

21 HEARTS

Vivian Bullwinkel & the Nurses of the Vyner Brooke

BY JENNY DAVIS | DIRECTED BY STUART HALUSZ



From the Chair

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

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

NewsLetter

JUL / 2026



BALLARAT
MECHANICS'
INSTITUTE

Author of the Month

Digby Stevens.

Digby is a Ballarat-based author known for his crime thrillers, particularly *A Murder of Crows*. His work explores the impacts of crime and policing on the community, set against the backdrop of the Royal Commission into Institutionalised Abuse.

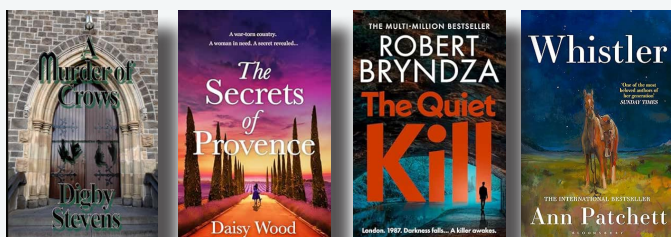
Stevens has a background as a teacher and has lived and taught in Ballarat for over thirty years. He is an artist, teacher, and lover of popular culture, with a particular interest in the works of Raymond Chandler and Ian Rankin. His writing often reflects his experiences and observations in the local Ballarat community.

Book of the Month

A Murder of Crows by Digby Stevens.

Set against the backdrop of the Royal Commission into Sexual Abuse and the effects on the community of Ballarat. *A Murder of Crows* charts the rampage of a killer determined to set the record straight.

Detective Jack Waters is called to a murder that has all the hallmarks of a stage show, by an unknown killer who seems determined to rewrite history and create his own ending to a story that has been drawn out for too long.



Recommended Reads

The Secrets of Provence by Daisy Wood.

Provence, 1940. Thrown out of occupied Paris by the Nazis, brave, beautiful Mathilde finds refuge with her cousin in Provence, where she's soon drawn into the Resistance movement.

Secrecy and subterfuge are her constant companions, where passions run high and betrayal is a continual threat. But Mathilde's greatest pain and greatest joy are wrapped up in the most heartbreaking secret of all- one she must hide even from her beloved husband, and keep for the rest of her life.

Paris, present day, Juliette's life should be perfect, with her bookshop established and her relationship feeling settled- but something just isn't clicking.

Searching for more, an old photograph will lead Juliette to a beautiful, crumbling chateau. And there, she will uncover a story that will change her life forever.

The Quiet Kill by Robert Bryndza.

Winter, 1987 Det. Jamie Day arrives in London determined to prove himself. After years policing a quiet seaside town, his promotion to the Metropolitan Police feels like the opportunity he has been waiting for.

On his first day in plain clothes, Jamie makes a grim discovery: the dismembered body of a young man, left in a dark corner of the city. What should have been a routine first shift quickly becomes the beginning of a major murder investigation. Then another victim is found ...

New releases

Whistler by Ann Patchett.

When Daphne notices an older gentleman following her around the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, she doesn't expect it to be Eddie-her former stepfather.

Married to her mother for a short time when Daphne was nine, she hasn't seen Eddie for many years; not since the fateful event that changed the direction of both their lives.

Meeting again now, Daphne and Eddie feel that time has fallen away. Their earlier relationship was brief but had a profound impact, but they are ready to face the future.

New Releases Mystery

<i>A River Red with Blood</i>	John Connolly
<i>Ironwood</i>	Michael Connolly
<i>Dead Heat</i>	Sabine Durrant
<i>The Second Traitor</i>	Alex Gerlis
<i>The Family Secret</i>	Patricia Gibney
<i>Strangers in the Villa</i>	Robyn Harding
<i>When The Party's Over</i>	Katie Hoskins
<i>You Can Tell Me</i>	Melinda Leigh
<i>Blood, Rust, and Steel</i>	Stuart MacBride

Australian Mystery

<i>Find Me</i>	Holly Craig
<i>The Women in the Shadows</i>	Harriet Fox
<i>The Last Encore</i>	Rebecca Heath
<i>Berwick</i>	L J Ross
<i>The Paradise Heights</i>	Kate Solly
<i>Miniature Railway</i>	Digby Stevens
<i>Bust-Up</i>	Digby Stevens
<i>A Murder Of Crows</i>	Digby Stevens
<i>Ice and Fire</i>	Digby Stevens
<i>Killer Cop</i>	Digby Stevens
<i>A Stolen Child</i>	Digby Stevens
<i>The Shark</i>	Emma Styles

Novel

The Secret Garden Club Wendy Lynn Newton

Australian Novel

Later Only Love Remains Leah Swann

Margaret, Are You Leaving?

