



# Newsletter

Nov / 2023

**BMI Fundraising Event**  
**Join us at Snake Valley Golf Club**  
Friday 1 December at 9.30am



**BALLAARAT  
MECHANICS'  
INSTITUTE**

# Rosemary recommends

## Author of the Month Gabriel Bergmoser

Gabriel is a Melbourne based author and playwright. After starting out in the youth theatre scene with his early plays *Windmills*, *Life Without Me* and *Hometown*, Gabriel completed his Masters of Screenwriting at the Victorian College of the Arts.



A film adaptation of *The Hunted* is currently being developed in a joint production between Stampede Ventures and Vertigo entertainment in Los Angeles.

## Books of the Month

*Doll's Eye* by Leah Kaminsky

### Germany, 1933

Anna Winter returns home to find a note from her father, warning her of grave danger. She flees overnight, taking her precious doll collection with her, and sets sail for Australia. She lands a job at the Birdum Hotel and carves a new life, hiding her past from the world - until a chance encounter with an eccentric stranger, Alter Mayseh, changes everything.

### Australia, 1938

A yiddish poet fleeing persecution, Alter has seen the writing on the wall for his people. Armed with a letter of introduction from Albert Einstein, he escapes Europe and arrives in Australia in search of a safe place to call home. When fate leads him to Anna, he's convinced he's found his future with her. But a disturbing clue to her dark past threatens to

unravel the delicate life she has built on top of the secrets left behind.

*I'll Leave You* by Kylie Ladd.

Three years after the death of their beloved brother, all Daniel's sisters have left of him are their memories. They know he's helped others by donating his organs, but as miracles come true for the recipients, his own family are struggling with their devastating loss.

When Clare suggests that they find the people Daniel's death saved, her sisters have their doubts. Will meeting them help to bring the sisters back together, or will old tensions and surfacing secrets splinter the fragile family ties forever?

## Recommended Reads

*The Hidden Book* by Kirsty Manning.

Europe, 1940s: Imprisoned in the Mauthausen concentration camp in Austria, Spanish fighter and photographer Mateo Baca is ordered to process images of the camp and inmates for a handful of photo books being made for presentation to top Nazi figures. Just five books in total, or so the officials think...

Mateo manages to make a secret sixth book and, with the help of a local woman, Lena Lang, it remains hidden until the end of the war...

*The Last Devil to Die* by Richard Osman

It's rarely a quiet day for the Thursday Murder Club. Shocking news reaches them – an old friend has been killed, and a dangerous package he was protecting has gone missing.

The gang's search leads them into the antiques business, where the tricks of the trade are as old as the objects themselves...



# New Releases

**The BMI Library**  
Home of literature and education

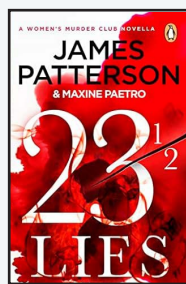
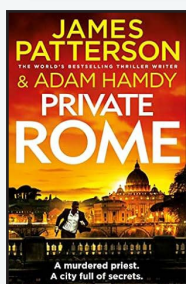
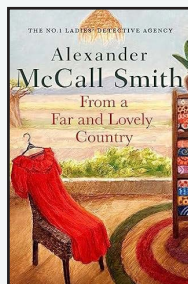
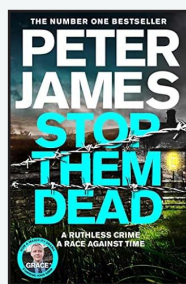
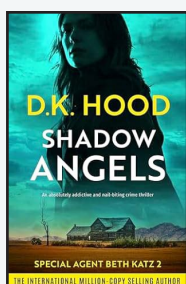
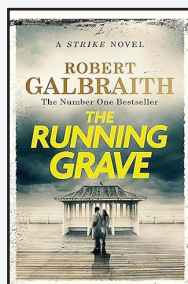
## Mystery

*The Running Grave*  
*Shadow Angels*  
*Stop Them Dead*  
*From a Far and Lovely Country*  
*Past Lying*  
*The Last Devil to Die*  
*Private Rome*  
*231/2 Lies*  
*Payback in Death*  
*The House in the Pines*  
*His Perfect Crime*  
*Killing Me Softly*

