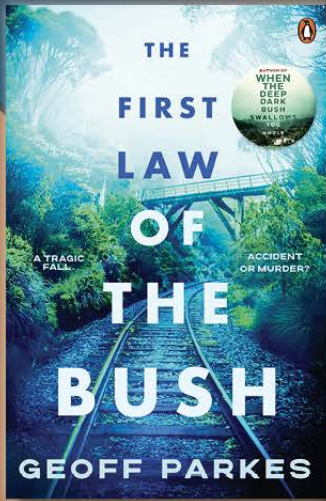
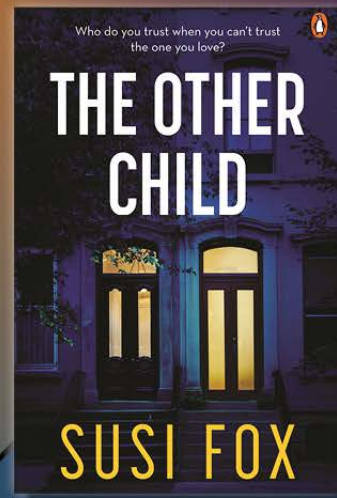


in conVersation



The BMI
Library
Home of literature and education



Wednesday 28 January | 6pm

events.humanitix.com/parkes-fox-bmi



More: ballaratmi.org.au/talks/

P: 5331 3042 | E: library@ballaratmi.org.au



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Newsletter

JAN / 2026

Rosemary Recommends

Author of the Month

Liz Byrski



Liz is a writer and broadcaster with more than 40 years experience in the British and Australian Media.

She was a broadcaster and executive producer with ABC Radio in Perth and later an advisor to a minister in Western Australian State Government.

She now lectures in Professional and Creative Writing at Curtin University of Technology in Perth.

Book of the Month

The Romanov Secret
by Chrissie Bellbrae.

This is a dual-timeline story featuring Grand Duchess Tatiana in late 19th/early 20th century Russia and Jean Campaign in 1980's Melbourne linked by hidden family secrets, maternal love and deceit.

1898. When the legitimacy of Grand Duchess Tatiana Romanov's marriage to the Tsar's brother comes into question, her son's claim to the imperial throne is challenged too. But the Romanov dynasty desperately needs an heir, and their fate lies in the hands of the tyrannical Russian ruler.

1982 Fashion buyer Jean Campaign has never forgiven her artist mother Aurora for making her relinquish her child. When Jean inherits the Archibald prize-winner's previously unknown self-portrait, she is compelled to interpret its hidden symbolism – and face the events that tore her family apart.

Recommended Reads

Mary Penfold
Grantlee Kieza.

This inspiring story of Mary Penfold the mother of the Australian wine industry – self-taught vintner and business genius who emigrated to a frontier settlement and built her family's small vineyard into one of the world's most respected winemakers.

The Other Child by Susi Fox.

Powerful, compelling and heart racing, prepare for another edge-of-your-seat psychological thriller from the author of Mine

All That Lives by James Oswald.

An archaeological dig at the old South Leith Parish kirkyard has turned up a seven-hundred-year-old victim.

Then a second body is unearthed, a woman who went missing only thirty years ago. It barely seems possible that the two are connected, but the similarities are hard to deny.

Inspector McLean is faced with solving this impossible crime before more bodies are discovered. But the next victim – and the person responsible – may be much closer to home than he realises.



Reserve your copy >

New releases

New Releases

Australian Mystery

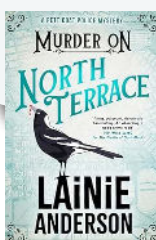
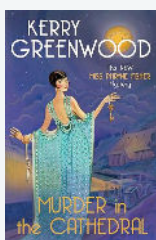
<i>The Hidden</i>	Bryan Brown
<i>Muder in the Cathedral</i>	Kerry Greenwood
<i>The Redline</i>	Adrian Hyland
<i>Those Opulent Days</i>	Jacque Pham
<i>Signs of Damage</i>	Diana Reid
<i>Entangled</i>	Robert M. Smith

