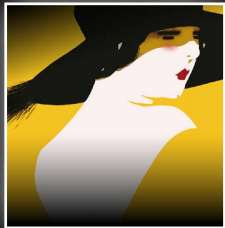


Vintage Fashion Parade Fundraiser

Tickets pre-sale
from 6-9 Aug \$60



Model: Ellie Bence
Photo: Dwight Gladman



News letter

AUG / 2026

From the Chair

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

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



BALLAARAT
MECHANICS'
INSTITUTE

Rosemary Recommends

Author of the Month

Sophie Green.

Sophie is an author, publisher and lives in Sydney. When she is not writing novels, she is writing about Australian country music on her website.

Sophie also loves practising yoga, exploring creativity in its many forms, and losing herself in music that tells a great story.



Book of the Month

The Story She Left Behind by Patti Callahan Henry.

In 1927, eight-year-old Clara Harrington's magical childhood shatters when her mother, renowned author Bronwyn Newcastle Fordham, disappears off the coast of South Carolina. Her mysterious departure leaves behind not only a heartbroken family but also the chance of ever translating the sequel to her beloved work, written in an enigmatic language she invented.

In 1952, Clara is an illustrator raising her own daughters, Wynn timer, when a stranger from London contacts her claiming to have discovered a dictionary of her mother's lost language. Clara is skeptical but also hopeful as she crosses the Atlantic with Wynn timer, only to arrive during one of London's most deadly natural disasters - the Great Smog. With asthmatic Wynn timer in peril, mother and daughter escape the city and find refuge in the Lake District. It is there that Clara must find the courage to uncover the truth about her mother and the story she left behind.

Recommended Reads

Red Lake by Jason Summers.

Sergeant Harper Quinn has returned to her sleepy hometown of Koorinda in search of a quieter life. Until she learns that the town's once glittering waterpark is being reopened, on the shores of its famous Red Lake: the place her little brother vanished into thin air 30 years ago.

And then Harper receives a call: a body has been found at the park.

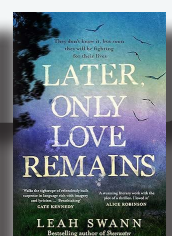
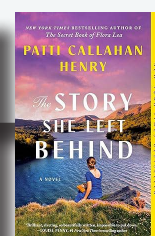
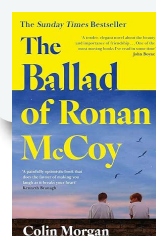
Once again, Harper finds her family at the centre of a shocking criminal investigation. This time, she is determined to find her own answers.

But when secrets run this deep, the truth can drag you under...

Later Only Love Remains by Leah Swann.

Jack Wolfe, a complicated and difficult old man, retreats to his remote shack in the Otways to grieve his wife's death in a car crash where he was the driver. Half mad with remorse, and memories of wrongs he has done to others, what he craves more than anything is forgiveness – and solitude.

Instead, he meets Lotus, an exuberant yet lonely young woman who insists on trying to help him, although he's determined to keep her at bay. He doesn't want or need anyone. But late one night, when his dog starts howling, Jack discovers a shivering and wet stranger on his property. Is this man dangerous, or someone who simply needs his help? His late wife would have wanted him to show kindness, but he can't help suspecting the man's motives. And what should he do about the unwanted friendship from Lotus?



New releases

The Ballad of Ronan McCoy by Colin Morgan.

Brendan's best friend, his only friend, is Ronan McCoy. He knows things about Brendan that no one else does: about his job washing the cars at Feeney's Funeral Home, about the loneliness he sometimes feels even when surrounded by hundreds of others at school. But Brendan never told Ronan about the dark feeling that sits at the bottom of his stomach. It never comes when Ronan's around.

Standing at the school gates on the first day of term, the dark feeling begins to form in Brendan's stomach. And when Ronan doesn't turn up, Brendan learns that something terrible happened to his best friend over the summer and he will never be the same again.