Robert Galbraith  
D.K. Hood  
Peter James

A. McCall Smith  
Val McDermid  
Richard Osman  
James Patterson  
James Patterson  
J.D. Robb

Ana Reyes  
Alex Sigmores  
Bianca Sloane



## Australian

*Lola In The Mirror*  
*War of Hearts*  
*Love Match*  
*Weekends with the Sunshine Gardening Society*  
*The Seven*  
*Darling Girls*  
*Doll's Eye*  
*The Disappearance of Astrid Bricard*

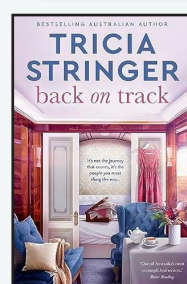
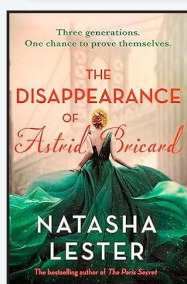
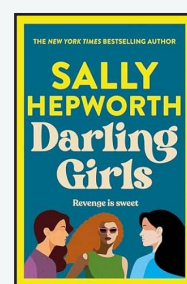
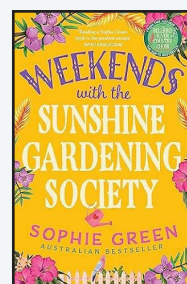
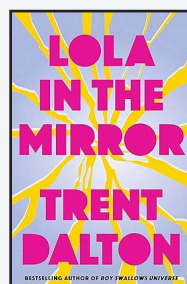
Trent Dalton  
Tania Farrelly  
Clare Fletcher

Sophie Green  
Chris Hammer  
Sally Hepworth  
Leah Kaminsky

Natasha Lester

*The Hidden Book*  
*Good as Gold*  
*Back on Track*

Kirsty Manning  
Justin Smith  
Trisha Stringer



## Historical

*The Princess*  
*The Air Raid Book Club*

Wendy Holden  
Annie Lyons

## Romance

*The Challenge*  
*Happiness*

Danielle Steel  
Danielle Steel

## Novels

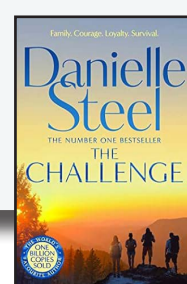
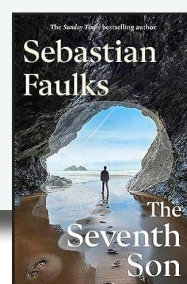
*The Seventh Son*  
*Farewell to the Little*  
*Coffee Shop of Kabul*

Sebastian Faulks  
Deborah Rodriguez

## Non Fiction

*The Eagle in the Mirror*

Jesse Fink





BALLAARAT  
MECHANICS'  
INSTITUTE

WHAT'S ON  
November



Gabriel  
Bergmoser  
in conversation



Minerva's Secrets  
Night Tours



OPENING HOURS

Library: Mon, Wed & Fri, 10am-4pm  
Tue & Thu, 10am-3pm  
Sat 9.30am-12noon  
Sun Closed