Dianne Yarwood

Romance

Laws of Love and Logic Debra Curtis

Historical

The Sisters of Serendib Ayesha Inoon

The Girl From

Bletchley Park

Land

The Secrets of Provence

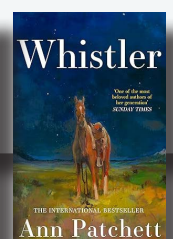
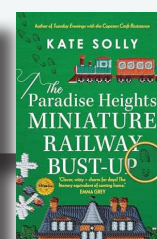
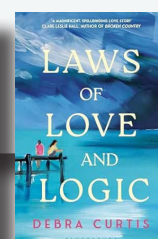
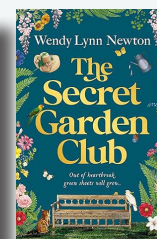
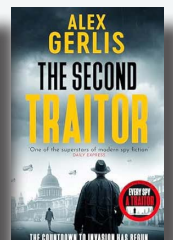
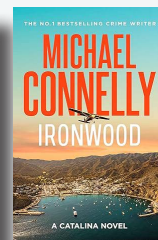
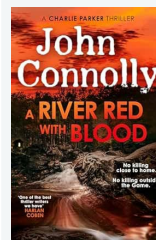
Kathleen McGurl

Maggie O'Farrell

Daisy Wood

Literature

Whistler Ann Patchett





**BALLAARAT
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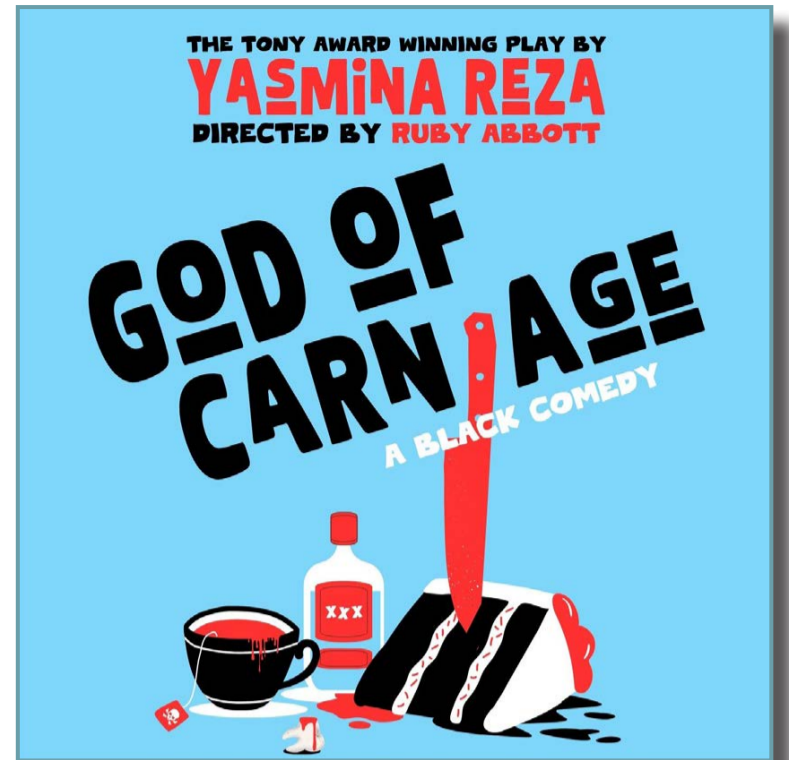
**What's
on...**



Grigoryan Brothers:
A Boy Called Sailboat
Tuesday 14 July at 7.30pm



Ballarat National Theatre:
God of Carnage
Thursday 23 July - Sunday 25 July



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

AFL Fri pre-Grand Final - 25 Sep
Melbourne Cup - Tue 3 Nov
Festive season Library closures:
Mon 21 Dec – Sun 3 Jan 2027
Open again Mon 4 Jan 2027, 10am

