



ROYAL SOUTH STREET SOCIETY  
BALLARAT EISTEDDFOD

CELEBRATING

# Herald Sun Aria *100 years*



## An Enchanting Night of Arias

We invite you to 'Savor the Sounds' with a Canape and Wine Package.  
More inside...



2023 finalists: Daniel Felton, Rachel Joyce, Imogen-Faith Malfitano, Joshua Oxley, Jame Magao & Ouyang Nuolin  
Photo David Geraghty

## From the Chair

Hello everyone.

I am writing this piece just as the BMI Devonshire tea **Fashions in Time** fundraiser is finishing up, what an amazing effort by Malcolm Roberts, his team of helpers and the **Fashions in Time** group! Once again, the event was sold out and featured the beautiful Minerva Space, catering and crockery by BMI Board member Malcolm Roberts with flowers by Kathy Amor, assistance by Jill Oliver and John Hudson...  
More inside...

# NewsLetter

AUG / 2024



BALLARAT  
MECHANICS'  
INSTITUTE

# Around the BMI

The BMI  
**Collection**

Preserving Ballaraat's history for future generations

## Continued... from front page. Paula Nicholson

We believe this type of event might now form an annual series; most of you will recall the wonderful fashion parade and high tea by Malcolm at the end of last year, conceptualised by our very own **Geraldine Roberts** and featuring the collection from the BMI Vintage shop, this of course is happening again in October (details inside), but this has really been a catalyst for a series featuring guest speakers, Devonshire Tea and lots of time for chatter all in the magnificent surrounds of the BMI.

Thank you to those who attended and who spread the word and a huge thank you to **Fashions in Time** and the gorgeous models who added so much to the day. These events are an excellent example of the BMI attracting new visitors to the venue and hopefully attracting new members through unique events!

The BMI literary program continues with vigour, as you can see below and we had Léonie Kelsall, Louise Le Nay, Leah Kaminsky and Jacinta Halloran all in July, to delighted audiences. In associated business, we are pleased to confirm that the **Stella Prize** and organisation will be bringing three acclaimed authors across three sessions from 11am- 4pm on 16th November. We are so pleased to be involved with this incredible group and to be chosen as one of only two regional functions for this prestigious prize. The **Stella Prize** supports female and non-binary writers and is headed up by the fabulous **Fiona Sweet**, many of you will know her as the previous CEO of the **Ballarat International Foto Biennale**; the BMI is lucky to have a friend in Fiona who sees the BMI as the perfect fit for this literary event and showcase of the wonderful talent we have in this country.



Fiona Sweet

**Rare Book Week** saw us hosting an event featuring our Heritage Collection,

specifically our **von Mueller** plant specimens presented by BMI curator **Ellen Becker** and followed up by conversation with **Toni Burton**, Collection Curation and Engagement Manager, **State Library of Victoria**. This event underpins our reinvigorated collaboration with SLV and we thank them so very much for the suggestion and commitment to making this happen. Almost 40 people were delighted to be viewing the specimens in the Heritage Reading Room and then have an opportunity to tour the building and have a drink in the gorgeous Humffray Room.



A huge thank you must go to the Collections volunteers (**Marion Blythman, Danni Stonehouse, Judy Peters, Mary Walker and Rex Bridges**) who have worked for many months to bring us the vintage book sale, also during Rare Book Week. These books have been identified as not falling within the criteria of our heritage listed collection, having been donated or being duplicates, and have been checked, priced by our group and displayed within our Hooper Room, attracting much interest. Thank you to other volunteers who also helped out with the sale. We hope our books all found a good home, old books are things of great beauty but we can guarantee there is lots to be learned by opening a cover! They tell us about so much about life in other times and in doing so explain a great deal about life today! We will be holding another vintage book sale towards the end of the year if you missed out this time!

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank **Sam McColl** for almost 4 years of service to the BMI as the **Venue and Events Manager**. Sam has been successful in finding a new position and we wish him all the very best. Amongst many other things, Sam has been successful in attaining grant funding allowing the BMI to acquire state of the art sound and lighting equipment for the Minerva Space positioning the BMI as



Sam McColl

# Around the BMI



a venue of choice for major entertainment offerings, from music, film to comedy and beyond! He has been integral in developing and maintaining risk management and occupational health and safety standards documents and managing external contractors essential in these areas. Sam will be finishing up mid August.

We look forward to continued activation of the Williamson foyer with more projections and colour to come. We will be downscaling the activity though, whilst we welcome **Royal South Street** back into the building for much of August. Thank you so much again to Zlatko Balazic, John McKee and Melinda Muscat for being to open the experiment that was indeed A *Series of Fortunate*

*Events!* We had a lovely little function to celebrate the exhibition with friends and supporters of the exhibition mid July, and we can be sure of support for the next iteration of



Paula, Zlatko, John & Melinda

this work! In fact we can announce and welcome a new **Corporate Member** in **IMDtech**, as a result of this new relationship between Human Designs and the BMI! We should also note that after the interest in this project we will be having a preliminary discussion with the **City of Ballarat** around the possibility of doing more in the BMI during next year's **Winter Festival** which is very exciting.

Some of you may be surprised to learn that the BMI is a key venue in the upcoming **Australian Museums and Galleries Association (AMaGA) National Conference** in September. We are very proud to be involved and look forward to presenting the venue in the best way possible; there may even be some volunteering opportunities during this conference for anyone wanting to learn more about this sector and indeed how the BMI can be more aligned where appropriate and advantageous.

As you can see there are lots of different activities happening at the BMI, backed by longer range strategic planning and developing of partnerships and collaborative relationships to maximise the impact of all the energy required to being these activities to fruition. This doesn't alter the fact that we must remain focused on the financial results month by month as costs rise, members may be interested to know that we have just received our first Land Tax Bill, an example of the changes we have to face as an organisation. More members means a wider sharing of the these and other responsibilities, so please continue to introduce new folks to the wonderful community that is the BMI there really is something for everyone!

**Paula Nicholson**

P.S. Don't forget our free public talk on 7 August on **Dark Matter | Mysteries of the universe**

## 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/](http://ballaratmi.org.au/submit-for-newsletter/)

## BMI Fundraiser Fashion in Time

**Malcolm Roberts | BMI Board**

Fashion in Time - BMI recently held a fundraising devonshire tea, **Fashions in Time** (FIT) provided a journey through the decades of fashion. The FIT ladies, are a group of local passionate collectors, who enjoy showcasing their own private collections. The afternoon saw outfits from local and interstate dressmakers. The eras ranged

# Around the BMI



from 1890 through to today. The afternoon was complemented by devonshire tea, this was served on vintage Johnson Brothers china and each table showcased hand embroidered supper cloths.