Holiday closures

Tue 7 November  
Melbourne Cup

December closures:  
25 Dec – 2 Jan 2024

School holidays

Nil



	<b>Tue 31 Oct</b> 10am-3pm   Library 2pm- 3pm   BMI Tours <b>10.30am-12 noon   The Reading Room</b>	<b>Wed 1 Nov</b> 10am-4pm   Library 7pm-8.30pm   Kadampa Meditation	<b>Thu 2 Nov</b> 10am-3pm   Library 11am-3pm   Vintage & Collectables 6.30pm   Ballarat Chess Club	<b>Fri 3 Nov</b> 10am-4pm   Library 11am-3pm   Vintage & Collectables	<b>Sat 4 Nov</b> 9.30am-12noon   Library <b>11am-3pm   Vintage &amp; Collectables</b>	<b>Sun 5 Nov</b> Closed   Library
<b>Mon 6 Nov</b> 10am-4pm   Library 11am-4pm   Vintage & Collectables	<b>Tue 7 Nov</b> <div>MELBOURNE CUP</div>	<b>Wed 8 Nov</b> 10am-4pm   Library 7pm-8.30pm   Kadampa Meditation	<b>Thu 9 Nov</b> 10am-3pm   Library 11am-3pm   Vintage & Collectables 6.30pm   Ballarat Chess Club <b>7.30pm-9pm   Ballarat Film Society   <i>The Good Boss</i></b>	<b>Fri 10 Nov</b> 10am-4pm   Library 11am-3pm   Vintage & Collectables	<b>Sat 11 Nov</b> 9.30am-12noon   Library <b>2pm-3pm   Book Launch, <i>From the Shadows</i>, Gillian Gergory</b>	<b>Sun 12 Nov</b> Closed   Library
<b>Mon 13 Nov</b> 10am-4pm   Library 11am-4pm   Vintage & Collectables	<b>Tue 14 Nov</b> 10am-3pm   Library 2pm- 3pm   BMI Tours	<b>Wed 15 Nov</b> 10am-4pm   Library 7pm-8.30pm   Kadampa Meditation	<b>Thu 16 Nov</b> 10am-3pm   Library 11am-3pm   Vintage & Collectables <b>6pm-8pm   In conversation Gabriel Bergmoser</b> 6.30pm   Ballarat Chess Club	<b>Fri 17 Nov</b> 10am-4pm   Library 11am-3pm   Vintage & Collectables <b>6pm-10pm   <i>Once Upon a Time</i>   MFWF</b>	<b>Sat 18 Nov</b> 9.30am-12noon   Library	<b>Sun 19 Nov</b> Closed   Library
<b>Mon 20 Nov</b> 10am-4pm   Library 11am-4pm   Vintage & Collectables	<b>Tue 21 Nov</b> 10am-3pm   Library 2pm- 3pm   BMI Tours	<b>Wed 22 Nov</b> 10am-4pm   Library 7pm-8.30pm   Kadampa Meditation	<b>Thu 23 Nov</b> 10am-3pm   Library 11am-3pm   Vintage & Collectables 6.30pm   Ballarat Chess Club	<b>Fri 24 Nov</b> 10am-4pm   Library 11am-3pm   Vintage & Collectables.	<b>Sat 25 Nov</b> 9.30am-12noon   Library	<b>Sun 26 Nov</b> Closed   Library <b>7pm &amp; 9pm   Minerva's Secrets, Night Tours</b>
<b>Mon 27 Nov</b> 10am-4pm   Library 11am-4pm   Vintage & Collectables	<b>Tue 28 Nov</b> 10am-3pm   Library 2pm- 3pm   BMI Tours <b>10.30am-12 noon   The Reading Room</b>	<b>Wed 29 Nov</b> 10am-4pm   Library 7pm-8.30pm   Kadampa Meditation	<b>Thu 30 Nov</b> 10am-3pm   Library 11am-3pm   Vintage & Collectables <b>6pm-8pm   In Conversation with Leah Kaminsky &amp; Kylie Ladd</b> 6.30pm   Ballarat Chess Club	<b>Fri 1 Dec</b> <b>9.30am-3.30pm   Golf Day Fundraiser   Snake Vallery Golf Club</b> 10am-4pm   Library 11am-3pm   Vintage & Collectables.	<b>Sat 2 Dec</b> 9.30am-2pm   Library <b>10am-2pm   BMI Summer Book Sale</b> <b>11am-3pm   Vintage &amp; Collectables</b>	<b>Sun 3 Dec</b> 10am-2pm   Library <b>10am-2pm   BMI Summer Book Sale</b> <b>10am-2pm   BMI Maker Market</b>





# BALLAARAT MECHANICS' INSTITUTE

## Ballararat Film Society *The Good Boss*

Thursday 9 November  
7.30pm – 9pm

Spain, 2021, 120 min. Directed and written by  
Fernando León de Aranoa  
Spanish comedy-drama

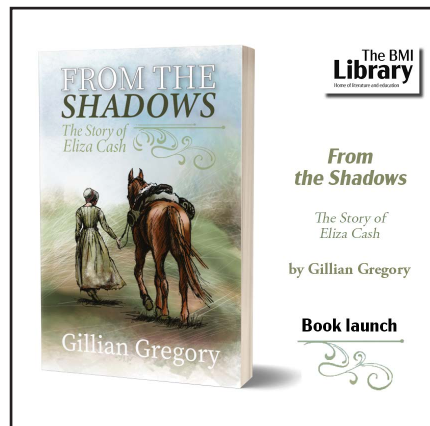


[ballaratmi.org.au/event/bfs-thegoodboss/](http://ballaratmi.org.au/event/bfs-thegoodboss/)

## Book Launch, Gillian Gregory *From the Shadows*

Saturday 11 November  
2pm – 3pm | Lending Library

“An elegantly wrought tale blending history with imagination, *From the Shadows* speaks to the modern world of inequality and insecurity, as well as the search for companionship and peace.



