



Writing a Memoir



Doctors & Nurses WWI

2024 Twilight Talks

Community Bank
Buninyong

 Bendigo Bank

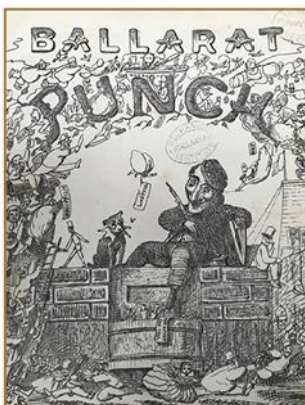
Season 1
28 Feb – 27 Mar 2024



BMI Stories



Women in Sport



Ballarat Punch

Happy New Year

On behalf of the Board and as the current chair of the BMI I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy new year.

Your Board has met for the first time this year and has 9 members, (the maximum number) including some more recently appointed enthusiastic and dedicated community leaders with fresh eyes and energy. You can see the details on our website and further on in this newsletter, our Board Members are: Jane Valpied (vice Chair and Chair Building committee), Mike Stephens (past Chair and Treasurer), Malcolm Roberts, Charlotte King, Jennifer Hudson, Edward Petrie (Chair Fundraising and Appeals committee), Cathy Drake (Public Officer and Chair Remuneration, Nomination and Selection Committee), Tom Gorman and myself (Board Chair and Chair Collections committee). As a board we understand the responsibility and expectations of our members and the wider community and thank you for allowing us to represent you.

ballaratmi.org.au/board-members-staff

Paula Nicholson

NEWSletter

FEB / 2024



BALLARAT
MECHANICS
INSTITUTE

Around the BMI



From the President Paula Nicholson

I would like to thank Past Chair Mike Stephens for all his ongoing support, hard work and continued commitment to the BMI Board and Membership as he now occupies the position of Treasurer and Chairs the Finance Committee. Mike's inspirational leadership saw the BMI successfully navigate Covid and achieve remarkable outcomes in capital works projects including the basement renovation, various safety based improvements and financial management in a very challenging environment.



Our wonderful staff are more than ably led by Executive Manager Colin Jackson, and are poised to push ahead with the strategic goals of the organisation with assistance from Board Committees where necessary. I would like to thank Colin and his team for all their efforts in the past and I am very excited to see us all work together this year to deliver our **Vision: to Inspire and Engage People through Arts, Culture, History and Knowledge**

A special mention also to the Vice Chair Jane Valpied for agreeing to assist me in my new role. Jane has extensive knowledge and understanding of the BMI, and continues to chair our Building Committee. As you can imagine, this is a very important role as our heritage listed building will always need love, attention and money to enable the delivery of our Mission: to Provide Programs, Partnerships, Services and Experiences for Community Benefit.

A huge thank you to all of our volunteers, the wider community is so fortunate that you have chosen to give your time to the BMI, we simply would not be able to achieve our objectives without your loyal service. We hope to engage a wider group of volunteers this year as we earmark

new projects, examine priorities and identify new skill sets required to achieve our goals. It is vital to the survival of the institute that we broaden our membership, volunteer base, clientele and audiences. Please consider the positive impact of sharing the BMI with people new to Ballarat and those locals who have never stepped inside, surprisingly we know there are many of these!

A huge vote of thanks also to Ross Furness who retired as a Board Member at the last AGM. Ross has served on the board for many years and has worked tirelessly in the areas of fundraising, building and audience engagement. Fortunately, Ross will continue to assist through committee work and we are extremely grateful for this.

Of course we know that all of you enjoy the BMI for different reasons and most probably have ideas and suggestions that could possibly assist us as a board and organisation. I personally would welcome discussion and suggestions and would be very grateful for anyone that can tell us their perspective on "Why the BMI"! That way we can leverage your experiences when broadening our network and support base.

Why the BMI: For discussion & suggestion

Thank you all for your interest and faith in the BMI as a vital and integral part of Ballarat's story, past, present and future as we discover new and relevant ways to activate your Institute and share this somewhat hidden treasure!

About Paula Nicholson

Paula believes her membership of the BMI Board allows her to assist in the facilitation of the maximum usage of this iconic facility in the CBD, inspiring collaboration with organisations concentrating on education, research, heritage, information dissemination, and community building.

Paula returned to live in Ballarat over 25 years ago, and has been active in the Not for Profit sector in

Around the BMI



Fundraising, Events, Community Engagement and Governance for over 15 years across a range of local organisations.

Having a long-term connection with Ballarat, she attended Ballarat College as a Boarder for the final two years of her secondary education, then completed a Science Degree at Melbourne University majoring in Psychology. Paula went on to subsequently work in Business Analysis, Human Resources, Customer Service and Management, in Melbourne and Singapore for multi-national Dunn and Bradstreet.

In 1996 she returned to Ballarat where, with her husband, they purchased the generational family business, Nicholson Construction. Having grown up in the small regional community of Nhill, Paula has an understanding of the way smaller communities can work together to create opportunities for advancement, investment and growth. She believes that Ballarat is a wonderful and unique place to live and one where those who wish to, can make a real difference to the future of this prosperous regional centre by getting involved and making and leveraging connections of their own.

To this end, she sees herself as a Community Builder and is committed to utilising her experience and large network to encourage the broader community to be involved with both the heritage and future of the Ballarat Mechanics' Institute.

