

Light shifts. Shadows gather, The past draws closer.



Step beneath the Ballarat Mechanics' Institute
and move through its hidden underground vaults.

Guided by light, projection and voice,
each space reveals a story unfolding below the surface of a growing city.

LANTERN VAULTS

— An installation by Amanda Western —

21 – 24 MAY 2026

Ballaarat Mechanics' Institute

As part of the Ballarat Heritage Festival



For bookings, use QR code.

From the Chair

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

Ballaratmi.org.au/from-the-chair-may-2026/

Newsletter

MAY / 2026



BALLAARAT
MECHANICS'
INSTITUTE

Rosemary Recommends

Authors of the Month

Victoria Purman.

Victoria is an Australian top ten and USA Today best-selling fiction author, who lives in Adelaide. Her latest book *The Marriage Trap* is out now.



Victoria is a regular guest at writers festivals, a mentor and workshop presenter across Australia.

Amanda Hampson.



Amanda is a Melbourne based author with a career spanning over 30 years.

Her writing career began in New Zealand where she spent her early twenties travelling before settling in Australia. She has written professionally for over twenty years.

Book of the Month

The Dark Heart by Neil Lancaster.

When renowned author Dr Daniel Solomon is killed in a devastating explosion in York, authorities quickly attribute the attack to Islamic extremists. But as the investigation unfolds, it becomes clear that all is not as it seems.

DS Max Craigie uncovers a chilling connection between a series of brutal murders, each victim linked by a secret that someone is determined to protect.

With the number of victims growing and an elusive figure known as *The Cashier* operating in the shadows, Max must navigate a web of corruption and hatred. Can he unravel the truth before more lives are lost?

*A Deadly Bombing - A Dark Conspiracy
A Dangerous Game.*

Recommended Reads

The Family Friend by Claire Douglas.

When Imogen is told she's inherited a country house near Bath, she thinks it must be a mistake.

She last saw its owner, reclusive artist Dorothea Roe, sixteen years ago, during a tragic summer that changed her life for ever. Now, with partner Josh in tow, it's a chance for a fresh start. But after discovering an old box with her name on it in Dorothea's abandoned study, Imogen starts to believe the woman was trying to send her a secret message.

And when rumours begin to swirl that Dorothea was murdered, she starts to suspect that this gift might not be the lifeline she thought it was...

Secrets Between Friends
by Sheila O'Flanagan.

Ailie, Sybil and Rua can take care of themselves. But when they form an unexpected friendship, they discover new perspectives on old problems. Ailie is recently widowed, and struggling. At least she can cut ties with her toxic Italian in-laws. Except her teenage daughter is joining them in Trieste. Should Ailie follow, and confront the family who can't forgive her?

Sybil has learned to be happy alone. But her younger sister, Tansy thinks Sybil needs to find

New releases

a man before it's too late. And she has the perfect candidate. Can Sybil cope with Tansy interfering again?

Twice Rua has faced the worst, and twice she's started over. All that matters now is protecting her daughter. Yet she's kept the full story from her. It is time to trust Bronte with the truth?

The Secret Society of Librarians by Kate Thompson.

London 1939 - When war breaks out on librarian Joyce Kindred's doorstep and a call for help rings out across the libraries of London, Joyce sets up a mobile library scheme, but soon her acts of resistance go beyond sharing books. She shelters a young Jewish refugee, Adela- and it's not long before she discovers Adela has a secret that could turn their world upside down.

Occupied Poland, 1942 - Dorothea knows any chance of her escaping the barbed wire fences and cruelty of the Lodz ghetto dwindles by the day. Reading isn't just an act of defiance: it's the only thing left in her life over which she has any control. And so she shares books under the cover of darkness, creating a secret library away from her captors- that is, until even that last ray of hope is taken from her...

New Releases

Mystery

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Hope Rises</i> | David Baldacci |
| <i>When The Storm Dies</i> | Jack Cartwright |
| <i>Across The Vanishing Sky</i> | Catherine Cowles |
| <i>A Long Time Dead</i> | J M Dalglish |
| <i>The Move</i> | JP Delaney |
| <i>The Girl in the Loch</i> | Andrew James Greig |
| <i>Look Behind You</i> | D.K.Hood |
| <i>The Dark Heart</i> | Neil Lancaster |
| <i>Sacrifice</i> | Lynda La Plante |
| <i>It's Not What You Think</i> | Clare Mackintosh |
| <i>Wicked Women</i> | Angela Marsons |

Murder in Norfolk
Stolen Family
Murder in the Gallowgate
Blood Runs Deep

Sadie Norman
Lisa Regan
Daniel Sellers
Doug Sinclair

Aust. Mystery

Click
The Second Wife
The Witness

Sarah Bailey
Ali Lowe
Fleur McDonald

Aust. Novel/Hist.