Eliza's story is one of faithful love, struggle, danger and suffering. Her resilience and courage are worth recording.”

Associate Professor

Cheryl Taylor, James Cook University, Townsville.

Free: Bookings essential: [ballaratmi.org.au/events](http://ballaratmi.org.au/events)

## Gabriel Bergmoser, author of *The Caretaker*

in conversation

Thursday 16 November | 6pm - 8pm

An isolated, empty ski resort in the off-season. A woman who doesn't want to be found. A man who may not be who he appears to be. A game of cat and mouse with deadly consequences...



We would love to see you there as we introduce you to this talented Australian author.

Cost: \$10 plus booking fee:  
[ballaratmi.org.au/events](http://ballaratmi.org.au/events)

## Melbourne Food & Wine Festival, Regional

*Once Upon a Time*

Friday 17 November  
6pm – 10pm

*Once Upon a Time* is a five-course degustation matched with a superb collection of wines, delivered in the basement of the Ballaarat Mechanics' Institute, a room that was intended to be a restaurant but never came to be. Now, 153 years after its creation, we're bringing it to life for one night with Peasant's signature ...



Cost: \$299  
[ballaratmi.org.au/events](http://ballaratmi.org.au/events)

## Minerva's Secrets Night Tours

Sunday 26 November  
7pm & 9pm  
2 Tours

Back on again don't miss the opportunity to take a tour with a difference, the last session for 2023.

Our heritage building never looked so good what with Halloween just around the corner.



Cost: \$25 plus booking fee and gst.  
[ballaratmi.org.au/events](http://ballaratmi.org.au/events)

## Leah Kaminsky & Kylie Ladd in conversation

Thursday 30 November  
6pm - 8pm

Leah is a physician and award-winning writer. Her debut novel, *The Waiting Room*, won the Voss Literary Prize.

Kylie Ladd's sixth novel *I'll Leave You With This* was published this year by Penguin Random House in Australia and Hodder and Stoughton in the UK and US.



Cost: \$10 plus booking fee:  
[ballaratmi.org.au/events](http://ballaratmi.org.au/events)

## Golf Day Fundraiser

Friday 1 December | 9.30am - 3.30pm  
Snake Valley Golf Club

Take part in this important BMI fundraiser 9 holes of golf (approximately 2.5hrs) followed by lunch, an auction, presentations and then the option to play another 9 holes of golf and enjoy daylight saving on the picturesque golf course...



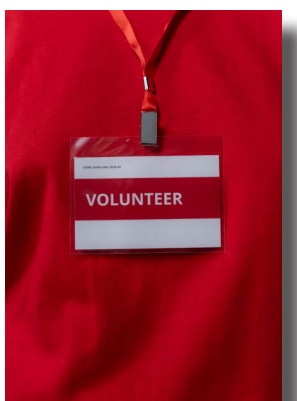
Cost: \$100: [ballaratmi.org.au/events](http://ballaratmi.org.au/events)

## Volunteering at the BMI

If you would like to help us delivering BMI services then we would love to hear from you.

We are in particular need of people with bar service experience with Responsible Service of Alcohol certification, or, you are prepared to undertake the relevant training.

[ballaratmi.org.au/get-involved](http://ballaratmi.org.au/get-involved)



# Around the BMI | More December events

## BMI Summer Book Sale

Saturday & Sunday 2 & 3 December  
10am - 2pm

Thanks to the success of the Spring Book Sale we will again be hosting a Summer Book Sale. We raised more than \$2,000 for which we are very grateful to all who came along to purchase books, to the volunteers who assisted over the 2 days and the generosity of those who gave books.

We are again happy to take delivery of excess books at the library during regular operating hours.

## BMI Maker & Community Market

Sunday 3 December  
10am - 2pm

As well as the Book Sale we will also be hosting a Maker Market on the Sunday.

We have already had some great response from local makers who are eager to showcase their wares prior to the Festive Season.

