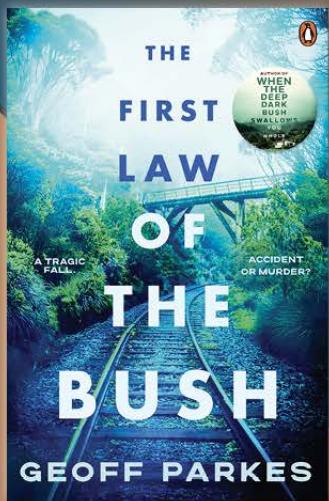


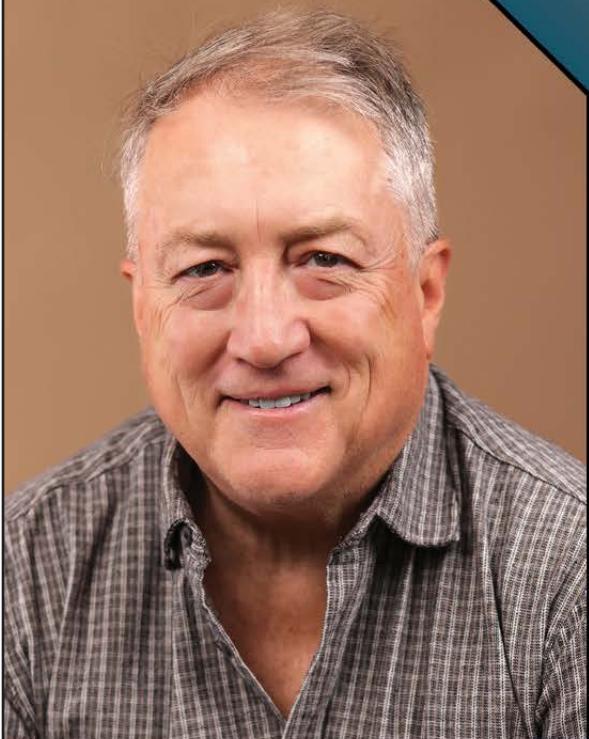
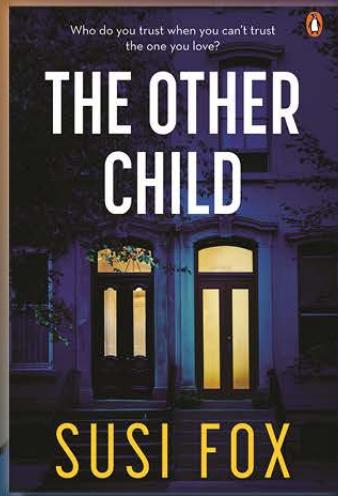
Newsletter

JAN / 2026

in conversation



The BMI
Library
Home of literature and education



Wednesday 28 January | 6pm

events.humanitix.com/parkes-fox-bmi



BALLAARAT
MECHANICS'
INSTITUTE

More: ballaratmi.org.au/talks/

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



BALLAARAT
MECHANICS'
INSTITUTE

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.

In 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

The Hidden Muder in the Cathedral
The Redline
Those Opulent Days
Signs of Damage
Entangled

Bryan Brown
 Kerry Greenwood
 Adrian Hyland
 Jacquie Pham
 Diana Reid
 Robert M. Smith

Mystery

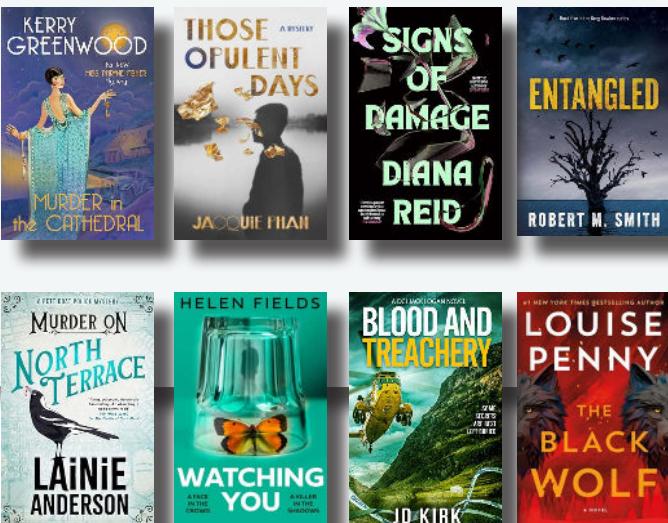
Murder on North Terrace
The Death of Dora Black
Exit Strategy
As They Lay Sleeping
The Institution
Watching You
Watch Over Me
Cops and Robbers
Dead Man's Tale
Blood and Treachery
All That Lives
For Our Sins
The Black Wolf
Evil Bones
Three Times Buried

