

Around the BMI

Continued... from front page. Paula Nicholson

Also during the Heritage Festival, our day and night tours also proved to be very popular! And the icing on the cake - our *Devonshire Tea 165th Birthday Party* on the very last day of the festival, a sold out event! Thanks to **Malcolm Roberts** again for his delicious catering and **Susan Pilbeam** for her informative presentation.

Thanks to all volunteers and staff for putting in the extra time to make sure all our guests felt welcome and well informed during the festival.

Our current series of *Twilight Talks* is almost complete, with each Wednesday evening providing an opportunity to learn more about cinema in Ballarat. Thanks to all our guest speakers. Stay tuned for details of the next season and don't forget to bring a friend! These talks are a great introduction to the building and the BMI as a community.

We are currently campaigning for our End of Financial Year fundraising drive, targeting many new corporate organizations as a way of supporting you, as financial members, in the quest to continue the work of the BMI in the wider community. This will also of course spread the word to so many in Ballarat who don't know what is behind our front doors!!

For more go to our Donations webpage:

ballaratmi.org.au/about-us/donations/

Your gift will be tax-deductible this financial year if you make it **before June 30**, with a receipt immediately issued via email. You may also donate to the BMI via cheque or bank transfer if you wish. Please email the **Executive Manager** for details.

execmanager@ballaratmi.org.au

Coming up in June 1 and 2 we have our book sale as you can read **here!** Great for early Christmas shopping!! There will be hundreds of

books to choose from!!

We will be holding our *Vintage Fashion Parade* again in October, details coming soon, thank you **Geraldine Roberts** for this initiative.

Behind the scenes, much work continues around grant applications to assist us in delivering our offerings to a much wider audience, through preservation of the building and collections to enable sharing our treasures with others in order to raise interest and further promotion. We are still on that mission to triple our membership, please refer anyone you feel might enjoy BMI membership to the wonderful Rosemary at our front desk, where they can pick up a hard copy of the newsletter (thanks Mark Potter) and a membership form!!

I look forward to seeing you around the BMI during June, where the heaters are on keeping the temperature as warm as the welcome!!

Paula Nicholson

Minerva's Secrets Night Tours

Minerva's Secrets night tours continue to be overwhelmingly popular, during the Ballarat Heritage Festival, each of the 4 sessions were sold out which is a testament to the tour guides (Katrina Hill and Tim Harris) and their research material (*Under Minerva's Gaze*: Phil Roberts & Jill Blee).

If you haven't had the opportunity to experience these tours with a difference, keep an eye on upcoming newsletters and or our website to find out when they are on again.



Actors Katrina Hill and Tim Harris.
Photo Jess Schroeter

Around the BMI

Here's some of the feedback.

“Hello! I wanted to send a message to day last night was great! We all really enjoyed it and learnt a lot! You and Tim bounce off each other well. I can't believe your knowledge of Ballarat's history, it's amazing how much you know!! Anyway was great to see Emma too, but wanted to say well done, we really enjoyed it”

“Hi - My son was on the tour last night. He said it was great and asked me to let you know.”

Membership News

“It's good to hear from you”

As members we enjoy being associated with this landmark heritage institution and whilst many of you enjoy the services we offer at the BMI we also wish to reach out to those we don't see that often. We would like to know from you what your thoughts and ideas are, about what you would like to see us offer.

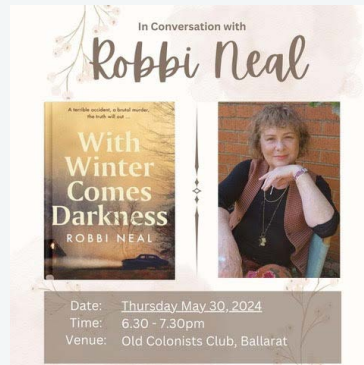
This may take the form of news items you could share with us that may be of interest to other members or, events that you would like to invite others to, whether it be an excursion, an educational activity, a visit to a gallery or a night out to the movies. We would look to promote such activities in the monthly newsletter with the BMI as a rendezvous point during regular library operating hours.

We would love to hear from you with news items or activities.

ballaratmi.org.au/submit-for-newsletter/

Collins Booksellers on Lydiard
in-conversation with:

Robbi Neal



Thursday 30 May
| 6.30pm - 7.30pm
Old Colonists
Club, Ballarat

We are
delighted
to be celebrating
with Robbi Neal
as she launches
her fifth book

- and her first psychological suspense drama - *With Winter Comes Darkness*. Set in Ballarat in 1975, a terrible accident burns down a family's life on the same day a murder is committed. From the ashes of these acts comes revelation, darkness, and the truth. Psychological suspense and profound family drama meet in this heartrending and original Australian novel.

