

Twilight Talks

Season 2, 2026

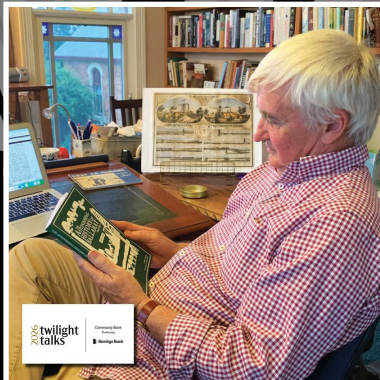
16 September - 28 October



Twilight Talks: A Brief, History of Nursing at Ballarat Base Hospital
Wednesday 16 September, 5.30pm



Twilight Talks: Ideas of Love and Loss
Anne Connor & Anne Gleeson
Wednesday 30 September, 5.30pm



Twilight Talks: The Importance of Ballarat East - Doug Bradby
Wednesday 7 October, 5.30pm



Twilight Talks: The Light on the Hill: A History of the Australian Labor Party
Wednesday 28 October, 5.30pm



From the Executive Manager

To view the Message from the Executive Manager go to the link below:

Ballaratmi.org.au/from-the-exec-mgr-sep-2026/

letter news N

SEP / 2026



**BALLAARAT
MECHANICS'
INSTITUTE**

Rosemary Recommends

Authors of the Month

Lauren Williams.

Before turning to fiction, Lauren worked as a lawyer, diplomat, actor (appearing as a murderer in Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries) arts journalist and museum communications manager. *Neighbourhood Watch* is her first novel.



Penny Tangey.

Penny is a librarian, mother and former stand up comedian living in Melbourne. She has published a number of children's books, where she has won a Queensland Literary Award.

She has just published her first novel for adults *What Rhymes with Murder*.

Book of the Month

Getting Away With Murder by Shari Lapena.

Jill and Ted adore their New York brownstone the way others adore their children. They have carefully, expensively, made every inch of it their own. It reflects who they are, their status and their taste. With the grand mahogany staircase and state-of-art-kitchen, it is the stuff of glossy magazines and real-estate dreams. It is their sanctuary.

So when Ted's inheritance runs out and he makes a bad investment, they panic. How can they protect their beloved home and enviable lifestyle?

The answer is obvious, or, at least, it is obvious to Jill and Ted. The death of one wealthy family member could solve all their problems. Together, they will get away with murder.

As long as they trust each other. And as long as there are no surprises.

Recommended Reads

The Last Encore by Santa Montefiore.

When Pixie Tate is sent to solve a mystery at the old Aphrodite Theatre in Cornwall, she expects to find another restless spirit waiting behind the velvet curtain.

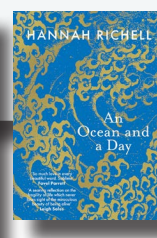
But when she discovers the theatre is just a few miles down the coastline from where she met the love of her life Cavill Pengower, she realises that it is no coincidence.

As she slips back one hundred years, Pixie knows she must only unveil what happened to the woman whose spirit haunts the stage today, but somehow sever this powerful connection with Cavill once and for all.

An Ocean and a Day by Hannah Richell.

In 2014, author Hannah Richell was living a happy and fulfilled life in Sydney. Married, with two young children, she was in the middle of writing her new novel when the police knocked on her door to deliver the news that her husband, Matt, had been killed in a surfing accident at Tamarama Beach.

An Ocean and a Day is the riveting, intimate and poignant story of the rocky journey she travelled over the first two years of loss, but it is also, more



New releases

uniquely, an account of what happens beyond those early years, when time and distance offer perspective and hope.

Hero by Patricia Wolf.

DS Lucas Walker is back home in rural Queensland. With his own family in free fall and reeling from the dramatic fallout of his last case, Walker faces one of his toughest investigations yet. He's just getting to grips with his new role in the small outback town of Katima when the body of a young man is found hanging in the park.