The Italian Correspondent
When Lemons
Give you Life
The Chateau on Sunset
One Night at Silver Lake
The Hobart Hotel

Belinda Alexandra

Anna Johnston
Natasha Lester
Katherine Scholes
Mary-Lou Stephens

Aust. Mystery/ Science Fiction

Portal
The Search

Katrina McKee
Katrina McKee

Historical Fiction

The Sea Stone Sisters
The Secret Society of Librarians

Eleanor Buchanan

Kate Thompson

Psychological

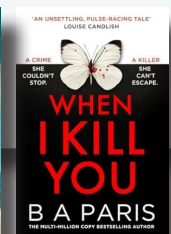
The Family Friend
When I Kill You

Claire Douglas
B.A. Paris

Romance

The Forever Home
The Pieces of Us
Secrets Between Friends

Erica James
Caroline Montague
Sheila O'Flanagan



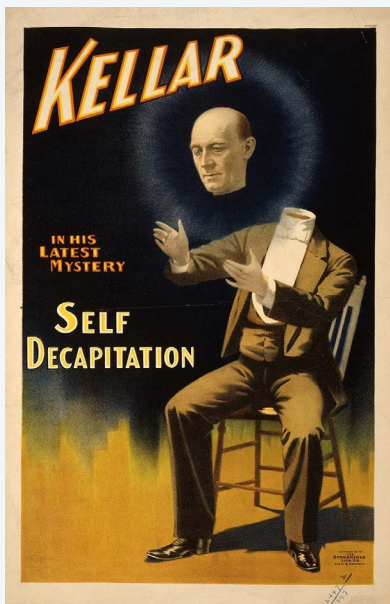
Twilight Talks: Focus on Ballarat

Presented by Dr Phil Roberts OAM
& Neil Leckie OAM

Wed 6 May | 5.30pm

**What We Watched Before Cinema:
*Entertainments at the Mechanics' Hall,
1863-1919.***

Presented by BMI Heritage Collection Curator,
Ellen Becker.



When the Mechanics' Hall opened in 1863, the people of Ballarat flocked to see some strange and spectacular contemporary entertainments - mesmerists, automata, waxworks, human curiosities, and the magic of the first moving image technologies. Join Curator Ellen

Becker in traversing the entertainments held in the hey day of the hall, before it was converted into the **Britannia Cinema** in 1919.

Cost: \$9 BMI members & \$13 GA.

Tix: events.humanitix.com/bmi-twilight-talks-season-1-2026

Tickets also available from the Library Box Office.

Proudly supported by **Community Bank
Buninyong.**

Royal South Street Society

Ballarat Eisteddfod | June 13 - Oct 30

Royal South Street Society is back...

A poster for the Royal South Street Society Ballarat Eisteddfod. It features a black background with a red curtain on the left and right sides. At the top center is a gold crest with the letters 'RSSS'. Below the crest, the text reads 'ROYAL SOUTH STREET SOCIETY BALLARAT EISTEDDFOD'. The dates 'JUN 13 - OCT 30' are prominently displayed in white. Below the dates, a list of activities is shown: 'DANCE. CALISTHENICS. DEBATING. SPEECH, DRAMA & COMEDY. VOCAL, ARIA. INSTRUMENTAL. PIANOFORTE. CHOPIN. CHORAL. ALL ABILITIES.' Below this, it says 'Full program of daily events on our website WWW.ROYALSOUTHSTREET.COM.AU'. The section 'PREMIER EVENTS' is highlighted in white, followed by the text 'The best of the best... sensational talent! Ticket enquiry info@royalsouthstreet.com.au'. A table of events follows, listing dates, times, and event names with their respective sponsors.



**BALLARAT
MECHANICS'
INSTITUTE**

A BMI Community Partnership

Full details of sections available on website.

royalsouthstreet.com.au or contact via email:
info@royalsouthstreet.com.au

Other News

Ballarat Writers

write it your way
supporting Central Highlands writers

Do you have books already published, or an author website to promote?

Current Ballarat Writers members can have their work featured on their website. You can also have a book featured on their Facebook page. If you are interested, send a draft post to:

publicity@ballaratwriters.com

Include an image (eg book cover, headshot, or both), a short bio and a link to where a reader could buy a copy of your work.

Beta readers can give you feedback on your manuscript, whether the characters and storyline work, or other issues. Ask Soni Steckler at:

betareaders@ballaratwriters.com

You can be connected with a beta reader, or if you would like to volunteer to be one.

Currently, you can enjoy a 10% discount off your purchases by presenting your BW club membership card at selected stores, refer to the website for details.

Join the club

If you would like to join BWI as a new member, our membership year runs from January 1st to December 31st each year.

Our current fees are:
\$40 - waged | \$30 - concession (includes seniors, students, interstate) - Free - Students studying in Ballarat, including high school, university and U3A, and all Junior members aged 12-17 years.

Find out more: **ballaratwriters.com/**

Brian Chapman and Friends

A Trio of Stunning Piano Quartets
3pm on Sunday 12 April

a Review by Bronislaw Sozanski

The recent chamber music concert at the Ballarat Mechanics' Institute, *A Trio of Stunning Piano Quartets*, was a continuation of excellent concerts devised by pianist **Brian Chapman**. His thorough academic approach translated to a complete performance, full of expression and nuance. From the opening drama of **Mozart's K.478** to the gypsy-inspired frenzy of the **rondo of Op.25 of Brahms** the audience witnessed the power and subtlety delivered with the special thrill that only chamber music can provide.

