



Baroque Fantasy, (detail) Melinda Muscat | *Human Designs* Projection Installation in the Hugh Williamson Foyer:
A Fortunate Series of Events.

News letter

JUL / 2024

From the Chair

Hello everyone.

I am sure you are all wondering about this beautiful image and what it means to the BMI! Well, this is just one of the many images you will see if you wander into our Williamson Foyer, which is now almost unrecognisable! As is explained later in this newsletter, the team at *Human Designs* (Zlatko Balazic and John McKee), have teamed up with local artist **Melinda Muscat** to deliver this fabulous and contemporary installation, *A Fortunate Series of Events*. More inside...



**BALLARAT
MECHANICS'
INSTITUTE**

Around At the BMI

Continued... from front page. Paula Nicholson

White Night saw the trio display their wares at the old information centre in Lydiard Street, but before this, there was a plan hatching to create a longer lasting exhibition at the BMI, which has now come to life. This is an example of what the contemporary can look like in a Heritage Building, the combination of which delivers something quite magical. You really have to see it to believe it. It will be available to view anytime the library is open, please check in with Rosemary at the desk, she is a big fan and we have the video to prove it!!

Thank you so much to **Haymes Paint, Tony Matkov** from **IMD Tech, Walleed Askari** from **Steel it Engineering** and our three talented artists for delivering this extraordinary addition to the school holidays in Ballarat! Our long term plan will be to transfer the genius into the basement and also highlight many other local artists in this way. As most of the colour in the room is via projection, we don't have to fix anything to the walls which is so important in our building. But of course, you also have the 3D fascination that is the array of instruments created by Zlatko. These are made to be played and need to be experienced first hand.

We have already had lots of visitors in and have recorded some of the reactions:

- "Can I try playing this instrument?"
- "What happens if I touch this?"
- "It feels like we're inside a painting!"
- "This instrument sounds like something from outer space!"
- "I bet this is what a magical world looks like."
- "You have to see this!"

Find out more at:
ballaratmi.org.au/event/human-designs/

Thank you! Our end of financial year appeal has been well supported but it's not too late to assist the BMI, your organisation, to meet the increasing cost of doing business. As promised in

the last newsletter, we have extended the "ask" to assist with our fundraising, we have sent requests for financial support to over 70 businesses outlining the strong support of business leaders in the early days of the BMI and inviting current businesses to join the quest to support our independent heritage institution.

Find out more about the Appeal go to:
ballaratmi.org.au/about-us/donations/

Our author talks continue! This program is attracting a lot of attention, both from authors and publishers and from the audiences! I know that Rosemary almost has a full "dance card", I'm sure planning for 2025 is underway!!

Season 3 of **Twilight Talks** is being finalized, with another varied program of events about to be announced, thank you Phil Roberts.

And in breaking news, we can announce another year of partnership funding with the **City of Ballarat**. This has been central in our efforts to employ staff to enable us to develop wider programming and service our client and membership base more adequately over the last 6 years and we thank the City for their continued support.

We will be having a **Vintage Book Sale** during **Rare Book Week** at the end of July, in the Hooper Room. The sale will consist of older books extraneous to our needs. Thank you to the volunteer collection management group (Dani, Judy, Marion and Mary) for carefully curating this offering and for all their time in researching the books on offer to ensure the best financial outcomes for the BMI. Stay tuned for details and don't miss out on these unique items!

We continue to have some very exciting enquiries from leading organisations wishing to hold events in our fabulous building. August and September will be very busy with **Royal South Street Society** and **AMaGA** amongst the clients that we are so thrilled to host. We can all be very

Around the BMI



proud of what we have achieved in continuing to provide a state of the art venue which continues to attract new members and new hirers!

We are planning many exciting events to add to this year's **Ballarat Seniors Festival** and I thank all the staff and volunteers who have put forward ideas to enrich this offering.

We are in the throes of finalizing dates and sponsors for some of our key fundraising events for this next financial year, please come along and support these events, be it **Fashion parades**, **Devonshire tea parties**, Golf days or musical events. And don't forget to bring your friends, there's something for everyone!!

We have been working very hard to develop new collaborative partnerships to assist us to fund many of the essential projects, upgrades and material purchases that are essential in moving ahead. Your commitment to the BMI has provided us with the credibility and leverage to approach these new partners with confidence. Thank you!!

Paula Nicholson

(This message from the Chair is also on the website)
ballaratmi.org.au/message-from-the-chair-july-2024/

Membership News

"It's good to hear from you"

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

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

BMI Personnel update Travis Charlton

Travis Charlton has joined the BMI developing a strategy to improve and uplift our digital systems.

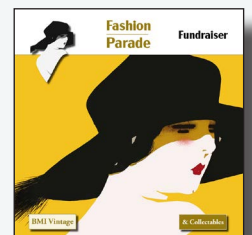
"I am thrilled to be joining Ballarat Mechanics' Institute as a volunteer to work with the team to develop a strategy to improve the IT capability to the organisation, our members and the public.

