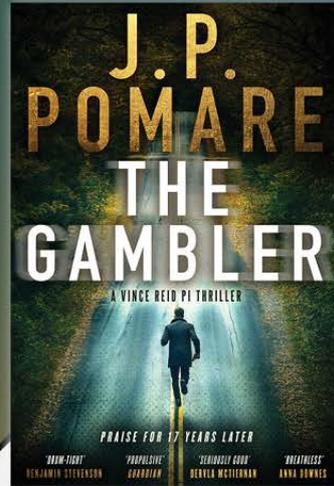


The BMI  
**Library**  
Home of literature and education



Tuesday 10 March | 6pm

[events.humanitix.com/white-pomare-bmi](https://events.humanitix.com/white-pomare-bmi)



# Newsletter

MAR / 2026

## From the Chair

To view the Message from the Chair go to the link below:

[Ballaratmi.org.au/from-the-chair-mar-2026/](https://Ballaratmi.org.au/from-the-chair-mar-2026/)



BALLARAT  
MECHANICS'  
INSTITUTE

# Rosemary Recommends

## Author of the Month

Christian White.

Christian is an Australian author and screenwriter, who was born and raised on the Mornington Peninsula. He had an eclectic range of day jobs, before he was able to write full-time including food-cart driver on a golf course and video editor for an adult film company. He now spends his days writing from his home in Melbourne where he lives with his wife.



## Book of the Month

*The Gambler*  
by J.P. Pomare.

PI Vince Reid is visiting an old friend when he's offered a case he can't refuse. Why did a respected local woman open fire at a political rally, killing a promising young university graduate? It's easy money, he's told. A sure thing.

But as Reid delves further into the case, the stakes are higher than he imagined. There are invisible players pulling the strings. Will he walk away a winner or pay for the ultimate gamble with his life?

## Recommended Reads

*Her Cold Justice* by  
Robert Dugoni.



In a quiet South Seattle neighbourhood, a suspected drug smuggler and his girlfriend are murdered in their home. When a young man named Michael Westbrook is accused of the brutal double homicide, his uncle JP Harrison turns to Keera Duggan to defend him. JP is Keera's trusted investigator, and he desperately needs Keera to save his nephew against escalating odds.

As the investigation gets more twisted with each new find, Keera is swept up in a mystery with far-reaching consequences. This case isn't just murder. It's looking like a conspiracy. And getting justice for Michael could be the most dangerous promise Keera has ever made.

*Two Islands* by Ian Kemish.

When a desperate young man arrives on an isolated Scottish isle, the locals view him with suspicion. But Niko is there for a reason – he's running for his life, pursued by those who want him silenced for what he has seen in the Balkan War. His neighbour is a recluse known to the villagers as 'Slow Fergus'. As the two men circle each other, Australian war crimes investigator Anita Costello races against sinister forces to locate her key witness.

Against this rugged landscape, where the tight-knit island community holds painful memories close, Niko must weigh his loyalties to his family, his country and himself.

*The Duke's Secret* by Sue Williams.

She is a young maid in a stately home, he is a dashing British army officer trapped in an unhappy marriage. The pair strike up a close friendship and, just as he's departing for war, they surrender to their passion.

Years later, he returns triumphant from defeating Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo, to reunite not only with his wife and their two sons, but also with the maid Mary Ann and their illegitimate daughter,

Reserve your copy >

# New releases

Elizabeth. They all have to find a way through the tangle of affairs and betrayals, especially now he's hailed as the hero of the free world with a new the Duke of Wellington.

Two hundred years on, in Australia, a woman meets with her long-lost father and is told the family legend that they're descendants of a maid who worked for the Iron Duke. She sets out to prove once and for all whether or not this story is true, and what she discovers shocks everyone.

