

Newsletter



**BALLAARAT
MECHANICS'
INSTITUTE**

MARCH / 2023

Our valued members

The Ballarat Mechanic's Institute (BMI) is Ballarat's oldest cultural organisation. For over 160 years, and with the help of our members, we've played a major role in shaping Ballarat's history and cultural identity.

The people of Ballarat, have been there with us at countless Twilight Talks, musical events, celebrations and informative events, but these offerings have been very limited over the last 3 years due to Covid 19, and we now find ourselves trying to recover from the financial and social impacts of these restrictions. During the pandemic we have been very busy and have been able to maintain our lending library through the sheer determination and hard work of our staff and facilitate some significant capital works and repairs and important renovations to some of our collection items, as we were successful in obtaining highly competitive grant funds, some private and some government.

Now however, more than ever, the organisation needs financial support so we can rebuild the momentum that we enjoyed before the pandemic, by continuing to provide our much-loved library services to members, increase member and audience numbers and reignite our beloved events calendar, all the while, maintaining our

heritage-listed building to ensure safe and inclusive access for all. This is where we need your assistance. We run an **Annual Giving Appeal**, generally toward the end of the financial year. This year we would like to open this appeal immediately; this will allow us to demonstrate the strong community support we have when continuing to seek funds from program partners on your behalf, to maintain our hours of operation, integrity of programming and the healthy condition of our magnificent building.

All donations are tax-deductible and receipts will be issued immediately. Please see the links below.

We would also like to invite you to renew your membership now, and to share the secret that is BMI Membership with a friend or family member. For those who renew before the end of March and "bring a friend", you will both enjoy a discount of \$10 off your membership rate as a thank you for your support.

We thank you again for your ongoing support and look forward to sharing new developments with you as we strive to remain a vibrant community hub for all.

Mike Stephens | President



**BALLAARAT
MECHANICS'
INSTITUTE**

Annual Appeal 2023

BALLAARAT
MECHANICS'
INSTITUTE
Foundation

Annual Appeal 2023

ROSEMARY recommends >

New operating hours on weekdays 10am–2pm

Author of the Month

Marion Todd

Marion is a native of Dundee, who studied music & worked for many years as a piano teacher. She has also worked as a college lecturer, and is now a full time writer, living in North East Fife.



Marion Todd

Book of the Month

The Favour by Nicci French

When Liam unexpectedly turns up in Jude's life after ten years without contact, asking her for a favour, she can't say no. He was her first great love, and even though she is now a junior doctor and about to get married, he will always have a hold over her.

Jude's agreement to help changes her life and plunges her into a world of lies, revenge and criminality. And then, when it's too late to change her mind, Jude realises that saying yes to this one favour could cost her everything – even her life.

Recommended reads

The Midwife by Tricia Cresswell

1838 A woman is found alone, naked and near death, on the Northumberland moors. She has no memory of who she is or how she got there, though she can still remember how to dress a wound and how to help a woman in labour. With the odds against her, a penniless single woman, she starts to make a life as a midwife – but can she ever be truly safe.

In London, Dr Borthwick lives a solitary life working as an accoucheur, dealing with mothers and babies in the elegant homes of high society, and volunteering in the slums of the Devil's Acre

and volunteering in the slums of the Devil's Acre alongside a young widow, Eleanor Johnson. His professional reputation is spotless, but he is harbouring a dark secret from his past.

Devil's Way by Robert Bryndza.

When Private Investigator Kate Marshall is rushed to hospital after being pulled into a riptide current in the sea, the near-death experience leaves her shaken. During her recovery, she befriends Jean, an elderly lady on the same ward who tells the harrowing story of how her grandson, Charlie, went missing eleven years earlier during a camping trip on Dartmoor.

By the time Kate is well enough to go home, she's agreed to take on the case, but when Kate and her sidekick Tristan start to look at the events of that fateful night, they discover that Jean has a dark past.

Was Charlie abducted? Or did he fall into a rushing river that vanishes into a gorge close to where they were camping.

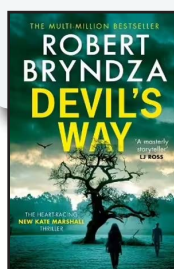
When Kate and Tristan discover that Charlie's social worker was found brutally murdered shortly after his disappearance, it makes them question everything they thought they knew about the family.