While our vision and strategy on these strategic objectives is being developed, our initial priorities are a strategic review of BMI's systems, digital assets and data and ensuring appropriate business continuity and cyber security are in place.

I look forward to working with Paula, Colin and the team as well as meeting our BMI members in the future as we undertake this journey."

Vintage & Collectables Fashion Fundraiser

Geraldine Roberts is moving forward with final arrangements for to this year's Fashion Fundraiser in October, there is a lot to do, models to be sourced, garments to be selected, organisation of entertainment, decor, prizes and much more.



Malcolm Roberts will again be providing the sumptuous catering.

This event **sold out** last year. Those who did attended last year and those on our VIP list already have the date for this year's event in their calendar, but if you aren't on the list the date is Sunday 27 October. If you wish to review the success of last year's event or you wish to be involved as a partner or sponsor or go on our VIP list go to:

ballaratmi.org.au/fashion-fundraiser/

The 2024 event listing is now live, why not get in early: ballaratmi.org.au/events/

Don't forget the Vintage & Collectables shop opens 3 days a week: Monday, Thursday &

Around the BMI

Friday between 11am & 3pm and on the first Saturday of the month, so if you are looking for a quality garment to wear, pop in to see Geraldine and Dona.

Ballarat Seniors Festival in October

The Ballarat Seniors Festival, held in conjunction with the Victorian Seniors Festival will be happening again in October, the BMI will be participating again this year and if you have any ideas for events that would be appropriate for us to stage during the month of October then we would love to hear your ideas.

ballaratmi.org.au/victorian-seniors-festival/

BMI Notables, contribution by Neil Leckie

Dr James Robert Pound - BMI Benefactor.

James Robert Pound was born to Mr James Henry and Mrs Selina Maude (nee Walton) Pound at their home Lyndon in Riversdale Road Auburn, Victoria on 22 April 1888. James studied Metallurgy at the School of Mines, Ballarat (SMB) where he was founder of the SMB Literary and Debating Society, and foundation member and Editor of the SMB Students' Magazine, which was first published in 1899.



At 20 years-of-age he had been awarded a Bachelor of Science at Melbourne University, This led to a position as a Lecturer in Chemistry and Metallurgy at the Zeehan School of Mines in 1909. This was followed in 1913 with a Master of Science in 1913, also at the Melbourne University. By 1918 he was the Superintendent, Magnetic Separation Works, S. and M. Syndicate Ltd., Launceston.

In 1918 he was appointed to the SMB. Around 1922 he became a Lecturer and Demonstrator, Chemistry and Metallurgy, then was elected as an Associate Member (Chemistry), Australian National Research Council and became the Head of Department of Chemistry, SMB. In 1923 he received a Doctor of Science from the University of Melbourne. He delivered his last lecture at SMB on 22 April 1948.



Dr Pound seated in the middle of the group.

Dr Pound was a member of a number of scientific societies, including Australasian Chemical Institute, the Australasian Association of Chemists and Metallurgists, and the Victorian Society of Chemical Industry, and was a Fellow of the Chemical Society (London). He was a regular contributor to scientific journals. A man of many interests, Dr Pound was associated with the Ballarat Fine Art Gallery, the Ballarat Mechanics' Institute and the Ballarat Literary Society. He was a prolific writer and had several works published.

Dr Pound was married and had a son Robert Tasman Pound who enlisted in the RAAF. Robert transferred to the RAF. He died while flying over Italy on 13 October 1943. Robert is buried at Moro River Canadian War Cemetery, Italy.



Around the BMI

Note: The **Pound Room** at the BMI is named after Dr Pound (see Rex's Snippets).

Neil Leckie

More at: ballaratmi.org.au/dr-pound-bmi/

Rex's Snippets | Visiting the BMI? Where are You?

You are not sure?

Stand in the entry to the Ballarat Mechanics' Institute and straight ahead is a long passage with five doors that could go anywhere. Open the double doors at the far end, you will find a room now called the **Batten Room**. It is the BMI lending library, named for **Mr. Batten**, who between he and his son, were the committee appointed managers of the Institute for a combined ninety years.

Depending on when you entered the **Batten Room**, it might have been called the **Newspaper Reading Room**, where daily papers, Australian, British and American were displayed on sloping benches for members to catch up on the latest news, although some of them could be three or four months old, depending when the last sailing ship arrived in Port Melbourne or Geelong. Later during the war in the Pacific, frequent readers were from the US Marines stationed in Ballarat. They wanted news from home, and the room would be full.

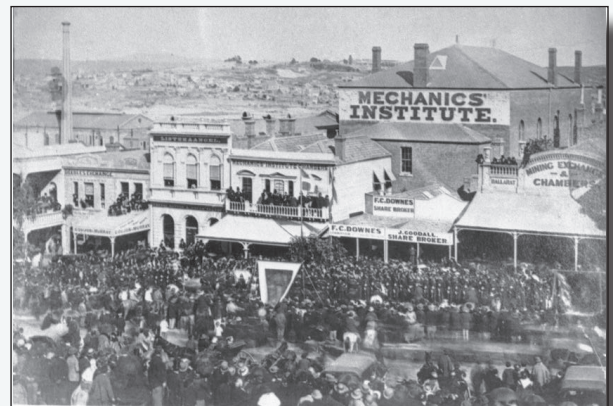
Or perhaps if you arrived in the later 20th. century it may have been called the (Queen) **Victoria League Room**, named for the group of Ballarat people who regularly met there.