## New Releases

### Mystery

<i>What Evil Hides</i>	Rachel Amphlett
<i>Sing Her To Sleep</i>	Jennifer Chase
<i>Her Cold Justice</i>	Robert Dugoni
<i>What Happened That Night</i>	Nicci French
<i>Beneath the Bodies</i>	Jack Gatland
<i>Blood Fountain</i>	David J. Gatward
<i>The Killing Time</i>	Elly Griffiths
<i>His Next Wife</i>	D. K. Hood
<i>Liars and Thieves</i>	Ed James
<i>Blood Money</i>	Andrew Raymond
<i>Stolen In Death</i>	J.D Robb
<i>The Bookseller</i>	Tim Sullivan

### Historical Fiction

<i>The Missing Wife</i>	Kerry Barrett
<i>The Girl in the Picture</i>	Kerry Barrett
<i>The Promise</i>	Michelle Vernal

### Aust. Historical

<i>The Duke's Secret</i>	Sue Williams
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### Romance

<i>The Last Resort</i>	Amanda Hewitt
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### Psychological

<i>It's Not Her</i>	Mary Kubica
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### Novel

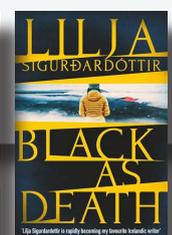
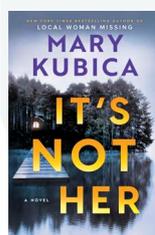
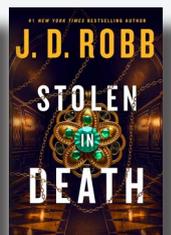
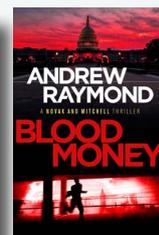
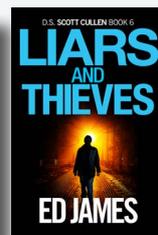
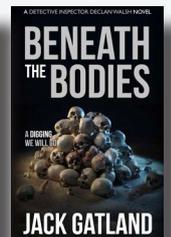
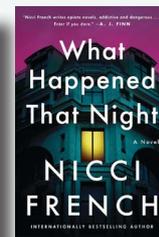
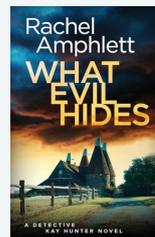
<i>The Irish Goodbye</i>	Heather Aimee O'Neill
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### Aust. Novel

<i>The Hair Apparent</i>	Rebecca Armitage
<i>The Sisterhood Rules</i>	Kathy Lette

### Scandinavian

<i>The Secrets Below</i>	Camilla Sten & Viveca Sten
<i>Black as Death</i>	Lilja Sigurðardóttir
<i>Dark as Night</i>	Lilja Sigurðardóttir



## Twilight Talks

Dr Phil Roberts OAM, BMI Patron

Twilight Talks commence from Wednesday 15 April when Hedley Thomson returns to enthrall us about Henry Lawson in Ballarat.

We have a four-week Autumn season focusing on Ballarat. Keep the following dates free:

**15, 22, 29 April and 6 May.**

Sponsored by **Community Bank Buninyong.**

## Royal South Street Society 2026 Season Events

Victoria's largest youth performing arts pathway and a critical contributor to the regional creative workforce pipeline.

Entries for all disciplines open on March 01 2026 and close on April 30 2026. Our programs offer performance opportunities in Pianoforte, Vocal, Instrumental, Debating, Choral, Speech, Drama and Comedy, All Abilities, Dance and Calisthenics.

We have sections to suit everyone – including novice, intermediate and advanced across a huge range of genres.

Full details of sections available on our website.

[royalsouthstreet.com.au](http://royalsouthstreet.com.au) or contact via email: [info@royalsouthstreet.com.au](mailto:info@royalsouthstreet.com.au)



ROYAL SOUTH STREET SOCIETY  
BALLARAT EISTEDDFOD

## Joseph Tawadros AM Full house at BMI - Liam Mudge

We had a full house, in beautiful Minerva Space for Joseph's program of **solo Oud** here at the BMI on Sunday 15 Feb.

Thank you to everyone who came out and supported his show here in Ballarat as part of his Australian Tour. He moves on to Sydney and then on to Cairo next.



Photo: Liam Mudge

## Ballarat Writers



Supporting Central Highlands writers

If you haven't visited the Ballarat Writers website you must, there are some great book reviews, check these out:

- *The Farm* by Jessica Mansour- Nahra - Reviewed by Rhonda Cotsell.
- *Last Rites*, by Ozzy Osbourne - Reviewed by Frank Thompson.
- *The Secrets of Anzac Ridge: In Flanders Fields*, by Patricia Skenhan - Reviewed by Rhonda Cotsell.

