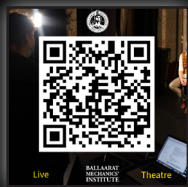


Fringe
Encore
Ballarat
22 - 24 October



MELBOURNE
FRINGE
IN



Yellow Fever: An Original Musical Cabaret



Little Squirt: A One Man Musical Cabaret About Sperm Donation



Dune But Worse: Obsessed, Inept, Unbothered



Murder In The Market: A Murder Village Improvised Whodunnit

Newsletter

OCT / 2026



BALLARAT
MECHANICS'
INSTITUTE

Message from the Chair

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

Rosemary Recommends

Author of the Month

Monica McInerney.

Monica is the author of 13 internationally best selling books for adults. She grew up in a family of seven children in the Clare Valley of SA. Monica and her husband have been living between Australia and Ireland for thirty years. They currently live in Dublin.



Book of the Month

The Cairo Bridal Shop by Tess Woods.

Nestled at the bustling foot of the pyramids lies the iconic Albi Bridal Shop, where three sisters are about to break the shackles of tradition to fight for their futures.

When Mariam Albi was tragically killed, the responsibility of running the business was thrust upon Sarah. Bound to the dress shop and to the demands of her husband, Sarah finds herself trapped with nowhere to turn.

Political journalist Aya is writing the story of her career while on the cusp of a thrilling new relationship with Australian raised journalist Gamal. When Gamal is arrested on suspicion of treason, Aya risks her life to follow her heart.

University student Lola is finding her place in the world while masking her true identity. But her secret is exposed, putting her life in grave danger as she faces losing everything and everyone she loves.

Recommended Reads

The Reckoning by Vikki Petraitis.

When two convicted rapists walk free on appeal, the town of Deception Bay splits down the middle. The men swagger onto a packed cricket ground on Australia Day to a hero's welcome. Before lunch is over, dozens of people fall ill - including the newly released men.

As panic rips through the town and emergency services buckle, Detective Antigone Pollard and her partner, Wozza, scramble to figure out what has happened. It is an accident? Or was this deliberate?

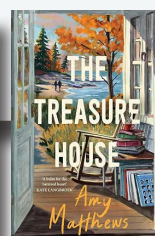
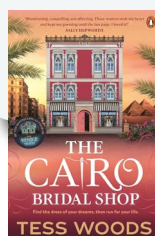
The Treasure House by Amy Matthews.

Zoe and her daughter Florence stumble across a listing for a charming cottage in Maine that is in her price range. It's a treasure house filled to the brim with junk, and being sold as it is.

Eleven year old Florence loves the old house full of other people's memories, but Zoe is daunted by the mess and the cost of fixing the place up. Their grumpy new neighbour Jake thinks Zoe is crazy for undertaking this, though that does not stop him from lending a hand, and it's not long before Zoe starts daydreaming about the handsome handyman...

The Pirate Queen by Ariel Lawhon.

Grace O'Malley was born to be at sea. Raised by her father, chief of clan O'Malley, Grace learns early that her dreams of the open water are not compatible with the life she's expected to lead as the daughter of a noble family. And when her father marries her to a neighbouring chief, Grace's world shifts for the worse.



New releases

Undaunted, Grace raises a family without abandoning her passion, aiding her hot-tempered husband in his campaigns against rival tribes. Eventually ousted from her husband's land in the wake of his death, Grace returns to her childhood home and begins her career as a pirate in earnest, claiming new territories and finding deeper love, only to see her livelihood threatened by English incursions into Ireland and her family endangered in an attempt to check her power.

New Releases Mystery

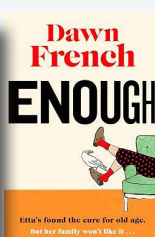
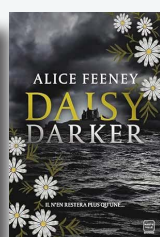
<i>Race To Save Her</i>	Jennifer Chase
<i>The Kingpin</i>	A.A. Dhand
<i>Daisy Darker</i>	Alice Feeney
<i>You'll Be Sorry</i>	Lisa Gardner
<i>We Chase Shadows</i>	Richard Osman
<i>Eyes on You</i>	Adele Parks
<i>Sycamore Gap</i>	L J Ross

Australian Mystery

<i>Without A Trace</i>	Susanah Glenn
<i>Bad Neighbours</i>	Joanna Jenkins
<i>She Lied First</i>	Dinuka McKenzie
<i>Stay Buried</i>	Jane R. Miles
<i>The Reckoning</i>	Vikki Petraitis
<i>The Storm</i>	Jason Summers
<i>The Kooleybuc Hotel</i>	Jason Summers

Novel

<i>Enough</i>	Dawn French
<i>Agrippa</i>	Robert Harris
<i>Sophie Standing There</i>	Meg Mason
<i>The Cairo Bridal Shop</i>	Tess Woods



Australian Novel

<i>Big Little Truths</i>	Liane Moriarty
<i>The Mother of All Calamities</i>	Lisa Moule
<i>King of Beasts</i>	Tony Park
<i>Rain On A Hot Tin Roof</i>	Stella Quinn
<i>The World Beneath Her Feet</i>	Holly Ringland
<i>Things With Teeth By Moonlight</i>	P.A. Swanborough

Literature

<i>The Pirate Queen</i>	Ariel Lawhon
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Historical

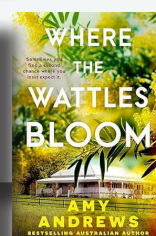
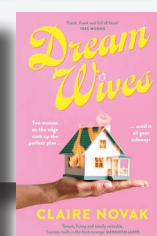
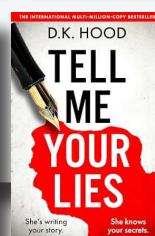
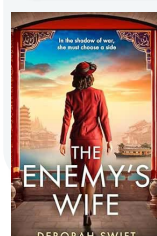
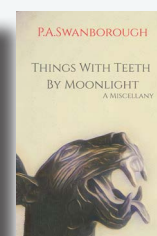
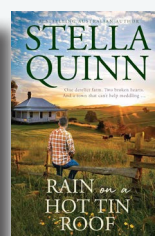
<i>Wartime Secrets at the Mayfair Club</i>	Molly Green
<i>The Bookshop at Water's End</i>	Patti Callahan Henry
<i>Meet Me In Paris</i>	Kristin Harmel
<i>Every Lifetime After</i>	Jennifer Ross
<i>The Enemy's Wife</i>	Deborah Swift