What at first looks like a tragic suicide, soon has Walker on alert when a connection with another death emerges.

And then a brutal murder changes everything. The victim is Caden Conroy, Australian cricketing hero, and the nature of his death leads to an unparralleled media frenzy. When Walker is sidelined by Brisbane Homicide, he must go his own way to unpick the lies and corruption at the heart of these cases. Only then will he know if they are connected. But at what cost?

New Releases Mystery

<i>The House Wife</i>	Natalie Barelli
<i>One Of Us Is Guilty</i>	Steve Cavanagh
<i>Nothing Stays Buried</i>	D.K.Hood
<i>The Midwest Lawyer</i>	Peter Kirkland
<i>The Lost Girls of Penzance</i>	Sally Rigby
<i>The Night She Ran</i>	A.J.Rivers
<i>How To Survive</i>	
<i>In The Woods</i>	Kat Rosenfield
<i>Ransom</i>	Daniel Silva

Australian Mystery

<i>Lest We Forgive</i>	Lest We Forgive
<i>Lest Bridges Burn</i>	Phillipa Nefri Clark
<i>Lest Nobody Lives</i>	Phillipa Nefri Clark

Lest Tides Turn
Nothing Personal
Cold River
Every Time She Wakes
Every Lake
The Lineup
Neighbourhood Watch
Hero

Phillipa Nefri Clark
Alex Dook
Margaret Hickey
Petronella McGovern
Adam Perry
Nicholas Timms
Lauren Williams
Patricia Wolf

Novel

No Angel
The Last Page Café

Josephine Cox
Kate Storey

Australian Novel

The Frock Shop
Tight Lines
Billie King

Sophie Green
Allee Richards
Shannon Kelly-White

Literature

The Things We Never Say

Elizabeth Strout

Historical

The Gilded Girl
25 Library Terrace
The Last Encore
The Echo of Lost Stories
The Promise of Wonder

Lorna Cook
Natalie Fergie
Santa Montefiore
Victoria Scott
Katherine Webb

Psychological

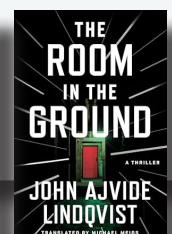
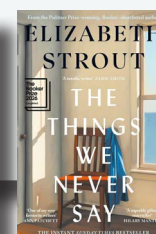
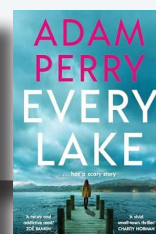
The Last To Drown
Getting Away With Murder

Noelle W. Ihli
Shari Lapena

Scandinavian

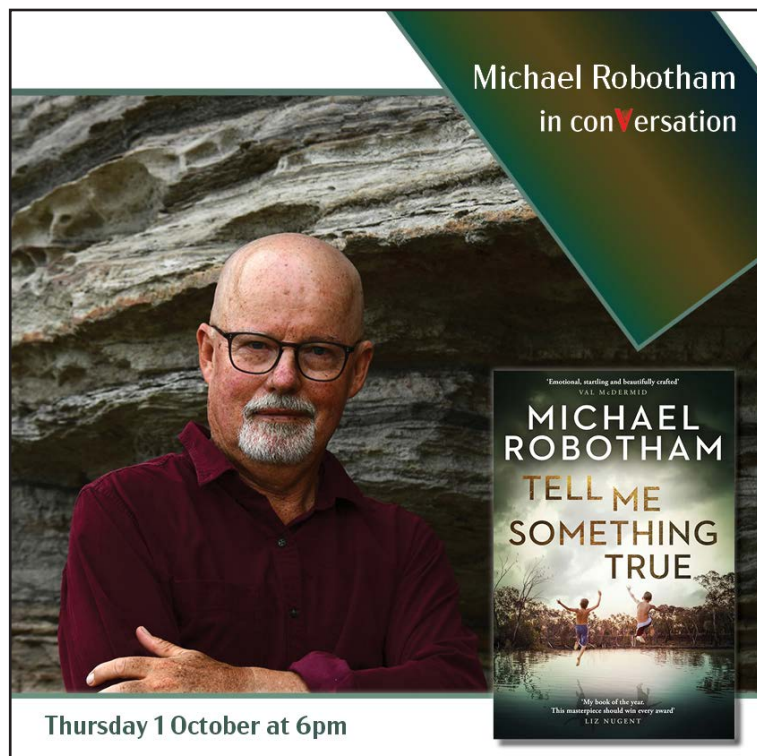
The Room in the Ground
The Wake
The Depths