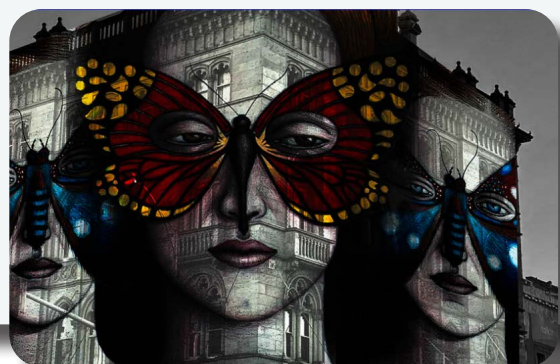
Free | Please register at:

robbineal.eventbrite.com.au

WhiteNight: 1 June
Deborah Klein

White Night excitement is certainly building. Deborah Klein whose work many locals (and beyond) will be familiar with, will be featuring her work *Decorated Women* at Mark's Corner, just up the road from the BMI. Visiting Deborah's website is a treat in itself, however projection will be spectacular. Deborah is a long-standing member of the BMI and we congratulate her in being selected to be a part of this amazing festival, Don't miss it. Find out more...

whitenight.com.au/ballarat/



Deborah Klein *Decorated Women* - projection

Around the BMI

WhiteNight: 1 June Melinda Muscat

White Night will also feature BMI's Melinda Muscat (I'm sure she won't mind us taking a tiny amount of collaborative support as our neighbour at the **The Ballarat Imaginarium**). Melinda has collaborated with Human Designs, Zlato Balazic & John McKee for this Projection Installation in what will be absolutely mesmerising. Find out more about this installation and visit:

whitenight.com.au/ballarat/

Why not also pop into her shop as she will be open on the night.

We will also be hosting another exciting Human Designs projection (also featuring Melinda's work) in the Hugh Williamson Foyer, after WhiteNight. Keep an eye on our website and social media for details.



Melinda Muscat *A Fortunate Series of Events* in collaboration with Human Designs.

Debut Novel an Original Tale Ballarat Times by Edwina Williams

Author Paula Gleeson will release her debut novel in two weeks and celebrate the achievement with a book talk at the Ballarat Mechanics' Institute.

Original Twin is a mystery-thriller story and Gleeson is set to discuss the "haunting tale" on the evening of Tuesday 4 June.

"It's about the bonds between sisters," she said. "One young woman must follow the invisible thread that connects her to her missing twin before someone else can sever it for good."

Read more of the article in the Ballarat Times issue 17 May by Edwina Williams at the link below:

ballaratmi.org.au/ballarat-times-an-original-tale/

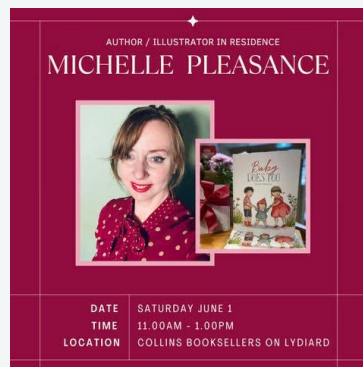
Don't miss Paula in-conversation at the BMI Library on 4 June.

ballaratmi.org.au/events/

Collins Booksellers on Lydiard Meet the Author & Illustrator

Michelle Pleasance

Saturday 1 June | 11am - 1pm
Collins Booksellers on Lydiard, Ballarat



Michelle's whimsical illustrations are inspired by vintage children's books and nostalgia and she has been illustrating cards and children's prints for many years (you will find some within our displays). Michelle will be in store to celebrate her first picture book, *Baby*



Around the BMI

Does Too. No registration necessary.

Collins Booksellers on Lydiard
in conversation with:

Kate Forsyth

Friday 7 June | 6pm - 7.30pm
Old Colonists Club

Join us for an evening with the fabulous Dr. Kate Forsyth, award-winning author, poet and storyteller as we celebrate her latest novel *Psykhe*.



Free | Please
register at:

kateforsyth.eventbrite.com.au

Celebrating National
Volunteer Week

What a joy to celebrate National Volunteer Week with those with whom we cannot do without.

Volunteer Co-ordinator Marilyn Furness organised a small get together in the Heritage Reading Room to celebrate National Volunteer Week. Chair Paula Nicholson gave an informal thank you in appreciation of the important work they do.