Looking to the right, notice the ramp and opening into the **Mining Exchange**, renamed the **Old Mining Exchange** when the more recent mining exchange was built in Lydiard street. It was also known as **The Corner**, where the shares for gold mining syndicates were bought and sold.

It became known as the **Lending Library** in 1934 when the Institute purchased the freehold and moved the lending library from the upstairs room to there. An entry was created into the main building and remained as such until 2008, when the library was moved into the newly removed **Batten Room**.

The **Old Mining Exchange** is now known as the **Heritage and Reading Room**.



Ballarat Mechanics' Institute | Trading at the Mining Exchange

Notice the archway behind the library desk. It leads to the **Pound Room**. The archway was bricked up but opened in 2008, as the room had been used as a photographic studio. It is named for Dr. J.R.Pound, a committee member from 1945 to 1967. The room is now used as a members research and computer area.

Adjoining the **Pound Room** is the **Committee Room**, where the business and committee meetings have taken place for 165 years.

Across the passage is the **Hooper Room**, a meeting room named after a long term and valuable member of the committee, Stan Hooper. Had you entered

Around the BMI

earlier, it may have been called the **Smoking Room**, or **Smokey Room**, or the **Chess Club Room**, when it was fitted out with special Chess tables and equipment for the Ballarat Chess Club.



MH 1313 | Chess Match Ballarat vs Geelong 23 April 1925 at Mechanics' Institute | now the Hooper Room

Take the stairs to the **Minerva Space**, as named in 2013. This is the **Great Hall**, or **Auditorium**, built in 1859, used for dinners, displays, performances, entertainment and public events until it became a movie theatre called *The Britannia Theatre* in 1919 and remained until 1962, when it became the *Odeon*, and in 1965 became the *Vegas 70* until 1981. It was the *Lyric Theatre* until 1993, and then the *Sturt Cinema* until 2004, when it was closed for renovations.

The internal stairs outside the **Minerva Space** lead to the **Humffray Room**, named for the first president of the BMI, John Bassen Humffray. This room was the **Lending Library** from 1868 until relocated to the **Old Mining Exchange** in 1935. It is also known as **The Blue Room**. After the library moved, the room was used as a ballet studio and the walls painted blue.

Immediately below is the **Hugh Williamson Foyer**, named for the benefactors, the Williamson Foundation, who generously funded restoration in this area of the building.

Originally this was two rooms, separated by the intruding barrel ceiling of the ground floor entry foyer. you may recall it as the **Milk Bar** and **Sweets Shop** for the **Britannia Theatre**. Or even earlier it was rented to the **United Australia Organisation**, a forerunner of the Liberal Party.

The top floor, presently tenanted, was the home of the **BMI Museum**, a space dedicated to the display in glass cabinets of an extensive range of geological specimens, set up and managed by Professor Abel, a well known Austrian geologist. Later it became a *Billiard Room*, with four full size tables, then an *Indoor Bowling* area.

So, if you are looking for the **Smoking room**, or the **Blue Room**, or the **Victoria League Room**, or more, now you know where to go.

Rex Bridges

More at:
ballaratmi.org.au/rexs-snippets-visiting-the-bmi/

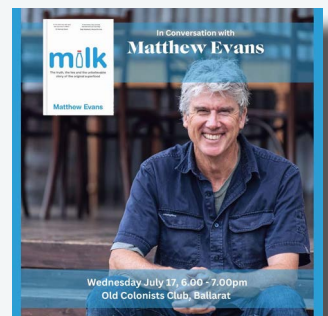
Scribbler Events

Collins Booksellers on Lydiard
in-conversation with:

Matthew Evans

Wednesday 17 July | 6pm - 7pm
Old Colonists Club, Ballarat

We are delighted to once again be hosting Matthew Evans in Ballarat. Matthew is an Australian chef and food critic turned farmer-food activist and will be celebrating his latest book *Milk: The truth, the lies and the unbelievable story of the original superfood*. Matthew will be in



Scribbler Events

conversation with Sara Kittely.