One of the highlights of the concert was the quality of the string playing. **Susan Pierotti** (violin), **Katharine Brockman** (viola) and **Rosanne Hunt** (cello) as an ensemble created a fine texture of sound, perfectly balanced with the piano. The highly focussed communication between the musicians was always evident. The string solos, particularly in the slow movements, achieved an excellent cantabile quality.

The symphonic and concerto characters which permeate these significant compositions were clearly evident as Chapman's virtuosity gave full meaning to the allegro passages, particularly in **Beethoven's Op. 16**. The ensemble work and balance remained finely poised throughout.

Bronislaw Sozanski BA DipEd ATCL MVM TA



Teeny Tiny Stevies: Brain Fart Tour

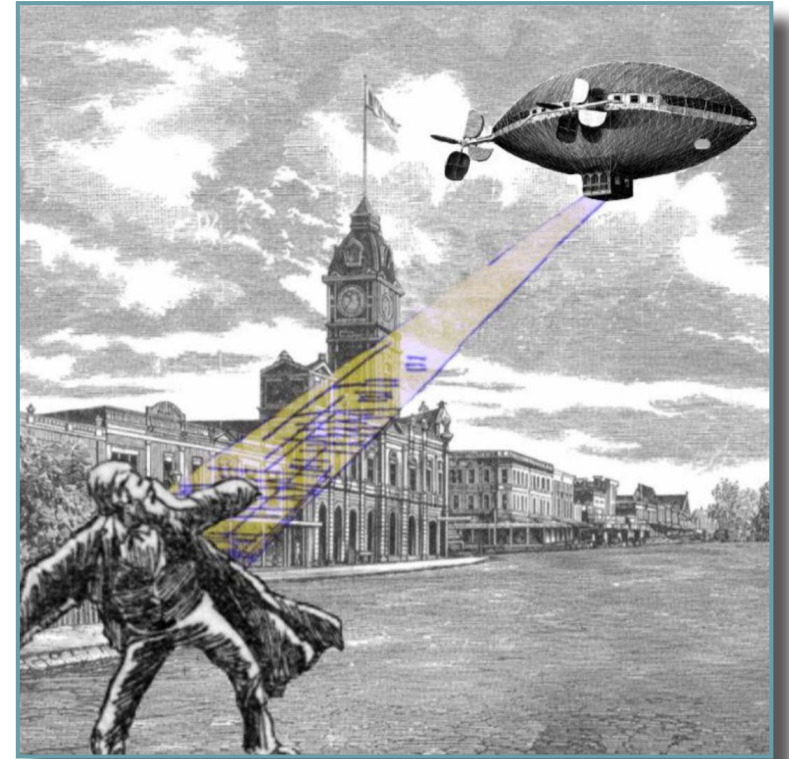
9 May at 10am

Panic from the Sky: A Call of Cthulhu Adventure

22 May 7pm - 8.30pm

**BALLARAT
MECHANICS'
INSTITUTE**

**What's
on...**



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

King's Birthday - 8 June
AFL Grand Final - Sept
Melbourne Cup - 3 Nov

School holidays

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

Important Dates

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| 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 |
| Royal South Street | 12-30 June |