A Wedding in Tuscany by Sandy Barker.

Sarah has everything she ever wished for and life couldn't be better. If only she wasn't so anxious about turning the big 4-0

Meanwhile Cat is happily in love with her boyfriend, except she lives in London, and he lives in Paris.

But a surprise wedding proposal is about to change everything for these sisters. And with their family and friends gathering at a vineyard in Tuscany to celebrate, love, laughter and mayhem are about to ensue.



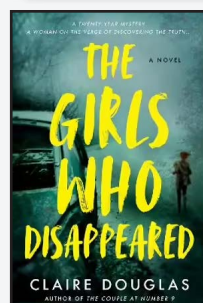
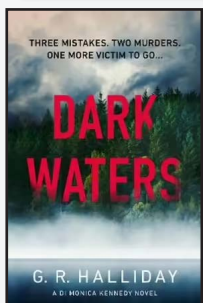
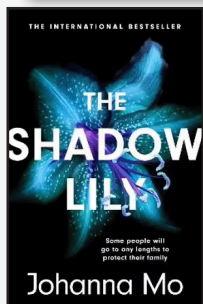
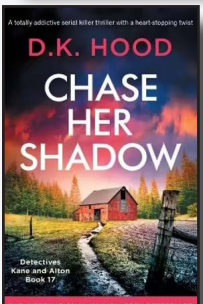
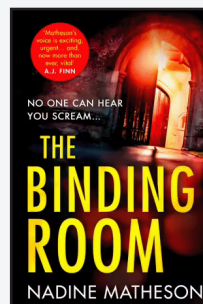
Reserve your copy >

New Releases

Mystery

Devil's Way
The Fragile Ones
The Girls Who Disappeared
The Last Girl To Die
The Favour
Dark Waters
Chase Her Shadow
The Night Watch
The Binding Room
The Shadow Lily
Local Girl Missing
One Way Street

Robert Bryndza
 Jennifer Chase
 Claire Douglas
 Helen Fields
 Nicci French
 G.R.Halliday
 D.K. Hood
 Neil Lancaster
 Nadine Matheson
 Johanna Mo
 Lisa Regan
 Trevor Wood



Australian

The Gifted Son
The Work Wives

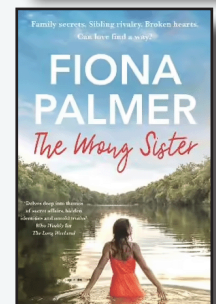
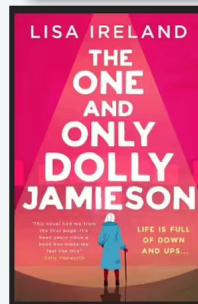
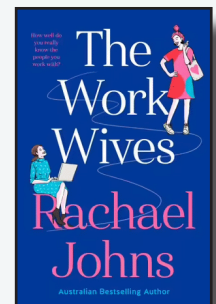
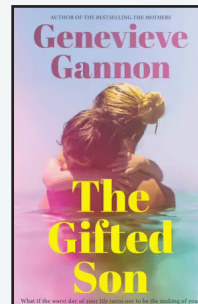
Genevieve Gannon
 Rachael Johns

Australian

The One and Only
Dolly Jamieson
Dead Tide
The Wrong Sister
Red Dirt Road

Lisa Ireland

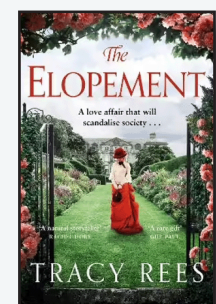
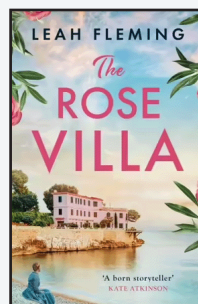
Fiona McIntosh
 Fiona Palmer
 S.R.White



Historical

The Midwife
The Rose Villa
The Artist's Secret
The Elopement

Tricia Cresswell
 Leah Flemming
 Alexandra Joel
 Tracy Rees



Romance

A Wedding in Tuscany
The Greek Holiday

Sandy Barker
 Maeve Haran

Around the BMI

2023 Twilight Talks

Twilight Talks

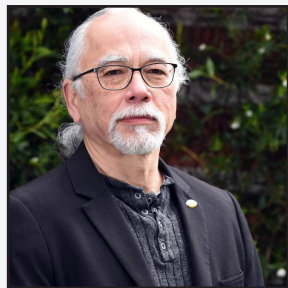
Don't miss the opportunity to catch the last 2 sessions of Twilight Talks, the support for this season has highlighted how valuable they are to our local community, and again thank you to the **Community Bank Buninyong**, enabling us to stage the event, free of charge.