Free | Please register at:
matthewevansballarat.eventbrite.com.au/

Literary Lounge: Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries

Friday 19 July | 6.30pm - 7.30pm
Old Colonists Club, Ballarat



Experience an Enchanting evening at our Literary Lounge, honoring the exceptional contributions of local author Elizabeth Coleman and celebrated milliner

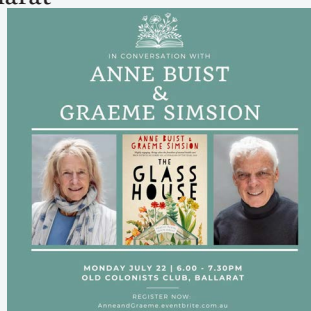
Rose Hudson in bringing *Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries* to life. Delight in a night filled with literary and fashion discussions, celebrating the remarkable careers of Elizabeth and Rose.

missfisher.eventbrite.com.au/

In Conversation with Anne Buist & Graeme Simson

Monday 22 July | 6pm - 7pm
Old Colonists Club, Ballarat

Join us for an evening with Anne and Graeme as part of their Great Australian Bookshop Tour! Anne Buist and Graeme Simson are both novelists: *Graeme's Rosie Project* series has sold over six million copies in forty languages and won ABIA book of the year. Anne's five



crime novels have been published in Australia and overseas, and their first joint effort, *Two Steps Forward*, a story of walking and renewal, was an international bestseller, sold to fourteen countries with movie rights optioned in the US.

Their latest novel is *The Glass House*, set in an acute psychiatric ward: your favourite medical drama with a psych twist, illuminated by Anne's 35 years experience as a psychiatrist and Graeme's deft handling of weighty topics.

They'll talk about their books, writing as a couple and their mission to visit every bookshop in Australia. And (almost) anything you want to ask them.

anneandgraeme.eventbrite.com.au/

Ballarat Writers Group Pamela Miller Flash Fiction Prize



This annual competition will be decided this month. Ballarat Writers accepted fictional prose of up to 500 words on the theme *Fire*. Stay tuned for results, winners will be added to our news webpage when announced or for more go to the Ballarat Writers Group website or better still, why not join.

ballaratwriters.com/about-2/

Check out this great little review by Kate Evans on: *Feijoa: A Story of Obsession & Belonging*

ballaratwriters.com/

BWI Inaugural Anthology Launch

Saturday 6 July | 2pm - 5pm
The North Star Hotel, Ballarat

Ballarat Writers presents an anthology of short stories and poems from our membership, ranging from the intimate and subtle to the bombastic and frightening. Experience the

Scribbler Events

We are seeking an experienced data entry volunteer - find out more...

VOLUNTEER

<https://ballaratmi.org.au/data-entry-volunteer/>

wonderfully unique perspectives of the writers from our regional town as we invite you to come and see what is "below the surface".

Free: The bar will be open to purchase drinks. Light nibbles will be provided, and copies of the anthology will be available to purchase. Be sure to respond to their Facebook Event:

www.facebook.com/BallaratWriters

Writers Victoria
Upcoming competitions
& events

WRITERS
VICTORIA

- **The Richell Prize for Emerging Writers** - Closes 7 July
- **Albury City Short Story Award** - Closes 25 July
- **Nakata Brophy Prize For Young Indigenous Writers** - Closes 27 July
- **Apollo Bay WORDfest 2024** - 26 July - 28 July
- **Witcraft Annual Humour Competition** - Closes 31 July
- **2024 The Flying Islands Manuscript Prize For Emerging Poets** - Closes 31 July