Psychological

<i>Tell Me Your Lies</i>	DK Hood
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Romance

<i>The Treasure House</i>	Amy Matthews
<i>Dream Wives</i>	Claire Novak
<i>Where The Wattles Bloom</i>	Amy Andrews





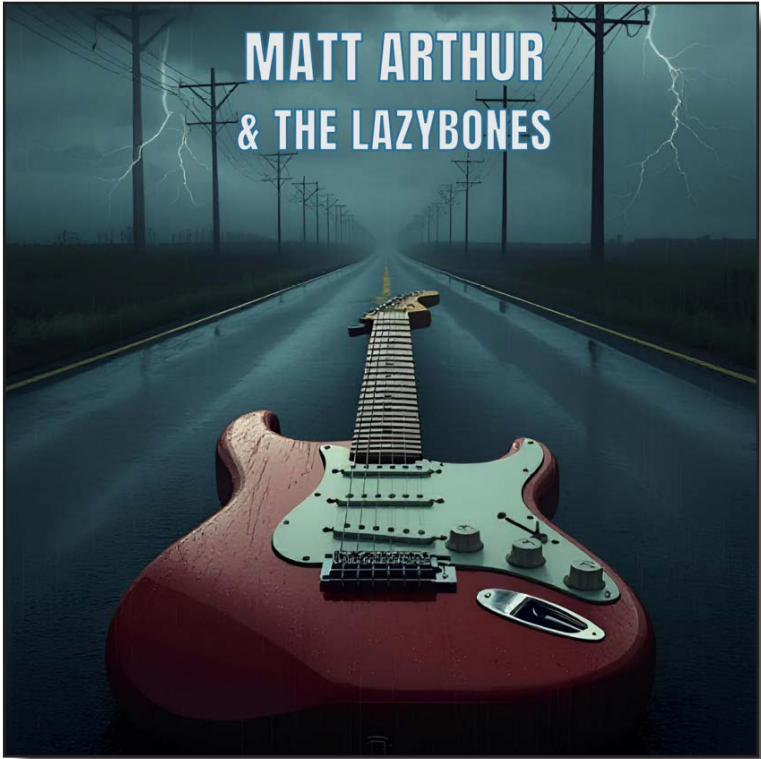
BALLAARAT
MECHANICS'
INSTITUTE

What's
on...



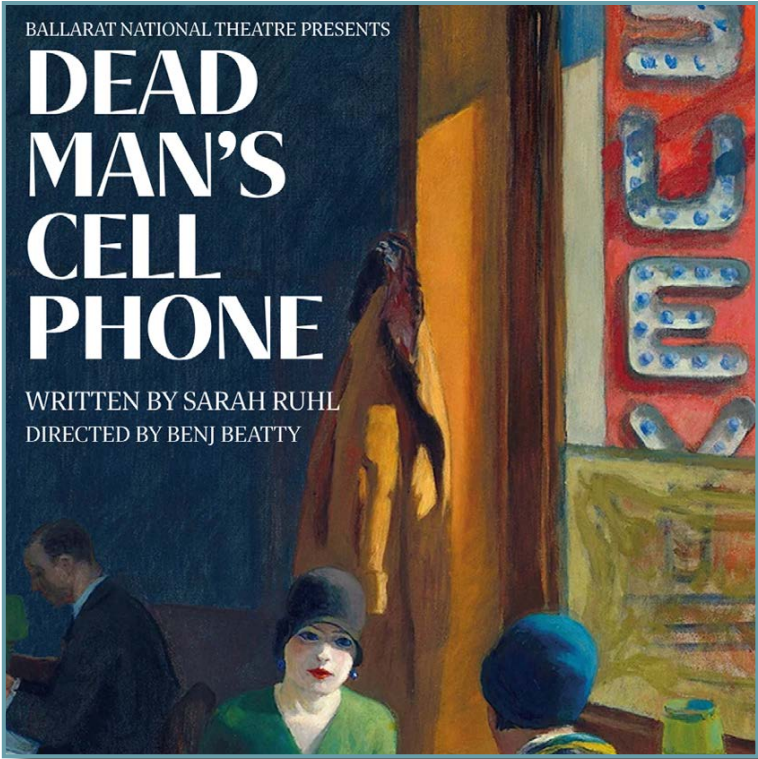
Matt Arthur & The Lazybones
The Dire Straits Legacy

Thursday 9 October at 7pm



Ballarat National Theatre
Dead Man's Cell Phone

23October - 1 November



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

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/

Twilight Talks 30 Sep
Seniors Festival 1-31 Oct
Minerva's Secrets 2 Oct
Daylight Saving 4 Oct
Twilight Talks 7 Oct
Navy Concert 10 Oct
Fundraiser 22 Oct-24 Oct
Fringe Encore 23 Oct-1 Nov
BNT season 4 28 Oct
Twilight Talks 6 Nov
Minerva's Secrets 11 Nov
Remembrance Day

Twilight Talks 25 Nov
Wine Auction Nov
Fundraiser 14 & 15 Nov
Open Garden Fundraiser 2 Dec
Twilight Talks 4 Dec
Minerva's Secrets 12-13 Dec
Sum. Book Sale 17-18 Apr
Ballarat Marathon 1-2 May
Aut. Book Sale 13-16 May
Ballarat Heritage Festival