New Releases Mystery

<i>The Shadow Step</i>	Mark Billingham
<i>Yesteryear</i>	Caro Claire Burke
<i>The Fourth Option</i>	Jack Carr/M.P.Woodward
<i>Won't You Save Me</i>	Wendy Dranfield
<i>Where The Snow Bleeds</i>	Wendy Dranfield
<i>The Body in the Dales</i>	J.R.Ellis
<i>Some Sort of Justice</i>	Peter Grainger
<i>Not What It Seems</i>	Lisa Jackson
<i>In The Time of Five Pumpkins</i>	Alexander McCall Smith
<i>26 Beauties</i>	James Patterson
<i>The Long Dark</i>	Andrew Raymond
<i>Dirt Road Dead</i>	T.G.Reid
<i>The Secrets We Hide</i>	Karin Slaughter
<i>A Murder in Springtime</i>	Martin Walker

Novel

<i>The Ballad of Ronan McCoy</i>	Colin Morgan
<i>The Subtle Pleasures of Indiscretion.</i>	Alexander McCall Smith

Australian Novel

<i>The Paradise Pact</i>	Anita Heiss
<i>Simply Beside Herself</i>	Judith Katherine
<i>Disgraceful</i>	Rachel Fox McLeod
<i>The Yacht</i>	Kayte Nunn
<i>The Angry Wives Club</i>	Gabbie Stroud

Australian Mystery

<i>For All The Dead Girls</i>	Sherryl Clark
<i>Mire</i>	Matt Nable
<i>Welcome to Possible Springs</i>	Samantha Ross
<i>Red Lake</i>	Jason Summers

Psychological

<i>It Could Have Been Her</i>	Lisa Jewell
<i>The Weekend</i>	T.M. Logan

Scandinavian

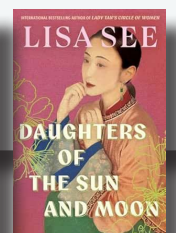
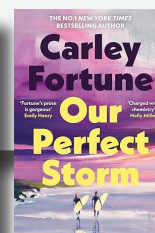
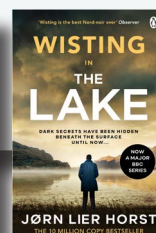
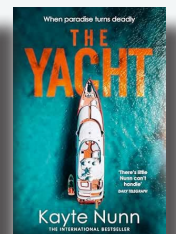
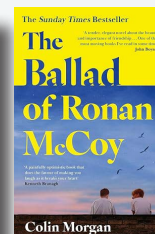
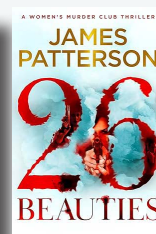
<i>The Lake</i>	Jørn Lier Horst
<i>Dead Sweet</i>	Katrín Júlíusdóttir

Historical

<i>The Story She Left Behind</i>	Patti Callahan Henry
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Romance

<i>Our Perfect Storm</i>	Carley Fortune
<i>Daughters of the Sun and Moon</i>	Lisa See





BALLAARAT
MECHANICS'
INSTITUTE

What's
on...



In conversation
with Sophie Green
Wednesday 12 August at 6pm



Ballarat National Theatre:
You Can't Tell Anyone
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

19 Sep - 4 Oct 2026
19 Dec - 27 Jan 2027

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

Rare Book Week 24 Jul-2Aug
Biodiversity wk 1-7Aug
BNT Season 3 20-23 Aug
Trivia Night
Fundraiser 26 - Aug
Spr. Book Sale 6-7 Sep
Fashion Parade
Fundraiser 6 Sep
Twilight Talks 16, 23, 30 Sep
Twilight Talks 5 Oct
Navy Concert
Fundraiser 10 Oct

Film Night
Fundraiser Oct
Halloween
Fundraiser Oct
Twilight Talks 18, 25 Nov
Wine Auction
Fundraiser Nov
Open Garden
Fundraiser 14 & 15 Nov
Twilight Talks 2 Dec
Sum. Book Sale 12-13 Dec
Aut. Book Sale 1-2 May