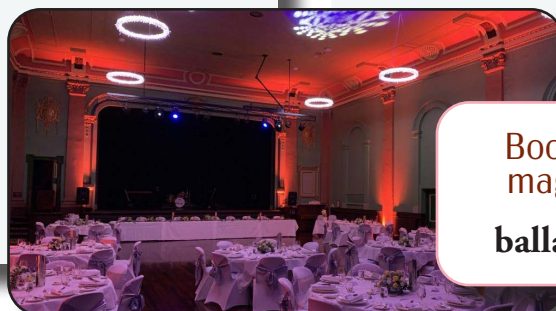
The Wheeler Centre
Upcoming events

 The Wheeler Centre
Books Writing Ideas

- **The Liminal Festival for Writers & Readers** - 2 August - 4 August

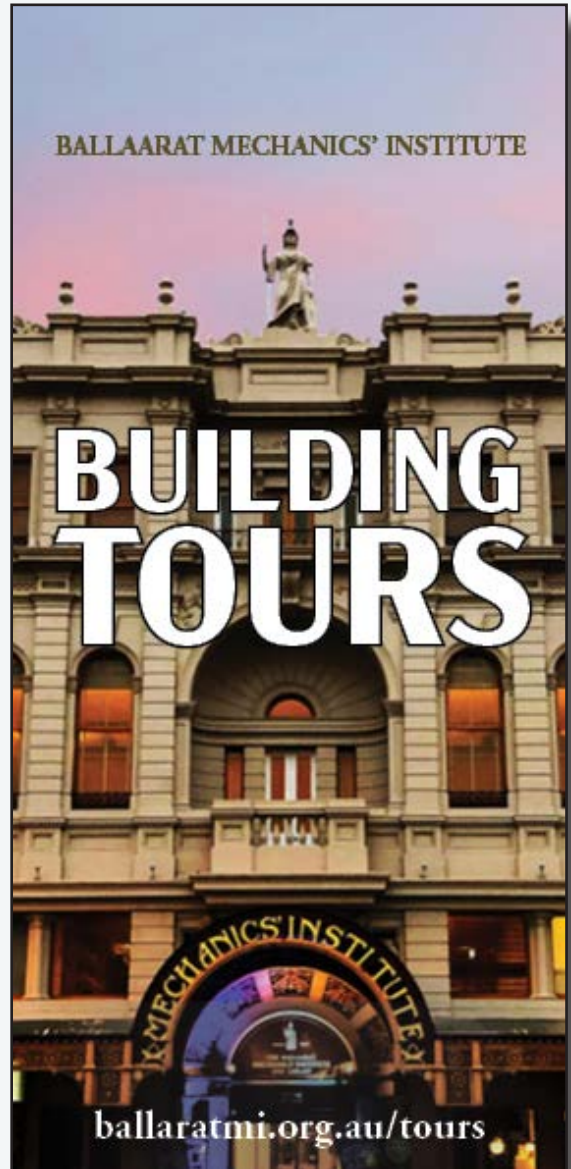
Bendigo Writers Festival

Bendigo Writers Festival
16 August - 18 August.



Book your next event in the magnificent Minerva Space

ballaratmi.org.au/venue-hire



Why not recommend a tour of the BMI.



BALLARAT MECHANICS' INSTITUTE

WHAT'S ON July



OPENING HOURS

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

Holiday closures

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

Ballarat Winter Festival 29 Jun - 21 Jul
Rare Book Week 18 Jul - 27 Jul
Victorian Seniors Festival 1 - 31 Oct



	Tue 2 Jul	Wed 3 Jul	Thu 4 Jul	Fri 5 Jul	Sat 6 Jul	Sun 7 Jul
	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 Detox & Simplify - 3 Steps to Uncomplicate Your Life	10am-3pm Library 10am-3pm Human Designs Projection: The artwork of Melinda Muscat. 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables 6.30pm Ballarat Chess Club	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. 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables	Closed Library
Mon 8 Jul	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	10am-3pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables 10am-3pm Human Designs Projection. 6.30pm Ballarat Chess Club 7.30pm-9pm Ballarat Film Society The New Boy	10am-4pm Library 10am-4pm Human Designs Projection: The artwork of Melinda Muscat. 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables 6pm-8pm In-conversation with Léonie Kelsall	9.30am-12noon Library 9.30am-12noon Human Designs Projection: The artwork of Melinda Muscat.	Closed Library
Mon 15 Jul	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 Louise Le Nay	10am-3pm Library 10am-3pm Human Designs Projection: The artwork of Melinda Muscat. 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables 6.30pm Ballarat Chess Club	10am-4pm Library 10am-4pm Human Designs Projection: The artwork of Melinda Muscat. 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables	9.30am-12noon Library	Closed Library 1pm-4pm Fashions in Time Mannequin Parade & Devonshire Tea, Fundraiser.
Mon 22 Jul	10am-4pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables 10.30am-3pm BMI Vintage Book Sale	10am-4pm Library 7pm-8.30pm Kadampa Meditation Happiness, Success & the Law of Karma 10.30am-3pm BMI Vintage Book Sale	10am-3pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables 6.30pm Ballarat Chess Club 10.30am-3pm BMI Vintage Book Sale	10am-4pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables 10.30am-3pm BMI Vintage Book Sale 1pm-2.30pm Rare Book Week Event, The BMI Collection	9.30am-12noon Library 10.30am-3pm BMI Vintage Book Sale	Closed Library
Mon 29 Jul	10am-4pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage Shop 1.30pm-3pm Reading Rm. 6pm-8pm In-conversation with Leah Kaminsky & Jacinta Halloran	10am-3pm Library 2pm- 3pm BMI Tours	10am-3pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables 6.30pm Ballarat Chess Club	10am-4pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables	9.30am-12noon Library	Closed Library
	Tue 30 Jul	Wed 31 Jul	Thu 1 Aug	Fri 2 Aug	Sat 3 Aug	Sun 4 Aug
	10am-3pm Library 2pm- 3pm BMI Tours	10am-4pm Library 7pm-8.30pm Kadampa Meditation Happiness, Success & the Law of Karma	10am-3pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables 6.30pm Ballarat Chess Club	10am-4pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables	9.30am-12noon Library	Closed Library



The Wizard,
Melinda Muscat



BALLARAT MECHANICS' INSTITUTE



Leah Kaminsky



Jacinta Halloran

Human Designs, Projection Installation: Featuring the artwork of Melinda Muscat

Keep an eye on our website for launch date.

A Fortunate Series of Events An immersive experience

Human Designs have collaborated with our neighbour and local artist Melinda Muscat (**Ballarat Imaginarium**) to create this wonderful projection at the BMI. Melinda's surrealist works combine perfectly with the technical wizardry of their projections and *LightStations*, enabling viewers to be participants.

Don't miss this opportunity to step inside.

Proudly supported our Corporate Partners **Haymes Paint** as well as **IMDTech & Steel It Engineering**.

Free:
Any donations will support future art projects.

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

Ballarat Film Society The New Boy

Thursday 11 July 7.30pm - 9pm Minerva Space.