	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 7pm-8pm Minerva's Secrets Night Tours 9pm-10pm Minerva's Secrets Night Tours	Sat 3 Oct 9.30am-12noon Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables	Sun 4 Oct 9.30am-12noon Library
Mon 5 Oct 10am-4pm Library 6pm-7.30pm In conversation with Monica McInerney	Tue 6 Oct 10am-3pm Library 5.30pm-6.30pm Feldendrais Workshop	Wed 7 Oct 10am-4pm Library 5.30pm-6.30pm Twilight Talks: The Importance of Ballarat East 5.30pm-6.30pm Feldendrais Workshop 7pm-8pm Kadampa Meditation Series	Thu 8 Oct 10am-3pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables 7.30pm-9pm Ballarat Film Society, Bound for Glory. Dustbowl Folk Singer Elegy	Fri 9 Oct 10am-4pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables 7pm-10pm The Dire Straits Legacy: Matt Arthur and The Lazybones	Sat 10 Oct 9.30am-12noon Library 2.15pm-4.15pm Royal Australian Navy 125th Anniversary Concert, Fundraiser	Sun 11 Oct Closed Library 2.15pm-4.15pm Crimson Goat Comedy, Charlie Pickering, Tom Siegert & MC Brad Oakes
Mon 12 Oct 10am-4pm Library	Tue 13 Oct 10am-3pm Library 5.30pm-6.30pm Feldendrais Workshop	Wed 14 Oct 10am-4pm Library 5.30pm-6.30pm Feldendrais Workshop 7pm-8pm Kadampa Meditation Series	Thu 15 Oct 10am-3pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables	Fri 16 Oct 10am-4pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables	Sat 17 Oct 9.30am-12noon Library	Sun 18 Oct Closed Library
Mon 19 Oct 10am-4pm Library	Tue 20 Oct 10am-3pm Library 5.30pm-6.30pm Feldendrais Workshop	Wed 21 Oct 10am-4pm Library 5.30pm-6.30pm Feldendrais Workshop 7pm-8pm Kadampa Meditation Series	Thu 22 Oct 10am-3pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables. Melbourne Fringe Festival, Fringe Encore, Ballarat: 5.30pm Yellow Fever 7pm Little Squirt 8.30pm Dune But Worse 8.30pm Murder Village	Fri 23 Oct 10am-4pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage Shop 7pm-9pm { BNT: Dead Man's Cell Phone Fringe Encore, Ballarat: 5.30pm Yellow Fever 7pm Little Squirt 8.30pm Dune But Worse 8.30pm Murder Village	Sat 24 Oct 9.30am-12noon Library 7pm-9pm { BNT: Dead Man's Cell Phone Fringe Encore, Ballarat: 5.30pm Yellow Fever 7pm Little Squirt 8.30pm Dune But Worse 8.30pm Murder Village	Sun 25 Oct Closed Library 2pm-4pm { BNT: Dead Man's Cell Phone
Mon 26 Oct 10am-4pm Library	Tue 27 Oct 10am-3pm Library 5.30pm-6.30pm Feldendrais Workshop 6pm-7.30pm In conversation with Sally Mackinnon, who will be hosted by Mary Card	Wed 28 Oct 10am-4pm Library 5.30pm-6.30pm Twilight Talks: The Light on the Hill 5.30pm-6.30pm Feldendrais Workshop 7pm-9pm { BNT: Dead Man's Cell Phone 7pm-8pm Kadampa	Thu 29 Oct 10am-3pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables 7pm-9pm { BNT: Dead Man's Cell Phone	Fri 30 Oct 10am-4pm Library 11am-3pm Vintage & Collectables 7pm-9pm { BNT: Dead Man's Cell Phone	Sat 31 Oct 9.30am-12noon Library 2pm-3pm & 7pm-8pm 2 performances An Intimate Hour of Magic with Barry Govan 7pm-9pm { BNT: Dead Man's Cell Phone	Sun 1 Nov Closed Library 2pm-4pm { BNT: Dead Man's Cell Phone

In conversation with Sally Mackinnon

Styled

Sally will be in conversation with Mary Card

**Tuesday 29 September, 6pm - 7.30pm,
Humffray Room**

Personal stylist Sally Mackinnon, 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.

Warm, inclusive and deeply practical, *Styled* offers a smarter and more compassionate approach to fashion — one rooted in self-expression rather than perfection.

Through styling principles, wardrobe strategies, outfit formulas and honest advice, Sally helps women create wardrobes that work harder, mornings that feel easier and style that feels authentic.

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

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

**Wednesday 30 September, 5.30pm - 6.30pm,
Humffray Room**

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.

In this deeply moving discussion and poetry reading, the two Annes will shine a light on what it means to live through the hardest times with an open heart.

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,
Minerva Ballroom**

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.



Ballarat Chess Club

Meet Thursdays - Find out more:

ballaratchess.com/

Minerva's Secrets Night Tours

Fridays 2 Oct, 6 Nov & 4 Dec

2 tours, 7pm & 9pm each day, Meet in the Foyer

Night Tours are back on again for a limited time. These tours are a unique way to explore Ballarat's rich history and culture. Whether you're a local looking to discover more about your city's history, or a visitor seeking a unique and memorable experience, the Ballaarat Mechanics Institute's Night Tours are not to be missed. Led by expert guides who are passionate about the building's history, these tours will leave you with a newfound appreciation for the rich cultural heritage of Ballarat.

Cost: \$27.50

More: ballaratmi.org.au/tours/

Tix: events.humanitix.com/minerva-s-secrets-after-dark-2026

Tickets also available from the Library Box Office.

In conversation with Monica McInerney

When Sullivan Met Lola

Monica will be in conversation with Mary Card

**Monday 5 October, 6pm - 7.30pm,
Humffray Room**

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.

In a hotel beside the Botanic Gardens, Lola and Sullivan meet. When Lola's fierce passion for people and stories teams up with Sullivan's curiosity and brilliance, they discover that a friendship can bloom — magically — just when it is needed most.