Vice President Jane Valpied

Jane is an accomplished property valuer, building designer and community and landowner engagement professional who has excellent communication and project management skills. Jane lives in Ballarat with her husband Tim



and has three adult children. Jane is passionate about the preservation of Ballarat's historic buildings. Jane loves to catch up with family and friends in her spare time.

Secretary Cathy Drake



Cathy is a commercial lawyer and a director of Nevetts Lawyers. She has lived and worked in Ballarat for over 25 years, and in that time has been involved in a number of local community not for profit organisations as a board or committee member and as a volunteer.

Treasurer Dr Mike Stephens

Mike is a past President of the BMI and is also the founder of Meridian Agriculture, has almost forty years' experience in directing, managing and advising small and medium sized agricultural businesses.

He has developed and directed industry projects, and consulted extensively on succession and transition in business. Before establishing Meridian Agriculture Mike worked as farm manager and managed very large holdings.

Mike holds a Diploma of Farm Management, an MSc, and a PhD (Farm Business Succession.) He is a Fellow of Ag Institute Australia and the Australian Institute of Company Directors and a Churchill Fellow.



He lives at Yendon with Jo, his wife, where they are regularly visited by their four children who bring

Around the BMI



interesting grandchildren, stimulating conversation and good red wine.

Malcolm Roberts

Malcolm is Ballarat born and educated. He has had a varied business career in hospitality, corporate management and senior management where he was responsible for delivering high levels of customer service. Malcolm has a firm commitment and passion for the Ballarat community and the region, supporting local small businesses and understands their impact on the economy of our great city. Malcolm sits on the Ballarat Art Foundation Board and is a proud Alfredton Rotarian.



Edward Petrie

Edward has spent his entire life connected to Ballarat. Growing up in the nearby town of Ampitheatre and attending school in Ballarat, he understands the importance of connection to place as well as planning for the future. Originally qualified as a heavy diesel mechanic and employed within the mining industry for close to a decade, Edward sought a change of career and is now an accountant for a local Ballarat firm. Edward lives in Ballarat with his partner and their young daughter. In his spare time, Edward enjoys walking, hiking, playing golf and spending time with his family and friends.



Jennifer Hudson

Jennifer has a Diploma of Business in Accounting and a Master of Business Administration and has an extensive understanding of business operations and management. She brings over 10 years of service and experience as a Company Secretary and Director to the BMI Board.

Jennifer enjoys being involved in the local community and is an active Rotarian and Past President of the Rotary Club of Wendouree Breakfast. She is also a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and a Fellow of the Institute of Managers and Leaders Australia & New Zealand; which ensures she keeps abreast of current management and governance issues.



Jennifer's particular areas of interest in an organisation are finance, strategy, and governance.

Charlotte King

Charlotte is a researcher with the ABC's Regional Investigations unit. She works in collaboration with regional and specialist reporters around the country to research, develop and produce original national stories, in the public interest, for programmes including *Four Corners*, *Background Briefing* and *7:30*. Previously she worked as a news reporter in Mildura and Ballarat, where she covered the Royal Commission into institutional responses to child sexual abuse and its



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aftermath, for national news and current affairs programs including *AM*, *The World Today* and *PM*.

Charlotte was nominated for a *Walkley* in 2020 for her *Background Briefing* story on preventable regional stillbirths with producer Andy Burns and awarded a *Quill* for the same story in the Regional and Rural Journalism category in 2021. She was also awarded a *Quill* in 2022 for her *Background Briefing* on a child abuse cover-up involving former members of the Victorian Government and the Ballarat Orphanage.

Tom Gorman

Tom grew up on a farm in regional NSW before studying engineering in Melbourne where he met his wife who is from Ballarat.



In 2018 they moved to Ballarat where they are raising their young family. Tom loves exploring the old buildings and architecture around Ballarat, and by joining the BMI board hopes to continue to look after the historical Ballarat Mechanics' Institute building and assets for future generations.

In his spare time you might find him playing golf, swimming, or out running around the lake.

From the Curator Ellen Becker

If you didn't see Ellen's *Friday Flashback* features, showcasing our wonderful image collection on social media in recent times then check them out below. Comments received of peoples reflections and memories have been incorporated within these posts.

Christmas time, George Farmers

More: ballaratmi.org.au/george-farmers/

History of the Canberra Hotel

More: ballaratmi.org.au/canberra-hotel/

Ballarat Railway Station

More: ballaratmi.org.au/ballarat-railway-station/



MH 60-121 | Children outside George Farmers, Ballarat, (detail)
Max Harris Collection

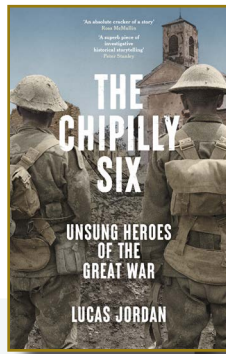


MH 947 | Vine Hotel, corner of Creswick Road & McArthur Street West, Ballarat. Early days of horse drawn tram. Man holding horse is the publican Alexander Ronalds. Max Harris Collection



MH 81 | Cabs at Ballarat Railway Station, Lydiard Street, North Ballarat. Max Harris Collection

Around the BMI



Book review *The Chipilly Six* by Lucas Jordan

Reviewed by Garry Snowden

I have read many books about battles and heroic events from the First World War so was very pleased when I received *The Chipilly Six* as a Christmas gift from my family. In a very positive way I found it different to many of those other books.