Aboriginal Historical Fantasy...

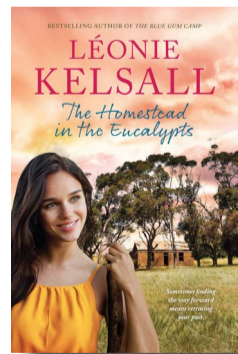
Written and directed by Warwick Thornton. Stars Aswan Reid, Cate Blanchette, Wayne Blair and Deborah Mailman - Australia, 2022, 116min.

ballaratmi.org.au/events/



In Conversation with Léonie Kelsall

Friday 12 July | 6pm - 8pm | Humffray Room.



The Homestead in the Eucalypts by Léonie Kelsall

Léonie is the bestselling author of *The Farm at Peppertree Crossing*, *The Wattle Seed Inn*, *The River Gum Cottage*, *The Willow Tree Wharf* and *The Blue Gum Camp*.

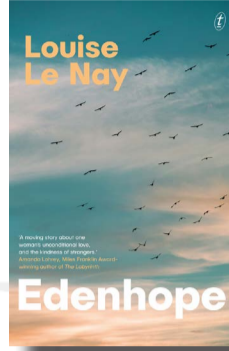
Cost: \$10 includes light refreshment.
ballaratmi.org.au/events/

In Conversation with Louise Le Nay

Tuesday 16 July | 6pm - 8pm Humffray Room.

Edenhope by Louise Le Nay

Louise studied dramatic art at NIDA and has worked as an actor in films, TV and theatre, and as a TV writer and script editor. She has also taught professional writing and editing at various tertiary institutions. She lives with her husband in western Victoria.

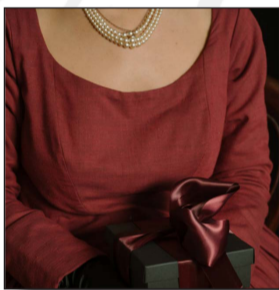


Edenhope: 'A moving story about one woman's unconditional love, the kindness of strangers, and what's right as well as what's wrong with the way we live now.' - **Amanda Lohrey, Miles Franklin Award-winning author of *The Labyrinth***.

Cost: \$10 includes light refreshment.
ballaratmi.org.au/events/

Fashions in Time Mannequin Parade & Devonshire Tea | Fundraiser

Sunday 21 July | 1pm - 4pm | Minerva Space



Enjoy a relaxing afternoon as we take you through the decades of fashion. Private collections of vintage items will be on display.

Proudly supported by the **Ballarat Fashions In Time Group**.

Cost: \$25 plus bkg fee includes Devonshire Tea.
ballaratmi.org.au/events/

Rare Book Week Vintage Book Sale

Monday 22 July - 27 July | Hooper Room

Rare Book Week this year, runs from 18th July - 27th July, and to complement this, the BMI will be holding a book sale featuring a variety of vintage titles including fiction and non-fiction. These items are not only interesting content wise, but are very visually appealing to anyone looking for interior design options, printed material to be recycled as the basis for art works or simply reading material in front of the open fire!

This special event will offer items which are very reasonably priced, offering good value to collectors wishing to give these treasures a new home. The funds raised will go to the conservation and curation of the BMI collection and the maintenance of the building which houses the collection. We will run this event through the week unless we sell out beforehand.

Cost: Free. | ballaratmi.org.au/events/

In Conversation with Leah Kaminsky & Jacinta Halloran

Monday 29 July | 6pm - 8pm | Humffray Room.

Doll's Eye by Leah Kaminsky Resistance by Jacinta Halloran

Leah is a physician and award-winning writer. Her debut novel, *The Waiting Room*, won the Voss Literary Prize. *The Hollow Bones* won both the Literary Fiction and Historical Fiction categories of the 2019 International Book Awards, and the 2019 American Book Fest's Best Book Award for Literary Fiction.

Jacinta is a novelist, family therapist and medical doctor who believes wholeheartedly in the power of words – both written and spoken – to deepen our understanding of each other. A former Board member of the Stella Prize, her fourth and latest novel is *Resistance*.

Cost: \$10 includes light refreshment.
ballaratmi.org.au/events/

In Conversation with Margaret Hickey hosted by Gabriel Bergmoser

Thursday 8 August | 6pm - 8pm
Humffray Room.

The Creeper by Margaret Hickey



Margaret is an award-winning author and playwright from North East Victoria. She has a PhD in Creative Writing and is deeply interested in rural lives and communities.

She is the author of *Cutters End*, *Stone Town* and *Broken Bay*. Her new novel, *The Creeper*, was released in June 2024.

Cost: \$10 includes light refreshment.
ballaratmi.org.au/events/

Daniel Connell Little Aussie Battler

Friday 9 August | 8pm - 9pm | Minerva Space.

The 2024 Show

Daniel could easily be described as the ideal Aussie comedian; affable, lovable and hilarious.



One of the most active stand-up comedians in Australia. His observational, dry, often unanticipated comedy has seen him take to stages all over Australia and around the world, including Scotland (Edinburgh Fringe), India, Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong.