School holidays

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

Important Dates ● More: ballaratmi.org.au/important-festivals-dates/

Ball Winter Fest 27 Jun-19 Jul
BNT Season 2 23-25 Jul
Trivia Ngt Fund TBD - Aug
Rare Book Wk 24 Jul-2 Aug
Nat Science Wk TBD 15-23 Aug
BNT Season 3 20-23 Aug
Spr. Book Sale 6-7 Sep
Fash Pde Fund 6 Sep
Twilight Talks 16, 23, 30 Sep
Twilight Talks 5 Oct
Film Ngt Fund Oct
Halloween Fund Oct

Twilight Talks 18, 25 Nov
Wine Auct Fund Nov
Open Gdn Fund Nov
Twilight Talks 2 Dec
Sum. Book Sale 12-13 Dec
Aut. Book Sale 1-2 May



Tue 30 Jun	Wed 1 Jul	Thu 2 Jul	Fri 3 Jul	Sat 4 Jul	Sun 5 Jul
10am-3pm Library Royal South Street Instrumental Solos 2pm-3pm Building Tours	10am-4pm Library 6pm-7.30pm In conversation with Sherryl Clark. 7pm-8pm Kadampa Meditation Series	10am-3pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables	11am-4pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables 8pm - 9.15pm Joscho Stephan Trio.	9.30am-12noon Library	Closed Library 7.30pm-9pm Alexandr Misko: The International Guitar Sensation Live at Ballarat Mechanics Institute.
Mon 6 Jul	Tue 7 Jul	Wed 8 Jul	Thu 9 Jul	Fri 10 Jul	Sat 11 Jul
10am-4pm Library	10am-3pm Library 2pm-3pm Building Tours	10am-4pm Library 7pm-8pm Kadampa Meditation Series	10am-3pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables	10am-4pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables 11am-12.50pm 21 HEARTS: Vivian Bullwinkel & the Nurses of the Vyner Brooke 7pm-8.50pm 21 HEARTS	9.30am-12noon Library 11am-12.50pm 21 HEARTS: Vivian Bullwinkel & the Nurses of the Vyner Brooke 7pm-8.50pm 21 HEARTS
Mon 13 Jul	Tue 14 Jul	Wed 15 Jul	Thu 16 Jul	Fri 17 Jul	Sat 18 Jul
10am-4pm Library	10am-3pm Library 2pm-3pm Building Tours 7.30pm-9.30pm Grigoryan Brothers - A Boy Called Sailboat	10am-4pm Library 6pm-7.30pm In conversation with Benita Bensch, host, journalist Dellaram Vreeland. 7pm-8pm Kadampa Meditation Series	10am-3pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables 7.30pm-9pm Ballarat Film Society, Journey Home	10am-4pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables 6pm-7.30pm In conversation with Petronella McGovern, host author Paula Gleeson	9.30am-12noon Library
Mon 20 Jul	Tue 21 Jul	Wed 22 Jul	Thu 23 Jul	Fri 24 Jul	Sat 25 Jul
10am-4pm Library	10am-3pm Library 2pm-3pm Building Tours	10am-4pm Library 7pm-8pm Kadampa Meditation Series	10am-3pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Coll. 7pm-9pm Ballarat National Theatre: God of Carnage	10am-4pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Coll. 7pm-9pm Ballarat National Theatre: God of Carnage	9.30am-12noon Library 2pm-4pm Ballarat National Theatre: God of Carnage 7pm-9pm Ballarat National Theatre: God of Carnage
Mon 27 Jul	Tue 28 Jul	Wed 29 Jul	Thu 30 Jul	Fri 31 Jul	Sat 1 Aug
10am-4pm Library	10am-3pm Library 2pm-3pm Building Tours	10am-4pm Library 6pm-7.30pm In conversation with Phillipa Nefri Clark, host, Kate Atkinson. 7pm-8pm Kadampa Meditation Series	10am-3pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables	10am-4pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables	9.30am-12noon Library
Mon 3 Aug	Tue 5 Aug	Wed 6 Aug	Thu 7 Aug	Fri 8 Aug	Sat 9 Aug
10am-4pm Library	10am-3pm Library 2pm-3pm Building Tours	10am-4pm Library	10am-3pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables	10am-4pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables	9.30am-12noon Library



In conversation with Sherryl Clark

For All The Dead Girls

Host, Tracey Rolf

Wednesday 1 July, 6pm - 7.30pm

Tough and gutsy PI Lou Alcott returns with a terrifyingly gritty new case that takes her deep into the dark web.