Many books just focus on the military combat life of their central characters, but that is not the case with *The Chipilly Six*. What I particularly like about Lucas Jordan's book is that it humanises its six key characters by telling us something of their lives before and after their heroic deeds of August 1918. Six ordinary men who, when confronted by a certain set of circumstances, chose to act in a way that produced a heroic, stunning result.

But the story doesn't end there because it follows the men back home and reveals how they fared when confronted by the post war challenges of living with war wounds, physical and mental, settling back into family life and employment, dealing with the Spanish flu pandemic and then the Great Depression. It is a human story as much as it is a military story. **Garry Snowden.**

Garry is President, **Arch of Victory & Avenue of Honour** and BMI member.

Don't miss Lucas in-conversation with Tim Constantine 21 February at 6pm.



Garry at the Chipilly Warhorse Memorial, Rue de la Place, Chipilly. Depicting an artilleryman cradling the head of his wounded horse. Sculptor: Henri Gauquié

More: ballaratmi.org.au/events

Fundraising Golf Day Jane Valpied

On Friday December 1st, 2023, we held our Inaugural BMI Golf Day at the picturesque Snake Valley Golf Club, which was a huge success. The weather was perfect for 9 holes of golf & the wonderful Snake Valley volunteer staff provided a delicious sit down, two course lunch. We had approximately 70 players & everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day.

We are incredibly grateful to our event supporter & major sponsor Haymes Paint & to our corporate hole sponsors, Jellis Craig, Nevetts Lawyers, R & J Batteries, Butler Accountants, MOR Accountants, Colliers and Clifford's Bricks & Transport, who without their generous support, the day would not have been possible.

We would also like to thank all the generous corporate suppliers who donated gifts for raffles & prizes, including Mick Murnane Golf, Allen Brothers Jewellers, Chemist Warehouse, Commonwealth Bank of Australia, UFS Pharmacy & Michael Unwin Wines.

We look forward to the 2024 BMI Golf Day later this year which will no doubt be bigger & better.

Whilst competition for the *Perpetual Trophy* was fierce, the emphasis was on a fun opportunity to get together and raise funds for the BMI and we hope that we can get more people involved this year.

Twelve teams participated with 48 players enjoying the 4 person ambrose event over 9 holes.

First Place	Haymes Paint
Second	Colliers
Third	Jellis Craig
Fourth	R J Batteries
Fifth	Nevetts
Sixth	Jane Valpied Team 2



Around the BMI



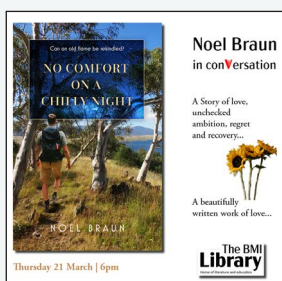
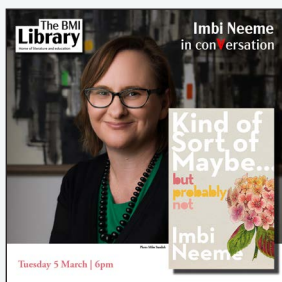
Seventh	Clifford Bricks & Transport
Eighth	Phil Roberts Team
Ninth	Butler Accountants
Tenth	Frank Hurley Team
Eleventh	MOR Accountants
Twelfth	Jane Valpied Team 2

To view all the results and players go to:
ballaratmi.org.au/golf-day-fundraiser-results/

From Rosemary's Desk | Author Talks

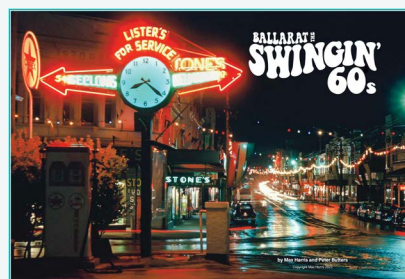
Rosemary is on a roll this year in relation to our Author Talks, she has been making in-roads into the writer community and is currently negotiating with some widely read authors in tandem with our friends at Ballarat Library Services and Collins Booksellers on Lydiard, so stay tuned as these negotiations develop.

ballaratmi.org.au/library



Max Harris & Peter Butters *Ballarat, The Swinging Sixties*

Max Harris has more of his new book *Ballarat, The Swinging Sixties* on order for delivery in mid-February. The book is beautifully presented with some amazing pictures of the period. He has 70 arriving of which 30 have already been sold.



Max will be away on an extended holiday from the end of April and returning late September.

Max is batch ordering the books on demand. You can still order books by contacting Max on:

E: maxharris50@gmail.com
M: 0402 812 376

Ballarat Film Society

Celebrating 70 years in 2024

We thrilled to have the Ballarat Film Society as part of our BMI offering, catering to the local community. They have given us a heads-up on the 2024 draft program (ie. subject to change) which is as follows:

February 8

Scrapper
London Housing
Estate Comedy

UK, 2023, 84 min. Directed by 29-year-old Charlotte Regan as her debut film. Stars Lola Campbell, Harris Dickinson



Around the BMI



and Alin Uzan.