Each mannequin received a beautiful table centre piece of native Australian flowers. The arrangements were kindly donated by **Kathryn Amor**.

The raffle was a great success with lots of interest in the prizes, which were vintage items donated by **Tickety Boo Antiques**. They included:

- A pair of Dents leather gloves,
- Victoria and Albert Place mat and coaster set,
- Vintage hand towels and,
- First prize, a stunning petit point dressing table set to compliment any vintage collectors dressing table!

A special thank you to all those that assisted, Mark, Rosemary and Tim for collating bookings. Jill Oliver, Kathryn Amor, John Hudson and for their hard work on the day! Also thank you to Board Member **Jennifer Hudson** for her assistance on the door!

## Malcolm Roberts

**Note:** Whilst we have had amazing fundraising support in the staging of this event. We sold-out 120 places (and more walkins on the day) a stunning result for an event that was only 1 month in the planning, this is down to some very credible networking and heartfelt affection for the grand old beauty that is the BMI. The indefatigable energy and generosity of Malcolm Roberts (Malcolm donated the delicious devonshire tea) and the wonderful work by the **Fashion in Time Group** cannot go unmentioned.

Staging these events are a lot of fun and



welcome a very real sense of community which is very Ballarat, and certainly the essence of the BMI. They also however require man power to pull them together, we are always looking for volunteers to assist and enjoy the day. If you feel that you could contribute your support, we would love to hear from you. Why not register your interest via a Getting Involved Webpage:

[ballaratmi.org.au/expression-of-interest-to-volunteer/](http://ballaratmi.org.au/expression-of-interest-to-volunteer/)

or, contact our Volunteer Co-ordinator, **Marilyn Furness** at:

[volunteers@ballaratmi.org.au](mailto:volunteers@ballaratmi.org.au)

## Print Gift & Unveiling John Mildren OAM

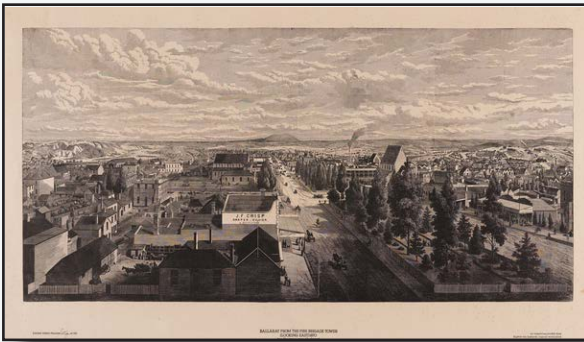
**John Mildren OAM** was the Federal Member for Ballarat 1980-1990. Prior to his election to Federal Parliament, he had been from 1970 a Senior Lecturer in Education at the Ballarat Teachers' College and later Ballarat CAE. Soon after his election, he acquired one of the limited run of prints, made from the original woodblock, of **Eugene von Guérard's** 1870 depiction of Ballarat as seen looking east from the tower of the fire station in Sturt Street. The handsomely-framed print hung in John's Electorate Office in Lydiard St North during his term as MP for Ballarat. John died in April this year. Shortly before his death, with the support of his family, John offered the print as a gift



Johann Joseph Eugene von Guérard

# Around the BMI

to the BMI. The offer was accepted with appreciation by the BMI as a gift fitting well within its acquisitions policy. It is not a unique print but it is not readily viewable elsewhere by the public. As a remarkably detailed image of central Ballarat as it was in 1870, coincidentally the same year that the BMI's grand facade was built, the print will be of much interest to the BMI's many visitors.



Ballarat Looking from the Fire Brigade Tower looking Eastwards, 1870 by Eugene von Guérard. Limited edition print donated to the BMI by John Mildren OAM and the Mildren family.

**O**n Friday 2 August, 10.30 -11.00 am, there will be a function to acknowledge the gift and unveil it in viewing position. Light refreshments will be available after formalities. Members are warmly invited to attend. Members of the Mildren family will be present. It is hoped that some of John's colleagues in his education and political careers in Ballarat will be able to attend. To assist with arrangements, please advise the librarian, Rosemary, by Wednesday 31 July of your intention to attend by:

**Phone on (03) 5331 3042 or email: [library@ballaratmi.org.au](mailto:library@ballaratmi.org.au) or register on-line**

**[ballaratmi.org.au/print-john-mildren-and-family/](http://ballaratmi.org.au/print-john-mildren-and-family/)**

**Frank Hurley**

## New Corporate Member IMD Tech

**W**elcome to our new Corporate Member **IMD Tech**. we appreciate your support.

Find out more about Corporate Membership **[ballaratmi.org.au/supporters-partners/](http://ballaratmi.org.au/supporters-partners/)**

## Important Dates & Festivals

### National Science Week 10-18 August

**ARC Centre of Excellence for Dark Matter Particle Physics | Free Public Talk**

Wednesday 7 August | 5.30pm - 7pm | Minerva Space.

**[ballaratmi.org.au/event/dark-matter/](http://ballaratmi.org.au/event/dark-matter/)**

### Royal South Street Society 11-19 August

**Royal South Street Society | Freemasons Vocal Competition**

Sunday 11 - Saturday 17 August | Various times Minerva Space.

**Royal South Street Society | Herald Sun Aria Heats & Semi-final**

Sunday 18 - Monday 19 August | Various times Minerva Space.

**[royalsouthstreet.com.au/](http://royalsouthstreet.com.au/)**



# Around the BMI

Community Bank  
Buninyong  
Bendigo Bank

2024 **Twilight  
Talks**

## Festival of Queer Theatre 22-25 August

### **A Body at Work**

Friday 23 August | 8pm - 9.10pm | Minerva Space.

### **Maud Davey - Master Class**

Saturday 24 August | 11am - 2pm | Humffray Room.

### **Moira Finucaine - Master Class**

Saturday 24 August | 2.30pm - 5.30pm  
Humffray Room.

### **Numa & Karl: Extraordinary Man That He Was**

Saturday 24 August | 7.30pm - 8.40pm  
Humffray Room.

### **Chasing Dick: A Love Story**

Sunday 25 August | 12pm - 1.20pm | Heritage Reading Room.

### **Play Reading | Queer Canon**

Sunday 25 August | 2.30pm - 4pm | Minerva Space.

[faqt.au/](http://faqt.au/)



## The Wheeler Centre 10 September

### **The Great Aussie Road Trip: Heather Ewart in Conversation**

Tuesday 10 September | 6pm - 7pm | Minerva Space.

Cost: \$10

[ballaratmi.org.au/event/heather-ewart/](http://ballaratmi.org.au/event/heather-ewart/)

## AMaGA National Conference Ballarat 17-20 September

**AMaGA is Australia's peak body for the museums and galleries sector.**

Tuesday 17 - Friday 20 September | BMI and various locations in Ballarat.