Why not become a member and, or, register for their newsletter. [ballaratwriters.com/](http://ballaratwriters.com/)

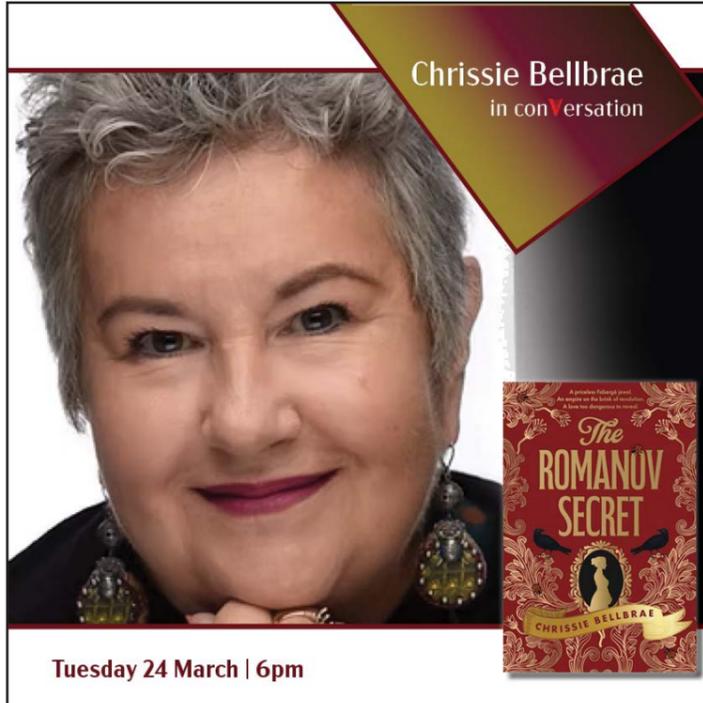


**In conversation**  
with **Chrissie Bellbrae**  
Tuesday 24 March, 6pm

**Ballarat Film Society**  
*All We Imagine As Light*  
Thursday 12 March, 7.30pm

**BALLAARAT  
MECHANICS'  
INSTITUTE**

**What's On  
March**



**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 the month - 11am-3pm

**Holidays/closures**

Labour Day - Mon 9 Mar  
Good Friday - 3 Apr  
Easter Monday - 6 Apr  
ANZAC Day - 28 Apr  
King's Birthday - 8 June  
AFL Grand Final - Sept  
Melbourne Cup - 3 Nov

**School holidays**

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

**Important Dates**

Begonia Festival 7-9 Mar  
Australian Heritage Fest 18 Apr - 18 May  
Ballarat Marathon 25 & 26 Apr  
Ballarat Craft & Design Wk 1-10 May  
Ballarat Heritage Fest 21 - 24 May  
Ballarat Pride Month 1-30 June