Resourceful and bold 12-year-old Georgie secretly lives by herself on the outskirts of Chigwell in East London after the death of her mother. She survives on her wits and the wondrous friendship with her best mate Ali. Young Georgie gets into fights, nicks bikes and pretends to the social services, she lives with her uncle 'Winston Churchill'. Georgie's precarious life is suddenly threatened when Jason, her father, arrives from Ibiza to move in. The director wanted to make an 'imperfect film that took risks' and to give the kids control of the film. The sense of humour and charm of Georgie's flights of fantasy elevate this debut film above others. The gentleness of the growing connection between Jason and Gorgie gives *Scrapper* a distinct warmth and is just the sort of film to launch our 2024 program. **Madman.**

March 14

Le bleu du caftan (The Blue Caftan) Luscious Moroccan Drama



Morocco, 2022, 123 min.
Dir: Maryam Touzani. Stars Saleh Bakri, Lubna Azabla and Ayoub Missioui.

In 2021, BFS screened the well-received film, *Adam*. This is Touzani's second feature film, described by *Sight and Sound* as a 'tender, dignified drama'.

A master tailor who owns a caftan shop in Morocco's oldest medina, falls for his young male apprentice in this nuanced portrait of unconditional love at its most radical. A love triangle forms between husband, wife and apprentice which is dramatic yet slowly shifts towards acceptance, compassion and mutual love. Touzani worked as a screenwriter and documentarian prior to moving into features, and has a keen eye for stories about unconventional

relationships. The International Federation of Film Critics awarded this film the *Un Certain Regard* award at the 2022 Cannes Film Festival. **Potential Films.**

April 11

The Wild Goose Lake Chinese Neo-noir Crime Thriller

China/France, 2019, 113 min.
Dir: Diao Yīnan.



When small-time mob leader Zhou Zenong (Hu Ge) accidentally kills a cop, a bounty is placed on his head, forcing him on the run from both the police as well as dangerous gangsters out for the reward. Hiding out in China's densely populated (and deeply divided) Wuhan province, Zhou becomes entangled with an enigmatic woman, who has mysterious intentions of her own. *Wild Goose Lake* is a lawless area of Wuhan: a perfect place to situate a high-paced crime thriller. Featuring gorgeous, neon-drenched cinematography and bursts of shocking, expertly choreographed action, *The Wild Goose Lake* is 'spellbinding' (*Rolling Stone*), 'brilliant' (*Indiewire*) and 'downright Hitchcockian' (*AV Club*). **Umbrella.**

May 9

Shayda Iranian-Australian Family Story



Australia, 2023, 117 min. Dir Noora Niasari. Stars Cannes Best Actress winner Zar Amir Ebrahimi (*Holy Spider*), Osamah Sami, Leah Purcell, and Jillian Nguyen. Executive producer: Cate Blanchett.

Around the BMI



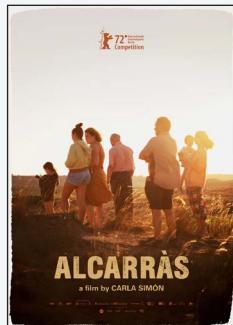
Opening the 2022 Melbourne International Film Festival, Niasari's debut film *Shayda* was selected by Australia to enter the *Best International Feature Film Oscar* race in 2023. Iranian-Australian born writer and director Noora Niasari tells the personally inspired story of a young Iranian mother and her 6-year-old daughter who find refuge in an Australian women's shelter during the two weeks of an Iranian New Year. Set in the 1990s in Melbourne, its central theme is that of defining one's own path; a theme deeply rooted in the Australian psyche. Under the protective wing of the refuge's no-nonsense Joyce (Leah Purcell), Shayda puts on a brave face for young daughter Mona and experiences small pockets of sanity and self-worth in her life. **Madman.**

June 13

Alcarras Under the Spanish sun...

Catalan, Spain/Italy/France,
2022, 120 min. Dir: Carla
Simón.

The Soles are peach farmers who have occupied their land for generations on the basis of a handshake deal with the original owners. The sighting of a looming mechanical crane ushers into their lives an uncertain peach season and future. An ensemble drama with 6 prominent characters is set in a lush Catalan setting where the camera settles on an eloquent focus on the rhythms of family life and playtime as the young family witnesses the intrusion of modernity on their traditions. Father Rogelio retreats into old customs, and teens Mariona and Roger take on new responsibilities that play out in the midst of generational and economic change in Spain. The film is inspired by the Director's own family experiences. Winner of the *Golden Bear for Best Film* at the 2022 Berlin International Film Festival. **Palace Films.**



July 11

The New Boy Aboriginal Historical Fantasy

Australia, 2022, 116 min.
Written and directed by
Warwick Thornton. Stars:
Aswan Reid,
Cate Blanchett, Wayne Blair
and Deborah Mailman.
Filmed near Burra in South
Australia.