Cost: \$30 | ballaratmi.org.au/events/

Rosemary recommends

Author of the Month

Louise Le Nay



Louise studied dramatic art at NIDA and has worked as an actor in films, TV and theatre, and as a TV writer and script editor. She has also taught professional writing and editing at various tertiary institutions. She lives with her husband in Western Australia.

Don't miss Louise in-conversation on 16 July at the BMI. More information [Here](#)>.

Book of the Month

The Homestead in the Eucalypts
by Léonie Kelsall.

Focused on pursuing her dream of becoming a doctor in suburban Sydney, Taylor doesn't have time for love—yet it seems life has other plans when she catches the eye of charismatic Zac. However, betrayal and the financial implications of her parents, impending divorce could destroy both her plans and her passion. Escorting her distraught mother to the far side of the country, she is forced to embrace a new life in the stark South Australian countryside. Stressed and disheartened, Taylor starts to experience disturbing dreams.

In her dreams, Taylor shadows Anna, finding joy in the simplicity of the other girl's life. But as she escapes her stress by venturing deeper into Anna's world, the borders between reality and dreams become increasingly blurred...

Don't miss Léonie in-conversation on 12 July at the BMI. More information [Here](#)>

Recommended reads

They Thought I Was Dead by Peter James.

Her name is Sandy. You might know her as the loving wife of Detective Superintendent Roy Grace. But there's more to her than meets the eye. A woman with a dubious past, a complicated present and an uncertain future. Then she was gone.

Her disappearance caused a nationwide search. Even the best detective on the force couldn't find her. They thought she was dead.

Where did she go? Why did she run? What would cause a woman to leave her whole life behind and simply vanish?

The Radio Hour by Victoria Purman.

Martha Berry is fifty years old, a spinster, and one of an army of polite and invisible women in 1956 Sydney, who go to work each day and get things done without fuss, fanfare or reward.

Working in the country's national broadcaster, she's seen highly praised talent come and go over the years but when she is sent to work as a secretary on a brand-new-radio serial, created to follow in the footsteps of Australia's longest running show, *Blue Hills*, she finds herself at the mercy of an egotistical and erratic young producer without a clue, a conservative broadcaster frightened by the word 'pregnant' and a motley cast of actors with ideas of their own about their roles in the show...

Studio Girls by Lisa Ireland.

It's 1955, and four talented young women become best friends while living at the Hollywood Studio Club, the famous boarding house for movie hopefuls.

Julia Newman is a rising star, sent to the club by

Reserve your copy >

New releases

Goldstar Studios to keep her out of trouble. She's just thrilled to finally make friends.

For Peggy Carmichael life is not so easy. She takes classes, auditions constantly and grabs whatever bit-part is offered. But still her 'big break' remains out of reach.

Vivienne Lockhart, the most talented actress of them all, is constantly reduced to 'sexpot' roles. And she'll do whatever it takes to succeed.

Finally there's aspiring scriptwriter Sadie Shore, who has little interest in the trappings of fame. Particularly when she becomes the PA of a big studio boss, and her eyes are opened to the perils of her friend's dreams.

New releases

Mystery

It Had To Be You
Camino Ghosts
Eyes Tight Shut
The Vault
On Her Watch
A Refiner's Fire
Guilty Mothers
Cross Hairs
Her Dying Secret

Mary Higgins Clark
John Grisham
D.K.Hood
Michael Ledwidge
Melinda Leigh
Donna Leon
Angela Marsons
James Patterson
Lisa Regan

Australian

Hangman's Gap
The Deed
My Brilliant Sister
Paula's Way
Down Stream
The School Run
Every Last Suspect
The Detective Up Late
With Winter Comes
Darkness
You Are Here
The Rivertown Vet
Why Do Horses Run?

Rachel Amphlett
Susannah Begbie
Amy Brown
Anna Jacobs
Annika Johansson
Ali Lowe
Nicola Moriarty
Adrian McKinty

Robbi Neal
David Nicholls
Jennifer Scoullar
Cameron Stewart

Psychological Thrillers

Five Bad Deeds
The Wrong Sister
Night Watching

Caz Frear
Claire Douglas
Tracy Sierra

Novel

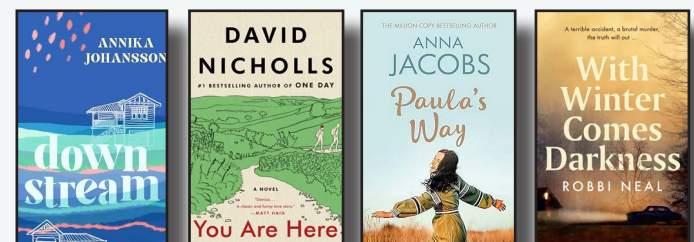
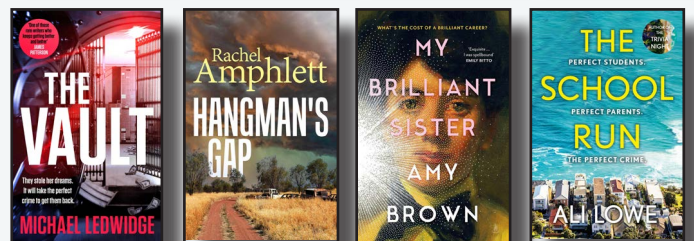
Last Chance in Paris
Table for Two