What they don't know yet is the wonder that's about to unfold — or the emotional reckoning that will follow.

Cost: \$11

More: ballaratmi.org.au/library/ Tix: events.humanitix.com/monica-mcinerney-bmi

Tickets also available from the Library Box Office.

Twilight talks

The Importance of Ballarat East

Speaker: Doug Bradby.

**Wednesday 7 October, 5.30pm - 6.30pm,
Humffray Room**



In the period 1832-1850 the Chartists of Britain tried and failed to extend Democracy to all male citizens. In the 1850's the Chartists of Ballarat succeeded. This talk will explore how the diggers of Ballarat obtained economic power, how they converted that economic power into political power, and what they did with that power.

Doug has spent his life in Ballarat being educated at Urquhart St P. S. and Ballarat High School. He worked as a secondary school history teacher until his retirement and since then he has written 36 Ten Delightful Tales about the Ballarat goldfields. Doug's grandfather walked from Geelong to the Ballarat goldfield as a ten year old boy in 1858.

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.

Ballarat Film Society *Bound for Glory*

Dustbowl Folk Singer Elegy

**Thursday 8 October 7.30pm show-time,
Minerva Ballroom**

Folk legend Woody Guthrie, an extraordinary hard-driving, 'truth-telling man' from the Oklahoma Plains, who left the American mid-west Dust Bowl in the 1930s for the promise of California and on his journey became one of America's most noted poet-folk singers. He sang about historic events, migrant workers, hoboes, stories of the disenfranchised and ignored, love, and the fight against fascism. He even penned a song called *Old Man Trump* (1954) about Donald's father, whom he accused of stirring up racism through residential segregation in his Beach Haven apartment complex.

One of his best-known songs, *This Land is Your Land* (1940), has become an alternative anthem in America. His songs have been reimagined by dozens of folk singers such as Bob Dylan, Pete Seeger, Joan Baez, Billy Bragg, and many more. Nearly 60 years after his death, an album with refined original songs Woody at Home, was released in 2025. **Roadshow.**

Guthrie, through years of travelling, penned more than 1000 songs, many in protest about injustice and inequality.

USA, 1976, 147 min. Dir: Hal Ashby (Harold and Maude, 1971). Stars: David Harradine as Woody Guthrie.

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

Meditation & Buddhism

Weekly Classes 7.30pm Wednesdays
Ballarat Mechanics Institute

Kadampa Meditation & Buddhism
Meet Wednesdays - Find out more:

ballaratmi.org.au/kadampa-meditation/

Telegraph Road - The Dire Straits Legacy

Matt Arthur and The Lazybones

Friday 9 October 7pm - 10pm, Minerva Ballroom

A celebration of the legendary British rock band known for their clean guitar tone, understated style, and poetic storytelling.

"Matt Arthur, an expressive vocalist and blues guitarist from Central West NSW, leads *The Lazybones*—a five-piece group drawing on decades of musical experience.

Following the 2024 release of the album *Then & Now*, they have toured NSW, Victoria, and Queensland, receiving positive reviews for their engaging performances.

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

Tix: trybooking.com/events/landing/1532838

Tickets not available from the Library Box Office.

Royal Australian Navy 125th Anniversary Concert

Fundraising event for Ballarat RSL & BMI

**Saturday 10 October 2.15pm - 4.15pm,
Minerva Ballroom**

The RAN Wind Band performs a wide variety of musical styles from traditional military marches and classical symphonic works, to music theatre and popular repertoire.

As the Navy band's largest ensemble of up to 45 members, the wind band offers versatility and volume, and showcases some of Australia's most talented musicians and composers.

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

Tix: events.humanitix.com/ran-125th-anniversary-concert-bmi/

Tickets are available from the Library Box Office.

Crimson Goat Comedy Presents Charlie Pickering & Friends

Also featuring: Tom Siegert (also the Suburban Footballer) & M.C. Brad Oakes

**Sunday 11 October, 2.15pm - 4.15pm,
Minerva Ballroom**

Charlie Pickering is a law graduate who decided the best use of his degree was to avoid it entirely. Political junkie, stand-up comedian, and reluctant TV host, his only real career requirement is that his name appear in the show title.

Before television, Charlie spent a decade touring internationally as a stand-up, picking up **Best Newcomer** nods at **Edinburgh** and **Melbourne**, plus a slot at Montreal's *Just for Laughs*. He was a founding host of **The Project** in 2009, helping reshape how Australians consume the news.

In 2015 he launched *The Weekly with Charlie Pickering* on ABC, through his production company Thinkative Television, followed by *The Yearly* (since 2015) and the ABC's New Year's Eve coverage (since 2017).

He currently hosts ABC Drive in Melbourne and can also be heard talking (American) football on the podcast *Any Given Sunday Australia*.

Tom Siegert burst onto the comedy scene in the mid 2000's when, in only his second year performing, he represented Victoria in the national final of FHM's Australia's Funniest Man Competition.

Since then, Tom has become a regular and favourite at all the top comedy clubs in Australia. Tom has over 100,000 followers on social media, has had over 30 million views of his viral videos, has written for some of the biggest shows on TV, has a popular podcast and is the writer of two successful books.

Lately Tom has been very successful with his character *The Suburban Footballer*. Overall, it is standup that is his passion and where he is at his best.

Bradford Oakes (Brad, Oakesy) is a stand-up comedian of over 37 years professional experience. He has headlined and Emceed at every major stand-up venue in Australia.

He has appeared on all major TV networks on shows that include *Hey Hey It's Saturday*, *ROVE Live* and a host of others. His easy style has ensured he remains relevant to audiences of all ages.

Cost: \$49 GA - \$43 concession.

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

Tix: events.humanitix.com/charlie-pickering-bmi

Tickets also available from the Library Box Office.