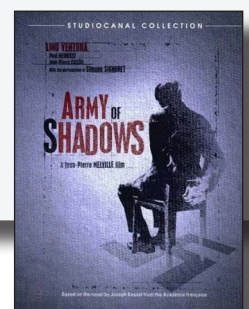
The New Boy is set on a remote mission for Aboriginal children in the 1940s run by a renegade nun, Sister Eileen. A new charge is delivered in the dead of night – a boy who appears to have special powers – and so begins the interactions between the mission staff, the other children and 'the new boy'. A collaboration between Blanchett and Thornton, the film is at times quite ethereal and will leave visions that may linger. Aswan Reid was the second boy that Thornton auditioned for the part of the 'new boy' and was amazed at his performance. *The New Boy* is a complex film and an intriguing exploration of Aboriginal spirituality and the coming of a new cosmology – Christianity through the eyes of an innocent Aboriginal child. Understanding the removal of children during the colonial era through Thornton's eyes is a necessary education. The musical score is a Nick Cave and Warren Ellis collaboration, so this is truly a film made of modern Australia. **Roadshow.**

August 8

Army of Shadows Existential Thriller Classic

France, 1969, 140 mins. Dir. Jean-Pierre Melville.

Jean-Pierre Melville is the
ultimate cult auteur in the
French cinema, acknowledged



Around the BMI



as a key influence on directors such as Godard, Scorsese, and Tarantino. With *Army of Shadows*, the master of the philosophical, gangster film, drops the metaphor of the criminal underworld and deals directly with his experiences as an underground soldier of the Resistance during the Nazi occupation of France. This atmospheric and gripping thriller is now widely recognized as the summit of Melville's career, channelling the exquisite minimalism of his earlier films to create an unsparing tale of defiance in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds. "Lovers of cinema should reach for their fedoras and sneak to this picture through a mist of rain. You are in the hands of a master." – Anthony Lane, *The New Yorker*. **Studiocanal.**

September 12

Stop Making Sense Classic Talking Heads Concert



USA, 1984 Digital Remaster. Dir: Jonathan Demme. Actors include David Byrne, Chris Frantz, Jerry Harrison and Talking Heads musicians.

Viewing a filmed music concert has been a tradition of the BFS, so this year we are fortunate to have a new remastering of the very famous 1983 concert that Talking Heads did over four live shows at the Pantages Theatre in Los Angeles. Director Jonathan Demme is known for his film *Silence of the Lambs* (1991) which won 5 Academy Awards and best picture. David Byrne implored the band to wear neutral coloured clothing to ensure an optimum camera recording and quite a lot of editing took place but the reviews of the film are astounding. On the Rotten Tomatoes aggregator, *Stop Making Sense* holds an approval rating of 100% based on 66 reviews: an average of 9.3 out of 10. Why Talking Heads? Well, they are pretty well known plus they are very, very good on stage. Enjoy! **Madman.**

October 10

L'Ombra di Caravaggio (*Caravaggio's Shadow*) Lavish Italian Artist Drama

Italy, 2022, 128 min. Dir. Michele Placido. Stars Riccardo Scamarcio, Isabelle Huppert and Michelangelo Merisi.

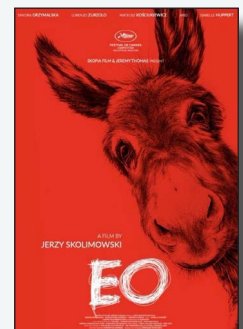


The famous 17th century Italian artist Caravaggio is well known for his intense realism and use of strong contrasts of light and dark. Living in Milan, Naples, Malta and Sicily he was a rebellious man with an eye for beauty, the streets and high drama, and was hugely influential on succeeding generations of painters all over Europe. Years ago, BFS screened Derek Jarman's biopic *Caravaggio* (1986) on 16mm, so in this anniversary year it is fitting to screen the latest interpretation of the artist's colourful life. In this film, the Catholic Church plays a central role in shaping the new artistic landscape, recruiting 'The Shadow' to interview patrons and associates of the artist, to establish if he is worthy of a pardon for causing the death of another young man. Expect to see the visceral, extreme, beautiful, disturbing, genial, sacred and the blasphemous. Italian cinema at its richest. **Palace Films.**

November 14

EO Cinematic Donkey Odyssey

Poland, 2022, 86 min. Dir: 86-year-old Jerzy Skolimowski. *EO* played by six donkey actors featuring cameos by Isabel Huppert and a robotic dog.



Described by critics as a 'sensuous reimagining of Robert Bresson's

Around the BMI



Au hazard Balthazar (1966), EO is the name of a donkey sprung free from a circus and separated from Kasandra (Sandra Drzymalska), a young woman who dotes on him, only to wander around Poland witnessing degrees of difficulty as well as moments of kindness and grace. Wandering through woods at night, EO's long journey across Europe takes him through ugly industrialisation, including football pitches and a fur farm. Walking at a steady pace the filmmaker is determined to keep EO a mysterious animal who travels constantly, then stops for us to see what happens. This is a film that concerns itself with seeing an animal as an animal, yet along the way we witness confronting human world situations and are never unclear about the cinematic expressions of indifference and greed. Reviewed *Sight and Sound*, March 2023. **High Gloss.**

December 12

Smiley

Australian 1950s Outback Drama



Australia, 1956, USA/Britain, 93 min. Dir: Anthony Kimmins. Stars: Ralph Richardson, Colin Petersen, (Smiley), John McCallum, Chips Rafferty, Charles Tingwell.