Our remaining speakers:

Includes a presentation from **Ballarat Future Shapers**.



Michael Poulton



George Fong



Dr Omaru Maruatona



Bookings Essential:

ballaratmi.org.au/events

As these talks have been highly successful with quality presentations from each of the speakers and large audiences. We are planning to have the next series of talks on each of the **Wednesdays in May (3, 10, 17, 24, 31)**.

The final two talks will be part of the ***Ballarat Heritage Festival***. Final details about the speakers and their topics will be published in the BMI April Newsletter.

Support: If you or your organisation would like to support BMI Events then we would love to hear from you. Contact our Executive Manager:

execmanager@ballaratmi.org.au | (03)5331 3042

Ballarat Heritage Festival

May 19 to 28

The BMI proposes a suite of events to showcase its *Heritage Registered* collection of books as well as other items plus the Heritage Listed building itself.

During the ***Ballarat Heritage Festival*** we will specifically exhibit key items of the collection, including folios of plant specimens gifted to the BMI in the 1800s by Victoria's inaugural Botanist *Baron Ferdinand von Mueller*.

These and other valuable items have recently been restored, courtesy of the Victorian Government's ***Living Heritage Grant***, and will be displayed in the *Heritage Reading Room*, which is itself a treasure as it served as Ballarat's original mining exchange.

The program will also include a launch event for the restored items, *Special Collections Tours* for various interest groups, a vintage fashion parade, workshops, talks, and storytelling promoting local history and featuring guest speakers and performers.

The BMI is a unique place to engage with history; we look forward to hosting the wider community through this diverse range of events.



Conservation trainee Hayley Nolle cleans the spine of *Ferdinand von Mueller's* Systematic census of Australian Plants: with chronologic, literary and geographic annotations, 1882 (BMI 6005) in preparation for a new spine lining to be attached.



**Ballarat's Oldest
Cultural Institution**

Around the BMI

The Reading Room

The Reading Room is up and running again in 2023. Greta Christie hosts this monthly reading and discussion group, whilst this sounds pretty formal this is definitely not the case, members choose the literature they will review and discuss so it is very participant owned.

"We generally meet in the Heritage Reading Room which provides an inspirational setting for lively discussion, discussions that have taken place within these walls for more than 100 years".

The group discusses everything including fiction, non-fiction, poetry, short stories and much more. If you would like to be a part of this group please register your interest at the link below. We would love to see you there.

We meet monthly and are currently how we fit in with the **new library operating hours.**

ballaratmi.org.au/the-reading-room-expression-of-interest

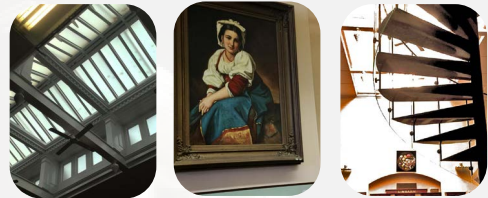
BMI Vintage

& Collectables

Don't forget our Vintage & Collectables shop, Geraldine and Dona have taken on a lot of new stock this year and if you're looking for something specific they will be more than happy to help you or make alternative suggestions. Do pop in to say hello.