Lainie Anderson
 Lainie Anderson
 Lee Child/Andew Child
 Wendy Dranfield
 Helen Fields
 Helen Fields
 D.K.Hood
 Ed James
 Quintin Jardine
 J D Kirk
 James Oswald
 James Oswald
 Louise Penny
 Kathy Reichs
 Jane Smith

Australian Novel

Lost and Found
The Romanov Secret
The Tangled Web
The Endless Sky
Winds of Change
The Outlaw's Daughter

Liz Bryski
 Chrissie Bellbrae
 Tea Cooper
 Di Morrissey
 J Mary Masters
 Anna Romer



Novel

All We Need
The Last Love Song
The Forget-Me-Not Library

Magdalena McGuire
 Lucinda Riley
 Heather Webber

Historical Fiction

The Distant Daughter
The House of Doors
The Irish Adoption House
Secrets at the Irish Adoption House

Lorna Cook
 Tan Twan Eng
 Michelle Vernal
 Michelle Vernal

Scandinavian

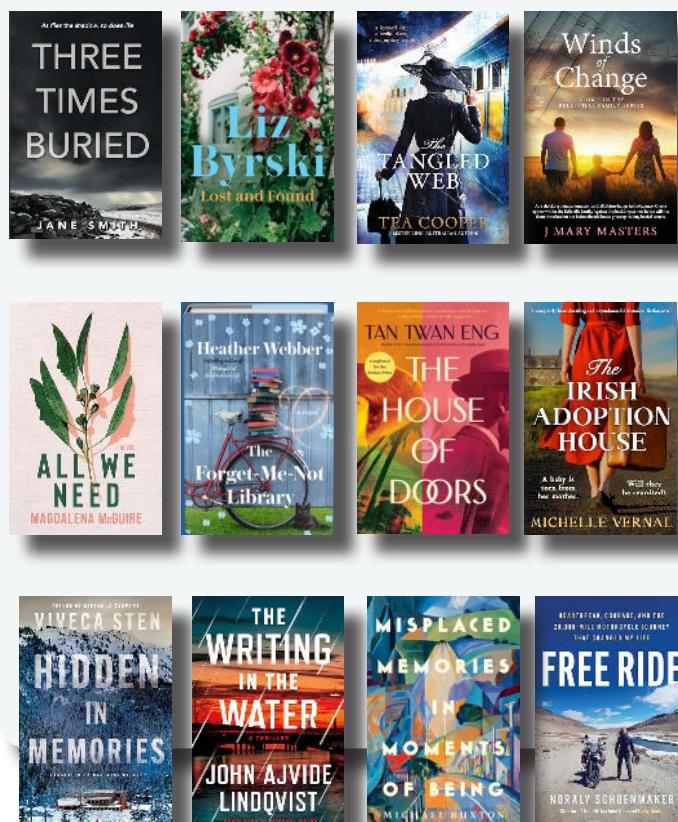
Hidden In Memories
The Writing in the Water

Viveca Sten
 John Ajvide Lindqvist

Non Fiction

Misplaced Memories in Moments of Being
Free Ride
Mary Penfold

Michael Buxton
 Norary Schoenmaker
 Grantlee Kieza





Darkness & Delight
Jerry Wong (solo piano)