Mystery

<i>Murder on North Terrace</i>	Lainie Anderson
<i>The Death of Dora Black</i>	Lainie Anderson
<i>Exit Strategy</i>	Lee Child/Andrew Child
<i>As They Lay Sleeping</i>	Wendy Dranfield
<i>The Institution</i>	Helen Fields
<i>Watching You</i>	Helen Fields
<i>Watch Over Me</i>	D.K.Hood
<i>Cops and Robbers</i>	Ed James
<i>Dead Man's Tale</i>	Quintin Jardine
<i>Blood and Treachery</i>	J D Kirk
<i>All That Lives</i>	James Oswald
<i>For Our Sins</i>	James Oswald
<i>The Black Wolf</i>	Louise Penny
<i>Evil Bones</i>	Kathy Reichs
<i>Three Times Buried</i>	Jane Smith

Australian Novel

<i>Lost and Found</i>	Liz Bryski
<i>The Romanov Secret</i>	Chrissie Bellbrae
<i>The Tangled Web</i>	Tea Cooper
<i>The Endless Sky</i>	Di Morrissey
<i>Winds of Change</i>	J Mary Masters
<i>The Outlaw's Daughter</i>	Anna Romer



Novel

<i>All We Need</i>	Magdalena McGuire
<i>The Last Love Song</i>	Lucinda Riley
<i>The Forget-Me-Not Library</i>	Heather Webber

Historical Fiction

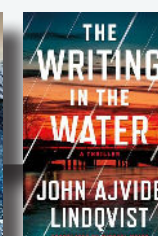
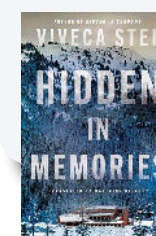
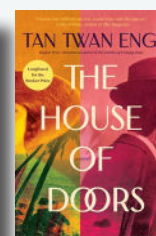
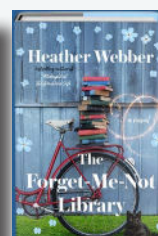
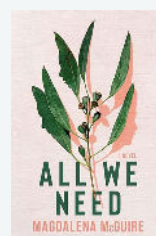
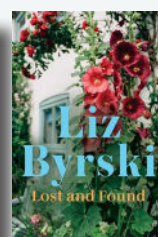
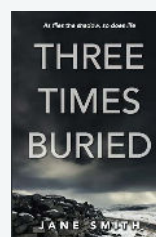
<i>The Distant Daughter</i>	Lorna Cook
<i>The House of Doors</i>	Tan Twan Eng
<i>The Irish Adoption House</i>	Michelle Vernal
<i>Secrets at the Irish Adoption House</i>	Michelle Vernal

Scandinavian

<i>Hidden In Memories</i>	Viveca Sten
<i>The Writing in the Water</i>	John Ajvide Lindqvist

Non Fiction

<i>Misplaced Memories in Moments of Being</i>	Michael Buxton
<i>Free Ride</i>	Noraly Schoenmaker
<i>Mary Penfold</i>	Grantlee Kieza





BALLARAT
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What's On
January



Darkness & Delight
Jerry Wong (solo piano)
Monday 12 January, 6pm



A Night of Big Band
Billy Hinde's Big Band
Friday 23 January, 7.30pm



OPENING HOURS

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

Vintage Shop: Thu, Fri, & First Sat of
of the month - 11am-3pm

Holidays/closures

Christmas - Library closed
22 Dec - 5 Jan reopen 6 Jan.
New Year's Day - Thu 1 Jan
Aust. Day - Mon 26 Jan
Labour Day - Mon 9 Mar
Good Friday - 3 Apr
Easter Monday - 6 Apr

School holidays

20 Dec - 26 Jan 2026
3 Apr - 19 Apr 2026
27 Jun - 12 Jul 2026
19 Sep - 4 Oct 2026
19 Dec - 27 Jan 2027

Important Dates

Ballarat Festival of Organ
and Fine Music 9-13 Jan
Begonia Fest 7-9 Mar
Australian Heritage Fest 18 Apr -18 May
Ballarat Heritage Fest 21 - 24 May