National
Volunteer
Something for Everyone Week
20-26 MAY 2024



Rex's
Snippets

BMI The Early Days

To reference an open file of the minutes of the Institute from the inaugural meeting in 1859 to the annual meeting in 1863 go to the link below.

ballaratmi.org.au/rexs-snippets-early-minutes/

It shows the optimism and the hardships encountered during the formation period and the problems encountered with the later lining of the great hall ceiling and the state of the trusses, the cost and provision of firewood, the reading room opening times till 11pm, and what about the needs of the linen coverers!

It shows the donation of books for the library by John Pascoe Fawkner, the setting up of the mineral display by Professor Abel, and the attempts to start classes in reading, arithmetic, mechanical drawing, phonography and provision for special places for lady members.

Rex Bridges

Rosemary recommends

Author of the Month

Paula Gleeson



Paula writes mysteries and thrillers for all ages, usually with multiple twists and complicated females at the helm. She is an award-winning filmmaker and nominated non-fiction writer. She lives just outside of Melbourne. Her debut thriller *Original Twin* is being released on June 1st.

Don't miss Paula in-conversation with 4 June at the BMI. More information [Here](#) > or go to our events insert.

Book of the Month

Original Twin by Paula Gleeson.

Twin sisters May and June couldn't be more different. May is quiet, self-conscious, withdrawn; June is boisterous, beautiful, magnetic and missing.

It's been a year since June disappeared, a year of May waiting for her to turn up with an explanation of where she's been and why she left. But with the discovery of an old newspaper article comes a secret: their mother once vanished, too, on the same date when she was nineteen years old. Just like June.

This was no coincidence.. June was investigating this buried family mystery, and she left May a series of clues to pick up where she left off. Now, if May wants to find June, she will have to retrace her footsteps through their mother's past.

Recommended Reads

The Hidden Storyteller by Mandy Robotham.

The war is over, and Germany is in ruins. Posted to an Allied-run Hamburg, reporter Georgie Young returns to the country she fled seven years prior – at the onset of the conflict – to find it unrecognisable.

Amongst the stark horrors of a bombed-out city crumbling under the weight of millions of displaced souls, she discovers pockets of warmth: a violinist playing amidst the wreckage, couples dancing in the streets, and a nation trying to make amends.

Joining forces with local detective Harri Schroder to catch a killer targeting women on the city's streets, curiosity draws Georgie deep into the dark underbelly, and she soon discovers that some secrets of war did not die with Hitler.

An Ideal Husband by Erica James.

After thirty years of marriage, and a wonderful family Christmas, Louisa is stunned when husband Kip asks for a divorce on Boxing Day. He'd never seemed unhappy – and they've raised three children together.

For months, Kip has been secretly seeing a younger woman – and if that wasn't bad enough, it's the woman who broke their youngest son's heart.

Now Kip is moving out and embarking on a new life with Zoe, and Louisa is left to pick up the pieces. Their beloved family home, Charity Cottage, is up for sale, and tensions are running high.

Yes despite the betrayal and anger, when Louisa lays eyes on what might be a unique and welcoming new home, she feels a first glimmer of hope that life might be taking a turn for the better.

It Takes a Town by Aoife Clifford.

Everyone dies famous in a country town, but glamorous Vanessa Walton was a shining star. A celebrity since she was a child Vanessa is back on the front page for all the wrong reasons: after a terrible

Reserve your copy >

New releases

storm she has been found dead at the bottom of her stairs.

At first her death seems to be a simple accident, but anonymous letters are discovered that suggest otherwise – and when 16 -year old Jasmine Langridge claims it is murder, she suddenly disappears. As the police begin to investigate, secrets are exposed and friendships unravel.

What happens to a community when murders and abductions sit alongside petty workmates, teenage tribulations and longstanding friendships? It will take a town to solve this crime, but what will be broken in the effort to piece together the truth?