John Ajvide Lindqvist
Yrsa Sigurdardottir
Yrsa Sigurdardottir





Thursday 1 October at 6pm



Wine Auction	
Fundraiser	Nov
Open Garden	
Fundraiser	14 & 15 Nov
Twilight Talks	2 Dec
Sum. Book Sale	12-13 Dec
Ballarat Marathon	17-18 Apr
Aut. Book Sale	1-2 May
Ballarat Int.	
Foto Biennale	21 Aug -17 Oct



	Tue 1 Sep 10am-3pm Library 2pm-3pm Building Tours	Wed 2 Sep 10am-4pm Library 6pm-7.30pm In conversation with Lauren Williams & Penny Tangey 7pm-8pm Kadampa Meditation Series	Thu 3 Sep 10am-3pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables 7pm-8.30pm Book Launch, Angry. Grateful. Still Alive., by Kate Gale	Fri 4 Sep 10am-4pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables	Sat 5 Sep 9.30am-12noon Library 10am-2pm - BMI Spring Book Sale 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables	Sun 6 Sep 9.30am-12noon Library 10am-2pm - BMI Spring Book Sale 2pm-4pm Vintage Fashion Parade
Mon 7 Sep 10am-4pm Library	Tue 8 Sep 10am-3pm Library	Wed 9 Sep 10am-4pm Library 7pm-8pm Kadampa Meditation Series	Thu 10 Sep 10am-3pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables 7.30pm-9pm Ballarat Film Society, Kōka. Māori Roadtrip Film	Fri 11 Sep 10am-4pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables	Sat 12 Sep 9.30am-12noon Library	Sun 13 Sep Closed Library
Mon 14 Sep 10am-4pm Library	Tue 15 Sep 10am-3pm Library	Wed 16 Sep 10am-4pm Library 5.30pm-6.30pm Twilight Talks: A Brief, History of Nursing at Ballarat Base Hospital - Over the Years. 7pm-8pm Kadampa Meditation Series	Thu 17 Sep 10am-3pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables	Fri 18 Sep 10am-4pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables	Sat 19 Sep 9.30am-12noon Library	Sun 20 Sep Closed Library
Mon 21 Sep 10am-4pm Library	Tue 22 Sep 10am-3pm Library	Wed 23 Sep 10am-4pm Library 6pm-7.30pm In conversation with PA Swanborough, who will be hosted by Rebecca Fletcher 7pm-8pm Kadampa Meditation Series	Thu 24 Sep 10am-3pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Coll.	Fri 25 Sep Closed Library Closed Vintage & Collectables	Sat 26 Sep 9.30am-12noon Library 10am-6pm The Australian Wiccan Conference: Weaving Magic	Sun 27 Sep Closed Library
Mon 28 Sep 10am-4pm Library	Tue 29 Sep 10am-3pm Library 6pm-7.30pm In conversation with Sally Mackinnon, who will be hosted by Mary Card	Wed 30 Sep 10am-4pm Library 5.30pm-6.30pm Twilight Talks: Ideas of Love and Loss. 7pm-8pm Kadampa Meditation Series	Thu 1 Oct 10am-3pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables 6pm-7.30pm In conversation with Michael Robotham	Fri 2 Oct 10am-4pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables	Sat 3 Oct 9.30am-12noon Library	Sun 4 Oct Closed Library



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.