Tue 28 Jul	Wed 29 Jul	Thu 30 Jul	Fri 31 Jul	Sat 1 Aug	Sun 2 Aug
10am-3pm Library 2pm-3pm Building Tours 10am-3pm Rare Books BMI Display	10am-4pm Library 10am-3pm Rare Books BMI Display 6pm-7.30pm In conversation with Phillipa Nefri Clark, host, Kate Atkinson 7pm-8pm Kadampa Meditation Series	10am-3pm Library 10am-3pm Rare Books BMI Display 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables	10am-4pm Library 10am-3pm Rare Books BMI Display 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables	9.30am-12noon Library 9.30am-12noon Rare Books BMI Display 7pm-11.50pm Anything for a Mate: Charity Ball.	Closed Library
Mon 3 Aug	Tue 4 Aug	Wed 5 Aug	Thu 6 Aug	Fri 7 Aug	Sat 8 Aug
10am-4pm Library 6pm-7.30pm In conversation with Margaret Hickey, host Gregory Flood	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 6pm-7pm 150 Years of Botanical Communication 7.30pm-8.40pm Blake Pavey: A Bit Scared	9.30am-12noon Library 12.30pm-3.30pm Lawrence Mooney and Friends
Mon 10 Aug	Tue 11 Aug	Wed 12 Aug	Thu 13 Aug	Fri 14 Aug	Sat 15 Aug
10am-4pm Library	10am-3pm Library	10am-4pm Library 6pm-7.30pm In conversation with Sophie Green, host Jane Nield 7pm-8pm Kadampa Meditation Series	10am-3pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables 7.30pm-9pm Ballarat Film Society, The Blue Trail	10am-4pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables	9.30am-12noon Library
Mon 17 Aug	Tue 18 Aug	Wed 19 Aug	Thu 20 Aug	Fri 21 Aug	Sat 22 Aug
10am-4pm Library	10am-3pm Library	10am-4pm Library 7pm-8pm Kadampa Meditation Series	10am-3pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Coll. 7pm-8.30pm Ballarat National Theatre: You Can't Tell Anyone	10am-4pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Coll. 7pm-8.30pm Ballarat National Theatre: You Can't Tell Anyone	9.30am-12noon Library 2pm-3.30pm Ballarat National Theatre: You Can't Tell Anyone 7pm-8.30pm Ballarat National Theatre: You Can't Tell Anyone
Mon 24 Aug	Tue 25 Aug	Wed 26 Aug	Thu 27 Aug	Fri 28 Aug	Sat 29 Aug
10am-4pm Library	10am-3pm Library	10am-4pm Library 7pm-8pm Kadampa Meditation Series 18.45pm-10.30pm Trivia Night Fundraiser	10am-3pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables	10am-4pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables	9.30am-12noon Library
Mon 30 Aug	Tue 31 Aug	Wed 1 Sep	Thu 2 Sep	Fri 3 Sep	Sat 4 Sep
Closed Library	Closed Library	Closed Library	Closed Library	Closed Library	Closed Library



Rare Books: Ballarat Mechanics' Institute

Rare Book Week - Display

Wednesday 22 July - 2 August

Open during regular library operating hours in the Heritage Reading Room.

This display has been assembled by our Heritage Collection Volunteers, providing a rare glimpse at our treasured collection.

The Heritage Reading Room will be closed on Friday 24 July for a Special Event.

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/phillipaneфри-clark-bmi
Tickets also available from the Library Box Office.

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/
Tickets not available from the Library Box Office.

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/margarethickey-bmi-26
Tickets also available from the Library Box Office.

150 Years of Botanical Communication

Speaker: Ellen Becker,
BMI Heritage Collection Curator

Friday 7 August, 6pm - 7pm

Before digital databases and photography, how did we learn about the natural world?

This Biodiversity Week, discover the BMI's rare set of Ferdinand von Mueller's Educational Collections of Victorian Plants (1874–1876).

Designed to “diffuse information on the native vegetation” across Victoria, this historic herbarium and book collection reveals how early scientific communication cultivated local observers—and how it can inspire us to protect our regional ecosystems today.

Tickets can also be purchased from the BMI Library
Cost: \$15
More: ballaratmi.org.au/bmi-collection-events/
Tix: events.humanitix.com/150-years-of-botanical-communication-bmi
Tickets also available from the Library Box Office.

Blake Pavey: A Bit Scared

Friday 7 August, 7.30pm - 8.40pm

Blake Pavey rose to online fame at just 17 years old through his character based sketch comedy on TikTok.

Since then, he has amassed over 1 Million followers across social media. He's now converted his online presence onto the stage with some absolutely killer stand up! Blake was a **2022 Raw Comedy National Grand Finalist**.