Melbourne Fringe Festival: Fringe Encore Ballarat

Yellow Fever: An Original Musical Cabaret

**Thursday 22 October, Friday 23 October
& Saturday 24 October, 5.30pm, Humffray Room**

A shocking, hilarious, heartfelt quest for love beyond fetish. Creepy old white guys, incel asiaphiles, trophy wife wankers - it's a minefield out there for a young Asian woman...

Kelly wants to find love. Kelly is Asian. Kelly has a problem: the only men interested have this thing called "Yellow Fever". Where did it come from? How can we cure it? Will Kelly ever find true love?

Kelly Lim Harris presents *Yellow Fever: An Original Musical Cabaret*, a shocking, hilarious, and deeply personal exposé of her quest to find love beyond fetish - and of the industry that feeds it.

Cost: \$21-\$38

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

Tix: melbournefringe.com.au/whats-on/events/yellow-fever-an-original-musical-cabaret

Tickets not available from the Library Box Office.



Little Squirt: A One Man Musical Cabaret About Sperm Donation

**Thursday 22 October, Friday 23 October
& Saturday 24 October, 7pm, Humffray Room**

Darby clicks on a Facebook ad for sperm donation and sets sail across the seas of queer existential mayhem, discovering the absurdities of clinical procreation and considering his own future as a potential gay parent.

Join musical comedian Darby James for his multi-award-winning cabaret about the process of sperm donation. As he navigates questionnaires, psychological evaluations and questions of parenthood, Darby finds himself stranded as a seaman in moral purgatory, facing the question: Should we be having children?

Cost: \$26.25-\$45

More: ballaratmi.org.au/live-theatre/
Tix: melbournefringe.com.au/whats-on/events/little-squirt

Tickets not available from the Library Box Office.

Dune But Worse: Obsessed, Inept, Unbothered

**Thursday 22 October, Friday 23 October
& Saturday 24 October, 8.30pm, Humffray Room**

“A daring and inventive theatrical experience that reimagines the Dune saga with humour, heart and a touch of madness.”

Cost: \$18.74-\$34.50

More: ballaratmi.org.au/live-theatre/
Tix: melbournefringe.com.au/whats-on/events/dune-but-worse

Tickets not available from the Library Box Office.

Murder in the Market: A Murder Village Improvised Whodunnit

**Thursday 22 October, Friday 23 October
& Saturday 24 October, 8.30pm,
Minerva Ballroom**

Melbourne's award-winning improvised whodunnit returns with a brand-new show in a historic venue.

Welcome to Murder Village, where people shop till they drop... dead.

Melbourne's award-winning improvised whodunnit returns with a brand-new show in a historic venue. Staged amongst the cobblestones and arches of the heritage-listed Meat Market, Murder in the Market is serving up five delicious new marketplace mysteries this Melbourne Fringe.

No matter the backdrop – from fresh produce markets to arts & crafts fairs, or parish bakesales to antique roadshows – there is seemingly a murderer lurking behind the sales stalls. Luckily there also tends to be an amateur sleuth on hand to get to the bottom of things...

How each crime unravels is up to you. You suggest the clue and the weapon, while your votes determine who's safe from the chop and who's on the menu for murder. After all, across nearly 300 shows, Murder

Village has proven there's nothing more sinister than a market fair in a picturesque mid-century English village...

Melbourne's award-winning improvised whodunnit Murder Village is also heading to Ballarat for the first time! Staged amongst the elegance and majesty of the heritage-listed Ballarat Mechanics Institute, Murder in the Market is serving up three delicious improvised mysteries as part of Fringe Encore: Ballarat.

Cost: \$27.75-\$37

More: ballaratmi.org.au/live-theatre/
Tix: melbournefringe.com.au/whats-on/events/murder-in-the-market-a-murder-village-improvised-whodunnit

Tickets not available from the Library Box Office.

Ballarat National Theatre Presents:

Dead Man's Cell Phone

**23 October - 1 November, various times,
Minerva Ballroom**

Dead Man's Cell Phone is about a woman named Jean who answers the ringing cell phone of a man who has just died at a cafe. She becomes entangled in his life, meeting his family and mistress, and in the process, begins to live her own life more fully. The play explores themes of life, death, connection, and the afterlife in a quirky and often fantastical way.

It is the journey of a woman forced to confront her presumptions about morality, redemption, and isolation in a technology obsessed society.

**A surrealist play by Sarah Ruhl
Directed by Benj Beatty**

Cost: \$30-\$15

More: ballaratmi.org.au/live-theatre/
Tix: events.humanitix.com/bnt-dead-mans-cell-phone

Tickets not available from the Library Box Office.

Twilight talks

The Light on the Hill: An Updated History of the Australian Labor Party.

Speaker: Author, Ross McMullin.

**Wednesday 28 October, 5.30pm - 6.30pm,
Humffray Room**

The Light on the Hill is Ross McMullin's acclaimed commissioned history of the ALP. Hailed as a “classic”, it covers all states and the federal scene comprehensively and accurately while maximising liveliness and readability. The research is prodigious, the narrative is action-packed, and the scope and span of the coverage is sweeping. The “warts-and-all” story is told through the people who made it, and is full of illuminating pen-portraits and anecdotes.

The vivid story-telling blends the achievements and tribulations of Labor's governments with conflicts over organisation and policy, emotional highs and lows, and intrigue and intimidation behind the scenes. Prodigious research, captivating and

powerful, *The Light on the Hill* — now right up to date including the 2025 election and beyond — is the most authoritative and monumental account of Labor's rich history.

Ross is an accomplished and entertaining speaker, and his talk will feature some of the best stories in *The Light on the Hill*.

Ross is an award-winning historian, biographer and storyteller. His biography Pompey Elliott won multiple awards, and his lost generation multi-biographies were also acclaimed — Farewell Dear People won awards including the Prime Minister's Prize for Australian History, and Life So Full of Promise won The Age Book of the Year Award.

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.