Book Launch Author, Kate Gale

Angry. Grateful. Still Alive

Thursday 3 September, 7pm - 8.30pm

A book launch for *Angry. Grateful. Still Alive.*, the powerful memoir by Ballarat local Kate Gale. Through honesty, resilience and hope, Kate shares her journey from a breast cancer diagnosis at just 27 through multiple cancer diagnoses to becoming a passionate advocate, speaker and author. More than a memoir, this is a story of courage, community and finding purpose through life's greatest challenges. Come along for an inspiring evening celebrating a remarkable local voice and the power of sharing our stories.

Kate Gale is an Australian author, speaker, and cancer advocate turning lived experience into a powerful platform for impact, connection and change.

Residing in Ballarat, Victoria, Kate had built the life she'd always envisioned—becoming a hairdresser, a wife, and a mother—but it was disrupted by a breast cancer diagnosis, launching her into a fight that would redefine not just who she was, and her future, but her purpose too.

Looking ahead, Kate is expanding her work through speaking engagements, partnerships with health and community organisations, and fundraising initiatives aimed at improving support systems for those affected by cancer. She is particularly focused on creating spaces where people can share their stories, feel seen, and find strength in community. Kate Gale isn't just telling her story; she's building a movement.

Cost: FREE, bookings essential

More: ballaratmi.org.au/library/

Tix: events.humanitix.com/kate-gale-book-launch-bmi

Tickets also available from the Library Box Office.

Spring Book Sale Fundraiser

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

Don't miss our book sale this weekend.

Admission and parking are free (one hour on Saturday, all day Sunday). There are hundreds of books – some of which are in gently used condition and some in mint condition – and many start at a dollar or two. And it's not just books – there are CDs, DVDs, framed prints from our image collection and more!

We will have some children's books for your kids and grand kids. Plus, all proceeds are help to support our Library programs.

Vintage Fashion Parade Fundraiser

Sunday 6 September, 2pm - 4pm

The BMI vintage & Pre-loved Shop are showcasing their wares. Make time for a lovely get together.

A glass of champagne on entry with music accompaniment. Once again our beautiful models will be displaying outfits from the Vintage shop, we hope you can join us.

A Silent Auction will feature. An afternoon tea included, A standard bar will also operate.

Cost: \$65

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

Tix: events.humanitix.com/vintage-fashion-fundraiser-bmi

Tickets also available from the Library Box Office.

Ballarat Film Society Kōkā

Māori Roadtrip Film

Thursday 10 September 7.30pm show-time

The Māori celebration of New Year in July, marked by the rising of the stars in the Matariki constellation, is an occasion to mourn the deceased, celebrate the present, and prepare the ground for the coming year.

While driving the length of New Zealand from hospital on the South Island to her home on the North, Māori Elder Hamo takes on the care of Jo, a troubled young woman being evicted from a caravan park, who has lost touch with her Māori culture. They form an unlikely bond, and as they confront past traumas and demons, their journey becomes a path to healing and reconciliation, experienced through Matariki.

NZ, 2025, 107 min. Dir. Kath Akuhata-Brown.

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.

Twilight Talks

A Brief, Selected History 'Herstory' of Nursing at Ballarat Base Hospital - Over the years.

Wednesday 16 September, 5.30pm - 6.30pm

Speakers: Emeritus Professor Margaret Bennett AM, Sarah Birtles & Shirley Jones

The 'herstory' of nursing at BBH, now Grampians Health, reflects changing times in Victoria.

After looking at what is a nurse in 2026, we briefly glance at the way in which nursing changed, quite dramatically, during the settlement of Ballarat, the influx of miners, and through the 19th 20th and 21st centuries.

As we see the development of the hospital, we see how our ancestors recognized the importance of nursing, and midwifery, and ensured the BBH nurses were among the best, not only in Victoria, but also the world.