His sophomore solo comedy show ‘Still Kickin’ was a hit across Australia, including 59 shows. Blake has recently returned from performing in the New Zealand and the UK and is set to star in Season 2 of Amazon Series Deadloch in 2026. Blake is also one third of the B.L.T podcast.

Cost: \$44.90
More: ballaratmi.org.au/live-comedy/
Tix: eventbrite.com.au/e/blake-pavey-a-bit-scared-ballarat-tickets-1972917886508
Tickets not available from the Library Box Office.

Lawrence Mooney & Friends

Sunday 9 August, 1pm - 3.30pm
(doors open at 12.30pm)

Lawrence Mooney is one of Australia's most popular and best known Comedians and recently he has appeared as the man behind all of those wonderful characters on **The Front Bar**.

This veteran of stage, radio and television is at the Ballarat Mechanics Institute for one show only to deliver 50 minutes of his brilliant standup comedy.

Also featuring comedy legend, Elliot Goblet. Elliot Goblet is well accepted as being one of the most original Comedians in the history of the known universe.

He is best remembered from his over 60 standup comedy spots on national television...62 to be precise.

What's more this Comedian who invites you to “change gears mentally” has performed all over Australia and in 7 other countries including the Montreal Comedy Festival.

Marlaina McPhillips – The MC. As an MC, Marlaina brings warm energy, quick wit, sharp timing and a seamless flow to every event.

Cost: \$47-\$42
More: ballaratmi.org.au/live-comedy/
Tix: events.humanitix.com/lawrence-mooney-bmi
Tickets also available from the Library Box Office.

In Conversation with Sophie Green

The Frock Shop

Host, radio producer Jane Nield

Wednesday 12 August, 6pm - 7.30pm

Meet the Ladies of The Frock Shop. Where clothes are just the start of the story

Australian bestseller Sophie Green returns with a sparkling story about the beauty of the second-hand, the power of second chances, and becoming who you were always meant to be (with a little help from your friends).

On Sydney's lower north shore, in the harbourside suburb of Mosman, there is a charity frock shop. For decades, it has clothed the women of this suburb, through good times and bad, for richer, for poorer.

Local resident Daphne has always worked at the frock shop. And she knows better than most how clothes are used by women as talismans, as armour, as beauty. Clothes are essential parts of women's stories, and those stories are now part of Daphne's life.

Daphne has her own stories, too. Some involve her old friend Adelaide, who still bears the devastating secret that caused her to flee Australia in her youth. Some involve a new friend, Christina, who has been forced to leave her glamorous Los Angeles life to rebuild in her childhood city. Then there is Margot, living a life that is far from what she had dreamed it would be, and Lucy, desperate for escape and the promise of tomorrow.

Not only does the frock shop give them purpose, but the clothes will help them become the women they were destined to be, because it is never too late for a transformation.

Cost: \$11

More: ballaratmi.org.au/library/

Tix: events.humanitix.com/sophie-green-bmi

Tickets also available from the Library Box Office.

Ballarat Film Society *The Blue Trail*

Brazilian Dystopian Sci-fi

Thursday 13 August 7.30pm show-time

The Blue Trail depicts a dystopian world, one that functions as a wry social critique rather than containing any lasting sense of terror or gloom. In a futuristic Brazil, retirement has questionable consequences. 77-year-old Tereza is hailed as a 'national living heritage', yet she will soon be forced to live in a colony for seniors. But Tereza has one dream: to fly on a plane before she's shipped off and forgotten.

Embarking on a fantastical journey through the Amazon, she encounters a blue drool-discharging snail with an ability to chart a person's destiny, a shady boat captain and a sly new friend with secrets – and lessons – of her own. The best-reviewed film of the 2025 Berlinale – where it topped Screen International's prestigious critics' poll – Gabriel

Mascaro's extraordinary film is a breathtaking cinematic odyssey.

"It's remarkable how much Mascaro packs into the slender 86-minute runtime of *The Blue Trail*. This tale of quiet triumph knows that the best counterweight to the market's invisible hand is to offer a caring hand into the dreams of those it leaves behind ... Mascaro compassionately exhibits how a future that doesn't make space for its past is not one worth venturing toward." *Slant Magazine*. *Palace Films*

Brazil, 2025, 87 mins. Dir Gabriel Mascaro.