An Intimate Hour of Magic with Barry Govan, Magician

**Saturday 31 October, 2 performances, 2pm &
7pm, Hooper Room, Ground floor.**

Ballarat's own professional magician Barry Govan performs a show that will take you back over 100 years when world famous magicians such as the Wizard Jacobs, Max Malini, Harry Houdini and many others performed in Ballarat and Melbourne at the turn of the last century.

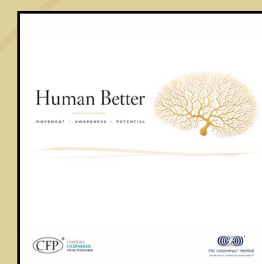
Barry has entertained such diverse personalities such as Muhammad Ali, Ex Russian president Mikael Gorbachev, “Stormin’” Norman Schwarzkopf (Gulf War fame) and toured with Elle MacPherson entertaining her business clients.

Barry's sleight of hand has been featured in many movies including “Winchester” with Helen Mirren, “Childstar” (The Life of Shirley Temple) and “Sucker” with Timothy Spall (of Harry Potter fame), plus many appearances on Australian television shows.

Cost: \$33 GA & 27.50 Concession

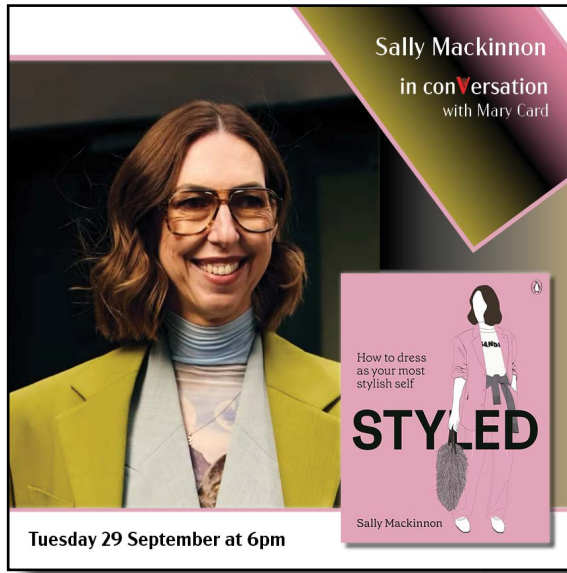
More: ballaratmi.org.au/live-theatre/
Tix: events.humanitix.com/an-intimate-hour-of-magic-bmi

Tickets also available from the Library Box Office.



Feldenkrais Workshops
Meet Tuesdays & Wednesdays

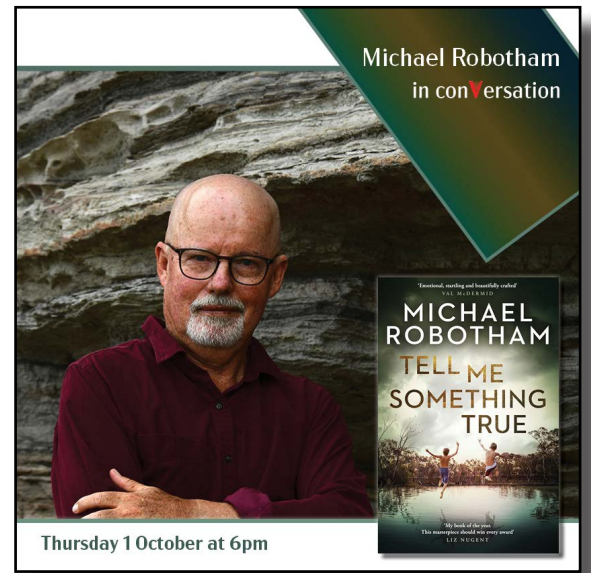
ballaratmi.org.au/feldenkrais-workshops/



In conversation with Sally Mackinnon
Tuesday 29 September, 6pm - 7.30pm



Twilight Talks: Ideas of Love & Loss
Wednesday 30 September, 5.30pm - 6.30pm



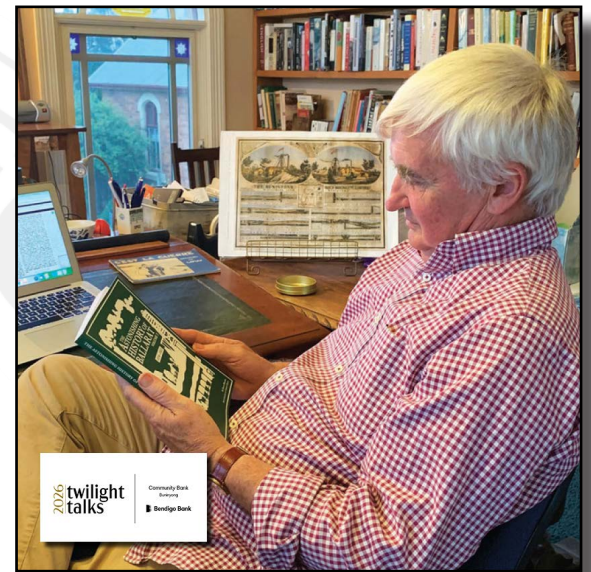
In conversation with Michael Robotham
Thursday 1 October 6pm - 7.30pm



Minva's Secrets: Night Tours
Fridays 2 Oct, 6 Nov, 4 Dec. | 7pm & 9pm



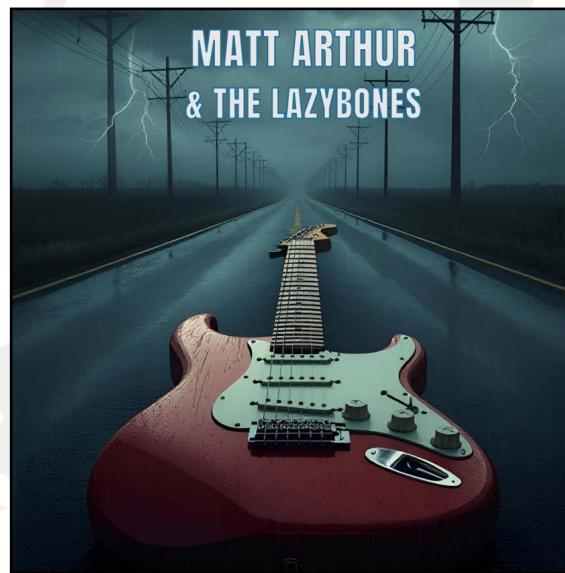
In conversation with Monica McInerney
Monday 5 October, 6pm - 7.30pm