As we traverse this 'herstory' of nursing, we will hear how the BBH changed and adapted, and there will be some surprises perhaps. We will pause to glimpse at the development of midwifery, hear a firsthand experience of a country girl at the BBH during the early 70s and look at the role played by the BBH Trained Nurses League which, having run its course, will end at the Annual Reunion, November 2029 after 100 years.

As you will hear, no matter how the times change, so too does nursing, to ensure that nursing care is adapted to the times to provide the best care for the here and now.

Cost: \$9 BMI members - \$13 General Admittance.

More: ballaratmi.org.au/talks/

Tix: events.humanitix.com/bmi-twilight-talks-season-2-2026

Tickets also available from the Library Box Office.



In conversation with PA Swanborough

Things With Teeth By Moonlight: A Miscellany

Wednesday 23 September, 6pm - 7.30pm

Pam will be in conversation with host Rebecca Fletcher.

Things With Teeth by Moonlight is an illustrated multi-genre collection of flash, micro-fiction and short stories covering loss, revenge, affection, and spending too much time in cafes.

'Human and other creatures in urban, forested, or post-apocalyptic settings address hunger or love, pain or comfort, as best they can while the night is chill.'

Cost: \$11

More: ballaratmi.org.au/library/

Tix: events.humanitix.com/pa-swanborough-bmi

Tickets also available from the Library Box Office.

The Australian Wiccan Conference

Weaving Magic Together

Saturday 26 September 10am - 6pm

The AWC has run annually since 1984 for witches, occultists and pagans of all paths.

It is a significant not-for-profit event for those involved in Wicca and Paganism in Australia, fostering a sense of community, education, and spiritual exploration. It provides a space to learn, connect, and deepen one's understanding of these traditions.

The conference is traditionally held on the weekend closest to the Spring Equinox, with workshops, classes, lectures, entertainment and socialising.

AWC events are held in different locations around the country each year, with different hosts and themes. The 2026 theme is "Weaving Magic Together", with the event trialing a new, one-day format.

Cost: \$77 | \$55 AWC members

More: ballaratmi.org.au/event/awc-2026/

Tix: events.humanitix.com/awc-2026-bmi

Tickets also available from the Library Box Office.

In conversation with Sally Mackinnon

Styled

Tuesday 29 September, 6pm - 7.30pm

Sally will be in conversation with host Mary Card.

Personal stylist Sally Mackinnon, known to her almost 400K (Instagram & Facebook) community, brings *STYLED* — a warm, practical and refreshingly realistic guide to building personal style with confidence, clarity and ease.

Drawing on nearly two decades of one-to-one wardrobe consults, shopping sessions, styling transformations and media appearances, Sally translates insider fashion knowledge into genuinely useful tools women can apply to their everyday lives. But *STYLED* is about far more than clothes.

At its heart, the book explores why so many women feel disconnected from their wardrobes — and often from themselves. Between trend overload, body changes, motherhood, work, ageing, fast fashion and the pressure to constantly reinvent ourselves, getting dressed has quietly become overwhelming for many women.

Sally's approach cuts through the noise. Rather than telling women what they "should" wear, *STYLED* helps readers understand their personal style, reconnect with confidence and build wardrobes that reflect who they actually are and how they really live.

Cost: \$11

More: ballaratmi.org.au/library/

Tix: events.humanitix.com/sally-mackinnon-bmi

Tickets also available from the Library Box Office.

Twilight talks

Ideas of Love & Loss

Wednesday 30 September, 5.30pm - 6.30pm

**Speakers: Writer, Anne Connor
& Poet, Anne Gleeson.**

In this conversation, writer Anne Connor explores with Australian poet Anne Gleeson ideas of love and loss, big challenges and small victories, as revealed in her most recent poetry collections, *Small Acts of Purpose* and *The Deepest Thing*.

Through a poetic memoir of her sister, who has lived with intellectual disability since birth, Anne's poetry depicts the reality of her sister's medical and social conditions, her personality, and how intellectual disability has been experienced in rural Australia.