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



	Tue 3 Mar	Wed 4 Mar	Thu 5 Mar	Fri 6 Mar	Sat 7 Mar	Sun 8 Mar
	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	9.30am-12noon   Library	Closed   Library
<b>Mon 9 Mar</b> Library Closed Labour Day	<b>Tue 10 Mar</b> 10am-3pm   Library 6pm-7.30pm   In conversation with Christian White & JP Pomare	<b>Wed 11 Mar</b> 10am-4pm   Library 7pm-8pm   Kadampa Meditation Series	<b>Thu 12 Mar</b> 10am-3pm   Library 11am-3pm   Vintage & Collectables 7.30pm Ballarat Film Society   All We Imagine As Light, Mumbai Drama/Romance	<b>Fri 13 Mar</b> 10am-4pm   Library 11am-3pm   Vintage & Collectables	<b>Sat 14 Mar</b> 9.30am-12noon   Library	<b>Sun 15 Mar</b> Closed   Library Artistanbul: Create your own Turkish Mosaic Lamp
<b>Mon 16 Mar</b> 10am-4pm   Library	<b>Tue 17 Mar</b> 10am-3pm   Library	<b>Wed 18 Mar</b> 10am-4pm   Library 7pm-8pm   Kadampa Meditation Series	<b>Thu 19 Mar</b> 10am-3pm   Library 11am-3pm   Vintage & Collectables	<b>Fri 20 Mar</b> 10am-4pm   Library 10am-2pm   Primary School Tour, 3 rotating tours approx 80 students 11am-3pm   Vintage & Collectables	<b>Sat 21 Mar</b> 9.30am-12noon   Library	<b>Sun 22 Mar</b> Closed   Library 2pm-5.30pm   Ballarat Scottish Country Dancing
<b>Mon 23 Mar</b> 10am-4pm   Library	<b>Tue 24 Mar</b> 10am-3pm   Library 6pm-7.30pm   In conversation with Chrissie Bellbrae	<b>Wed 25 Mar</b> 10am-4pm   Library 7pm-8pm   Kadampa Meditation Series	<b>Thu 26 Mar</b> 10am-3pm   Library 11am-3pm   Vintage & Collectables	<b>Fri 27 Mar</b> 10am-4pm   Library 11am-3pm   Vintage & Collectables	<b>Sat 28 Mar</b> 9.30am-12noon   Library	<b>Sun 29 Mar</b> Closed   Library
<b>Mon 30 Mar</b> 10am-4pm   Library	<b>Tue 31 Mar</b> 10am-3pm   Library	<b>Wed 1 Apr</b> 10am-4pm   Library 7pm-8pm   Kadampa Meditation Series	<b>Thu 2 Apr</b> 10am-3pm   Library 11am-3pm   Vintage & Collectables	<b>Fri 3 Apr</b> Library Closed Vintage & Collectables Closed Good Friday	<b>Sat 4 Apr</b> Library Closed Vintage & Collectables Closed Easter Saturday	<b>Sun 5 Apr</b> Closed   Library Easter Sunday

**In conversation with  
Christian White & JP Pomare**

*The Long Night* | Christian White  
*The Gambler* | JP Pomare

Tuesday 10 March, 6pm

**Christian White**, the author of *The Ledge*.  
**Josh Pomare**, the author *17 Years Later*.

***The Long Night***

'Em has lived a quiet life with her complicated mother and is now looking for love and a potential escape from her small hometown. When a masked man kidnaps her in the dark of night, though, she is drawn into a terrifying world.

Twenty years ago, a terrible thing happened in Jodie Gibbs' life. She has been trying to forget that time ever since, pouring her trauma into her work and out of her mind. Until one night her daughter is kidnapped and Jodie is dragged back into the violence.

As Em and Jodie race into the darkness of the night, the agony of the past rushes up to meet them. It will take all their devotion and courage to escape this night alive.'

***The Gambler***

'PI Vince Reid is visiting an old friend when he's offered a case he can't Why did a respected local woman open fire at a political rally, killing a promising young university graduate? It's easy money, he's told. A sure thing.

But as Reid delves further into the case, the stakes are higher than he imagined. There are invisible players pulling the strings. Will he walk away a winner or pay for the ultimate gamble with his life?

Cost: \$11.00 plus bkg. fee | Tickets:  
[events.humanitix.com/white-pomare-bmi](https://events.humanitix.com/white-pomare-bmi)

Tickets also for purchase at the Library Box Office.

**Ballarat Film  
Society *All We Imagine As Light*  
Contemporary Mumbai Drama/Romance**

Thursday 12 March 7.30pm showtime



The first Indian film to receive the Grand Prix at Cannes, and primarily set in contemporary Mumbai, *All We Imagine as Light* centres on three Hindu women, their everyday lives and the bonds that they share with one another as well as with the larger world.

**India, 2024, 118min. Directed by Payal Kapadia.**

Why not become a member of the Ballarat Film Society

[ballaratfilmsociety.weebly.com/](https://ballaratfilmsociety.weebly.com/)

**Artistanbul: Create  
Your own Turkish Mosaic Lamp**

Sunday 15 March, 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: \$79-\$129 | Tickets:  
[trybooking.com/events/landing/1537774](https://trybooking.com/events/landing/1537774)

Tickets not available from the Library Box Office.

**Ballarat Scottish  
Country Dance**

Sunday 22 March, 2pm

*Scottish Country Dance is the social and special occasion dancing style of Scotland. And its heaps of fun!*

You don't need to be Scottish (most of us aren't) or bring a partner – all you need is comfortable casual clothing including a pair of flat, soft shoes.