We hope to see you there.  
[ballaratmi.org.au/market](http://ballaratmi.org.au/market)



Calling for stallholders

BALLARAT  
MECHANICS'  
INSTITUTE

Sunday 3 December | 10am - 2pm

## Motown Mistletoe with Motor City Sounds

Saturday 16 December  
7.30pm - 10pm

The BMI presents: *Motown Mistletoe*.

Dance your way into Christmas with the sound of Motown and Soul.



Motor City Sounds will be playing in the heart of Ballarat!

This is the perfect event for your work breakup, a holiday outing with friends...

Cost: \$30 general admission \$25 concession or, \$140, seated table of 4. plus booking fee and gst.

[ballaratmi.org.au/events](http://ballaratmi.org.au/events)

## Around the BMI

Why not gift a little slice of Ballarat Heritage this Christmas, give a BMI Membership.



Let Minerva in all her wisdom and influence offer your loved ones access to a Ballarat Institution.

12 months membership at the BMI.

Give a 12 months Library Membership Subscription this Christmas at just \$60.00 — It's a sure investment in Ballarat's Heritage, Art & Culture.

Find out more: [ballaratmi.org.au/membership](http://ballaratmi.org.au/membership)



# A Message from the President

## Dear Members

This will be my last letter to you as BMI President. Whilst I will remain on the Board for twelve months, having served three years as President it is time for me to pass the baton to whoever the Board elects at its first meeting after the AGM. It is a privilege to have been BMI President because it is such a worthwhile organisation and I have had the good fortune to work with a dedicated team of fellow directors and staff. With one exception, I won't name individuals on the Board or the staff because all have given more than 100 percent. Thank you all. The one exception is Ross Furness who is standing down as a Board member and as company secretary. Ross has done a great job both as Company Secretary and an active ambassador for the BMI and I know I speak on behalf of you all in thanking him for his efforts and dedication.

We live in challenging times where the costs of running the organisation and maintaining the building and the collection, continue to rise faster than the rise in income. You, our members have responded to the appeals for financial assistance and this has enabled us to continue to keep operating. I am sure that Minerva, watching from her ledge has observed more troubling times than we are experiencing now. She has seen the bank crash of the late 1800's, troops march to and from two world wars, the 1930's depression and worse, the deterioration of the building which necessitated the restoration work which has been carried out in the last twenty years.

At one time in Victoria there were 100's of Mechanic's Institutes acting independently. Now there is only a handful and the BMI is arguably the largest with the most grand building. The Board has wrestled with the issues of increasing costs including building maintenance and insurance and the BMI is delivering virtually the same service to members as it has done historically. It is likely, that to ensure its financial viability the Board will need to challenge the current the business model and

apply creativity and innovation, that will require your support.

In the meantime you can continue to provide support by attending events, encouraging your friends to join and responding to our fundraising appeals.

Sincerely,  
**Mike Stephens**

## From the Curator: Botanical Specimens

**'A collection of 220 educational plant specimens listed in the Victorian Heritage Register is now available for public viewing thanks to conservation work by the University of Melbourne in partnership with the Ballarat Mechanics' Institute.'** – Melbourne University.

Our Curator, Ellen Becker and the volunteer Heritage Collection Team are incredibly excited that this work has now been completed. Next year we will work through how and when we can showcase these restored works via public exhibitions and scheduled viewings. The works whilst now beautifully presented are still fragile and need to be accessed in a controlled environment. Stay tuned and we will give our members the opportunity to view the works in next year's exhibition schedule.

## From the Curator Ellen Becker

**The Golden City Steamer.** If you're planning on spending some leisure time at Lake Wendouree this weekend, you might spot the recreated Golden City Paddlesteamer!

The original Golden City Paddlesteamer was launched on the 16th June 1885, carrying thousands of pleasure seekers for leisure rides on the lake.

# Around the BMI

The BMI  
**Collection**  
Preserving Ballarat's history for future generations

In 1966 the paddlesteamer was sold and relocated to Melbourne, where it carried passengers for jaunts around the Caribbean Gardens at Scoresby.

This image depicts the celebrated return of the paddlesteamer to its original home on Lake Wendouree in 1987. Sadly, while in storage for restoration work in 2006, the 121 year-old paddlesteamer was destroyed by fire.

You can find out more at the **Golden City Paddle Steamer & Museum Society** on Sundays 10am-2pm.



MH 1459 | Golden City Steamer passes the Golden City Hotel.