New releases

Mystery

<i>Grave Mountain</i>	Wendy Dranfield
<i>Still See You Everywhere</i>	Lisa Gardner
<i>Behind The Wire</i>	Jack Gatland
<i>Silent Ruin</i>	David J. Gatward
<i>They Thought I Was Dead</i>	Peter James
<i>Bridges to Burn</i>	Marion Todd

Australian

<i>The Deed</i>	Susannah Begbie
<i>The Miller Women</i>	Kelli Hawkins
<i>Studio Girls</i>	Lisa Ireland
<i>If I Should Lose You</i>	Natasha Lester
<i>Looking Out</i>	Fiona McCallum
<i>With Winter Comes</i>	
<i>Darkness</i>	Robbi Neal
<i>At The Going Down of the Sun</i>	
<i>The Wild Date Palm</i>	Mary-Anne O'Connor
<i>The Lost Letters of Rose Carey</i>	Diane Armstrong
<i>Red Dirt Home</i>	Julie Bennett
<i>Safe Haven</i>	Renae Black
<i>It Takes a Town</i>	Shankari Chandran
<i>Sarah's Gift</i>	Aoife Clifford
<i>The Accident</i>	Anna Jacobs
	Katie McMahon

The Radio Hour

Victoria Purman

Historical

<i>The Hidden Storyteller</i>	Mandy Robotham
<i>The Sweet Blue Distance</i>	Sara Donati
<i>The Royal Librarian</i>	Daisy Wood

Novel

<i>An Ideal Husband</i>	Erica James
<i>The Lost Lover</i>	Karen Swan

Scandinavian

<i>The Snow Angel</i>	Anki Edvinsson
<i>Stigma</i>	Jørn Lier Horst & Thomas Enger
<i>Mirror Image</i>	Gunner Staalesen





BALLARAT MECHANICS' INSTITUTE

WHAT'S ON June



The BMI Library
Home of literature and education

Paula Gleeson
in conversation

ORIGINAL TWIN
PAULA GLEESON

Tuesday 4 June | 6pm

The BMI Library
Home of literature and education

BOOK SALE Sat 1 & Sun 2 June
10am-2pm | Lending Library

OPENING HOURS

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

Holiday closures

King's Birthday - Mon 10 Jun
AFL GF Friday - 27 Sep
Melbourne Cup - Tue 5 Nov
Christmas Day - Wed 25 Dec
Boxing Day - Thu 26 Dec

School holidays

29 Jun - 14 Jul 2024
21 Sep - 6 Oct 2024
21 Dec - 28 Jan 2025

Important Dates

White Night 1 Jun
Ballarat Winter Festival 29 Jun - 21 Jul
Victorian Seniors Festival 1 - 31 Oct



	Tue 28 May	Wed 29 May	Thu 30 May	Fri 31 May	Sat 1 Jun	Sun 2 Jun
	10am-3pm Library 2pm- 3pm BMI Tours 10.30am-4pm Exhibition Not the Last Picture Show 2pm- 3pm BMI Tours 6pm-8pm In-conversation with Pam Swanborough	10am-4pm Library 10.30am-4pm Exhibition Not the Last Picture Show 6pm-7pm Twilight Talks History of Hoyts 7pm-8.30pm Kadampa Meditation How to Love Yourself & Others	10am-3pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables 10.30am-4pm Exhibition Not the Last Picture Show 6.30pm Ballarat Chess Club	10am-4pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables	10.00am-2pm Library Book Sale 10.00am-11am Ballarat Pride Launch Morning Tea 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables WHITE NIGHT	10.00am-2pm Library Book Sale 10.00am-11am Pride Month Market
Mon 3 Jun	Tue 4 Jun	Wed 5 Jun	Thu 6 Jun	Fri 7 Jun	Sat 8 Jun	Sun 9 Jun
10am-4pm Library 10am-4pm Human Designs Projection: The artwork of Melinda Muscat. Final Details to come. 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables	10am-3pm Library 10am-3pm Human Designs Projection: The artwork of Melinda Muscat. 2pm- 3pm BMI Tours 6pm-8pm In-conversation with Paula Gleeson	10am-4pm Library 10am-4pm Human Designs Projection: The artwork of Melinda Muscat. 7pm-8.30pm Kadampa Meditation How to Love Yourself & Others	10am-3pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables 10am-3pm Human Designs Projection 6.30pm Ballarat Chess Club 7.30pm-9pm Ballarat Film Society Alcarràs	10am-4pm Library 10am-4pm Human Designs Projection: The artwork of Melinda Muscat. 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables	9.30am-12noon Library 9.30am-12noon Human Designs Projection: The artwork of Melinda Muscat.	Closed Library
Mon 10 Jun	Tue 11 Jun	Wed 12 Jun	Thu 13 Jun	Fri 14 Jun	Sat 15 Jun	Sun 16 Jun
KING'S BIRTHDAY	10am-3pm Library 10am-3pm Human Designs Projection: The artwork of Melinda Muscat. 2pm- 3pm BMI Tours	10am-4pm Library 10am-4pm Human Designs Projection: The artwork of Melinda Muscat. 7pm-8.30pm Kadampa Meditation Anger Management	10am-3pm Library 6.30pm Ballarat Chess Club 10am-3pm Human Designs Projection: The artwork of Melinda Muscat. 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables	10am-4pm Library 10am-4pm Human Designs Projection: The artwork of Melinda Muscat. 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables	9.30am-12noon Library 9.30am-12noon Human Designs Projection: The artwork of Melinda Muscat.	Closed Library
Mon 17 Jun	Tue 18 Jun	Wed 19 Jun	Thu 20 Jun	Fri 21 Jun	Sat 22 Jun	Sun 23 Jun
10am-4pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables	10am-3pm Library 2pm- 3pm BMI Tours	10am-4pm Library 7pm-8.30pm Kadampa Meditation Anger Management	10am-3pm Library 6.30pm Ballarat Chess Club 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables	10am-4pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables	9.30am-12noon Library	Closed Library
Mon 24 Jun	Tue 25 Jun	Wed 26 Jun	Thu 27 Jun	Fri 28 Jun	Sat 29 Jun	Sun 30 Jun
10am-4pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables 1.30pm-3pm The Reading Room	10am-3pm Library	10am-4pm Library 7pm-8.30pm Happiness Confidence & The Power Of The Mind, A Public Talk with Kelsang Luma	10am-3pm Library	10am-4pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables	9.30am-12noon Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables BALLARAT WINTER FESTIVAL	Closed Library