While juggling a missing person case with unexpected ties close to home and saving an innocent woman and her child from a dangerous domestic situation, Lou ends up in the line of fire of a mysterious dark-web hate group, known only as SYB.

As Melbourne simmers through a relentless heatwave, the murders of more women are connected to SYB and Lou becomes the number one target of their vicious campaign of incited violence...

Cost: \$11 - More: ballaratmi.org.au/library/
Tix: events.humanitix.com/sherryl-clark-bmi

Tickets also available from the Library Box Office.

Joscho Stephan Trio: Gypsy Jazz Virtuosos

Friday 3 July, 8pm - 9.15pm

Joscho Stephan is the future of Gypsy Jazz guitar. He has absorbed the music of Django Reinhardt and interpreted it on his own terms." — Acoustic Guitar Magazine.

Hailed as one of the most exciting ensembles in the acoustic guitar scene today, the Joscho Stephan Trio is breathing fresh life into the classic gypsy swing tradition pioneered by Django Reinhardt. Led by the masterful playing of Joscho Stephan and joined by Sven Jungbeck (guitar) and Volker Kamp (double bass), their live performances reveal a mesmerizing synergy and technical brilliance that captivate audiences worldwide.

Cost: \$49 early bird (100 tickets) \$59 thereafter.
More: ballaratmi.org.au/live-music/
Tix: concertsaustralia.com/joscho/
Tickets not available from the Library Box Office.

Alexandr Misko - International Guitar Sensation Live at BMI

Sunday 5 July, 7.30pm - 9pm

Hailed as "the future of guitar" (Total Guitar), Misko is a globally renowned virtuoso known for his jaw-dropping technique, emotional depth, and genre-defying style. Fusing classical precision with elements of jazz, rock, and modern fingerstyle, his performances are both technically astonishing and deeply moving.

Misko's self-taught, boundary-pushing approach has captivated millions online, earning him a massive global following and praise from some of the world's top music publications. With lightning-fast fingerpicking, percussive tapping, and masterful arrangements, he transforms a single acoustic guitar into an entire musical universe — live and without loops.

Cost: \$25 - \$50.
More: ballaratmi.org.au/live-music/
Tix: events.humanitix.com/alexandr-misko-the-international-guitar-sensation-live-at-ballarat-mechanics-institute/tickets

Tickets not available from the Library Box Office.

21 HEARTS: Vivian Bullwinkel and the nurses of the Vyner Brooke

A THEATRE 180 production

Saturday 11 July, 7pm - 8.50pm

Written by Jenny Davis. A compelling true story from WWII, honouring the bravery strength, love and hope of Australian Army Nurses in the face of adversity.

Directed by Stuart Halusz Featuring Caitlin Beresford-Ord, Rebecca Davis, Michelle Fornasier, Alex Jones, Tegan Mulvany and Helen Searle.

This will be the final performance of this production, as both the Friday performances and the Saturday morning performance have 'sold out' here in Ballarat.

Vivian Bullwinkel was one of 65 Australian nurses who boarded the *Vyner Brooke* in an attempt to flee the Japanese invasion of Singapore in February, 1942. Bombed by Japanese fighter planes and after spending days at sea, she and some other survivors found their way to Radji Beach on Banka Island where they surrendered.

The only survivor and witness, Vivian spent the rest of the war in a prison camp before liberation, and her remaining years fighting for recognition of the bravery of her friends and colleagues; their strength and courage in the face of death sustaining her for the rest of her illustrious life.

Cost: \$77 - \$38.50.
More: ballaratmi.org.au/live-theatre/
Tix: events.humanitix.com/21-hearts-bmi
Tickets also available from the Library Box Office.