ballaratmi.org.au/important-festivals-dates/



| Tue 28 Apr | Wed 29 Apr | Thu Thu 30 Apr | Fri 1 May | Sat 2 May | Sun 3 May |
|--|--|---|---|--|--|
| 10am-3pm Library 2pm-3pm Building Tours | 10am-4pm Library 5.30pm-6.30pm Twilight Talks, Nostalgic memories of Stawell & Ballarat 7pm-8pm Kadampa Meditation Series | 10am-3pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables 6.30pm-8pm In conversation with Anna Johnston. | 10am-4pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables | 9.30am-12noon Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables | Closed Library |
| Mon 4 May | Tue 5 May | Wed 6 May | Thu 7 May | Fri 8 May | Sun 10 May |
| 10am-4pm Library | 10am-3pm Library 2pm-3pm Building Tours | 10am-4pm Library 5.30pm-6.30pm Twilight Talks, What We Watched Before Cinema 7pm-8pm Kadampa Meditation Series | 10am-3pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables | 10am-4pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables 7.30pm-9.30pm One Tease Rules them All: The Burlesque Parody | 9.30am-12noon Library 10am-11.30am Teeny Tiny Stevies: Brain Fart Tour 7.30pm-9.30pm One Tease Rules them All: The Burlesque Parody |
| Mon 11 May | Tue 12 May | Wed 13 May | Thu 14 May | Fri 15 May | Sat 16 May |
| 10am-4pm Library 6pm-7.30pm In conversation with Victoria Purman, with journalist Mary Card. | 10am-3pm Library 2pm-3pm Building Tours | 10am-4pm Library 6.30pm-8pm In conversation with Kerri Rogan. 7pm-8pm Kadampa | 10am-3pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables 7.30pm Ballarat Film Society Black Dog, Noir Drama | 10am-4pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables | 9.30am-12noon Library 8.30am-6pm Victorian Occult Conference |
| Mon 18 May | Tue 19 May | Wed 20 May | Thu 21 May | Fri 22 May | Sat 23 May |
| 10am-4pm Library | 10am-3pm Library 2pm-3pm Building Tours 7pm & 9pm Minerva's Secrets, Night Tours, 2 sessions. 7.30pm-8.30pm Lantern Vaults: Special Preview | 10am-4pm Library 7pm-8pm Kadampa Meditation Series | 10am-3pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Coll. 10am-4pm, various times Lantern Vaults: Immersive experience - An installation by Amanda Western Building Tours will be offered in tandem with Lantern Vaults, various times. | 10am-4pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Coll. 10am-4pm, various times Lantern Vaults Building Tours 7pm-8.30pm Panic from the Sky: A Call of Cthulhu Adventure. A Tales from Rat City Production. | 9.30am-12noon Library 10am-4pm, various times Lantern Vaults: Immersive experience - An installation by Amanda Western Building Tours will be offered in tandem with Lantern Vaults, various times. |
| Mon 25 May | Tue 26 May | Wed 27 May | Thu 28 May | Fri 29 May | Sun 31 May |
| 10am-4pm Library | 10am-3pm Library 2pm-3pm Building Tours Angus National Conference 9.30am Registration 10am Member Workshop 4.30pm AGM | 10am-4pm Library 6.30pm-8pm In conversation with Amanda Hampson, with journalist Prue Bentley. 7pm-8pm Kadampa Meditation Series | 10am-3pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables | 10am-4pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables | Closed Library |



Twilight Talks: Focus on Ballarat

Presented by Dr Phil Roberts OAM
& Neil Leckie OAM

Wed 29 April | 5.30pm

**Nostalgic memories of Stawell & Ballarat
1950s & 1960s:**

Presented by author of *Dickie Larsen's Pumpkin &
Other Stories*, Geoff Carr.

Wed 6 May | 5.30pm

**What We Watched Before Cinema: *Entertainments
at the Mechanics' Hall, 1863-1919***

Presented by BMI Heritage Collection Curator,
Ellen Becker.

More details in the main body of the newsletter.

Cost: \$9 BMI members & \$13 GA.

Tix: [events.humanitix.com/bmi-twilight-talks-
season-1-2026](https://events.humanitix.com/bmi-twilight-talks-season-1-2026)

Tickets also available from the Library Box Office.

Minerva's Secrets Night Tours

Tuesday 19 May & Friday 12 June,
2 Tours each day, 7pm & 9pm

Explore tales of the weird and supernatural – the
Ballarat Mechanics' Institute at night. Looking
for a unique way to explore Ballarat's rich history
and culture? Look no further than the Ballarat
Mechanics' Institute's Night Tours!

Cost: \$27.50

Tix: [events.humanitix.com/minerva-s-secrets-
after-dark](https://events.humanitix.com/minerva-s-secrets-after-dark)

Tickets also available from the Library Box Office.

In Conversation with Anna Johnston

When lemons give you life

Host, Jane Nield

Thursday 30 April, 6.30pm - 8pm

Redemption is a dish best served warm...

Retired Michelin-star chef Griff Barlow has lost his
appetite for life. Widowed, grieving and living in
an aged care facility where beige slop passes for food,
Griff is done – with guilt, with loneliness and with
the lie that made headlines when he was diagnosed
with dementia. Planning one final act, Griff breaks
into the nursing home kitchen to cook one last lemon
tart. But the simple act of cooking awakens a long-
forgotten joy and soon he's restoring flavour, dignity
and delight to his fellow residents. Meanwhile, his
estranged sister, Lisa, is grappling with a late-in-life
ADHD diagnosis, an unexpected romance and
a frightening health reality of her own. As secrets

simmer and second chances collide, both siblings are
forced to confront what it really means to choose life.
Drawing on Anna Johnston's experience working
in aged care, the novel offers a rare and compassionate
perspective on how people diagnosed with dementia
are often dismissed, underestimated and quietly
erased.

Cost: \$11

Tix: events.humanitix.com/anna-johnston-bmi

Tickets also available from the Library Box Office.

One Tease Rules Them All: Fellowship of the G-String

The Burlesque Parody

Friday & Saturday, 8 & 9 May | 7.30pm - 9.30pm

An epic burlesque fantasy parody where Middle-
Earth is reimagined through glitter, glamour, and
glorious mischief.

One Tease to Rule Them All is a theatrical burlesque
revue inspired by legendary fantasy worlds and
the archetypes we know and love, hobbits, heroes,
wizards, warriors, and shadowy foes.

Cost: \$48.79 plus bkg fee, 18+ event.

Tix: events.humanitix.com/one-tease

Tickets not available from the Library Box Office.