To conclude this year marking our 70-year existence, let's watch a 1956 Australian film classic about an imaginative young boy who lives in the fictional small town of Murrumbilla in the Australian outback. Listen to an older generation of Australian accents; watch two-up games and immerse yourself in a 1950s country sensibility. *Smiley* has an alcoholic drover father and an overworked mother. He saves up for a new bike by working odd jobs and slowly raises the money for his dream. In doing so, he unknowingly helps a dodgy publican called Rankin to sell opium to the local Aboriginal people living nearby. *Smiley's* adventures are just beginning... *Smiley*, and the

1958 *Smiley Gets A Gun* were released in the UK and US and went onto become international successes when few Australian films were being made. On a bit of trivia, young Colin Petersen went on to become the Bee Gees drummer.

Roadshow.

Membership

12 months – Feb-December: \$60

6 months – Feb-June or July-Dec: \$30

To join or renew your membership, please e-mail or phone Angus McLachlan (5374 2474), or come with cash on the night. a.mclachlan@iinet.net.au

Membership can be paid by bank transfer or with cash. For film enquiries, phone Sue Nunn: 5341 2266 or visit **Ballarat Film Society**

Online banking:

Ballarat Film Society
BSB 633-000 Acct No. 108713355
(include surname as reference).

All films are subject to availability. If there is no next film shown below it means the BFS is working on next season's programme.

Celebrating 70 years

After finding a home in a variety of venues the Ballarat Film Society finally found its home in 2013 at the Mechanics Institute with a newly installed rear digital projector, a push button screen and great sound system.

In 1954, only 2 major feature films were made in Australia: the documentary, *The Back of Beyond* and the adventure film *Long John Silver*. Australian film has come a long way and we welcome you to join in and view our 2024 program.

Sue Nunn (President)



Sue Nunn: President Ballarat Film Society.
Image: Tim Bottams Ballarat Times.

Rosemary recommends

Author of the Month

Melissa Ashley

Melissa is a writer, poet, birder and academic who tutors in poetry and creative writing at the University of Queensland. She has published a collection of poems, short stories, essays and articles.

Her first novel was *The Birdman's Wife*. Melissa was born in New Zealand and now lives in Brisbane.



Book of the Month

Blood Runs Cold by Neil Lancaster

She was taken against her will... On her fifteenth birthday, trafficking victim Affi Smith went for a run and never returned. With a new identity and secure home in the Scottish Highlands, she was supposed to be safe.

She escaped once... With personal ties to Affi's case, DS Max Craigie joins the investigation. When he discovers other trafficking victims have disappeared in exactly the same circumstances, he knows one thing for certain – there's a leak somewhere within law enforcement.

She won't outrun them again... The clock is ticking... Max must catch Affi's kidnappers and expose the mole before anyone else goes missing. Even if it means turning suspicions onto his own team...

Recommended reads

The Italian Marriage by Jenna Lo Bianco.

The time has come. In order to secure the future of his family estate and fix his broken relationship with his father, workaholic lawyer Matthew D'Adamo needs a wife.

Enter Sarah Brown, a free spirited event manager, who is looking for an escape from the emotional and physical toll of her endometriosis, and the incessant buzzer of her biological clock. With an ironclad prenuptial agreement, Matthew and his 'wife', Sarah, are moving to Florence to fulfil the D'Adamo inheritance clause.

There are just two problems they've never met. And there's another claimant on the D'Adamo estate.

Matthew and the other potential heir will have to compete for the inheritance. 'Faking it' from their first meeting at Sydney airport, Matthew and Sarah's resolve will be tested at every turn. Will they have what it takes?

A Shadow at the Door by Jo Dixon.

After a brutal attack and the breakdown of her marriage, life has taught former TV star Remi Lucan that it's safer to not rely on anyone. Instead, she's buried herself in Hobart, transforming her dilapidated sandstone house back to its former splendour, and it has been her proudest achievement.

Better than her short-lived acting career. Definitely better than being a smile-on-command trophy wife. But when she runs out of money, her wealthy ex-husband tries to force the sale of the property and Remi realises her only option is to lower her defences and take in tenants.

At first her biggest problem is adjusting to the intrusion of two unlikely housemates, but when a series of accidents' turns ugly, it becomes clear

Reserve your copy >

New releases

these incidents are more than pranks. Someone is out to get Remi, and they won't stop until they destroy her..

Hello Beautiful by Ann Napolitano

William Waters grew up with out any love or attention from his parents who had lost their first child, a little girl, just previous to his birth. They were consumed by grief.

He picks up a basketball as a young boy and it gets him through tough times, just dribbling and going to the local outdoor net where boys are playing basketball.

Later when he's at college and playing on a team, he meets Julia Padavano... the oldest of four sisters in a tight knit family. The story takes off from there. William becomes part of the Padavano family and this is a story of family... mostly the sister relationship... filled with love and losses, touches on depression and tough choices.