[conlog.eventsair.com/amaga-2024/](http://conlog.eventsair.com/amaga-2024/)

## Victorian Seniors Festival & Twilight Talks | 1-31 October

### **Author Talk with Fiona McIntosh**

Wednesday 2 October | 6pm - 8pm | Humffray Room.

Cost: \$10

[ballaratmi.org.au/event/fiona-mcintosh/](http://ballaratmi.org.au/event/fiona-mcintosh/)

### **Day Tours of the BMI**

Friday 4 October | 10.30am, 12.30pm & 2.30pm.

Cost: \$10

[events.humanitix.com/day-tour-bmi-seniors-festival](http://events.humanitix.com/day-tour-bmi-seniors-festival)

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## Twilight Talks, Season 3 | Discovering the lost men of Fromelles & Ballarat Connections

Wednesday 9 October | 5.30pm - 7pm  
Humffray Room.

## Twilight Talks, Season 3 | Lights Everlasting: Australia's commemorative stained glass, Boer War to Vietnam

Wednesday 16 October | 5.30pm - 7pm  
Humffray Room.

## Twilight Talks, Season 3 | Life so Full of Promise: Australia's Lost Generation - vivid stories.

Wednesday 23 October | 5.30pm - 7pm  
Humffray Room.

Cost: \$12 general admission \$8 BMI members  
[ballaratmi.org.au/twilight-talks-2/](http://ballaratmi.org.au/twilight-talks-2/)

## BMI Fundraiser | Fashion Parade Vintage & Collectables

Sunday 27 October | 2pm - 4pm | Minerva  
Space.

Cost: \$60  
[ballaratmi.org.au/event/vintage-collectables/](http://ballaratmi.org.au/event/vintage-collectables/)

Total Important Dates and Festivals events at  
the BMI can be found at:

[ballaratmi.org.au/important-festivals-dates/](http://ballaratmi.org.au/important-festivals-dates/)

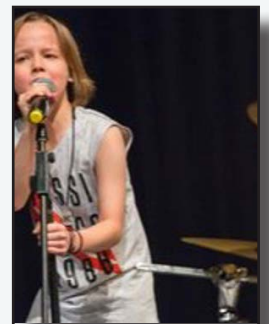
## Royal South Street Society Eisteddfod

The Royal South Street Society celebrates our illustrious heritage and vital ongoing role in the development of performing arts across our regional and national cultural and artistic landscape.

Now Australia's oldest and longest running eisteddfod, the annual Ballarat Eisteddfod has seen well over one million aspiring singers, dancers, orators, writers, musicians and composers pass through our doors since 1891 – including the likes of Dame Nellie Melba, Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, Joan Kirner, Andrew Olle, Alfred Deakin, Anthony Callea and many more.

This year, we are proud to present a wide variety of events, ranging from Debating and Speech and Drama, through to Vocal, Pianoforte, Instrumental, Choral, Dance, Calisthenics and All Abilities across a range of venues throughout Ballarat.

We are thrilled to be presenting our Freemasons Vocal Competition and the prestigious Herald Sun Aria at the Ballarat Mechanics Institute from 11 to 19 August.



Our signature events are the Vocal Crossover Championship beginning at 5.30pm on Saturday 17 August, and the Herald Sun Aria Semi-Final on Monday 19 August. Be sure to book for the Herald Sun Aria Canapes and Drinks package to celebrate the Semi-Final in Style, we would love to see you there.



## Board of Directors - Royal South Street Society

Note: Tickets for all events are available on the home page of our website or refer to the BMI events webpage.

[royalsouthstreet.com.au](http://royalsouthstreet.com.au)

## Rex's Snippets | The BMI Basement The Truth

**The True Story**

# Around the BMI

## Why are there windows in the basement?

This is an updated account on the original article written by heritage architect, consultant and good friend of the BMI, **Wendy Jacobs**.

Wendy was part of the architect and advisory team that devised and formulated the extensive plans for the building renovations, including the theatre, Humffray room, lift and interiors of the BMI.



## Wendy wrote in 2002...

“Those members who have ventured to the bowels of the Institute building will have noticed the windows in the basement. This has led to a number of theories about the building and the street level in Sturt Street.

‘The Courier’ ran an article last year about our hidden street. I am so sorry to tell you that this is just a romantic myth. The street level of today is very similar to the street level in 1859 when the Minerva Space building was constructed and in 1869 when the front section of the building was added.

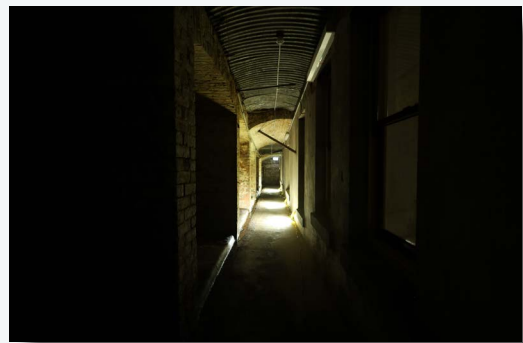
The drawings for the basement are labelled in the architects own handwriting as ‘Basement’ and illustrations and early photographs clearly show the existing entry arch at street level.

So why are there windows? The architect’s plan has the space in the east of the basement labelled “Restaurant” and the section that now houses the newspaper stacks was a kitchen.

The room at the west end of the basement was the ‘Smoking Room’ and entered separately through the west stair. The entry to the restaurant was through a stair and door opening off Sturt Street. To make the basement seem

brighter and not so subterranean it was usual practice in the 19th. century to place cast iron grids in the footpath above and then install windows in the room to allow natural daylight to filter through.

Reference to these grids have been found in the minute books of the 1870’s . The arched vaults at the north end of the basement are actually under the Sturt Street footpath and would appear to have

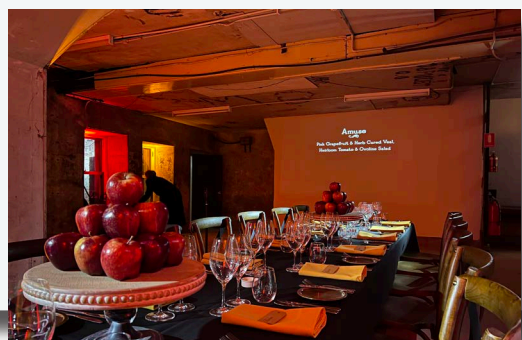


Basement refurbished windows (right) and arches under the footpath

been installed as part of the footing system to support the tall building.