What are your memories of the original Golden City Paddlesteamer? We would love to hear your thoughts, go to:

[ballaratmi.org.au/the-golden-city-steamer/](http://ballaratmi.org.au/the-golden-city-steamer/)

## From the Curator Ellen Becker

**The London Chartered Bank Building.** Built in 1866, the former London Chartered Bank Building was one of the four handsome buildings that graced "the corner" of Lydiard and Sturt Streets for much of the 20th century.

The building was designed by the celebrated architect Leonard Terry, known for his designs of banks and churches, including the former Bank

of Australasia building on the diagonally opposite corner.

By 1966, the Commonwealth Bank occupied the site and proceeded to demolish the 100 year-old bank to make way for a more modern building. The demolition is notorious, and calls have repeatedly been made for the Commonwealth Bank to reconstruct the original façade.



MH 60-169 | Commonwealth Bank in the process of demolition.

The damage to the negative that produced this image was caused by floods which destroyed much of The Courier newspaper's archive. Max Harris salvaged and repaired many 1960's negatives from the archive, a picture of lost history only just escaping the same fate.



MH 278  
The London Chartered Bank building, undated.

[ballaratmi.org.au/london-chartered-bank-building/](http://ballaratmi.org.au/london-chartered-bank-building/)

## Ballarat International Foto Biennale

**The Max Harris Photography  
Collection Exhibition: *Rupture***

The Ballarat International Foto Biennale is now over



# Around the BMI

and we already miss the many people ambling though Ballarat with their yellow bags, sampling the amazing works on offer and the beauty that is Ballarat City. Congratulations to Ellen in pulling this lovely exhibition together in such a tight time frame and selecting such well thought through theme. Ellen did a fantastic Curator Tour for the Victorian Seniors Festival attendees resulting in rapturous congratulations.

Congratulations to the volunteers who invigilated in the Hugh Williamson Foyer during the exhibition, it was such a pleasure to have them on site and what an amazing PR team they are. Thank you.

## Victorian Seniors Festival

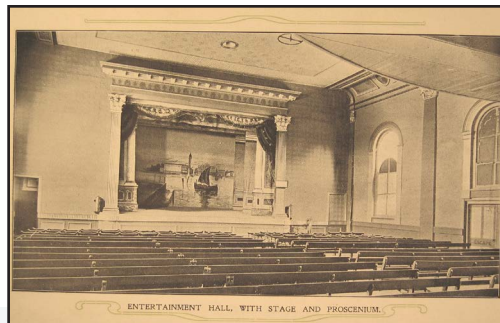
Congratulations also to the Arts & Events team for diving headfirst into the Seniors Festival who pulled together a program that brought more than 100 visitors to the BMI over the period of the festival. A special thank you to Fay Marshall who conducted card making and dried floral arrangement workshops and Phil Roberts for his very relaxed talk in the Library *Under Minerva's Gaze*. All volunteer time.

## Snippets from Rex Bridges

### Moving Pictures at the Institute

The large hall or auditorium of the Ballarat Mechanic's Institute occupied all of the upper story of the first (back) section of the Institute built in 1860. The hall is 84 ft. long, 47 ft. wide and has a 25ft. ceiling. It was designed as a lecture hall, meeting, function and exhibition room. A stage and gallery were added in 1869.

**Cinema History** – 1900 J.C. Williamson and Wybert Reeve show a series of animated (Boer) War pictures, and some England-Australia Cricket



highlights. In 1909 The hall was let, for a short period, to J. C. Langley (operating as **J. C. Langley's Living Pictures** and **J. C. Langley's Electric British Bioscope**). In 1915 the Hall was closed on 20th. June due to fire in the proscenium. The Hall was re-opened on 12th September 1916, after construction of a new and larger proscenium.

In 1917 The Hall was let to the **Austral Photoplay Company** for showing pictures. In 1919 the Hall was leased to a syndicate of Messrs J. Clemens, C. Gemmola, L. Morgan and F. C. Jelbart and opened as the **Britannia Theatre**. In 1920 A bioscope room and 375 new seats were added to the theatre. In 1928 the hall was redecorated and most of the seating replaced.

In 1930 the operator's cabin (biobox) was enlarged to accommodate additional projection equipment and a winding room. In 1962 **Britannia Pictures** sublet the theatre (now known as the **Odeon**) to Mr. R. Pappas. In 1965 the Lease of **Odeon** theatre was transferred to the **Village Drive-In**, Ballarat.