New Releases

Mystery

<i>The First Girl</i>	Jennifer Chase
<i>Sea Fever</i>	Ann Cleeves
<i>Another Man's Poison</i>	Ann Cleeves
<i>One Last Kill</i>	Robert Dugoni
<i>The Altar Girls</i>	Patricia Gibney
<i>A Song For The Dead</i>	D.K.Hood
<i>The Cage</i>	Quintin Jardine
<i>Blood Runs Cold</i>	Neil Lancaster

Australian

<i>Heart of the River</i>	Cheryl Adnams
<i>A Dance with Murder</i>	Elizabeth Coleman
<i>Foul Play</i>	Fiona McIntosh
<i>The Search Party</i>	Hannah Richell

Historical

<i>The Collaborator's Daughter</i>	Eva Glyn
<i>The Royal Daughter</i>	Soraya Lane
<i>Hello Beautiful</i>	Ann Napolitano

Scandinavian

<i>The Shadow Murders</i>	Jussi Adler Olsen
<i>The Prey</i>	Yrsa Sigurdardottir
<i>Hidden in Shadows</i>	Viveca Sten

Romance

<i>The Italian Marriage</i>	Jenna Lo Bianco
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Novel

<i>The Escapades of Tribulation Johnson</i>	Karen Brooks
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Psychological Thriller

<i>A Shadow at The Door</i>	Jo Dixon
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**BALLARAT
MECHANICS'
INSTITUTE**

**WHAT'S ON
February**



OPENING HOURS

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

Holiday closures

Labour Day - 11 March
Good Friday - 29 March
Easter Saturday - 30 March
Easter Monday - 1 April

School holidays

29 Mar - 14 Apr 2024



	Tue 6 Feb 10am-3pm Library 2pm- 3pm BMI Tours	Wed 7 Feb 10am-4pm Library 6pm-8pm In-conversation with Elizabeth Coleman 7pm-8.30pm Kadampa Meditation Positive Psychology	Thu 8 Feb 10am-3pm Library 6.30pm Ballarat Chess Club 7.30pm-9pm Ballarat Film Society	Fri 9 Feb 10am-4pm Library	Sat 10 Feb 10.00am-2pm Library	Sun 11 Feb Closed Library
Mon 12 Feb 10am-4pm Library	Tue 13 Feb 10am-3pm Library 2pm- 3pm BMI Tours	Wed 14 Feb 10am-4pm Library 7pm-8.30pm Kadampa Meditation Positive Psychology	Thu 15 Feb 10am-3pm Library 6.30pm Ballarat Chess Club	Fri 16 Feb 10am-4pm Library	Sat 17 Feb 9.30am-12noon Library	Sun 18 Feb Closed Library
Mon 19 Feb 10am-4pm Library	Tue 20 Feb 10am-3pm Library 2pm- 3pm BMI Tours	Wed 21 Feb 10am-4pm Library 6pm-8pm In-conversation with Lucas Jordan 7pm-8.30pm Kadampa Meditation Positive Psychology	Thu 22 Feb 10am-3pm Library 6.30pm Ballarat Chess Club	Fri 23 Feb 10am-4pm Library	Sat 24 Feb 9.30am-12noon Library	Sun 25 Feb Closed Library
Mon 26 Feb 10am-4pm Library	Tue 27 Feb 10am-3pm Library 10.30am-12noon The Reading Room 2pm- 3pm BMI Tours	Wed 28 Feb 10am-4pm Library 5.30pm Twilight Talks Season 1 - Session 1 7pm-8.30pm Kadampa Meditation Positive Psychology	Thu 29 Feb 10am-3pm Library 6.30pm Ballarat Chess Club	Fri 1 Mar 10am-4pm Library	Sat 2 Mar 9.30am-12noon Library	Sun 3 Mar Closed Library
Mon 4 Mar 10am-4pm Library	Tue 5 Mar 10am-3pm Library 6pm-8pm In-conversation with Imbi Neeme 2pm- 3pm BMI Tours	Wed 6 Mar 10am-4pm Library 5.30pm Twilight Talks Season 1 - Session 2 7pm-8.30pm Kadampa Meditation Get Your Confidence Back	Thu 7 Mar 10am-3pm Library 6.30pm Ballarat Chess Club	Fri 8 Mar 10am-4pm Library	Sat 9 Mar 9.30am-12noon Library	Sun 10 Mar Closed Library

Elizabeth Coleman
in conversation

Wednesday 7 February
6pm - 8pm | Humffray Room

Elizabeth Coleman is a renowned screenwriter who has written on every season of *Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries* and *Ms Fisher's Modern Murder Mysteries*.

She is also the author of the hit play *Secret Bridesmaids' Business* and co-created the much-loved ABC drama *Bed of Roses*. Her first novel, *Losing the Plot*, came out through Allen and Unwin in 2019.



Elizabeth Coleman
in conversation



Wednesday 7 February | 6pm

Book 1 in the Edwina 'Ted' Bristol Mystery Series, *A Routine Infidelity*, was published by Pantera Press in 2023.

Elizabeth will be in discussion with local author and friend Olivia Wearne, about all things Edwina 'Ted' Bristol PI and Ted's acutely intelligent sidekick, miniature schnauzer Miss Maple.

A Routine Infidelity, Ted and Miss Marple's first outing, was a hit with critics and readers this year and now Elizabeth's two kickarse heroines are back with more adventures in *A Dance With Murder*.

And don't worry, the books can be read separately, so if you haven't read *A Routine Infidelity*, you can still be part of this fun.

Cost: \$10 per person | ballaratmi.org.au/events

Lucas Jordan
in conversation

Friday 21 February | 6pm - 8pm
Lending Library

The Chipilly Six were extraordinary men in extraordinary times. Lucas Jordan reveals a wider story of Australia's Great War veterans as they battled a nation forgetting, a bitter Depression, another World War and beyond. This is a remarkable insight into a vanishing world — Bill Gammage, Emeritus Professor, Humanities Research Centre, ANU.