Twilight Talks: The Importance of
Ballarat East, Doug Bradby
Wednesday 7 October, 5.30pm - 6.30pm



Ballarat Film Society *Bound for Glory*
Thursday 8 October | 7.30pm



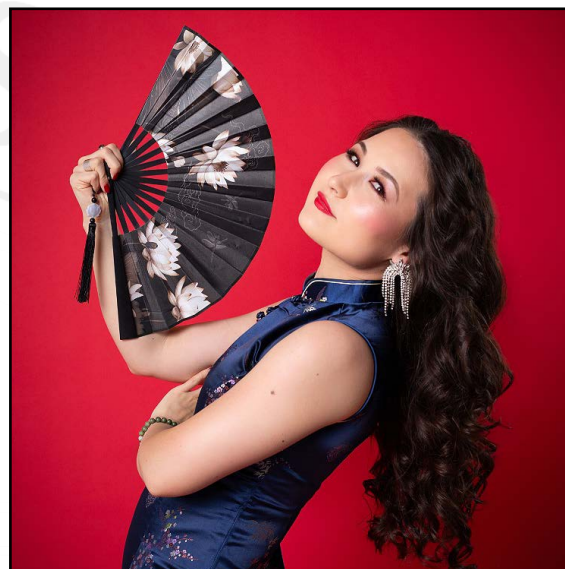
Telegraph Road: The Dire Straits Legacy
Friday 9 October 7pm - 10pm



Royal Australian Navy
125th Anniversary Concert
Saturday 10 October 2.15pm - 4.15pm



Crimson Goat Comedy Presents:
Charlie Pickering and Friends
Sunday 11 October 2.15pm - 4.15pm



Fringe Encore Ballarat - Yellow Fever:
An Original Musical Cabaret
22, 23 & 24 October, 5.30pm



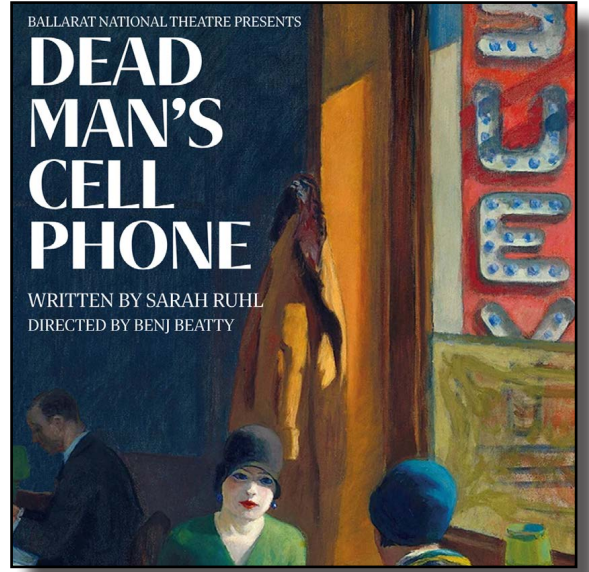
Fringe Encore Ballarat - Little Squirt
22, 23 & 24 October, 7pm



Fringe Encore Ballarat - Dune but Worse
22, 23 & 24 October, 8.30pm



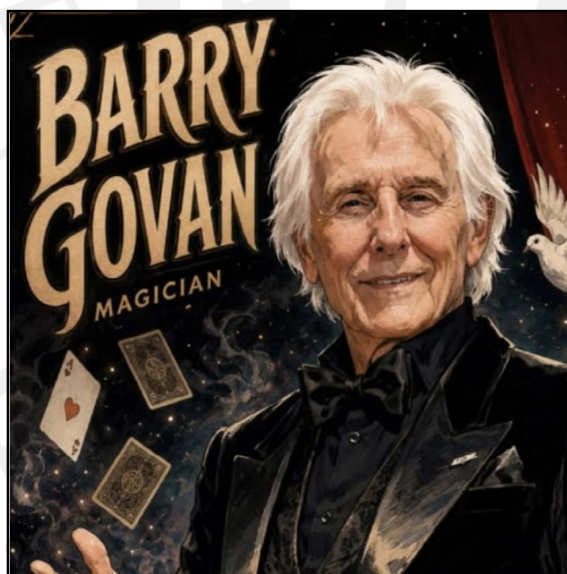
Fringe Encore Ballarat - Murder in the
Market: A Murder Village Improv.
22, 23 & 24 October, 8.30pm



Ballarat National Theatre Presents:
Dead Man's Cell Phone
23 October - 1 November, various times



Twilight Talks: The Light on the
Hill, Ross McMullin
Wednesday 28 October, 5.30pm - 6.30pm



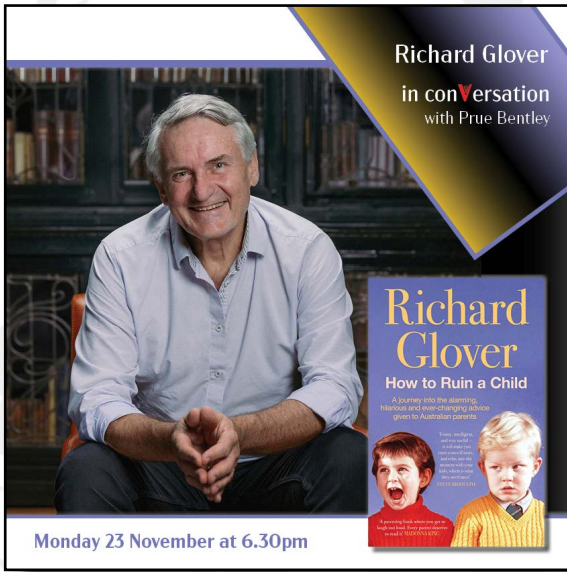
An Intimate Hour of Magic
Saturday 31 October, 2pm & 7pm