From early minute books it does appear that a restaurant operated from the basement in the 1870’s but was discontinued. The street grates probably caused a lot of concern with storm water, dirt and rubbish having to be regularly removed. Letting light in to the basements from street level was a general practice and is used at Her Majesty’s Theatre with pavement lights set into the footpath to light the basement toilet areas. In London and Bath you see narrow railed “areas” leading down to the basement with below ground windows. I hope this clears up the mystery for our members."

## Wendy Jacobs.



Basement set as a restaurant with someone gazing out of the windows. Up above these windows was where the footpath grates were.



# Around the BMI

**Notes...** The basement has had a total renovation since this was written, the newspapers stacks have been removed, the window glass refitted, the water problems attended to, (although we have yet to see a flood up to our knees like a few years ago) and the complete area tidied up.



The commercial double oven stove was removed from the restaurant kitchen, and the single oven IXL stove was removed from the west end of the 'smoking room', and a more powerful pump fitted to the sump during earlier renovations.

Leakage from the Sturt street under-footpath drain still runs down through the arches, and a ground water incursion also appears along the base of the arches.

There are four sets of steps into the basement from Sturt street (on the east boundary), from inside the western end shop, from the internal passage near the lift, and from the rear of the eastern end of the basement.

The basement was the ideal space as a wine cellar for the Australian Wine Company for many years.

The contractor who built the basement in 1868 made a loss on the job, and requested an increase on the price quoted.

## Rex Bridges

More at:  
[ballaratmi.org.au/the-basement-the-truth](http://ballaratmi.org.au/the-basement-the-truth)

## Rex's Snippets | Cornish Pumping Engines

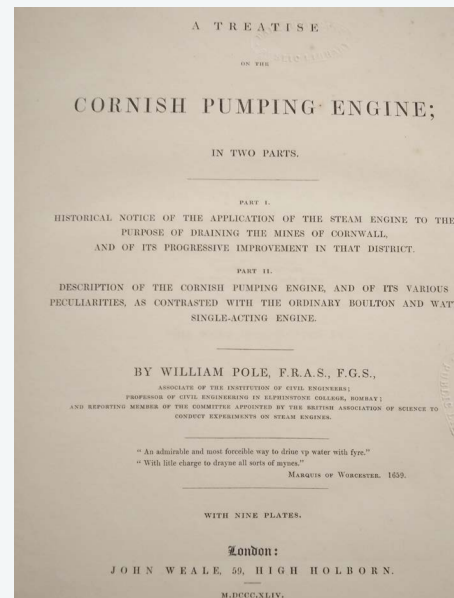
### A Treatise

On the 20th. June 1868, the secretary of the BMI, Mr. Batten, wrote to Mr. W.F. Fowler in London, the following...

"Only one vol. of Briton came by mail before last March, please send *Volunteers Services Gazette*, no news of the long promised case of books; I ordered many months ago *Pole's Treatise on Cornish Pumping Engines*, please get it if possible and send next mail."

Then on 15th. August 1868 he wrote again to Mr. "W.F. Fowler.. acknowledging receipt of invoice and forwarding second Exchange for 50 pounds. Pole's Cornish Engine requested no matter the cost."

Why was the BMI so keen to obtain *Pole's Treatise on Cornish Pumping Engines*. No matter what the cost?



During the 1860-70's, there was vast interest in mining the deep under-ground old river beds that had deposited gold amongst the gravel deposits. The big problem was that these old river beds contained millions of

gallons of water that had to be removed before the gold could be extracted. Huge pumping engines were used in Cornwall, and it was found that they were also efficient in our Victorian deep leads.

# Around the BMI

These letters were written two years before the founding of the Ballarat School of Mines, so the Ballarat Mechanics' Institute was the place to go for engineers, mechanics and mine managers to find the latest information. *Pole's Treatise on Cornish Pumping Engines* was the publication that explained how they worked, how to build them, and also contained engineering drawings of the construction.



*The Berry No 1. Engine*  
Model of the  
Cornish Pumping Engine  
in Creswick Museum.  
Hickmans, later Walkers  
Union Foundry  
manufactured some of  
these engines in Ballarat.

Some of the local mines that had erected these engines include the *Berry Number 1* and the *Hepburn Consuls* near the Clunes-Smeaton road, the *Ballarat Mine* near the top end of Gregory street, the *Great Western Mine* in the paddock behind McCains factory, and the *Band of Hope* in Sebastopol.

More at:  
[rexs-snipnets-cornish-pumping-engines](https://www.rexs-snipnets-cornish-pumping-engines.com.au/)

**S**cribbler  
Events

**R**osemary's  
Author Talks

**R**osemary's author talks continue to be a tremendous success and still they keep

coming. Thank you to our amazing Australian authors and our event partners **Collins Booksellers on Lydiard**.



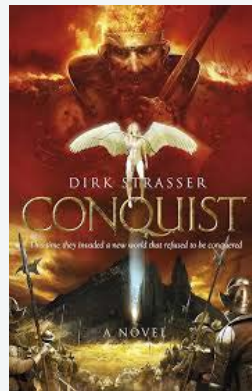
Author Léonie Kelsall

**B**allarat Writers  
Group



**A** Book Review  
Ballarat Writers Group

*Conquist* by Dirk Strasser



'Dirk Strasser is well known in Australian speculative fiction circles, being one of the team who founded Aurealis magazine and the marquis awards of the same name (turning 30 next year!). Strasser is also a well-regarded writer, perhaps best known for the *Books of Ascension*, whose latest book is the historical fantasy *Conquist*.'

If this book looks like a good read to you read the full review by **Jason Nahrung**. Jason is a Ballarat-based writer and freelance editor. His most recent book is the vampire novella *Cruel Nights*.

Ballarat Writers is now accepting entries into the **Martha Richardson Memorial Poetry Prize 2024**

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Entries must be your own original and unpublished work on the 2024 theme of *The Bush* - Entries open 1 August

For more go to the Ballarat Writers Group website:

[ballaratwriters.com/](http://ballaratwriters.com/)

## Collins Booksellers on Lydiard

Collins Booksellers on Lydiard partner with BMI for Rosemary's author talks and contribute enormously to their success.

Don't miss their next **Author in Residence** event which ties in wonderfully with our **Twilight Talks** theme in October.

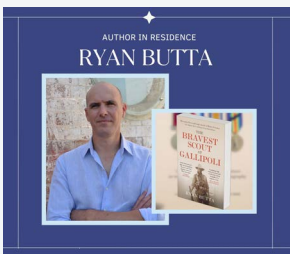
## Author in Residence Ryan Butta

Monday 26 August | 1pm - 3pm | In the Bookstore.

Ryan Butta, author of *The Ballard of Abdul Wade*, was longlisted for the 2023 Indie Book Awards nonfiction book of the year. Ryan is returning to Ballarat to celebrate this latest book *The bravest Scout at Gallipoli*.