Teeny Tiny Stevies Brain Fart Tour

Saturday, 9 May | 10am - 11.30am

The ultimate live gig experience for young
families.

Adult friendly kids music played live on stage by real
musicians? We got you!!

The ABC Kids TV favourites and ARIA winners will
entertain the whole family with the most wholesome
live gig there is.

Funny stuff for parents, heaps of engagement for
kids, the old feel young, the young feel like grown-
ups and everyone meets in the middle for a rocking
good time.

Cost: \$35 per person.

Tix: events.humanitix.com/teeny-tiny-stevies-2026

Tickets also available from the Library Box Office.

In Conversation with Victoria Purman

The Marriage Trap

Host, Mary Card

Monday 11 May, 6pm - 7.30pm

In 1960s Australia, the scent of freedom is in the air...

1960s Adelaide: The Langley family – Olive, Len
and their two daughters, twenty-year-old Cathy and
ten-year-old Evelyn – live a peaceful suburban life,
although Grandma Langley turns up each Sunday
lunch like a bad fairy to castigate them for their
dubious morals.

Cathy, training to be a teacher, thinks women have
it tough. No sex until marriage, then no work, child
after child and the sacrifice of their desires to church,
husband and family. Cathy is determined not to
marry right away. Once married, it's all over. A life no
longer her own.

Young Evelyn wants to be a fairy princess ... until she
sees for herself the price women pay for such dreams.

When the new contraceptive pill arrives women can
suddenly sense freedom. But powerful forces are
aligned against women's reproductive choice and a
fight begins. A fight that takes on their own doctors,
the might of the Catholic church, and the outdated
morality of previous generations. For readers of
Lessons in Chemistry.

Cost: \$11

Tix: events.humanitix.com/victoria-purman-bmi

Tickets also available from the Library Box Office.

In Conversation with Kerri Rogan

After The Noise

Wednesday 13 May, 6.30pm - 8pm

Lee squinted in the sunlight and patted around her.
It felt like a mattress and a dog. For the first time
in months, she had slept in a bed. Oh, dear. Moose.
She had fed her a bottle before she had come to bed
last night but not after that.

Lee Evans stands alone in the echoing silence of her
grand mansion, the absence of her husband both a
relief and a torment. Thirty years of marriage – ten
spent as his carer – shaped her world and slowly
shrank it to the boundaries of his illness.

In trying to protect her children, Luke and Katy, and
her friends, Kelly and Jenny, Lee pushed them away.
Now, wandering locked rooms and empty halls,
she realises the fortress she built for safety has become
a prison.

Should she stay in the mansion she's inherited, or
finally travel as she always dreamed? Why is someone
old always napping on her favourite couch? Where
did all the animals come from – and why is there a
trampoline in the grand conservatory?

Can Lee rebuild her life, after the noise?.

Cost: \$11

Tix: events.humanitix.com/kerri-rogan-bmi

Tickets also available from the Library Box Office.

Ballarat Film Society *Black Dog* Noir Drama

Thursday 14 May 7.30pm showtime

A melancholic dead-pan drama about Lang, a former celebrity musician and stunt rider who, chastened by ten years in jail for manslaughter, returns to his dusty post-industrial hometown to find it run-down and over-run by abandoned dogs.

China, 2024, 110min. Directed by Guan Hu.
Stars: Eddie Peng and dog Xin.

Why not become a member of the Ballarat Film Society ballaratfilmsociety.weebly.com/

Victorian Occult Conference *Mercurialia*

Saturday 16 May 8.30am - 6pm

A day of finely curated lectures on Western Esotericism also featuring an occult market, speaker panel and door prizes. This year's theme is "Mercurialia"; celebrating and exploring all things Hermetic in Western esotericism.

The Victorian Occult Conference was created in 2025 to help bridge the gaps in Victoria, Australia that exist between communities in different branches of the Western Occult Tradition, also called the Western Esoteric Tradition and the Western Mystery Schools. These branches can include but are not limited to: Freemasonry, Hermeticism, Kabbalah, Paganism, Rosicrucianism & Theosophy; encompassing traditional practices like alchemy, traditional witchcraft, ceremonial magic, astrology, theurgy, tarot, divination & more.

The conference brings together people from all these communities, facilitating the spread of ancient spiritual techniques, illumination and networking.

Cost: \$150
Tix: victorianoccultconference.com/tickets

Tickets not available from the Library Box Office.

Lantern Vaults: An installation by Amanda Western

Friday 19 May at 7.30pm | Preview, Artist Talk
Thursday 21 - 24 May, *The Experience*

The Experience

A new immersive installation in the basement of the Ballaarat Mechanics' Institute as part of the Ballarat Heritage Festival.

The work is shaped by historical research and guided by the voice of **Florence Batten**, the twelve-year-old daughter of **William Henry Batten**, Secretary of the Institute, and based in the early 1870s.

As visitors move through the vaults, her story unfolds through image, light and sound, offering a glimpse into early Ballarat and the Batten family's story.

The installation is built from original artworks created by local artist **Amanda Western** for this project, drawing on historical photographs and records of the family, the Institute and the cultural life of the period.