BALLARAT MECHANICS' INSTITUTE

Exhibition: *Not the Last Picture Show*

Daily until 30 May | 10.30am - 4pm
Hugh Williamson Foyer & Heritage Reading Room

Just a year after the Lumière brothers invented the cinematograph in 1895, the first screenings of this new technology of 'moving pictures' were held at the Mechanics' Institute.

By the 1970's, cinema's death was being heralded after the devastating impact of television and the attraction of the drive-in, making the BMI's Vegas 70 for a brief time Ballarat's only indoor cinema.



Our latest photographic exhibition *Not the Last Picture Show* traces the history of cinemas in Ballarat, from the spectacular nitrate film-fuelled conflagration of the 4,000 seat Coliseum Picture Palace, (now a supermarket car park), to the Skyline Drive-in, now a housing estate with a 'Bogart Avenue'.

Cost: Free to BMI members \$5 donation for general entry into the Heritage Reading Room.

ballaratmi.org.au/important-festival-dates

Twilight Talks: *History of Hoyts*

Wednesday 29 May | 6pm - 7pm
Humffray Room.

Hoyts is synonymous with cinema in Australia. As Australia's oldest and largest cinema, it has entertained generations of audiences from the silent era through to the present age.

At the start of the 20th century, Melbourne dentist and cornet player Arthur Russell bought a share in a small touring American circus that visited Melbourne, called Hoyts Circus. Russell toured with the circus as a magician, but it did not prove to be a financial success. In 1908, he started presenting moving pictures at St George's Hall in Bourke Street, accompanying the silent films with his small family band: his wife on piano, son on drums, and Russell on cornet. On 18 September 1909 he opened Hoyts Picture Palace, and formed a company called Hoyts Pictures Pty Ltd.

Speaker | Dr Stephen Gaunson

Cost: \$8 BMI members \$12 general entry.
ballaratmi.org.au/important-festival-dates

2024 **Twilight Talks**

Community Bank
Buninyong
Bendigo Bank

BMI Winter Book Sale

Saturday 1 June & Sunday 2 June | 10am - 2pm
Lending Library | Free.



Don't miss it, stock up your winter reading.

We will have hundreds of books, DVDs & CDs.

We would love to see you there.

ballaratmi.org.au/event/winter-book-sale/

Human Designs Projection Installation featuring:

Zlatko Balazic & John McKee, Featuring
the artwork of Melinda Muscat

Monday 3 June - Saturday 8 June | Hugh Williamson Foyer. During regular Library operating hours.

This stunning installation will follow on from the work created for White Night. This installation however will be much more immersive.



The Wizard, Melinda Muscat, one of the many fantabulous images used in the projection work

Zlatko Balazic & John McKee

Both Zlatko & John have come from very different backgrounds. This has made for a highly fertile and vibrant mix of life experiences upon which to synthesis innovative design ideas, producing truly original artwork. As such, this creative process has involved the inimitable blending of various art mediums and new technologies. The organic, 'morphic' quality of our work has become our binding signature style. Presently our main goal is to engage our audience through direct, tactile light and sound displays, or what we like to refer to as 'LightStations'. We can't wait to see it.