	<div>Tue 6 Jan</div> <div>10am-3pm Library</div>	<div>Wed 7 Jan</div> <div>10am-4pm Library</div>	<div>Thu 8 Jan</div> <div>10am-3pm Library Closed Vintage & Collectables</div>	<div>Fri 9 Jan</div> <div>10am-4pm Library Closed Vintage & Collectables</div>	<div>Sat 10 Jan</div> <div>9.30am-12noon Library 1pm-4pm Artistanbul: Creat your own Turkish Mosaic Lamp</div>	<div>Sun 11 Jan</div> <div>Closed Library</div>
<div>Mon 12 Jan</div> <div>10am-4pm Library 6pm-7pm Ballarat Festival of Organ and Fine Music Darkness and Delight - Jerry Wong (solo piano)</div>	<div>Tue 13 Jan</div> <div>10am-3pm Library</div>	<div>Wed 14 Jan</div> <div>10am-4pm Library</div>	<div>Thu 15 Jan</div> <div>10am-3pm Library Closed Vintage & Collectables</div>	<div>Fri 16 Jan</div> <div>10am-4pm Library Closed Vintage & Collectables</div>	<div>Sat 17 Jan</div> <div>9.30am-12noon Library</div>	<div>Sun 18 Jan</div> <div>Closed Library</div>
<div>Mon 19 Jan</div> <div>10am-4pm Library</div>	<div>Tue 20 Jan</div> <div>10am-3pm Library</div>	<div>Wed 21 Jan</div> <div>10am-4pm Library</div>	<div>Thu 22 Jan</div> <div>10am-3pm Library Closed Vintage & Collectables</div>	<div>Fri 23 Jan</div> <div>10am-4pm Library Closed Vintage & Collectables 7.30pm-9.30pm Billy Hinde's Big Band presents: A Night of Big Band</div>	<div>Sat 24 Jan</div> <div>9.30am-12noon Library</div>	<div>Sun 25 Jan</div> <div>Closed Library</div>
<div>Mon 26 Jan</div> <div>Australia Day Library closed</div>	<div>Tue 27 Jan</div> <div>10am-3pm Library</div>	<div>Wed 28 Jan</div> <div>10am-4pm Library 6pm-7.30pm In conversation with Geoff Parkes and Susi Fox 7pm-8.15pm Living from a Place of Inner Peace: Ballarat Public Talk</div>	<div>Thu 29 Jan</div> <div>10am-3pm Library Closed Vintage & Collectables</div>	<div>Fri 30 Jan</div> <div>10am-4pm Library Closed Vintage & Collectables</div>	<div>Sat 31 Jan</div> <div>9.30am-12noon Library</div>	<div>Sun 1 Feb</div> <div>Closed Library</div>
<div>Mon 2 Feb</div> <div>10am-4pm Library</div>	<div>Tue 3 Feb</div> <div>10am-3pm Library</div>	<div>Wed 4 Feb</div> <div>10am-4pm Library 7pm-8pm Kadampa Meditation Series</div>	<div>Thu 5 Feb</div> <div>10am-3pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables</div>	<div>Fri 6 Feb</div> <div>10am-4pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables</div>	<div>Sat 7 Feb</div> <div>9.30am-12noon Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables</div>	<div>Sun 8 Feb</div> <div>Closed Library</div>

Artistanbul: Create Your own Turkish Mosaic Lamp

Saturday 10 January, 1pm - 4pm

Bring colour, light, and creativity together in this hands-on Turkish Mosaic Lamp Workshop hosted by ArtIstanbul, right in the heart of Ballarat.

Guided by our friendly instructors, you'll design and build your very own mosaic lamp using pre-cut glass and low-fume adhesive – no cutting or grouting required. Perfect for beginners and all skill levels!