This is a fascinating and immersive investigation into a grievous historical wrong, thelling the story of the first Australian to die on secret service for Australia.

Cost: Free.



## Writers Victoria Upcoming opportunities

- Best Australian Yarn 2024
- Peter Blazely Fellowship
- South West Writing Competition
- 2024 Bendigo Writers Festival
- Words in Winter
- Dickinson Memorial Literary Competition
- Write Around the Murray

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

## The Wheeler Centre Upcoming events

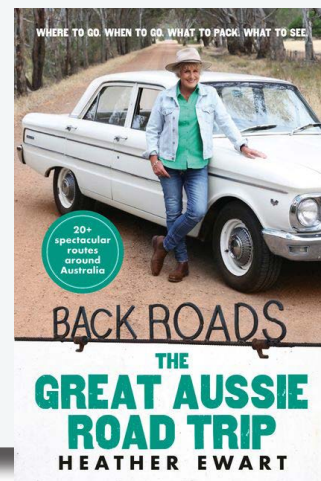
In conversation with Heather Ewart  
*The Great Aussie Road Trip*

Tuesday 10 September | 6pm - 8pm | Minerva Space

Award-winning journalist Heather Ewart hits the Back Roads to Ballarat to journey through her great Australian road trips.

We are expecting this to be a sell-out event so be sure to book early.

Cost: \$10 For more go to:  
[ballaratmi.org.au/event/heather-ewart/](http://ballaratmi.org.au/event/heather-ewart/)



# Rosemary recommends

## Authors of the Month

Margaret Hickey



Margaret was born in London to Australian parents and grew up in small country towns across Victoria.

Margaret has been shortlisted and has won prizes in awards including the Grace Marion Emerging Writer's prize and the Victorian Regional Writing prize. Her plays have been performed in Melbourne (L Mama), Brisbane, New York and regional Victoria.

She works as a lecturer, teacher, public presenter and is a regular guest on ABC regional radio.

Don't miss Margaret in-conversation with Gabriel Bergmoser on 18 August at the BMI. More information [Here](#)>.



Anna Romer

Anna grew up in a family of book-lovers and yarn-tellers, which inspired her lifelong love affair with stories. A graphic artist by trade, she also spent many years travelling the globe stockpiling story material from Australian outback, and Asia, New Zealand, Europe and America.

Anna lives and works in a secluded bush hideaway surrounded by national parks.

Don't miss Anna in-conversation with Gregory Flood on 20 August at the BMI. More information [Here](#)>.

## Recommended reads

*Refuge Rescue & Reform* by Dorothy Wickham & Frank Golding.

Rhoda Schutt was admitted to the Female Refuge in 1897. A month later she was safely delivered of a female child named Mary. When she is threatened to do herself an injury and kept the whole house disturbed by singing, dancing and at night refusing her food and her medication, Rhonda was handed over to the police and committed to the insane asylum.

Mary, her baby daughter, was arrested by the police in the grounds of the Refuge and committed to the Department of Neglected Children.

Lizzie Fairfax was arrested by the police in May 1894, Born in Collingwood 16 years previously, she had been living in poverty in a tent for around two years with her father and her brother, a boy of 18 years of age. She had hardly any clothes. After her father was gaoled for stealing, Lizzie was arrested as a Neglected Child and was sent to Brookside. Lizzie had a criminal record.

*Storm Child* by Michael Robotham.

The most painful of Evie Cormac's memories have been locked away, ever since she was held prisoner as a child – a child whose rescue captured hearts and headlines.

Forensic psychologist Cyrus Haven's mission is to guide her to something near normality. But today, on a British beach, seventeen bodies wash up in front of them. There is only one survivor, with two women still missing. And Evie's nightmares come roaring back...

Whatever happened all those years ago lies at the core of this new tragedy. Because these deaths are no accident. The same dark forces are reaching out, dragging her back into the storm.

Reserve your copy >

# New releases

## *The Lyrebird Lake Ladies Choir* by Sandie Docker.

Sisters Eleanor and Maggie have been running the Lyrebird Lake Ladies Choir for fifteen years. It has become a haven for the lost and lonely women who have found their home in the stately federation house by the lake.

Single mum Hannah arrives in Lyrebird Lake, homeless after being widowed and hoping for a new start with her son. With her angelic voice, Hannah could give the choir a winning edge. But when Eleanor hears her singing a long-forgotten lullaby, she is transported to her past, a traumatic time when two teenage girls were banished from their Irish homeland to a faraway country.

Will Hannah's arrival mend old wounds, or will the secret she unknowingly carries tear the sisters apart? Particularly when she becomes the PA of a big studio boss, and her eyes re opened to the perils of her friends dreams.

## New releases

### Mystery

<i>Death Under A Little Sky</i>	Stig Abell
<i>The Paris Widow</i>	Kimberley Belle
<i>The Wrong Hands</i>	Mark Billingham
<i>The Death Watcher</i>	Chris Carter
<i>Our Holiday</i>	Louise Candlish
<i>High Island Blues</i>	Ann Cleeves
<i>The Mill on the Shore</i>	Ann Cleeves
<i>Think Twice</i>	Harlan Coben
<i>Murder is Skin Deep</i>	M.G.Cole
<i>Slaughter of Innocents</i>	M.G.Cole
<i>The Midnight Feast</i>	Lucy Foley
<i>The Woman Who Fell</i>	Matthew Frank
<i>The Hunter</i>	Tana French
<i>Heavy is the Crown</i>	Jack Gatland
<i>Dead Man's Hands</i>	David J. Gatward

*The Dream Home*  
*In A Place of Darkness*  
*A Grave In The Woods*

T. Logan  
Stuart MacBride  
Martin Walker

### Australian

*Among The Grey Gums*  
*Edenhope*  
*Wallaby Lane*  
*Storm Child*  
*The Rivertown Vet*

Paula J. Beavan  
Louise Le Nay  
Maya Linnell  
Michael Robotham  
Jennifer Scoullar

### Historical

*Secrets of the Villa Amore*

Carol Kirkwood

### Novel

*Mind Games*  
*The Conditions of*  
*Unconditional Love*

Nora Roberts  
Alexander  
McCall Smith

### Literature

\**Praiseworthy*  
- *The Swift Dark Tide*  
- *Body Friend*  
- *Feast*  
- *Hospital*  
- *Abandon Every Hope*  
*Long Island*  
*Limberlost*

Alexis Wright  
Katia Ariel  
Katherine Brabon  
Emily O'Grady  
Sanya Rushdi  
Hayley Singer  
Colm Tóibín  
Robbie Arnott