Book a Tour Minerva's Secrets



Ballaratmi.org.au/Tours



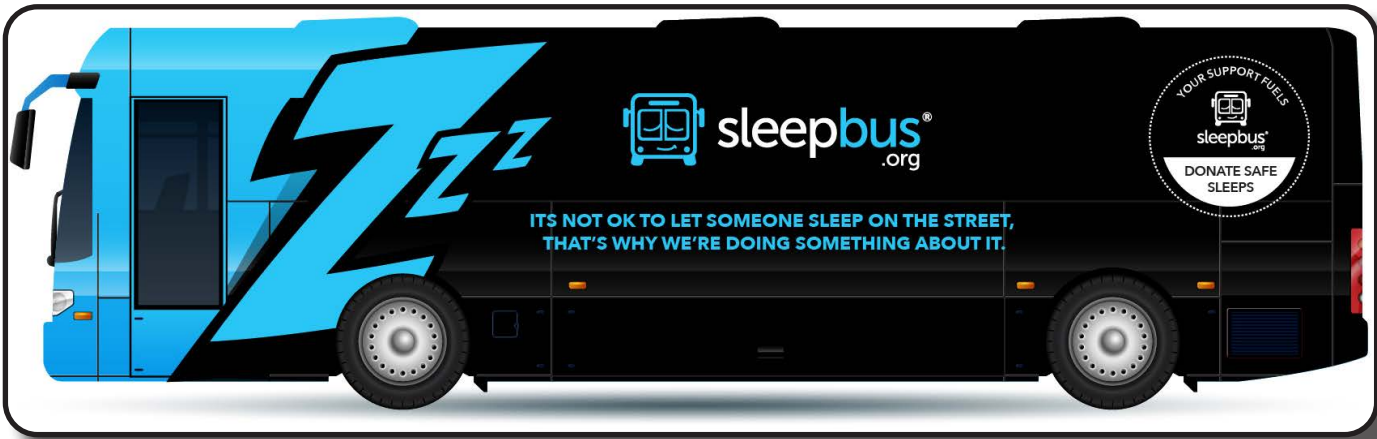
**Ballarat's Oldest
Cultural Institution**



BALLARAT
MECHANICS'
INSTITUTE

MARCH

WHAT'S ON



2023Twilight
Talks

NEW OPENING HOURS

Library: **Mon-Fri, 10am-2pm**
Sat 9.30am-12noon
Sun Closed
HOLIDAY CLOSURES
Monday, 13 March | Labour Day

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

WHATS'ON



	Tue 28 Feb 10am-2pm Library 2pm- 3pm BMI Tours	Wed 1 Mar 10am-2pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables 5.30pm-7pm Twilight Talks 7.30pm-9pm Kadampa Meditation	Thu 2 Mar 10am-2pm Library 11am-4pm Vintage & Collectables 6.30pm Ballarat Chess Club	Fri 3 Mar 10am-2pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables	Sat 4 Mar 9.30am-12noon Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables	Sun 5 Mar Closed Library
Mon 6 Mar 10am-2pm Library	Tue 7 Mar 10am-2pm Library 2pm- 3pm BMI Tours	Wed 8 Mar 10am-2pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables 5.30pm-7pm Twilight Talks 7.30pm-9pm Kadampa Meditation	Thu 9 Mar 10am-2pm Library 11am-4pm Vintage & Collectables 6.30pm Ballarat Chess Club 7.30pm-9pm Ballarat Film Society Brooklyn	Fri 10 Mar 10am-2pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables	Sat 11 Mar 9.30am-12noon Library	Sun 12 Mar Closed Library
Mon 13 Mar LABOUR DAY CLOSED	Tue 14 Mar 10am-2pm Library 2pm- 3pm BMI Tours	Wed 15 Mar 10am-2pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables 7.30pm-9pm Kadampa Meditation	Thu 16 Mar 10am-2pm Library 11am-4pm Vintage & Collectables 6.30pm Ballarat Chess Club	Fri 17 Mar 10am-2pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables	Sat 18 Mar 9.30am-12noon Library	Sun 19 Mar Closed Library
Mon 20 Mar 10am-2pm Library	Tue 21 Mar 10am-2pm Library 2pm- 3pm BMI Tours	Wed 22 Mar 10am-2pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables 7.30pm-9pm Kadampa Meditation	Thu 23 Mar 10am-2pm Library 11am-4pm Vintage & Collectables 6.30pm Ballarat Chess Club	Fri 24 Mar 10am-2pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables	Sat 25 Mar 9.30am-12noon Library	Sun 26 Mar Closed Library
Mon 27 Mar 10am-2pm Library	Tue 28 Mar 10am-2pm Library 2pm- 3pm BMI Tours	Wed 29 Mar 10am-2pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables 7.30pm-9pm Kadampa Meditation	Thu 30 Mar 10am-2pm Library 11am-4pm Vintage & Collectables 6.30pm Ballarat Chess Club	Fri 31 Mar 10am-2pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables	Sat 1 Apr 9.30am-12noon Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables	Sun 2 Apr Closed Library