Since leaving Federation University in 2013, Anne has worked in funeral, bereavement and palliative care. Her poems in *Small Acts of Purpose* highlight the tenderness and beauty she has witnessed, and the need to do better in how we care for people at the time of death, particularly for those who cannot speak for themselves.

Cost: \$9 BMI members - \$13 General Admittance.

More: ballaratmi.org.au/talks/

Tix: events.humanitix.com/bmi-twilight-talks-season-2-2026

Tickets also available from the Library Box Office.

In conversation with Michael Robotham

Tell Me Something True

Thursday 1 October, 6pm - 7.30pm

Michael is coming home: This is his 20th novel, but the 1st to be set in Australia.

This is a once-in-a-lifetime publishing event for a book destined to enter the Australian canon as a classic.

The astonishing, emotional epic from Michael Robotham: a mystery, a coming-of-age tale and a love story wrapped into one, set against the simmering tensions of a small Australian town.

I look along the road and notice how many people are standing outside their houses or watching from doorways and windows. Staring. Studying.

'Do you think this town will ever forgive me?' I ask. 'Not in a million years.'

Small towns are quick to anger and slow to forgive, but Arlo Hackett doesn't expect mercy when he emerges from a twelve-year prison sentence and makes his way back to Yulara, a waypoint on Australia's Great Southern Road. The last time Arlo was home, his brother Luke was charged with a terrible crime and Arlo was found guilty by association. His return to the goldrush town is like cracking open a time capsule full of hatred and violence, along with memories of the people he loved — the ones he couldn't save.

Yulara wants Arlo gone, or worse, but every insult and humiliation pushes him to confront what really happened all those years ago.

The truth will shock you, surprise you, and break your heart.

Cost: \$11

More: ballaratmi.org.au/library/

Tix: events.humanitix.com/michael-robotham-bmi-26

Tickets also available from the Library Box Office.

In conversation with Monica McInerney

When Sullivan Met Lola

Monday 5 October, 6pm - 7.30pm

Monica will be in conversation with radio presenter Mary Card.

The eagerly awaited new novel by beloved Australian author Monica McInerney.

Lola Quinlan is eighty-six. If her time on earth is running out, she's not leaving quietly. Against the wishes of her family in South Australia, she's flying solo to Melbourne for a week. They think she's in search of distraction and entertainment. The truth is, she's chasing an elusive dream.

Sullivan Farrington is twelve years old. His life in Melbourne has turned upside down. His mother is in hospital, hiding a secret. His father lives on the other side of the world. School is a battleground. But Sullivan is no ordinary boy. He's set himself a series of goals to turn his life around. Cost: \$11

More: ballaratmi.org.au/library/

Tix: events.humanitix.com/monica-mcinerney-bmi

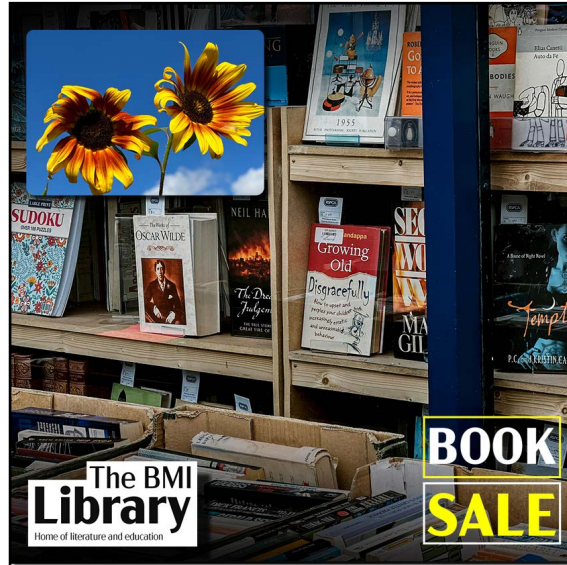
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**BALLARAT
MECHANICS'
INSTITUTE**