Melinda Muscat

Melinda is a Flemish, Baroque, colourful yet dark Surrealist, working in the mediums of oil painting, drawing, mixed media sculpture, craft and digital painting. Many of you would be familiar with her work if you popped into *The Ballarat Imaginarium* at our doorstep.

Proudly supported our Corporate Partners
Haymes Paint & Nicholson Construcion

ballaratmi.org.au/human-designs-melinda-muscat/

In Conversation with Paula Gleeson

Tuesday 4 June | 6pm - 8pm | Lending Library.

Original Twin by Paula Gleeson



Two sisters May and June couldn't be more different. May is quiet, self-conscious withdrawn; June is boisterous, beautiful, magnetic...and missing.

It's been a year since June disappeared, a year of May waiting for her to turn up with an explanation of where she's been and why she left. But with the discovery of an old newspaper article comes a secret: Their mother once vanished, too, on the same date when she was nineteen years old...

Paula writes mysteries and thrillers for all ages, usually with multiple twists and complicated females at the helm.

Cost: \$10 includes light refreshment.

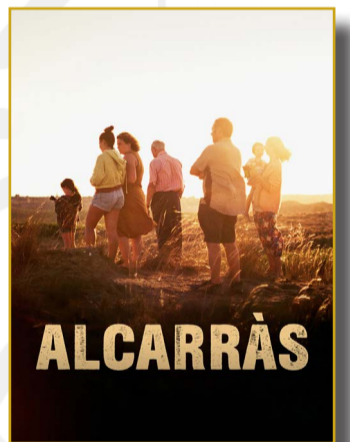
ballaratmi.org.au/events/

Ballarat Film Society *Alcarràs*

Thursday 13 June
7.30pm - 9pm
Minerva Space.

Under the Spanish sun...

ballaratmi.org.au/events/



Happiness Confidence & The Power Of The Mind, A Public Talk with Kelsang Luma

Wednesday 26 June | 7pm - 8.30pm
Minerva Space.



Cost: Kadampa Members \$10 | General admission \$25.

ballaratmi.org.au/events/

Rosemary's

Book of the week

Library Operating hours

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 10am - 4pm

Tuesday & Thursday: 10am - 3pm

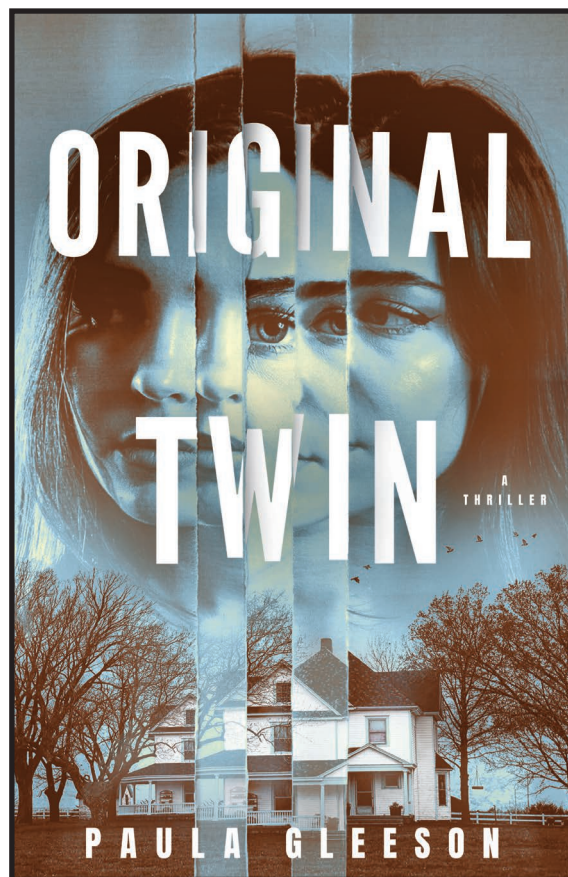
Saturday: 9.30am - 12 noon

Refer to the Events Insert for holiday closures.

Paula Gleeson in-conversation

Coming up on 4 June, go to our
Events Webpage for details:

ballaratmi.org.au/event/in-conversation-paula-gleeson/



We acknowledge the support of our valued Supporters & Partners

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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

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