More: ballaratmi.org.au/film/

Why not become a member of the Ballarat Film Society ballaratfilmsociety.weebly.com/
Tickets not available from the Library Box Office.

You Can't Tell Anyone

A Ballarat National Theatre production

Thu 20, Fri 21 & Sat 22 Aug at 7pm

Sat 22 Aug at 2pm & Sun 23 Aug at 1pm & 6pm

I won't tell, if you won't.

Playwright: Joanna Richards. Directed by Ruby Abbott

You Can't Tell Anyone is a philosophical thriller that examines the transition from adolescence to adulthood. Thanks to a game of *Paranoia*, this group of teens will never be the same again. No one is safe, not even the audience.

It's the end of school and Gwen is throwing a party. After an emotional year, her friends are keen to spend the night drinking, playing games, and arguing about literally everything. But when a party game spirals out of control, long-held tensions start to strain and snap. Are the friends messing with each other? Or is there a bigger threat pounding at the door?

You Can't Tell Anyone was commissioned and first produced by Canberra Youth Theatre, 10 August 2023 at the Canberra Theatre Centre, Courtyard Studio.

Cost: Tickets: \$30 adults, \$25 Concession, \$20.00 BNT members, \$15 Children. 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/bnt-you-cant-tell-anyone

Tickets not available from the Library Box Office.



BMI Fundraiser

Trivia Night

Wednesday 26 August,

6.45pm (doors open) - 10.30pm

Put your local knowledge to the test at a fun and engaging Trivia Night at the historic Ballarat Mechanics' Institute! Gather your friends and join us for an evening of fascinating questions about Ballarat's rich history and the remarkable story of the Ballarat Mechanics' Institute - one of Victoria's oldest continually operating libraries and cultural institutions.

From the early day of Ballarat to today, our trivia will challenge, surprise and entertain. Enjoy hot snacks, great company and drinks at bar prices in the stunning surroundings of our heritage building. All proceeds support the Ballarat Mechanics'

Cost: \$25 per person | \$20 BMI Members

More: ballaratmi.org.au/fundraising-events/

Tix: events.humanitix.com/trivia-night-bmi

Tickets also available from the Library Box Office.

In Conversation with Lauren Williams & Penny Tangey

Neighbourhood Watch & What Rhymes With Murder?

Wednesday 2 September, 6pm - 7.30pm

Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch is a sharp, stylish thriller with a killer opening hook, a generous dose of dark humour, and a truly distinctive voice.' Christian White.

The annual Curlew Street scarecrow competition is back, and the residents of Melbourne's inner north have never seen an entry like it. Shirt bloody, head and arms slumped over a scarecrow crucifix: Victoria's most conservative Supreme Court Judge, Harry 'The Pope' Somerton, is dead...

What Rhymes With Murder?

When exhausted new mother Frida attends Baby Rhyme Time at the local library, she feels a sense of purpose that has been lacking in her anxious, apartment-bound, sleep-deprived life. But at the end of the session a piercing scream is heard, followed by the thump of a body, and the library becomes a crime scene.

Before long, Frida finds herself part of an unlikely group of sleuths investigating the murder. Between gossip and cups of magic at their local cafe, they are too busy having fun to realise how close they are to danger...