BALLAARAT MECHANICS' INSTITUTE

Creative Art Programs

Unfortunately we have had a disappointing response to our event marketing, a product of the aftermath of the COVID pandemic, the current economic down-turn and a need to reduce our own resources, we have had to cancel all our up-coming creative art workshops.

We have been thrilled with the number of artists who have wanted to work with us in conduct workshops for our members and for the wider community withing our beautiful event spaces. We would like to thank them for what they have presented to us to date and were scheduled to do so this year. We hope that we get the opportunity to do so again in the near future, to celebrate and support the local talent here in the Golden City.

2023 Twilight Talks



Wednesday 1 & 8 March
5.30pm-7pm | Humffray Room

1 March

Making a difference to Ballarat's homeless:
Ballarat Future Shapers & Michael Pulton on the Committee for Ballarat's vision of a Thriving and Vibrant Regional community.

8 March

Your data and how to protect it with George Fong and Dr Omaru Maruatona.

All talks run for 1 hour in total and start at 5.30pm.

Tickets: FREE

Bookings Essential | ballaratmi.org.au/events

Kadampa Meditation

Wednesdays 1 - 22 March
7.30pm-9pm | The Library

Meditation & Buddhism

Weekly Classes | 7.30pm Wednesdays
Ballarat Mechanics Institute

These classes offer simple, practical methods to improve the quality of our life and develop inner peace through meditation and Buddhist teachings. Beginners welcome.

Cost: \$15 for non members | FREE to members
ballaratmi.org.au/events

Embrace The Begonia Festival Workshop

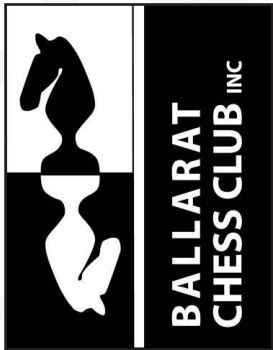
Saturday 4 March
10am-12noon

This paper-flower making workshop location now changed to: | Pop-up 512 Macarthur Street, Soldiers Hill

Cost \$10 | Pay on the day
Contact | Alison 0409 537 972



Ballarat Chess Club



Thursdays 2-30 March
6.30pm | Humffray Room

Tournament games begin at 7.30pm and the Junior Chess Club meet 6pm, everyone welcome.
P | 0499 255 240

E | president@ballaratchess.com

Ballarat Film Society | Brooklyn

Thursday 9 March
7.30pm-9pm | Minerva Space

Receiving a standing ovation at the *2015 Sundance Film Festival* and faithfully adapted from the novel by Colm Toibin, *Brooklyn* tells the story of Eilis (Saoirse Ronan), a young woman from Enniscorthy, County Wexford who finds herself in the new world of New York. Although big city excitement, Italian charm and delicious food stir her love of life, weddings and funerals call her back to Ireland where another phase of her life begins.



Ireland/UK/
Canada, 2015,
112 min. Directed
by John Crowley
Nostalgic Irish
Émigré Romance

Set in the 1950s, *Brooklyn* harks back in style to the "women's pictures" of the mid-20th century that were the backbone of popular cinema, when stars like Bette Davis, Joan Crawford and Barbara Stanwyck ruled the screen. It is largely a film about being torn between time, place and identity: in America Eilis is a woman with a future, yet in both worlds, she is filled with longing and a sense of displacement.

Also starring the fabulous Julie Walters, Jim Broadbent, Domhnall Gleeson and Fiona Glascott you will be won over by its low-key charm.

This film is presented in association with the Ballarat Irish Association.