Lynda Marron
Amor Towles

Scandinavian

Red As Blood

Lilja Sigurðardóttir



Author Talks

The BMI Library
Home of literature and education

The BMI Library
Home of literature and education

Léonie Kelsall
in conversation




Friday 12 July | 6pm

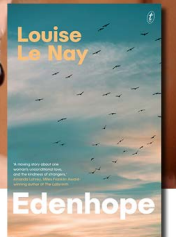


The BMI Library
Home of literature and education

Louise Le Nay
in conversation



Tuesday 16 July | 6pm - 8pm



in conversation

The BMI Library
Home of literature and education




Monday 29 July
6pm - 8pm

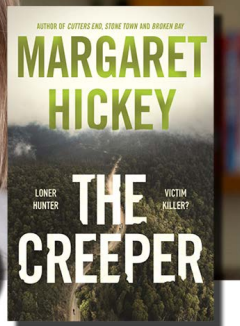


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Margaret Hickey
in conversation
with Gabriel Bergmoser

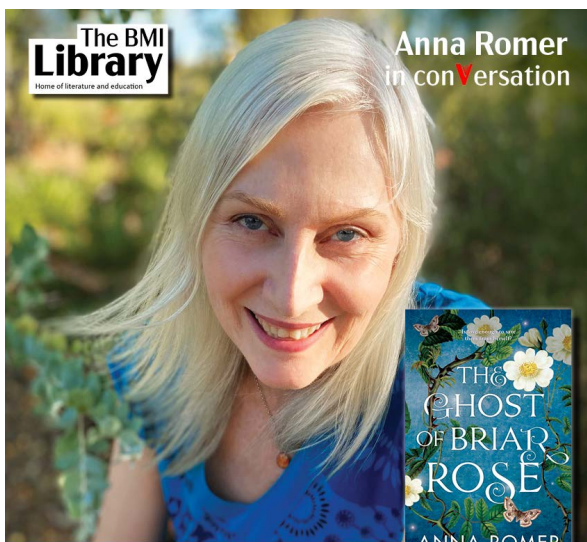


Thursday 8 August | 6pm

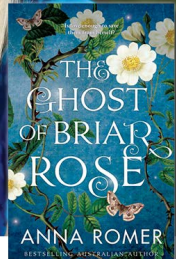


The BMI Library
Home of literature and education

Anna Romer
in conversation



Tuesday 20 August | 6pm



The BMI Library
Home of literature and education

Josh Pomare
in conversation
with Lexie Jeuniewicz



Wednesday 4 September | 6pm



Rosemary's

Book of the week

Library Operating hours

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 10am - 4pm

Tuesday & Thursday: 10am - 3pm

Saturday: 9.30am - 12 noon

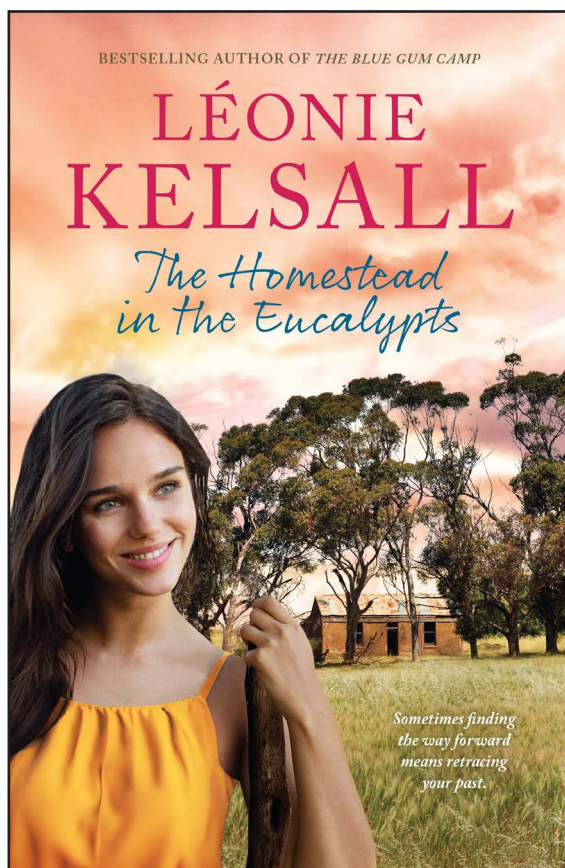
Refer to the Events Insert for holiday closures.



Léonie Kelsall in-conversation

Coming up on 12 July, go to our
Events Webpage for details:

ballaratmi.org.au/event/in-conversation-leone-kelsall



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Find out how you can become involved.
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Library Hours
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Tue & Thu 10am-3pm
Saturday 9.30am – Noon
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