Cost: \$59-\$129 | Tickets:
trybooking.com/events/landing/1511751
Tickets not available from the Library Box Office.

Ballarat festival of Organ and Fine Music

Darkness & Delight - Jerry Wong (solo piano)

Monday 12 January, 6pm - 7pm

International pianist and Associate Professor of Music – Piano and Head of Keyboard at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music, Jerry Wong presents – Darkness & Delight – a captivating journey through the contrasting worlds of the piano.

From the brooding depths of **Liszt** and Australian composer **Miriam Hyde** and the luminous joy of **Beethoven** to the introspective clarity of **Bach**, this recital explores music's power to move between shadow and light. With artistry, insight and expressive flair, Jerry Wong reveals the piano as both confessional and celebration – a mirror of the full range of human emotion.

Cost: \$10.75-\$46.63 | Tickets:
events.humanitix.com/darknessanddelight
Tickets not available from the Library Box Office.

Billy Hinde's Big Band Presents

A Night of Big Band

Friday 23 January, 7.30pm - 9.30pm

This event was designed to bring world class quality jazz music to Ballarat, where we frequently have to travel to find music of such high quality.

Billy Hinde is a homegrown Ballarat Musician who has played with many great big bands around Victoria including the Melbourne Youth Jazz Orchestra, JazzLab Orchestra, Seb Big Band and has recently been a featured soloist for many local groups including the Moorabool Light Orchestra, Ballarat Arts Foundation and Royal South Street Society.

Cost: \$49.65 | Tickets:
events.humanitix.com/billy-hinde-s-big-band-presents-a-night-of-big-band/tickets
Tickets not available from the Library Box Office.

In conversation with Geoff Parkes & Susi Fox

The First Law of the Bush | Geoff Parkes The Other Child | Susi Fox

Wednesday 28 January, 6pm

Geoff Parkes, from the author of *When the Deep, Dark Bush Swallows You Whole* and *The First Law of the Bush*.

Susi Fox, from the author of bestselling psychological thriller *Mine*.

First Law of the Bush

It's a beautiful day to be alive, Bill Dickerson thought, seconds before he tumbled from the viaduct onto the jagged rocks below . . .

His awful death made national news. But still, one year on, Bill's widow Carol has received no explanation about what happened. Was it suicide? An accident? Maybe murder?

So Carol hires lawyer Ryan Bradley in her fight for justice. Ryan has just returned to the remote town of Nashville after ten years away, so he's in no position to turn down work.

Except the case seems hopeless from the start. Bill's employer is denying responsibility, Carol's friends are shunning her, and the only witnesses – co-workers Gav Coates and Wati Reynolds – can shed no light on the tragic fall. Even Senior Sergeant 'Stinger' Nettle is too busy turning a blind eye to Wati's illegal schemes to dig deeper into the death.

But in small towns, nothing is quite what it seems. And for one Nashville resident the wrong question will come at a deadly price...

The Other Child

Who do you trust when you can't trust the one you love?

Four years on from the devastating loss of their first child, Lauren and Alex De Vale are finally the proud parents of new baby, Charlotte.

However as Lauren – who struggled to bond with her late son – returns to work, she is riddled with anxiety.

She knows all too well that one little mistake can lead to tragedy. What if something terrible happens to Charlotte while she's not there?

Fear, grief and guilt make for a potent mix. And all it takes is one neighbour's offhand comment to spark Lauren's worst fears – and deep-seated suspicions...

Cost: \$11.00 plus bkg. fee | Tickets:
events.humanitix.com/parkes-fox-bmi
Tickets also for purchase at the Library Box Office.

Living from a Place of Inner Peace

Ballarat Public Talk

Wednesday 28 January, 7pm - 8.15pm

Living with inner peace is not something we have to wait for. It is something we can actively cultivate

every day. Our mind has incredible power. It can create stress and unease, or it can support a life filled with stability, joy, and meaning.

In this course, inspired by Buddha's teachings, we will explore how to gently transform unhelpful habits of thought and develop the inner qualities that allow peace to flourish. When we nurture calm and clarity within, we bring more harmony into our relationships, our work, and every moment of our life.