In 1966 the Theatre re-opened as the **Vegas 70** by Village Drive-In. In 1981 the **Vegas 70** theatre closed. All projection, audio equipment, screen and seating was removed by lessee. In 1982 the **Lyric Theatre Company** leased the hall for 11 years and used it for live performance rehearsals, stage set productions and costume hire.

During 1993 the Hall was leased by **Ballarat Cinemas Pty. Ltd.** and opened as the **Sturt Cinema** in September 1994. In 2004 the **Sturt Cinema** lease expired. All projection, auto equipment and screen removed by lessee. Hall reverts to the Mechanic's Institute. In 2009 The refurbishment of the theatre commenced. In 2013 The theatre re-opened on November 8 with the new name of **Minerva Space**. In 2014 a backlit screen was fitted with a multi-use digital projection system and is now used for regular film events.

2022 **The Ballarat Film Society** have screenings on the 2nd Thursday of each month.

# Rosemary's

## Books of the week

### Library Operating hours

Monday, Wednesday, Friday:

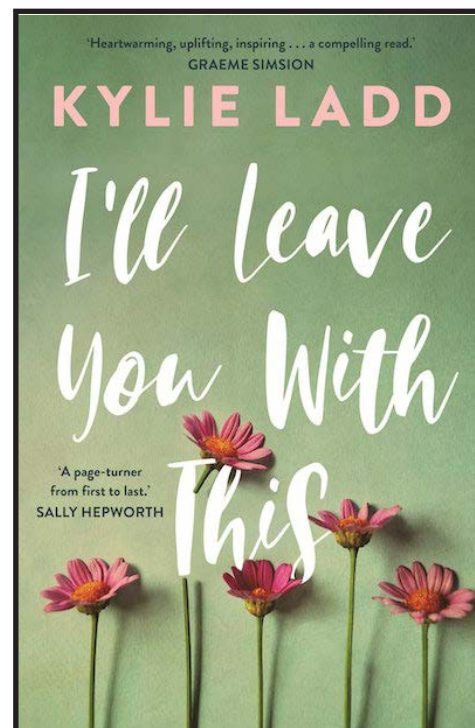
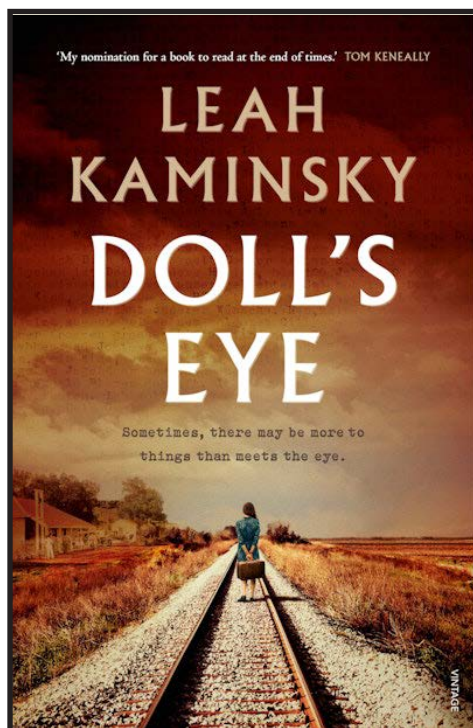
10am - 4pm

Tuesday & Thursday:

10am - 3pm

Saturday:

9.30am - 12 noon



We acknowledge the support of our valued Supporters & Partners

### Supporters & Partners

City of Ballarat | Victorian State Government | Community Bank Buninyong  
Rotary Club Ballarat South | Hugh D. Williamson Trust | Commonwealth Bank

### Corporate Members

Garden State Insurance Brokers | Nevett Ford Lawyers | Ballarat Medical Centre  
Colliers International | Jellis Craig | Ballarat Grammar | Baird & McGregor | Specialist Centre Ballarat  
Collins Booksellers, Ballarat on Lydiard | Haymes Paints | Nicholson Construction | Goldacres  
G Gay & Co Mitre 10 | Federation University

Find out how you can become involved.  
[ballaratmi.org.au/about-us/supporters-partners](http://ballaratmi.org.au/about-us/supporters-partners)

**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