### Scandinavian

*The Widows*  
*Cult*

*The Cuckoo*  
*Silenced*

Pascal Engman  
Camilla Läckberg &  
Henrik Fexeus  
Camilla Läckberg  
Sólveig Pálsdóttir

\*Stella Prize Winner  
- Stella Prize Shortlist

stella 

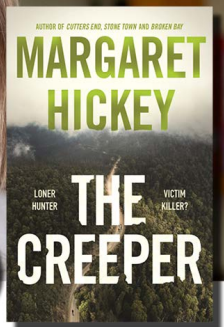

# Author Talks

# The BMI Library

Home of literature and education

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

**Margaret Hickey**  
in conversation  
with Gabriel Bergmoser



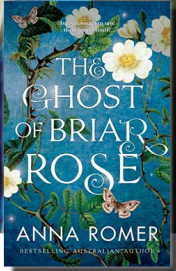

Thursday 8 August | 6pm

PHOTO: CHLOE GUNTER

**MARGARET HICKEY**  
AUTHOR OF *COTTAGE END, STONE TOWN AND BROKEN DAY*  
**THE CREEPER**  
LONER HUNTER VICTIM KILLER?

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

**Anna Romer**  
in conversation

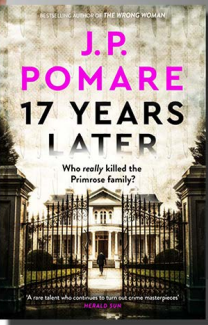



Tuesday 20 August | 6pm

**THE GHOST OF BRIAR ROSE**  
ANNA ROMER  
BESTSELLING MENZEL AUSTRALIAN

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

**Josh Pomare**  
in conversation  
with Lexie Jeuniewicz



Wednesday 4 September | 6pm

**J.P. POMARE**  
**17 YEARS LATER**  
Who really killed the Primrose family?  
A true story of the greatest to ever take home treasure

**The Wheeler Centre**  
Books Writing Ideas

**Heather Ewart**  
In conversation

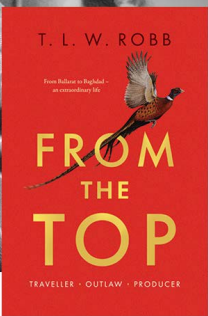
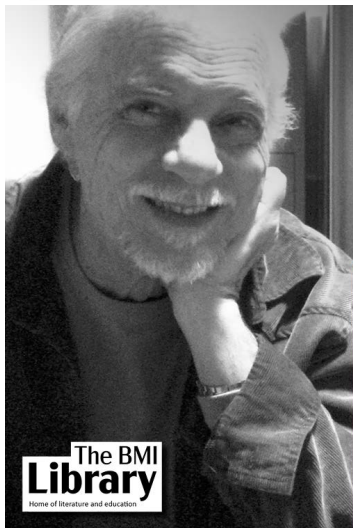


Tuesday 10 September | 6pm - 7pm

**BACK ROADS**  
**THE GREAT AUSSIE ROAD TRIP**  
HEATHER EWART

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

**T.L.W. Robb**  
in conversation



Thursday 19 September | 6pm - 8pm

**T. L. W. ROBB**  
From *Refugee to Refugee* - an extraordinary life  
**FROM THE TOP**  
TRAVELLER · OUTLAW · PRODUCER

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

**Fiona McIntosh**  
Meet the AUTHOR



Wednesday 2 October | 6pm

**FIONA MCINTOSH**  
MILLION COPY BESTSELLING AUTHOR  
**The Fallen Woman**  
She has everything to hide...



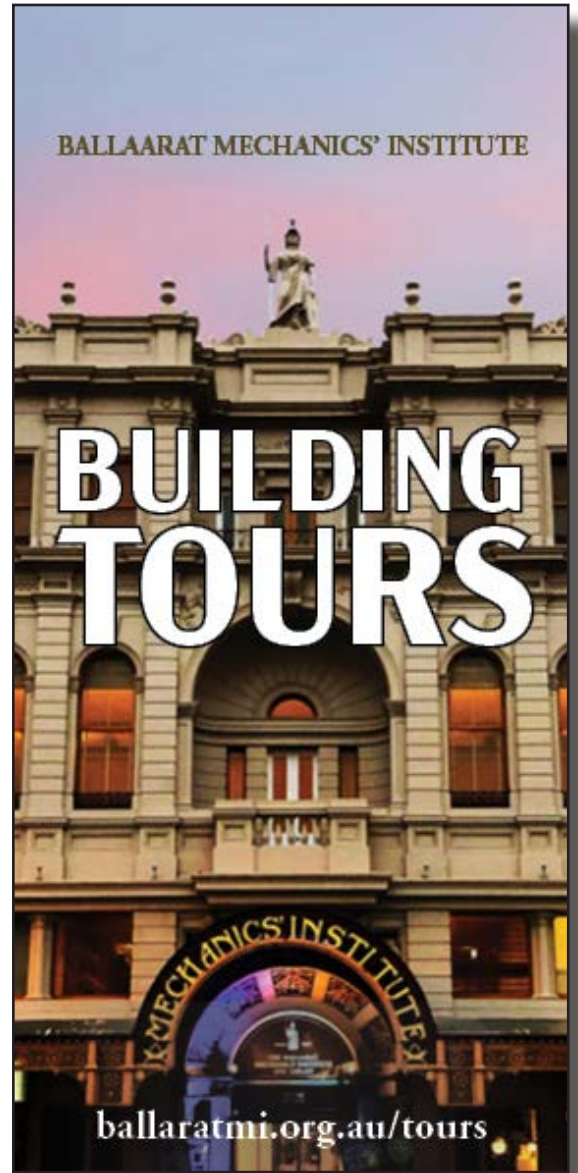
## 2024 Twilight Talks

Community Bank  
Buninyong

Bendigo Bank

### Season 3

9 Oct – 23 Oct 2024



Why not recommend  
a tour of the BMI.



