AUG</div> <div>9.30am-12noon Library 9.30am- 12noon Innovators Exh 8pm Eggy With Gusto Tour, Humffray Room</div>	<div>SUN 21 AUG</div> <div>Closed Library</div>
<div>MON 22 AUG</div> <div>10am-4pm Library 10am-4pm Innovators Exh</div>	<div>TUE 23 AUG</div> <div>10am-3pm Library 10am-3pm Innovators Exh 2pm- 3pm BMI Tours</div>	<div>WED 24 AUG</div> <div>10am-4pm Library 10am-4pm Innovators Exh 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables 7.30pm-9pm Kadampa Meditation</div>	<div>THU 25 AUG</div> <div>10am-3pm Library 10am-3pm Innovators Exh 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables 1pm-3pm CAD at BMI 6.30pm Ballarat Chess Club</div>	<div>FRI 26 AUG</div> <div>10am-4pm Library 10am-4pm Innovators Exh 11am-4pm Vintage & Collectables 6.30pm & 9pm Luke Kidgell, Minerva Space</div>	<div>SAT 27 AUG</div> <div>9.30am-12noon Library 9.30am- 12noon Innovators Exh</div>	<div>SUN 28 AUG</div> <div>Closed Library</div>
<div>MON 29 AUG</div> <div>10am-4pm Library 10am-4pm Innovators Exh</div>	<div>TUE 30 AUG</div> <div>10am-3pm Library 10am-3pm Innovators Exh 2pm- 3pm BMI Tours 10.30am-2pm The Reading Room</div>	<div>WED 31 AUG</div> <div>10am-4pm Library 10am-4pm Innovators Exh 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables 7.30pm-9pm Kadampa Meditation</div>	<div>THU 1 SEP</div> <div>10am-3pm Library 10am-3pm Innovators Exh 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables 6.30pm Ballarat Chess Club</div>	<div>FRI 2 SEP</div> <div>10am-4pm Library 10am-4pm Innovators Exh 11am-4pm Vintage & Collectables</div>	<div>SAT 3 SEP</div> <div>9.30am-12noon Library 9.30am- 12noon Innovators Exh 10.30am-11.30am Book Club 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables</div>	<div>SUN 4 SEP</div> <div>Closed Library</div>
<div>MON 5 SEP</div> <div>10am-4pm Library 10am-4pm Innovators Exh</div>	<div>TUE 6 SEP</div> <div>10am-3pm Library 10am-3pm Innovators Exh 2pm- 3pm BMI Tours</div>	<div>WED 7 SEP</div> <div>10am-4pm Library 10am-4pm Innovators Exh 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables 5.30pm Twilight Talks, Humffray Room 7.30pm-9pm Kadampa Meditation</div>	<div>THU 8 SEP</div> <div>10am-3pm Library 10am-3pm Innovators Exh 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables 6.30pm Ballarat Chess Club</div>	<div>FRI 9 SEP</div> <div>10am-4pm Library 10am-4pm Innovators Exh 11am-4pm Vintage & Collectables</div>	<div>SAT 10 SEP</div> <div>9.30am-12noon Library 9.30am- 12noon Innovators Exh 10.30am-11.30am Book Club</div>	<div>SUN 11 SEP</div> <div>Closed Library</div>

Exhibiton | Invention, innovation & environment

2 August - 3 October | Heritage Reading Room

Our Collections Team have mounted this exhibition of heritage books based on the topics of the upcoming Twilight Talks, Season 2.

Don't Shoot Me, I'm Only The Piano Player

Monday 8 August at 2pm | Humffray Room

A runaway success in London's West End, at successive Edinburgh Festivals, at the Melbourne Comedy Festival and right across the USA, this is a hilarious send-up of classical music, which has established Australian pianist, David Scheel, as the successor to the legendary Victor Borge.



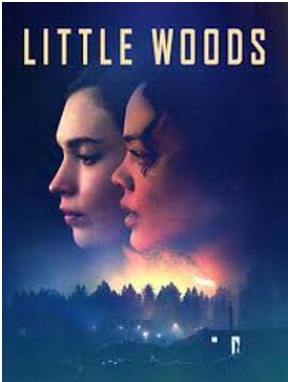
Tickets: \$27 per person
Bookings: [Her Majesty's Box Office](#)

Ballarat Film Society

Thursday 11 August, 7pm | Little Woods
Minerva Space

Set in the border-crossing town of Little Woods, between North Dakota and Canada, two reunited sisters struggle to survive in circumstances of economic injustice largely not of their own making.

Confronted with urgent personal decisions, warring personalities, opioid-driven traumas and small-town economic downturn, the two have a week to settle a mortgage on their mother's house or face foreclosure. Da Costa's debut film is an 'emotionally charged small-town thriller that speaks to both the biggest and smallest elements of the working-class struggle in rural America' (Limelight.) Source: Limelight Films. Go to our [Events Page](#) for more.



Stars: Tessa Thompson (Men in Black, Westworld) and Lily James (Yesterday, Downton Abby).

USA, 2018. 105 min.
Writer-Directed by Nia Da Costa. American Indi Crime.

Go to our Events Page for more.

Sing a Song of Sixpence

Saturday 13 August at 8pm | Minerva Space

In reverence of such alchemy, Delsinki presents "Sing a Song of Sixpence" - which brings the tradition of a writer's round to audiences. Artists share the bare bones of their songs and the stories behind them. In an intimate and informal setting, it becomes poignant and unpredictable.



For the first time ever collaborating together come see seasoned artists mix it with new upcoming artists! Mark Atkins, Alana Wilkinson, Rebecca Barnard and Justin Bernasconi with accompaniment on guitar from Coberg Tipping (Russell Morris) and hosted by Delsinki.

Tickets: \$33-40 per person
Bookings: [Sing a Song of Sixpence](#)

Ann Cleeves: In conversation with Jock Serong | Event sold-out

Thursday 18 August, 6.30pm | Minerva Space

A partnership with Ballarat Municipal Libraries.



Eggy: With Gusto Album Tour

Saturday 20 August, 8pm | Humffray Room



Lavish with opulence and dripping in surrealism, 'With Gusto' is a vivid labyrinth of intricate and intersecting worlds, a pastiche of poignant ideas and concepts held together by a taut but jagged thread. Songs that strike with

tenderness, and resonate reward through deeper inspection. Taking melodic cues from avant-pop experimentalists Stereolab, with the rhythmic and left field stylings of Krautrock renegades Faust, Eggy fuse these together to forge a sound that is at once fascinating and disconcerting.

Tickets: \$18-20 per person
Bookings: [Eggy With Gusto Ballarat](#)

Luke Kidgell | Both shows sold-out

Friday 26 August, 6.30pm & 9pm | Minerva Space



Australia's most loved comedian* Luke Kidgell, is back on tour with his brand new show 'Cheers to that!' (*not a fact, just a personal opinion of Luke's).

2022 Twilight Talks

Innovators: Uncovering some of Ballarat's best minds

Wednesdays 5.30pm
Humffray Room



Image: Glass Plate, Henry Sutton, Colour Photograph, 1890s
Courtesy Federation University Australia Historical Collection.

7 September | **Back to the future:** *From Henry Sutton to artificial intelligence.*

14 September | **The climate & ecology:** *Local researchers protecting the planet.*

21 September | **Health innovations:** *Medicine's genius leaps forward.*

28 September | **Ballarat industry:** *Businesses making waves on the world stage.*

Tickets: \$10-12 per person
Bookings: [Keep an eye on our events page](#)