On 9 August 1918, on high ground overlooking the Somme River, an entire British Army Corps is held up by German machine gunners. The battle has raged for 30 hours and more than 2000 Englishmen have fallen, for no gain.

Meanwhile, two Australian sergeants, Jack Hayes and Harold Andrews, go absent without leave and cross the Somme ahead of the British lines. Gathering weapons and four of their best mates, Hayes and Andrews return to take on the Germans.

The extraordinary feats of the Chipilly Six have been overlooked and the personal stories of these diggers never before celebrated. Yet this story doesn't end when the war does. Historian Lucas Jordan weaves a compelling tale of the lives of these soldiers, chronicling their return home and years after service, through a pandemic, the Great Depression, another world war and the very first Anzac Day dawn service.

See Garry Snowden's book review



Wednesday 21 February | 6pm

Cost: \$10 per person | ballaratmi.org.au/events

Twilight Talks
2024 | Season 1

Wednesdays 28 February - 27 March
5.30pm - 6.30pm

Proudly supported by
Community Bank Buninyong

Session 1 | Wed 28 February
Writing a Memoir

Speakers:
Dr Frank Hurley OAM | *Look Back on Laugour*
Pastor Bill Sutcliffe | *Driven*

Frank Hurley

Frank Hurley's memoir, *Look Back on Laugour*, was launched at the BMI by former Premier of Victoria, The Hon Steve Bracks, in April 2023. In his talk, Frank will discuss the nature of a memoir; his motivation in writing one; choosing a title and themes; potential audiences; structuring, style and language of his memoir; production aspects and costs in self-publishing a book.

Frank was a BMI Board member for more than 30 years. He served numerous terms as President and, later, as Patron.



Bill Sutcliffe:

Today, Bill has helped literally thousands of underprivileged Australians find hope with the simple belief that when you realise someone else thinks you have potential, you'll start believing in yourself. He knows that to be true because it's the story of his own life. *Driven* is a compelling memoir about the exceptional power of love, forgiveness and encouragement.



"Writing a Memoir has enabled me to encourage, inspire, and motivate many people from the most difficult backgrounds. Mine was one of severe domestic violence and sexual abuse. However writing has enabled me to not just survive but to thrive through assisting others to do the same thing."

Cost: Free | For bookings go to the link below:

events.humanitix.com/twilight-talks-1-2024

For more information on Twilight Talks go to ballaratmi.org.au/twilight-talks

Imbi Neeme
in conversation

Tuesday 5 March | 6pm - 8pm
Lending Library

A charming, nostalgic, quirky, uplifting novel of people young and old finding their tribe, gaining courage to be themselves and perhaps falling in love, too.

Kind of Sort of Maybe... but probably not



Tuesday 5 March | 6pm

Imbi Neeme is a recovering blogger, ardent novelist and spreadsheet enthusiast. Her manuscript *The Spill* was awarded the 2019 Penguin Literary Prize and published by Penguin Random House Australia in 2020. She blogged for many years at *Not Drowning, Mothering*, which won the 2010 Bloggies Award for best ANZ Weblog. She lives in Footscray, Melbourne, on the right side of the Maribyrnong.

Cost: \$10 per person | ballaratmi.org.au/events

Rosemary's

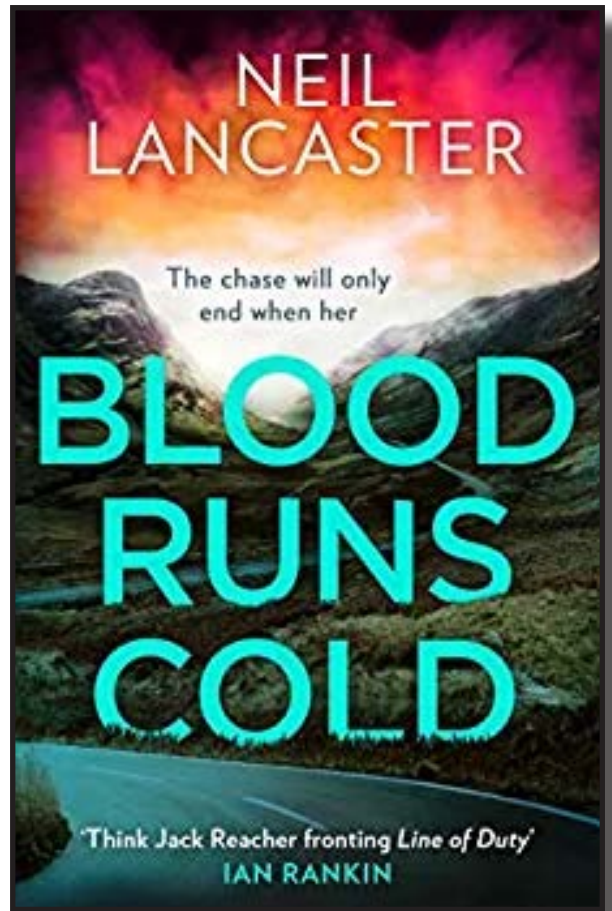
Books of the week

Library Operating hours

Monday, Wednesday, Friday:
10am - 4pm

Tuesday & Thursday:
10am - 3pm

Saturday:
9.30am - 12 noon



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Find out how you can become involved.
ballaratmi.org.au/about-us/supporters-partners

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