Monday 12 January, 6pm

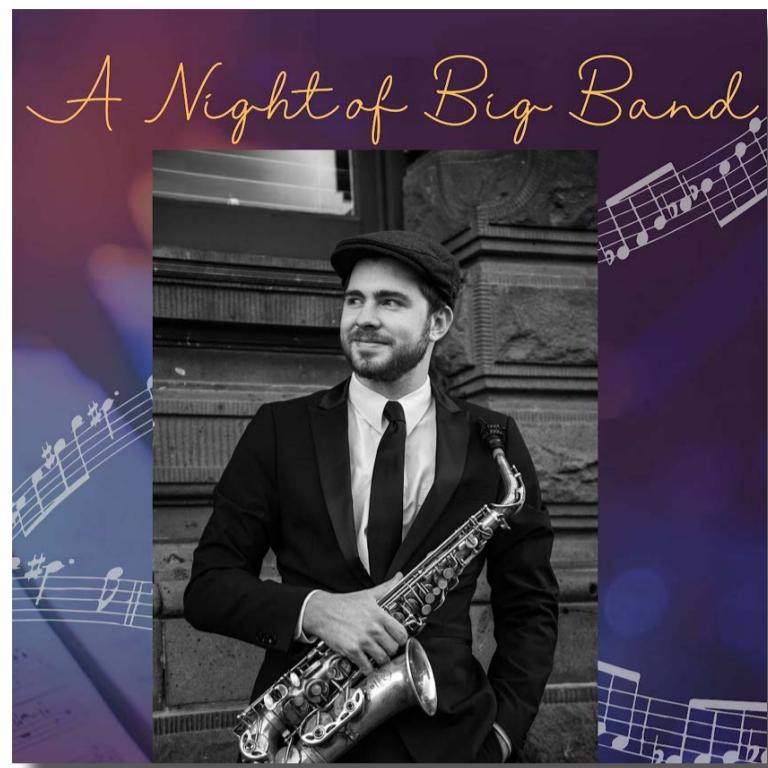
**BALLAARAT
MECHANICS'
INSTITUTE**

**What's On
January**



ANight 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



Tue 6 Jan	Wed 7 Jan	Thu 8 Jan	Fri 9 Jan	Sat 10 Jan	Sun 11 Jan
10am-3pm Library	10am-4pm Library	10am-3pm Library Closed Vintage & Collectables	10am-4pm Library Closed Vintage & Collectables	9.30am-12noon Library 1pm-4pm Artisanbul: Create your own Turkish Mosaic Lamp	Closed Library
Mon 12 Jan	Tue 13 Jan	Wed 14 Jan	Thu 15 Jan	Fri 16 Jan	Sat 17 Jan
10am-4pm Library 6pm-7pm Ballarat Festival of Organ and Fine Music Darkness and Delight - Jerry Wong (solo piano)	10am-3pm Library	10am-4pm Library	10am-3pm Library Closed Vintage & Collectables	10am-4pm Library Closed Vintage & Collectables	9.30am-12noon Library
Mon 19 Jan	Tue 20 Jan	Wed 21 Jan	Thu 22 Jan	Fri 23 Jan	Sat 24 Jan
10am-4pm Library	10am-3pm Library	10am-4pm Library	10am-3pm Library Closed Vintage & Collectables	10am-4pm Library Closed Vintage & Collectables 7.30pm-9.30pm Billy Hinde's Big Band presents: A Night of Big Band	9.30am-12noon Library
Mon 26 Jan	Tue 27 Jan	Wed 28 Jan	Thu 29 Jan	Fri 30 Jan	Sat 31 Jan
Australia Day Library closed	10am-3pm Library	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	10am-3pm Library Closed Vintage & Collectables	10am-4pm Library Closed Vintage & Collectables	9.30am-12noon Library
Mon 2 Feb	Tue 3 Feb	Wed 4 Feb	Thu 5 Feb	Fri 6 Feb	Sun 8 Feb
10am-4pm Library	10am-3pm Library	10am-4pm Library 7pm-8pm Kadampa Meditation Series	10am-3pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables	10am-4pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables	Closed Library



BALLARAT MECHANICS' INSTITUTE

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.

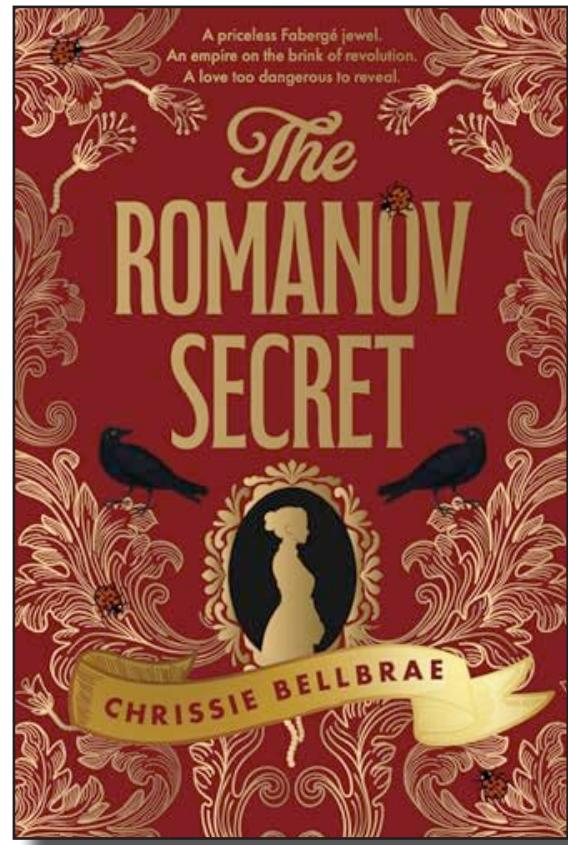
Cost: \$20.50 plus bkg. fee | Tickets:
trybooking.com/events/landing/1502601
Tickets not available at the Library Box Office.

Rosemary's

Book of the month

Library Operating hours

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 10am - 4pm
Tuesday & Thursday: 10am - 3pm
Saturday: 9.30am - 12 noon



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