At its centre is a family closely connected to the Institute, at a time when access to learning was beginning to open out. The Mechanics' Institute was founded to bring knowledge within reach of ordinary people, and this work reflects that shift, how learning moved beyond a small few and into the wider community.

Make and Create

As part of this experience a workshop space will allow visitors to make a creative response to the installation to take home. This exercise will be suitable for all ages.

Lantern Vaults Artworks

Original artworks from *Lantern Vaults* will be available for sale with 10% of sales going to the BMI. These funds help support the ongoing commitment – To providing a unique place to engage with history, and a vibrant hub for community events.

Experience Schedule

- Installation Preview, **Tuesday 19 May at 7.30pm:** includes champagne on arrival, artist talk and Q&A. Cost \$55 plus booking and card fees (includes gst) per person.
- **Daily sessions 21 May - 24 May.** These sessions are **FREE** however bookings are essential as this is a guided experience.
Session times:
10:00am – 11:00am – 12:00pm – 1:00pm – 2:00pm – 3:00pm – 4:00pm, approximately 25 minute duration.

Tix: events.humanitix.com/lantern-vaults

Accessibility note: Most of this experience occurs in the Basement which is only accessible via a staircase with railings. Refer to our [Accessibility webpage](#) for further information.

ballaratmi.org.au/accessibility/

Tickets also available from the Library Box Office.

Tours of the Ballaarat Mechanics' Institute

Thursday 21 - 23 May, Session times:
11:30am – 12:30pm – 1:30pm

Saturday 24 May, Session times:
10:30am - 11:30am – 12:30pm – 1:30pm
approximately 45 minute duration.

A colourful history of the Ballaarat Mechanics' Institute and it's people.

Cost: \$11
Tix: events.humanitix.com/bmi-building-tours

Tickets also available from the Library Box Office.

Panic from the Sky: A Call of Cthulhu Adventure A Tales From Ratscity Production

Friday 22 May 7am - 8.30pm

Panic from the Skies is the fourth chapter in our multi award winning Call of Cthulhu liveplay series, delivering a fresh descent into mystery, suspense, and eldritch terror. Faced with unsettling events and unimaginable dangers, our investigators must uncover the truth before panic gives way to madness.

Audiences are invited to join a team of plucky adventurers as they investigate whether these reports are wartime hysteria, elaborate hoaxes, or something far beyond what anyone could have imagined. Blending live performance, improvisation, historical immersion, and interactive storytelling, the event will unfold in real time before both a live audience and an online streaming community.

Set within one of Ballarat's most significant heritage buildings, the Ballaarat Mechanics' Institute, this production is produced by the ENNIE award winning Tales From Rat City team.

Cost: \$5 for live performance, \$3 for Live Stream
Tix: events.humanitix.com/panic-from-the-sky

Tickets not available from the Library Box Office.

In Conversation with Amanda Hampson

The Model Murder
Host, Prue Bentley

Monday 11 May, 6pm - 7.30pm

In 1960s Australia, the scent of freedom is in the air...

1960s Adelaide: The Langley family – Olive, Len and their two daughters, twenty-year-old Cathy and ten-year-old Evelyn – live a peaceful suburban life, although Grandma Langley turns up each Sunday lunch like a bad fairy to castigate them for their dubious morals.

Cathy, training to be a teacher, thinks women have it tough. No sex until marriage, then no work, child after child and the sacrifice of their desires to church, husband and family. Cathy is determined not to marry right away. Once married, it's all over. A life no longer her own.

Young Evelyn wants to be a fairy princess ... until she sees for herself the price women pay for such dreams.

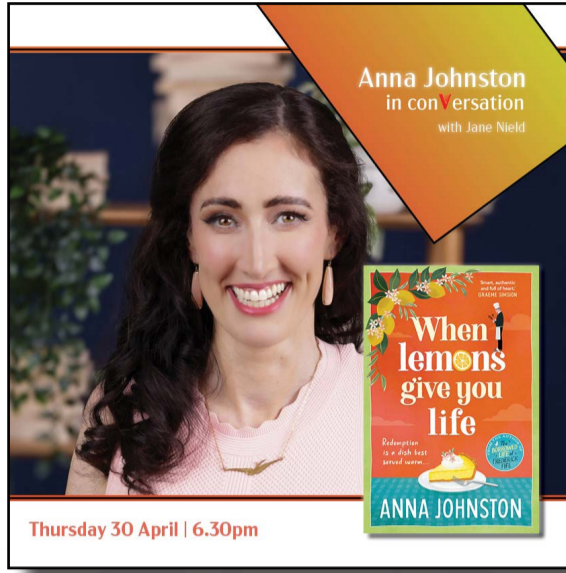
When the new contraceptive pill arrives women can suddenly sense freedom. But powerful forces are aligned against women's reproductive choice and a fight begins. A fight that takes on their own doctors, the might of the Catholic church, and the outdated morality of previous generations. For readers of *Lessons in Chemistry*.