## Fashion Parade

## 2024 Fundraiser

The BMI Vintage Shop  
are showcasing their 2024 wares

BMI Vintage  
& Collectables

Sunday 27 October | 2pm – 4pm | Minerva Space

Fashion Parade

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

Tea Cooper  
in conversation




Monday 11 November | 6pm - 8pm

TEA COOPER  
BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF THE CALISTO AND GRACE

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

Benjamin Stevenson  
in conversation




Wednesday 30 November | 6pm - 8pm

THE INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER  
BENJAMIN STEVENSON  
EVERYONE  
THIS  
CHRISTMAS  
HAS A  
SECRET  
"An ingenious and hilarious meta-murder mystery" SUNDAY TIMES



**BALLARAT  
MECHANICS'  
INSTITUTE**



## WHAT'S ON August



BRAHMS • CHOPIN • LISZT  
RACHMANINOFF • RESPIGHI  
SCRIABIN • TCHAIKOVSKY  
PRELUDES, INTERMEZZI, NOCTURNES  
[ SPENCER VANDERKLEY, *piano* ]



### 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

21 Sep - 6 Oct 2024  
21 Dec - 28 Jan 2025

### Important Dates

National Science Week	10-18 Aug
Royal South Street	11-19 Aug
Fest. Aust Queer Theatre	22-25 Aug
The Wheeler Centre	10 Sep
AMaGA National Conf.	17-20 Sep
Victorian Seniors Festival	1 - 31 Oct
Twilight Talks Season 3	9-23 Oct
Fashion Parade Fundraiser	27 Oct



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 Series   Happiness, Success & the Law of Karma	10am-3pm   Library 11am-3pm   Vintage & Collectables 6.30pm   Ballarat Chess Club	10am-4pm   Library 10.30am-11am   John Mildren Print Gift Unveiling 11am-3pm   Vintage & Collectables	9.30am-12noon   Library 11am-3pm   Vintage & Collectables <b>6pm-7.45pm  Preludes, Intermezzi and Nocturnes for piano</b>	Closed   Library <b>2pm-3.45pm  Preludes, Intermezzi and Nocturnes for piano</b>
Mon 5 Aug	Tue 6 Aug	Wed 7 Aug	Thu 8 Aug	Fri 9 Aug	Sun 11 Aug
10am-4pm   Library 11am-3pm   Vintage & Collectables	10am-3pm   Library 2pm- 3pm   BMI Tours	10am-4pm   Library 7pm-8.30pm   Kadampa Meditation Series   Happiness, Success & the Law of Karma	10am-3pm   Library 11am-3pm   Vintage & Collectables <b>6pm-8pm   In-conversation with Margaret Hickey</b> 6.30pm   Ballarat Chess Club <b>7.30pm-9pm   Ballarat Film Society   Army of Shadows</b>	10am-4pm   Library 11am-3pm   Vintage & Collectables <b>8pm-9pm   Daniel Connell Little Aussie Battler</b>	Closed   Library <b>10.30am, 2pm &amp; 6pm RSSS   Freemasons Vocal Competition</b>
Mon 12 Aug	Tue 13 Aug	Wed 14 Aug	Thu 15 Aug	Fri 16 Aug	Sun 18 Aug
10am-4pm   Library <b>10.30am, 3pm &amp; 7pm RSSS   Freemasons Vocal Competition</b> 11am-3pm   Vintage & Collectables	10am-3pm   Library <b>9am, 12.30pm &amp; 5.30pm RSSS   Freemasons Vocal Competition</b> 2pm- 3pm   BMI Tours	10am-4pm   Library <b>9am, 1pm &amp; 5pm RSSS   Freemasons Vocal Competition</b> 7pm-8.30pm   Kadampa Meditation Series   Happiness, Success & the Law of Karma	10am-3pm   Library <b>9am, 1.30pm &amp; 6pm RSSS   Freemasons Vocal Competition</b> 11am-3pm   Vintage & Collectables 6.30pm   Ballarat Chess Club	10am-4pm   Library <b>9am, 1.30pm &amp; 6.30pm RSSS   Freemasons Vocal Competition</b> 11am-3pm   Vintage & Collectables	Closed   Library <b>10am, 2.15pm &amp; 6.30pm RSSS   Herald Sun Aria Heats</b>
Mon 19 Aug	Tue 20 Aug	Wed 21 Aug	Thu 22 Aug	Fri 23 Aug	Sat 24 Aug
10am-4pm   Library 11am-3pm   Vintage & Collectables <b>10am   RSSS   Herald Sun Aria Heats</b> <b>7pm   RSSS   Herald Sun Aria Semi-Final</b>	10am-3pm   Library 2pm- 3pm   BMI Tours <b>6pm-8pm   In-conversation with Anna Romer</b>	10am-4pm   Library 7pm-8.30pm   Kadampa Meditation Series   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 <b>8pm-10.10pm   A Body at Work- FAQT</b>	9.30am-12noon   Library <b>11am-2pm   Maud Davey - Master Classes - FAQT</b> <b>2.30pm-5.30pm   Moira Finucaine - Master Class - FAQT</b> <b>7.30pm-8.40pm   Numa &amp; Karl - FAQT</b>
Mon 26 Aug	Tue 27 Aug	Wed 28 Aug	Thu 29 Aug	Fri 30 Aug	Sat 31 Aug
10am-4pm   Library 11am-3pm   Vintage Shop <b>1.30pm-3pm   Reading Rm.</b>	10am-3pm   Library 2pm- 3pm   BMI Tours	10am-4pm   Library 7pm-8.30pm   Kadampa Meditation   Embracing Change & Finding Purpose	10am-3pm   Library 11am-3pm   Vintage & Collectables 6.30pm   Ballarat Chess Club	10am-4pm   Library 11am-3pm   Vintage & Collectables	9.30am-12noon   Library
Mon 1 Sep	Closed   Library				





# BALLARAT MECHANICS' INSTITUTE

## Print Gift & Unveiling John Mildren OAM

Friday 2 August | 10.30am - 11am  
Lending Library

Event to acknowledge the gift and unveil in viewing position. Light refreshments will be available after formalities. Members are warmly invited.

More details is provided in the body of the newsletter.

Register your interest by contacting the library on (03) 5331 3042 or email: [library@ballaratmi.org.au](mailto:library@ballaratmi.org.au) or register here:

[ballaratmi.org.au/print-john-mildren-and-family/](http://ballaratmi.org.au/print-john-mildren-and-family/)

## Preludes, Intermezzi and Nocturnes

Saturday 3 August | 6pm - 7.45pm | Humffray Room & Saturday 4 August | 2pm - 3.45pm | Humffray Room

*Pianist and composer Spencer Vanderkley presents:*

An array of Romantic-era piano works, in a recital structured around the tradition of 'character pieces' in the 19th Century. Works by Chopin, Brahms, Tchaikovsky are brought together to chronicle the development of the prelude, the intermezzo and the nocturne.

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

## Introduction to Dark Matter | Free Public Talk

Wednesday 7 August | 6pm - 8pm | Humffray Room.

*National Quantum & Dark Matter Road Trip*

Researchers from across Australia are working at an underground lab in Stawell to uncover one of the great mysteries of the universe – the nature of dark matter.

**Cost:** Free - bookings essential.  
[ballaratmi.org.au/events/](http://ballaratmi.org.au/events/)

## In Conversation with Margaret Hickey Host Gabriel Bergmoser

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

*The Creeper* by Margaret Hickey

Margaret Hickey 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.