Stage Ready Networking Night:
Industry Pathways
Saturday 9 November, 6.30pm - 9pm



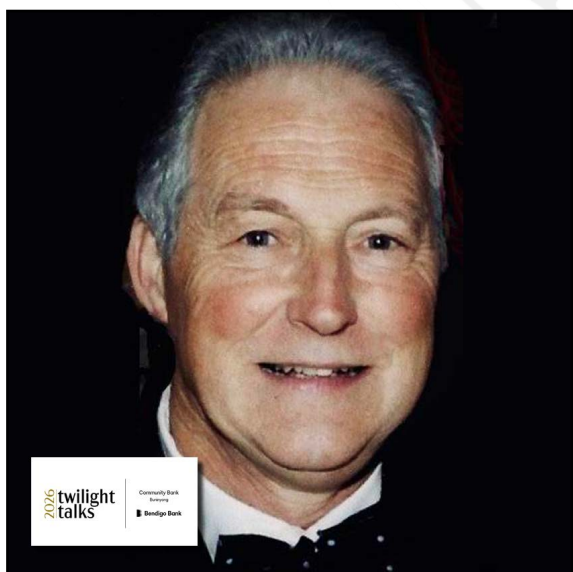
Open Garden & Devonshire Tea
at Errard Hall: BMI Fundraiser
Sat & Sun 14 & 15 November, 10am - 4pm



In conversation with Richard Glover
Monday 23 November, 6.30pm - 8pm



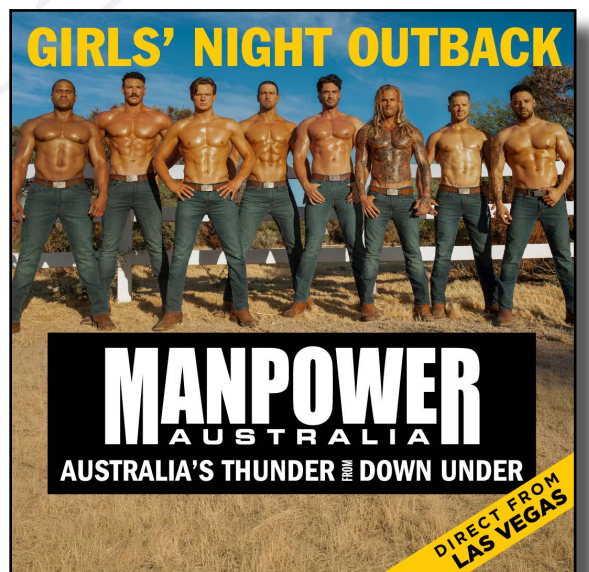
Twilight Talks: Understanding the
Language of your Body
Wednesday 25 November, 5.30pm - 6.30pm



Twilight Talks: 100 Year History of Legacy
Wednesday 2 December, 5.30pm - 6.30pm



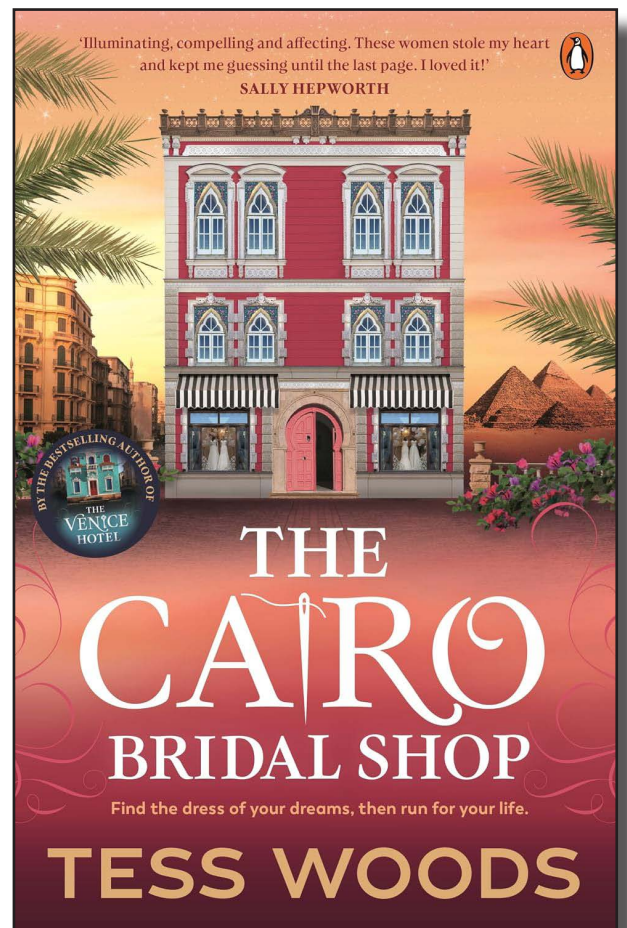
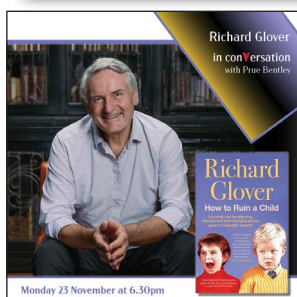
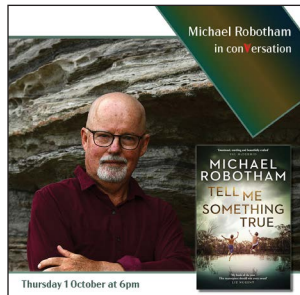
Ballarat Film Society *Smiley Gets a Gun*
Thursday 10 December | 7.30pm



Manpower Australia: Girls' Night Outback
Thursday 21 January 8pm - 10pm

Rosemary's Book of the Month

in conVersation



We acknowledge the support of our valued Supporters & Partners

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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