Cost: \$11
Tix: events.humanitix.com/amanda-hampson-bmi

Tickets also available from the Library Box Office.



Minerva's Secrets Night Tours
Tuesday 19 May & Friday 12 June, 7pm & 9pm



In Conversation with Anna Johnston
Thursday 30 April, 6.30pm - 8pm



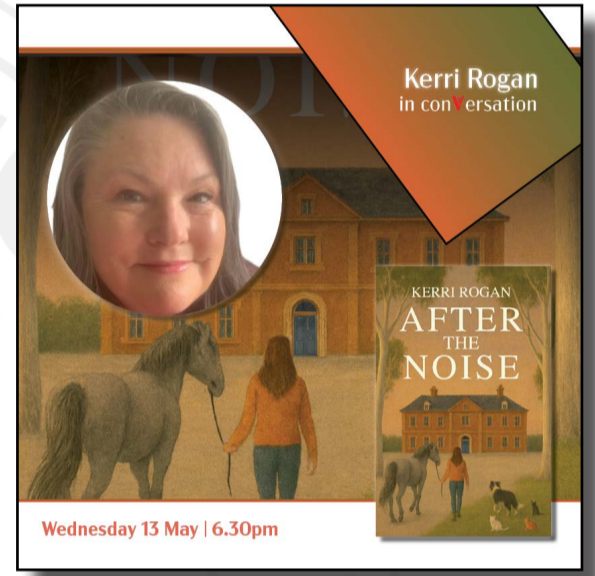
One Tease Rules Them All
Friday & Saturday, 8 & 9 May | 7.30pm - 9.30pm



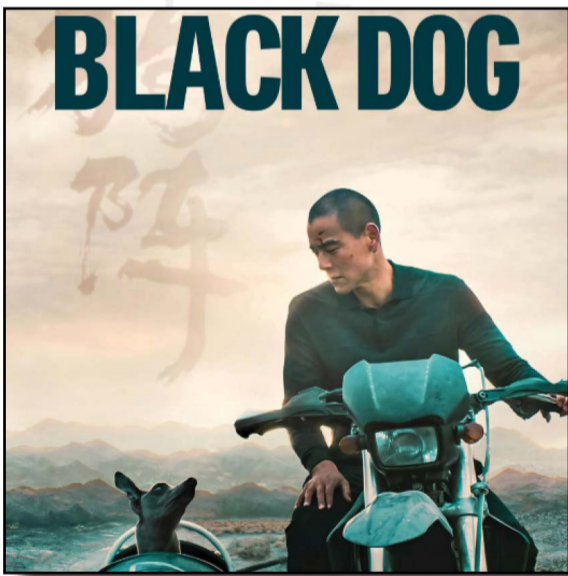
Teeny Tiny Stevies Brain Fart Tour
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In Conversation with Victoria Purman
Monday 11 May, 6pm - 7.30pm



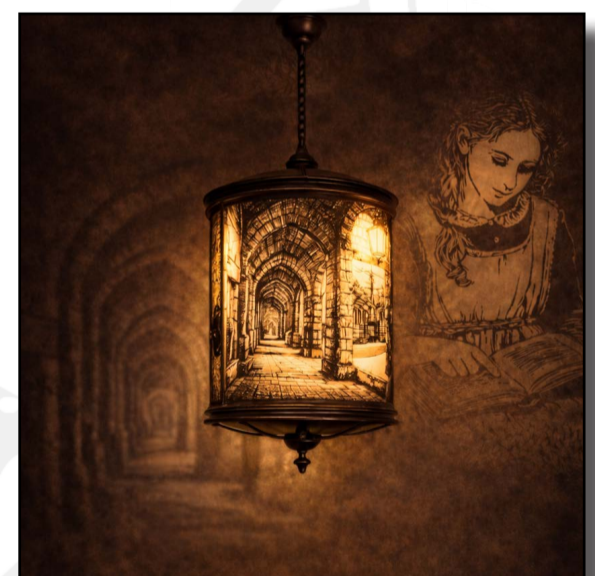
In Conversation with Kerri Rogan
Wednesday 13 May, 6.30pm - 8pm



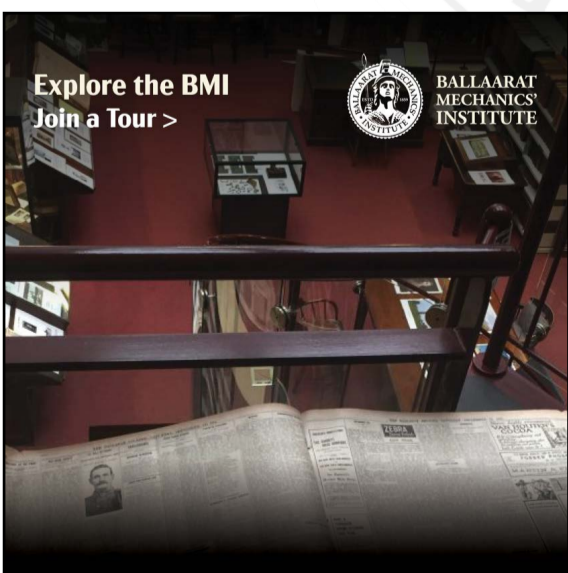
Ballarat Film Society *Black Dog*
Thursday 14 May 7.30pm showtime