Cost: \$11

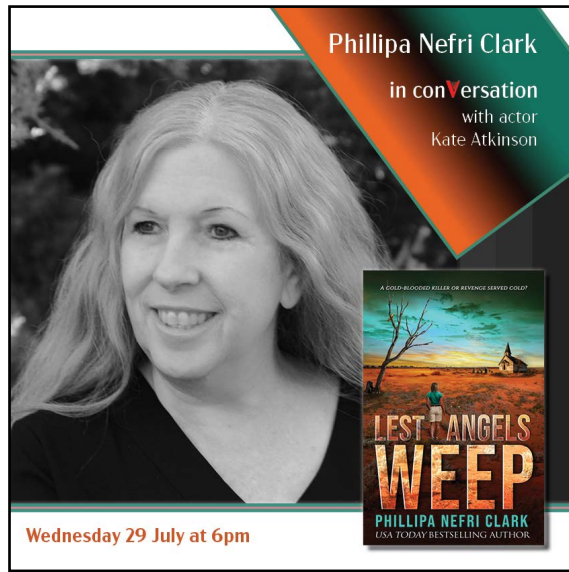
More: ballaratmi.org.au/library/

Tix: events.humanitix.com/williams-tangey-bmi

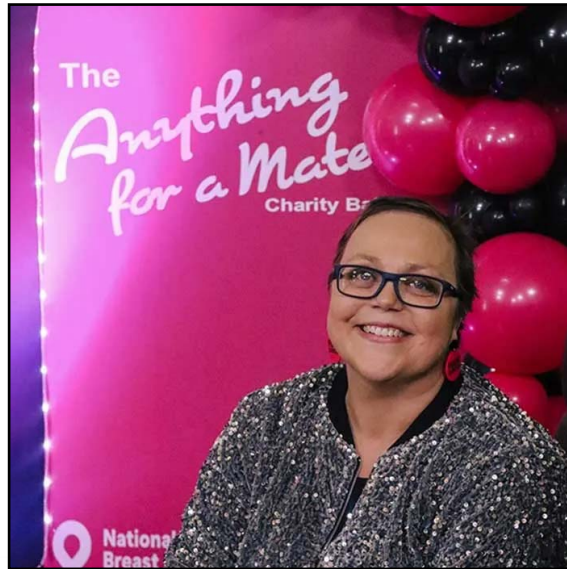
Tickets also available from the Library Box Office.



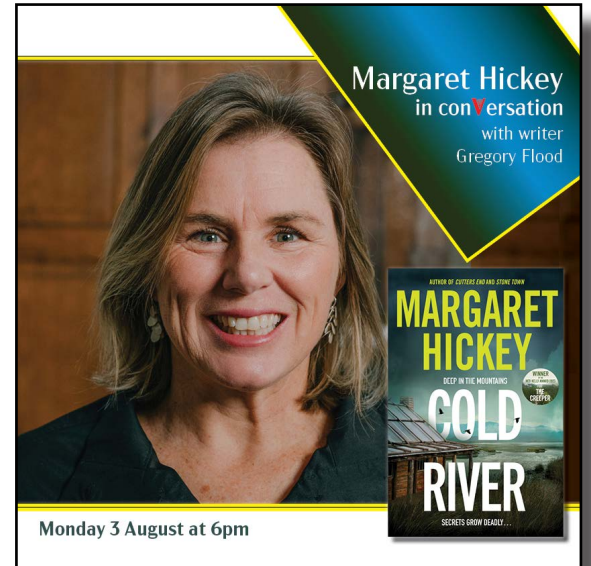
**BALLAARAT
MECHANICS'
INSTITUTE**



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



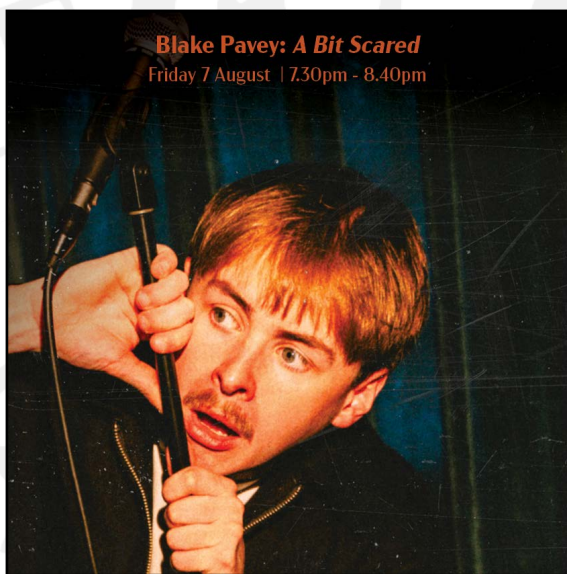
Anything for a Mate: Charity Ball
Saturday 1 August 7pm - 12 midnight



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



150 Years of Botanical Communication
Friday 7 August | 6pm - 7pm



Blake Pavey: A Bit Scared
Friday 7 August, 7.30pm - 8.40pm



Lawrence Mooney & Friends
Sunday 9 August | 12.30pm - 3.30pm



In Conversation with Sophie Green
Wednesday 12 August, 6pm - 7.30pm



You Can't Tell Anyone, A BNT production
7pm 20, 21 & 23 Aug | 2pm 22 Aug | 1pm & 6pm 23 Aug