The Reading Room

Monday 27 March
3pm-4pm | Heritage Reading Room

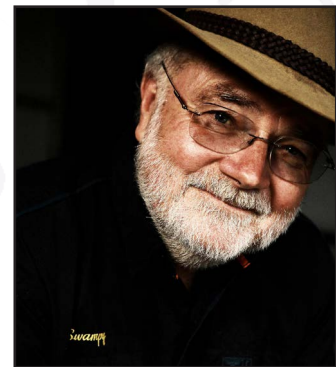
This volunteer run reading and discussion group meets on the last Monday of the month.

Members will select books to be discussed which include fiction, non-fiction, poetry and short stories.

For more | ballaratmi.org.au/events

Meet the Author Bill "Swampy" Marsh

Monday 3 April
7pm-8pm | Humffray Room



The Australian Outback can be harsh, but it's the kind of place where you either learn to laugh off your troubles or fold under the pressure. Bill 'Swampy' Marsh has a deep affection and respect for people

living in the Australian Bush, and he's spent more than twenty years travelling to every corner of our wide brown land, talking to people from all walks of life, collecting their memories and stories.

Great Australian Outback Yarns captures the funniest tales from Swampy's many books. The colourful characters in these pages are full of generosity, humour and a larrikin Aussie spirit. These true stories of life in remote and regional Australia from Australia's master storyteller will leave you grinning from ear to ear.

Tickets: \$10 per person | Bookings Essential
ballaratmi.org.au/events

Ballarat Film Society Both Sides of the Blade

Thursday 13 March
7.30pm-9pm | Minerva Space

Juliette Binoche and Vincent Lindon play an apparently happy couple whose relationship is unsettled when Francois, Sara's ex-lover and Jean's former friend, suddenly reappears in their lives.

The title *Both Sides of the Blade* comes from a song used in the film, while the French title, *Avec amour et enchainement*, translates as *Love and Fury* – but it is also being distributed in English-language cinemas as *Fire*.

The film bubbles with sexual tension and romantic ambivalence whilst simmering in the background are post-colonialist tensions and the continual sting of global economics.



France, 2021, 116 min.
Directed by Claire Denis
Scorching Love Triangle Drama

ESTD 1859

BALLAARAT
MECHANICS'
INSTITUTE Events

ROSEMARY'S Book of the month

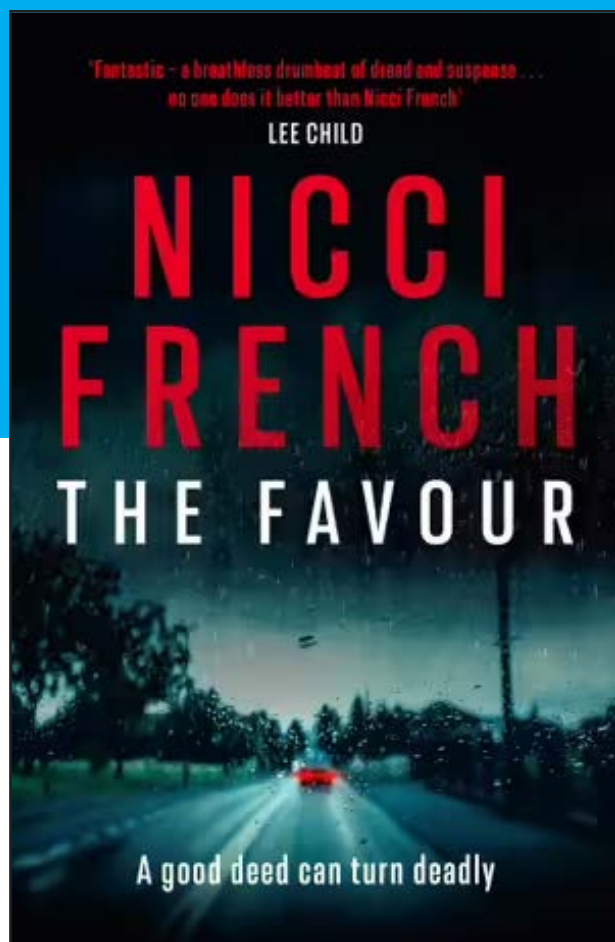
Ballarat Chess Club

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.



**New program
available now.**

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**

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



New Library Hours
Mon – Fri 10am – 2pm
Saturday 9.30am – Noon
Venue Hire Enquiries
venue@ballaratmi.org.au
0419 677 713