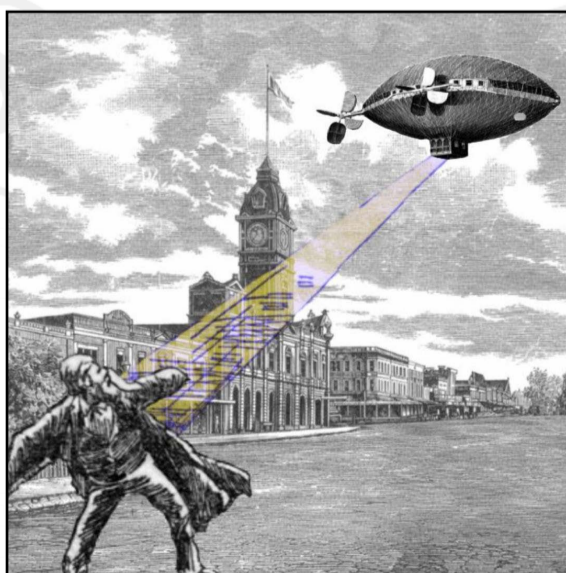
Victorian Occult Conference
Saturday 16 May 8.30am - 6pm



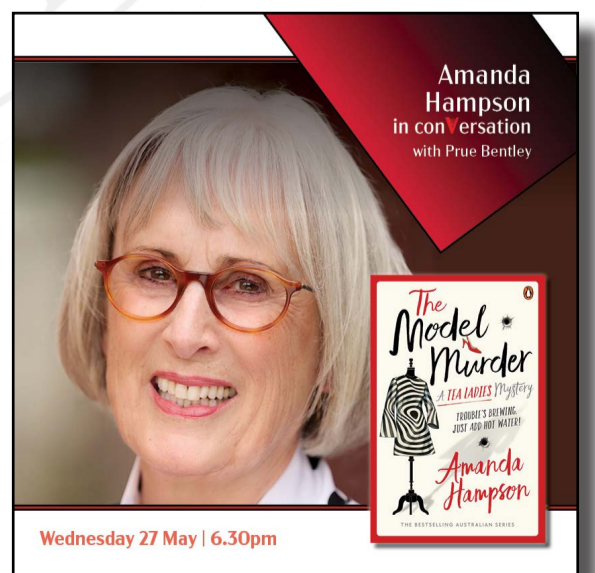
Lantern Vaults: by Amanda Western
Thursday 21 - 24 May, Various times



Heritage Tours of BMI
Thursday 21 - 24 May, Various times



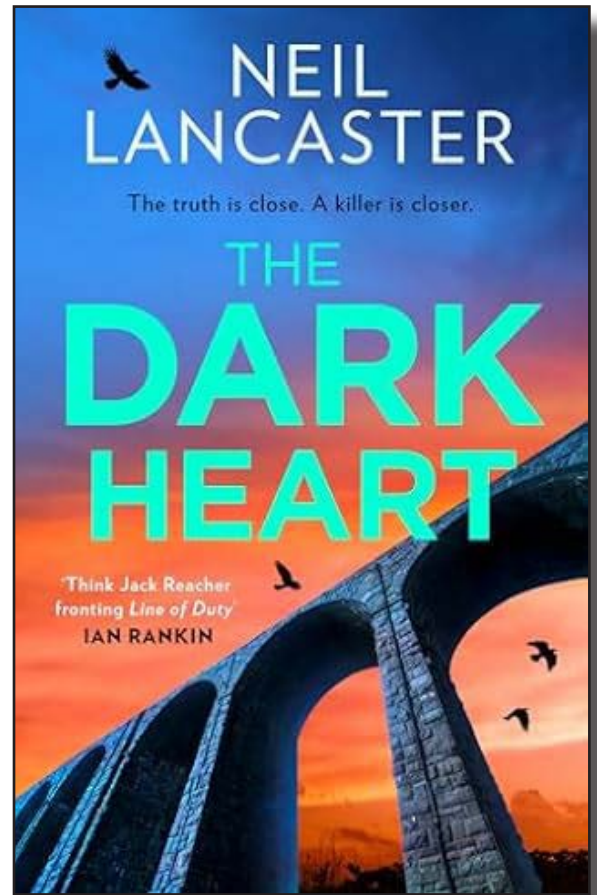
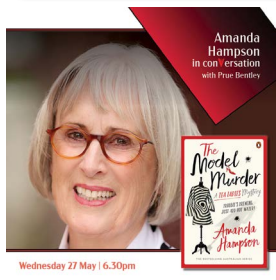
Panic from the Sky: A Cthulhu
Adventure Friday 22 May 7am - 8.30pm



In Conversation with Amanda Hampson
Monday 11 May, 6pm - 7.30pm

Rosemary's Book of the Month

in conversation



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