Scottish Country Dancing's origins lie in both Scottish folk dancing and in the French Court of the 1700's, and the steps and forms evolved through the teaching of itinerate dance masters and patronage of the gentry.

Cost: \$30 Dancers, \$20 non-dancers, \$10 full time students and includes afternoon tea.  
Tickets: [ballaratscd.com/](https://ballaratscd.com/)

Tickets not available from the Library Box Office.

**In Conversation  
with Chrissie Bellbrae**

***The Romanov Secret***

Tuesday 24 March, 6pm - 7.30pm

A priceless Fabergé jewel. An empire on the brink of revolution. A love too dangerous to reveal.

A celebrated artist's painting holds clues to long-held family secrets and lives under threat, long after the fall of the Russian Empire.

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 hand of the tyrannical Russian ruler. As revolution strikes the streets of St Petersburg and members of the Imperial family disappear, Tatiana must find a way to protect her son from mortal danger.

1982: Fashion Buyer Jean Campain 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. But a conflicting account of the circumstances reveals Aurora's dark deception, spiralling Jean into a breakdown, and threatens an end to her dream of family unity.

An enthralling story of maternal love and treacherous deceit transporting readers from the lavish palaces of St Petersburg to the lush vineyards of the Mornington Peninsula.

Cost: \$10 | Tickets:  
[events.humanitix.com/chrissie-bellbrae-bmi-26](https://events.humanitix.com/chrissie-bellbrae-bmi-26)

Tickets also available from the Library Box Office.

**Explore the  
BMI - Join a Tour**

[ballaratmi.org.au/events/tours/](https://ballaratmi.org.au/events/tours/)



**Explore the BMI  
Join a Day Tour >**

The BMI Collection  
The BMI Library

Tuesdays at 2pm - Advance bookings essential  
\$11 plus bkg fee.

P: 5331 3042  
E: [library@ballaratmi.org.au](mailto:library@ballaratmi.org.au)

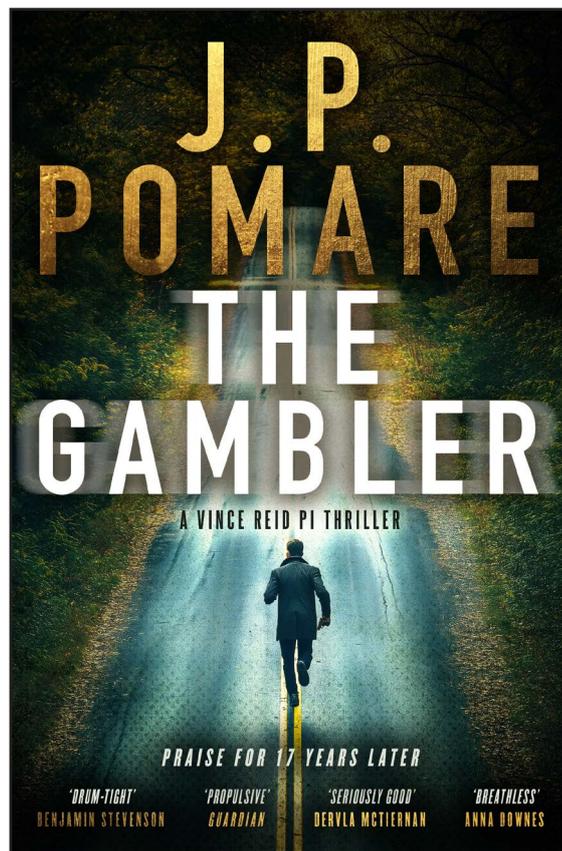
BALLARAT MECHANICS' INSTITUTE

# Rosemary's Book of the Week

## in conversation

Don't miss Josh Pomare  
& Christian White coming  
to the BMI on Tuesday  
10 March at 6pm.

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



## Library Operating hours

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 10am - 4pm

Tuesday & Thursday: 10am - 3pm

Saturday: 9.30am - 12 noon

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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 | ED Black Trust

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Collins Booksellers, Ballarat on Lydiard | Haymes Paints | Nicholson Construction | Goldacres

G Gay & Co Mitre 10 | Federation University | IMD Tech | Tony De Jong Drafting | The Cleaners Room

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](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