Grigoryan Brothers: A Boy Called Sailboat

Tuesday 14 July, 7.30pm - 9.30pm

Film Screening with the soundtrack performed live by the Grigoryan Brothers, followed by a Q & A

with the film's writer/director Cameron Nugent.

Acclaimed guitarists Slava & Leonard Grigoryan have expanded their creative output by crafting and recording the soundtrack to the award-winning movie *A Boy Called Sailboat*.

This heart-warming movie, written and developed by Melbourne-based creative team Cameron Nugent and Andrew Curry was filmed in New Mexico and stars Academy Award® winning actor J.K Simmons, Noel G, Elizabeth De Razzo, Jake Busey, Lew Temple and Julian Atocani Sanchez in the title role.

Sailboat brings love and hope to a family who have forged a simple but proud life in the drought-ridden Deep South...

The Latin-themed soundtrack is a key element to the movie and provides an opportunity for audiences to hear the Grigoryan Brothers like never before.

Cost: \$35, \$130 family.
More: ballaratmi.org.au/live-music/
Tix: events.humanitix.com/grigoryan-brothers-a-boy-called-sailboat
Tickets also available from the Library Box Office.

Ballarat Film Society Journey Home

Documentary Tribute to David Gulpilil

Thursday 16 July 7.30pm show-time

David Gulpilil, from the Mandjalpingu (Djilba) clan of the Yolngu people, was discovered by a visiting British film-maker and recruited into the world of film. Adventurous, talented, intelligent and ambitious, he became one of Australia's best-known and charismatic actors.

Following *Walkabout* (1971), Gulpilil's acting career spanned over 40 films, including classics such as *The Tracker* (2002), *Rabbit-Proof Fence* (2001), *Ten Canoes* (2006), and *My Name is Gulpilil* (2021); international attention soared with his role in *Crocodile Dundee* (1986). Gulpilil spent over 50 years of his life bringing authentic Indigenous stories, dance and music to audiences around the world, culminating in a collaboration with Rolf de Heer and Molly Reynolds on *My Name Is Gulpilil* (2021) which showed him looking back over a life of extreme highs and lows. The story unfolds through the eyes of mother, teacher, headmistress and child, the truth gradually emerges...

Australia, 2025, 88 min. Dir: Maggie Miles and Trisha Morton-Thomas. Narrated by Baker Boy and Hugh Jackman

More: ballaratmi.org.au/film/
Why not become a member of the Ballarat Film Society ballaratfilmsociety.weebly.com/

In Conversation with Petronella McGovern

Every Time She Wakes

Host, author Paula Gleeson

Wednesday 15 July, 6pm - 7.30pm

An unputdownable thriller from the bestselling author of *Six Minutes* and *The Last Trace*.

Every Time She Wakes is a taut, time-bending thriller about family, identity and defying fate.

When careers counsellor Suze and her family are evacuated from their home during a bushfire emergency, she suddenly realises they're being kidnapped. The van crashes and Suze thinks it's the end.

But she wakes up two weeks back in time. No one else remembers the terror that came before. Is it all in her own mind?

Then it happens again. And again.

With every loop, her world twists into a new version of itself. Suze must discover why it's happening and who is behind the kidnappings. She's running out of time to save her family and wake up in a world she recognises.

Cost: \$11 More: ballaratmi.org.au/library/

Tix: events.humanitix.com/petronella-mcgovern-bmi

God of Carnage

A Ballarat National Theatre production

Thu 23, Fri 24 & Sat 25 July at 7pm
Sat 25 July at 2pm

The Tony Award Winning Play by Yasmina Reza
Directed by Ruby Abbott.

After the event of school yard bullying, four parents differing views may have just created cause for another round; adults edition. The play begins with Michael and Veronica, parents of young Henry, inviting Alan and Annette, parents of Benjamin, to their home to discuss the horrifying event that occurred on the playground that morning.

Eleven-year-old Henry refused to let classmate Benjamin join his gang. Not taking this dismissal lightly, Benjamin armed himself with a stick and knocked out Henry's two front teeth.