In a fast moving world, learning to live from a place of inner peace is one of the greatest gifts we can offer ourselves and those around us.

Join us for this uplifting talk and discover practical, compassionate methods to create a peaceful and positive mind, from the inside out.

Cost: \$25 | Tickets:
meditateinmelbourne.org/products/lfapoip-ballarat-2026
Tickets not available from the Library Box Office.

In conversation with Paula McLean

The One Remaining

Wednesday 25 February, 6pm

The One Remaining is a captivating story of overcoming loss, finding the courage to trust those who believe in us, and the self-healing power of writing our stories.

Hilary Mason is thirteen when her sister Elaine disappears. She fears someone close to the family is involved but represses her suspicions.

As an adult, Hilary becomes a successful novelist. In her fifties, she comes upon a stack of her old diaries, which document the trauma she's endured. She decides she is ready to face the hidden backstory of her life.

She embarks on writing a memoir, Hilary's Story, which will take her through her worst years and her best years, through courage and endurance, through friendship and great love.

Cost: \$11.00 plus bkg. fee | Tickets:
events.humanitix.com/paula-mclean-bmi
Tickets also for purchase at the Library Box Office.

Whispers of Shadows

Saturday 28 February 8pm - 11pm

'A celebration of resilience, a hymn to the unwavering power of the human spirit, a poetic whisper that echoes into eternity'

Experience a mesmerising night of art rock, spoken word, and experimental sound as Danielle Whalebone presents Whispers of Shadows an immersive live performance that blends music, projections, and emotion into a powerful multi-sensory journey.

Cost: \$20.50 plus bkg. fee | Tickets:
trybooking.com/events/landing/1502601
Tickets not available at the Library Box Office.

Rosemary's

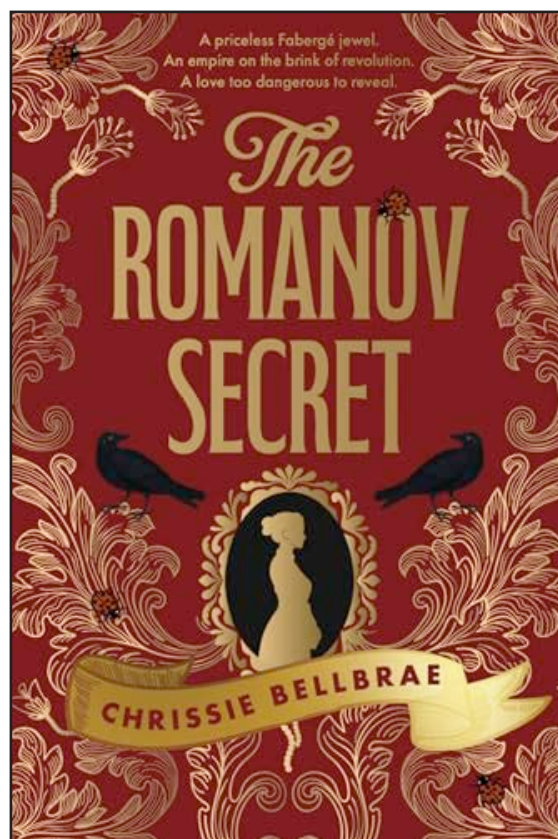
Book of the month

Library Operating hours

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 10am - 4pm

Tuesday & Thursday: 10am - 3pm

Saturday: 9.30am - 12 noon



We acknowledge the support of our valued Supporters & Partners

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Ballarat Connected Communities

Ballarat Cemeteries | Royal South Street Society | Ballarat National Theatre | BallaRat Pack

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

Ballarat Mechanics' Institute
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Ballarat VIC 3350
ballaratmi.org.au
library@ballaratmi.org.au
(03) 5331 3042



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Tue & Thu 10am-3pm
Saturday 9.30am – Noon
Venue Hire Enquiries
venue@ballaratmi.org.au
0419 677 713