



2022 Twilight Talks



From travel to the red planet to Ballarat's Commonwealth Games: BMI's Twilight Talks brought to you by the Community Bank, Buninyong

2023 is off to a bang with the latest series of the Ballarat Mechanics Institute's popular Twilight Talks.

We've found more fascinating local speakers with topics as varied as astronomy, history, and Ballarat's biggest upcoming event, the Commonwealth Games with Steve Moneghetti AM.

We're excited to announce that thanks to the generous support of the Community Bank, Buninyong, the BMI can offer these talks free of charge to the public.

As a largely volunteer organisation with a big, beautiful, old building to look after though, we would be grateful for any voluntary donations (you can donate via our on-line shop when you book your tickets or via our Fundraising Webpage).

Join us each Wednesday from 8th February to 8th March, as the Twilight Talks take you to a new part of Ballarat, the world, or indeed the universe!

To secure your seat absolutely free, head to your tickets or see Rosemary in the library to book your ticket.


2023 Twilight Talks

Feb-March series schedule:

Wed 8 Feb | *The Red Planet & Ballarat's Lady Astronomer*

Graeme Hood, amateur astronomer and retired electrical engineer on the prospect of life on the red planet, Mars and what drives our desires to go there.


Dr Anne Beggs-Sunter, Historian, Federation University on the life and times of Ballarat's *lady astronomer* Effie Baker



Wed 15 Feb | *A regional Commonwealth Games & creating great teams*

Steve Moneghetti AM, Commonwealth Games gold medalist and champion long distance runner on what Ballarat can expect from the 2026 Commonwealth Games.


Gerard FitzGerald, former premiership coach of the North Ballarat FC, and ABC Ballarat sports commentator, on how great teams are made, in sport, work and life.



Wed 22 Feb | *History; The Ballarat Club & Trades Hall*

Dr Phil Roberts OAM, Ballarat historian, revealing research from his latest book on the history of the Ballarat Club 1872-2022.


Jenny Beacham, local history researcher, with a look at the history of one of Ballarat's most storied institutions, Trades Hall.



Wed 1 Mar | *Making a difference to Ballarat's homeless*

Ballarat Future Shapers, Western Region Leadership Project, and how they dreamed big to help the homeless and deliver the 'Sleepbus' to Ballarat.

Michael Poulton, CEO, Committee for Ballarat follows up with other big local projects and what Ballarat could look like in the next 50 years.



Wed 8 Mar | *Your data and how to protect it*

George Fong, Founder of Lateral Plains and Ballarat's own 'tech guru' on why your data is so valuable, and in the wake of recent major breaches, how you can protect it.

Dr Omaru Maruatona, CEO of Aiculus on key trends and developments on the evolution of AI from an obscure theoretical concept to a powerful, fast growing and controversial technology.