With polite niceties wearing thin, the audience watches four very different people try to resolve this matter, convincing each other that it was not the fault of their own son, rather that of the other. With accusations being hurled around the room, the argument heats up even further when evaluating matters of racism, sexism and homophobia. By evening's end, the gloves are well and truly off, with the adults behaving in a manner that is eerily similar to that which occurred on the playground.

Cost: Tickets: \$30 adults, \$25 Concession, \$20.00 BNT members, \$15 Children, Group package (10 adults), \$180.00. Ticket sales close 1 hour prior to the performance.

A bar will operate for these performances.

More: ballaratmi.org.au/live-theatre/

Tix: events.humanitix.com/god-of-carnage-bnt

Tickets not available from the Library Box Office.

In Conversation with Phillipa Nefri Clark

Lest Angels Weep

Host, actor Kate Atkinson

Wednesday 29 July, 6pm - 7.30pm

The new case is cold. Stone cold. Until another murder with striking similarities rocks a remote outback town.

Detective Liz Moorland is desperate to get out of Melbourne. Away from the aftermath of shocking events surrounding her team and her father. The heat of the red dirt is a welcome distraction.

But was this murder done by a copycat or is the original killer still living within the small community? What is the secret which keeps everyone away from the old church? Almost everyone. And why is the team's request for cold and current case reports and forensics meeting resistance from the local police?

The discovery of an angel-shaped pendant on a grave leads to a rumoured fourth death – from even longer ago. How the pieces connect is proving to

be the most complex puzzle Operation Nobody has encountered.

Someone is watching their every move. Someone is protecting the scene of the crimes. And someone is ready to kill again.

Cost: \$11

More: ballaratmi.org.au/library/

Tix: events.humanitix.com/phillipa-nefri-clark-bmi

Tickets also available from the Library Box Office.

BMI Book Sale Lending Library

Saturday 5 & Sunday 6 September, 10am - 2pm

This event importantly supports our Library Services.



Anything for a Mate: Charity Fundraiser

Saturday 1 August, 7pm

The AFAM Ball was an idea from a group of friends who wanted to do something to help a mate. What it evolved into was the biggest non-corporate donation made to The NBCF in 2026. In memory of our dearly loved daughter, sister, wife, mother and mate; Toni, we're doing it all again in 2026 and we need your help.

The inaugural ball was held in June 2022 and was a fabulous celebration of what mates will do to support each other, whilst raising \$36,000 for Breast Cancer Research

Cost: \$150 Includes food, beer, wine and soft drinks and entertainment More:

ballaratmi.org.au/event/anything-for-a-mate-charity-ball/

In Conversation with Margaret Hickey

Cold Water

Host, writer Gregory Flood

Monday 3 August, 6pm - 7.30pm

Detective Constable Sally White knows how easily hikers can go missing in Victoria's high country. But there's something about the disappearance of Louis Taylor, a young man lost up Mount Viking, that's not sitting right with her...

Margaret Hickey at her best.

Cost: \$11

More: ballaratmi.org.au/library/

Tix: events.humanitix.com/margaret-hickey-bmi-26

Tickets also available from the Library Box Office.

Fashion Parade Fundraiser Vintage & Collectables

Sunday 6 September, 2pm - 4pm

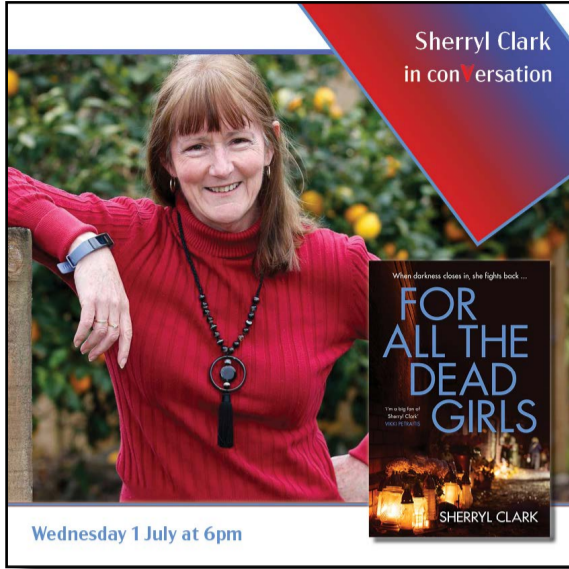
Take part in this important BMI fundraiser.