**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



Ballarat Film Society Kōkā
Thursday 10 September | 7.30pm



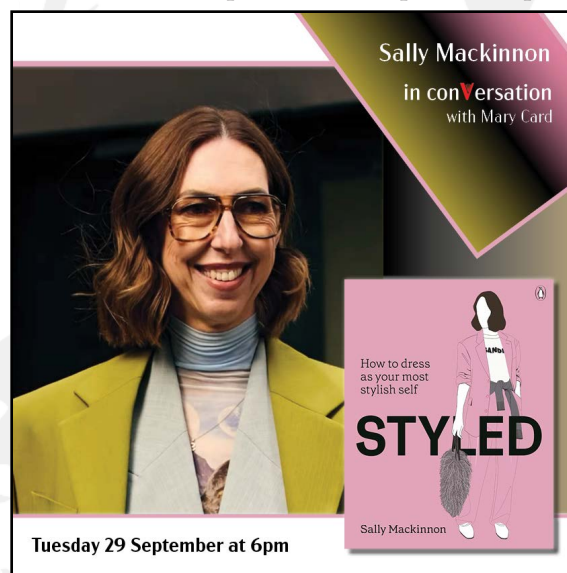
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In conversation with PA Swanborough
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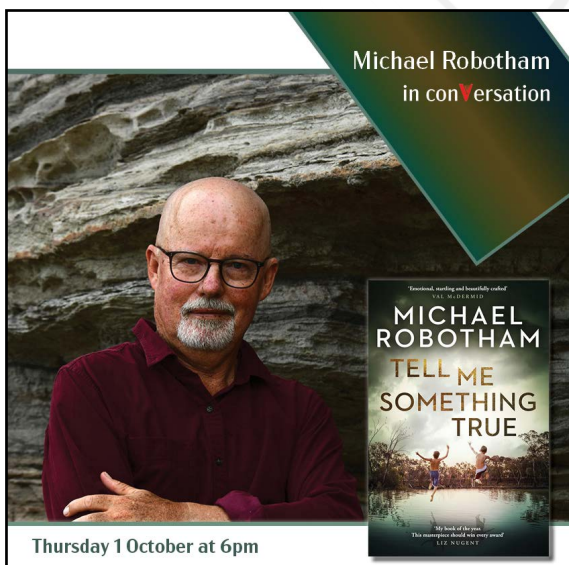
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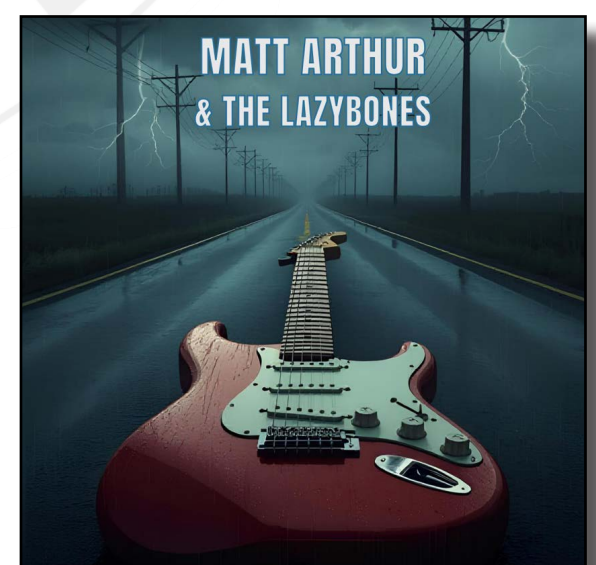
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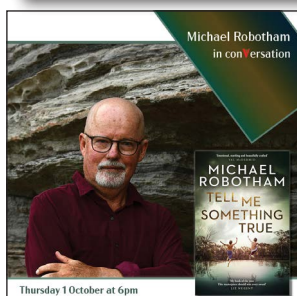
In conversation with Monica McInerney
Monday 5 October, 6pm - 7.30pm



Telegraph Road: The Dire Straits Legacy
Friday 9 October 7pm - 10pm

Rosemary's Book of the Month

in conversation



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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

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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