**Cost:** \$10 includes light refreshment.  
[ballaratmi.org.au/events/](http://ballaratmi.org.au/events/)

## Ballarat Film Society Army of Shadows

Thursday 8 August 7.30pm - 9pm Minerva Space.  
*Existential Thriller Classic...*

Directed by Jean-Pierre Melville - France, 1969, 140min.

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

## Royal South Street Society Freemasons Vocal Competition

Sunday 11 - Saturday 17 August | Various times, ref. RSSS scheduling | Minerva Space.

[royalsouthstreet.com.au](http://royalsouthstreet.com.au)

## Royal South Street Society Herald Sun Aria Heats & Semi-Final

Sunday 17 & Monday 18 August | Various times, ref. RSSS scheduling | Minerva Space.

[royalsouthstreet.com.au](http://royalsouthstreet.com.au)

## In Conversation with Anna Romer | Host Gregory Flood

Tuesday 20 August | 6pm - 8pm | Humffray Room.

*The Ghost of Briar Rose* by Anna Romer

Anna Romer is an internationally bestselling Australian author who writes mystery and romance, both historical and contemporary, with paranormal elements – ghosts, haunted houses, and fairytales.

**Cost:** \$10 includes light refreshment.  
[ballaratmi.org.au/events/](http://ballaratmi.org.au/events/)

## FAQT | A Body at Work

Friday 23 August | 9pm - 10.10pm | Minerva Space

Serial nudist, Frankie van Kan (AKA Frankie Valentine—Stripped Queer, Club Briefs, Baby Got Back, Seen & Heard Cabaret) achieves the improbable task of exposing more of herself than ever before, in this deeply intimate piece of confessional theatre. Recommended audience, 18+  
**Get tickets:** [faqt.au/](http://faqt.au/)

## FAQT | Maud Davey Master Class

Saturday 24 August | 11am - 2pm | Humffray Room.

Maud Davey presents a writing and practice workshop exploring writing what we otherwise wouldn't have written, in saying what we otherwise wouldn't have said.  
**Get tickets:** [faqt.au/](http://faqt.au/)

## FAQT | Moira Finucaine Master Class

Saturday 24 August | 2.30pm - 5.30pm | Humffray Room.

Presented by Moira Finucane, this three hour masterclass workshop, explores creating from what is most urgent, most visceral and most powerful for the artist right now. It's for any kind of creator, from writer to cabaret artist to composers and musicians.

**Get tickets:** [faqt.au/](http://faqt.au/)

## FAQT | Numa & Karl: Extraordinary Man That He Was

Saturday 24 August | 7.30pm - 8.40pm | Humffray Room.

**Written by Em Chandler – A staged Reading**

A biographical play about 19th-century queer activist and theorist of sexuality, Karl Heinrich Ulrichs.

In 1867 he protested at a gathering of 500 German jurists against the criminalisation of (what we now call) homosexuality. The play explores this incredible human and his passion, his relationship with his family and loved ones, and the impact his work had on community then and today.

**Get tickets:** [faqt.au/](http://faqt.au/)

## FAQT | Chasing Dick: A Love Story

Sunday 25 August | 12pm - 2.20pm | Heritage Reading Room.

**Dax Carney-Hanrahan's staged reading**

When Dick, a larger-than-life transwoman, moved into town, the already strained relationship between father and son took an even more dramatic turn. As they get to have more of Dick they start to question everything they think they know about themselves, each other and the world.

**Get tickets:** [faqt.au/](http://faqt.au/)

## FAQT | Queer Canon

Sunday 25 August | 2.30pm - 4pm | Heritage Reading Room.

Theatre Director and historian John Kachoyan, together with local actors present and discuss readings of key scenes from important queer Australian plays including Michael Gow's *Away* and Peter Kenna's *A Hard God*.

**Get tickets:** [faqt.au/](http://faqt.au/)

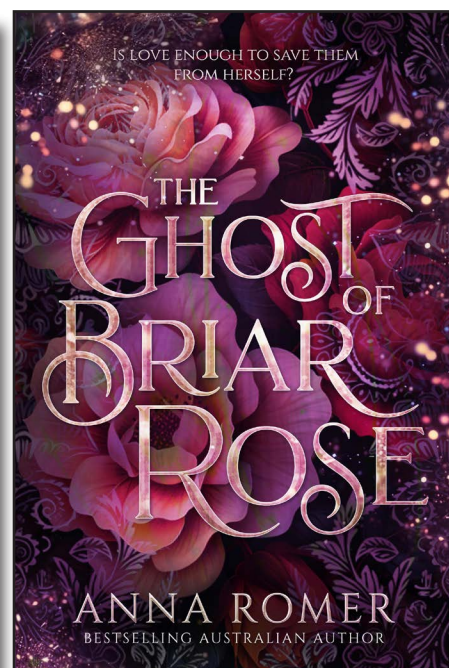
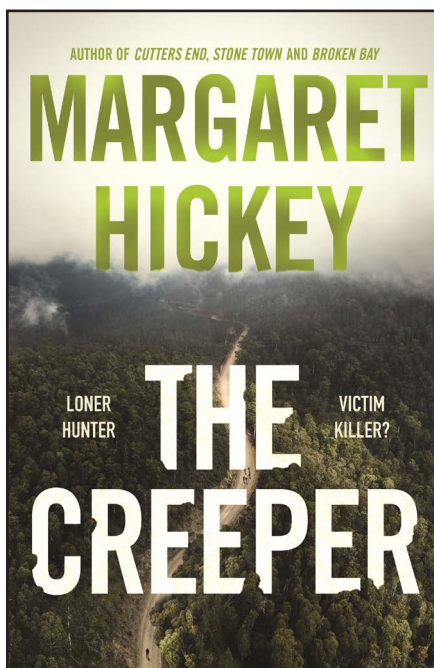
# Rosemary's

Books 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.



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We acknowledge the support of our valued Supporters & Partners

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## Supporters & Partners

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Rotary Club Ballarat South | Hugh D. Williamson Trust | Commonwealth Bank

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Collins Booksellers, Ballarat on Lydiard | Haymes Paints | Nicholson Construction | Goldacres  
G Gay & Co Mitre 10 | Federation University | IMD Tech

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

Ballarat Mechanics' Institute  
117 – 119 Sturt Street, Ballarat VIC 3350  
[ballaratmi.org.au](http://ballaratmi.org.au)  
[library@ballaratmi.org.au](mailto:library@ballaratmi.org.au)  
(03) 5331 3042



Library Hours  
Mon, Wed & Fri 10am – 4pm  
Tue & Thu 10am-3pm  
Saturday 9.30am – Noon  
Venue Hire Enquiries  
[venue@ballaratmi.org.au](mailto:venue@ballaratmi.org.au)  
0419 677 713