The BMI vintage & Pre-loved Shop are showcasing their wares.

Pre-sale tickets \$60 per person (will go on sale between 6 – 9 August). There-after tickets are \$65 per person (i.e. after 9 August).

ballaratmi.org.au/event/fashion-parade-fundraiser-vintage-collectables/

Don't forget to visit the new shop location next to the Ballarat Imaginarium. Open Thursdays and Fridays 11am to 3pm and the first Saturday of the Month. **The shop looks magnificent.**



In Conversation with Sherryl Clark
Wednesday 1 July, 6pm - 7.30pm



Joscho Stephen Trio
Friday, 3 July | 8pm - 9.15pm



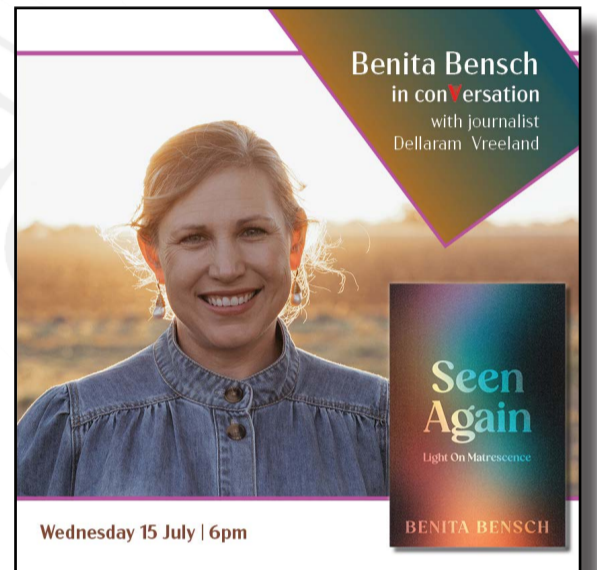
Alexandr Misko, Guitar Sensation
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21 HEARTS: Vivian Bullwinkel
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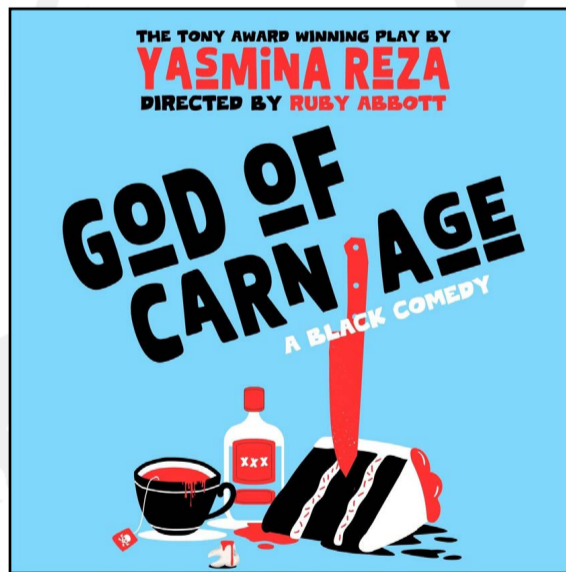
Grigoryan Brothers: A Boy Called Sailboat
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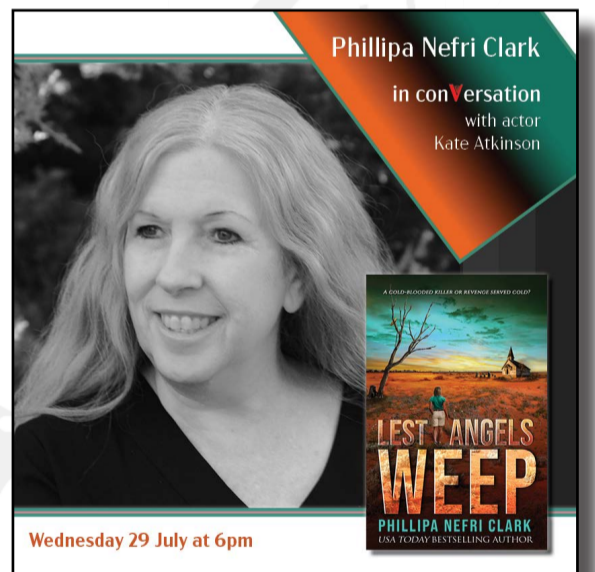
In Conversation with Benita Bensch
Wednesday 15 July 6pm - 7.30pm