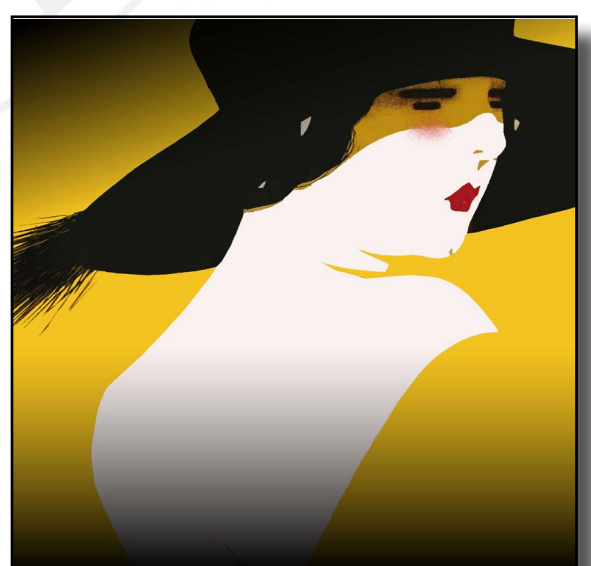
BMI Fundraiser, Trivia Night
26 August, 6.45pm



In conversation - Lauren Williams & Penny Tangey
Wednesday 2 September 6pm - 7.30pm



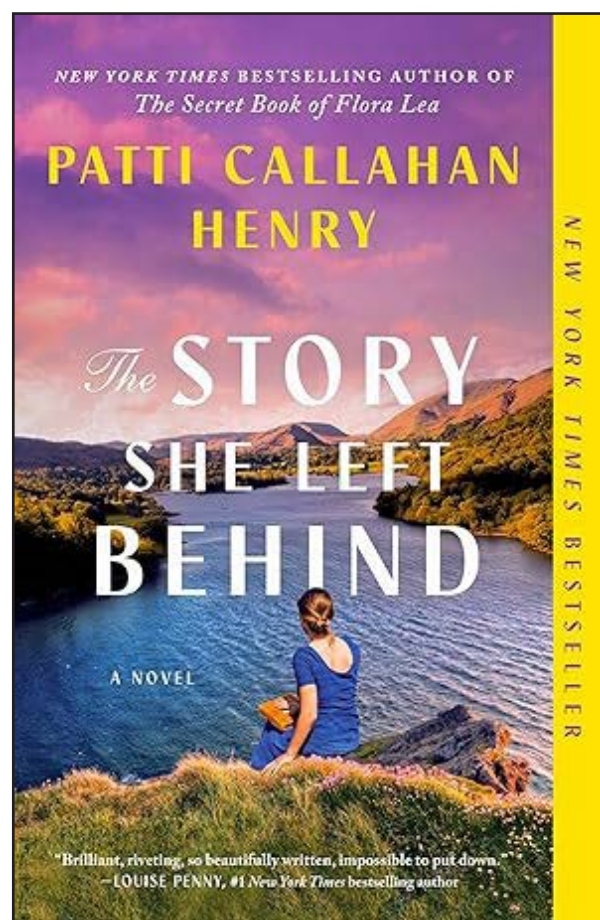
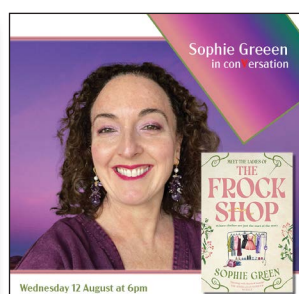
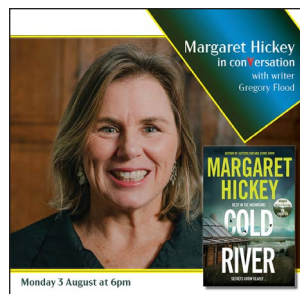
BMI Spring Book Sale Fundraiser
Sat & Sun 5 & 6 September, 10am - 2pm



Vintage Fashion Parade Fundraiser
Sunday 6 September 2pm - 4pm

Rosemary's Book of the Month

in conversation



We acknowledge the support of our valued Supporters & Partners

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Rotary Club Ballarat South | Hugh D. Williamson Trust | Commonwealth Bank | ED Black Trust
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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