In Conversation with Petronella McGovern
Monday 20 July 6pm - 7.30pm



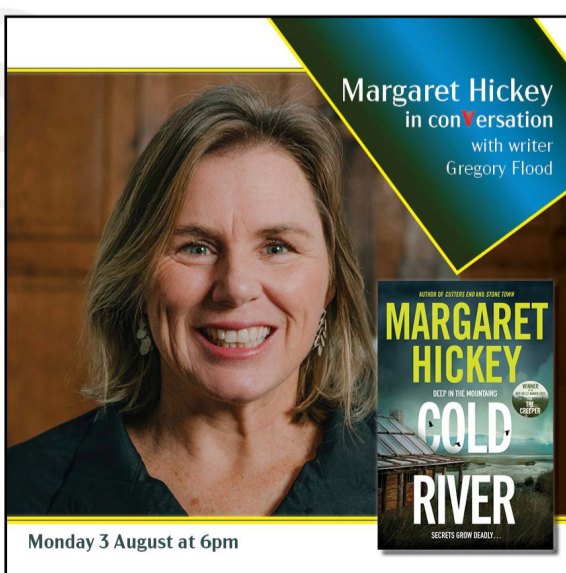
God of Carnage, A BNT production
7pm 23, 24 & 25 July | 2pm 25 July



In Conversation with Phillipa Nefri Clark
Wednesday 29 July 6pm - 7.30pm



Anything for a Mate: Charity Ball
Saturday 1 August 7pm - 12 midnight



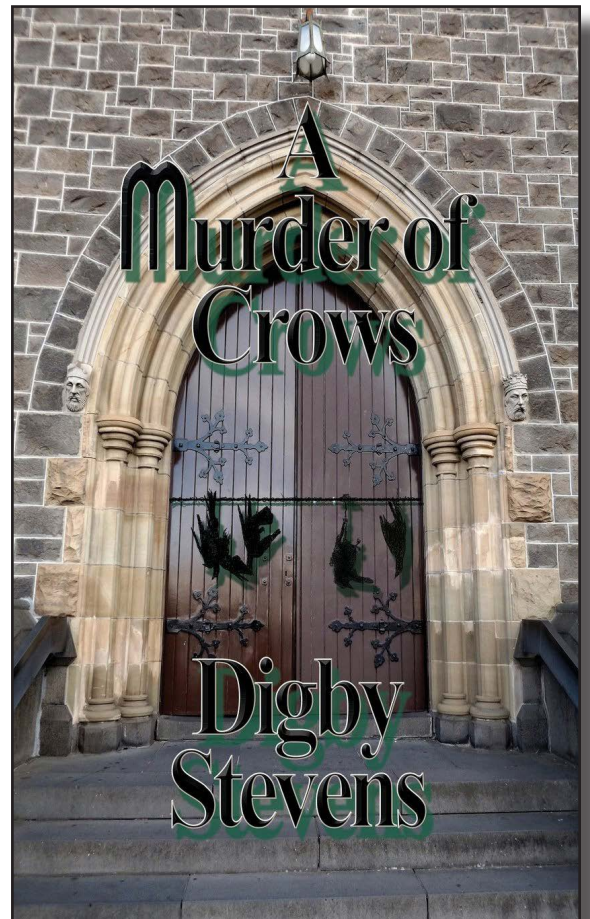
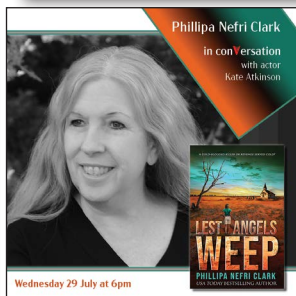
In Conversation with Margaret Hickey
Monday 3 August 6pm - 7.30pm



BMI Book Sale & Vintage Fashion Parade
Book Sale 5 & 6 Sep | Fashion Parade 6 Sep

Rosemary's Book of the Month

in conversation



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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
117 – 119 Sturt Street,
Ballarat VIC 3350
ballaratmi.org.au
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
0419 677 713