

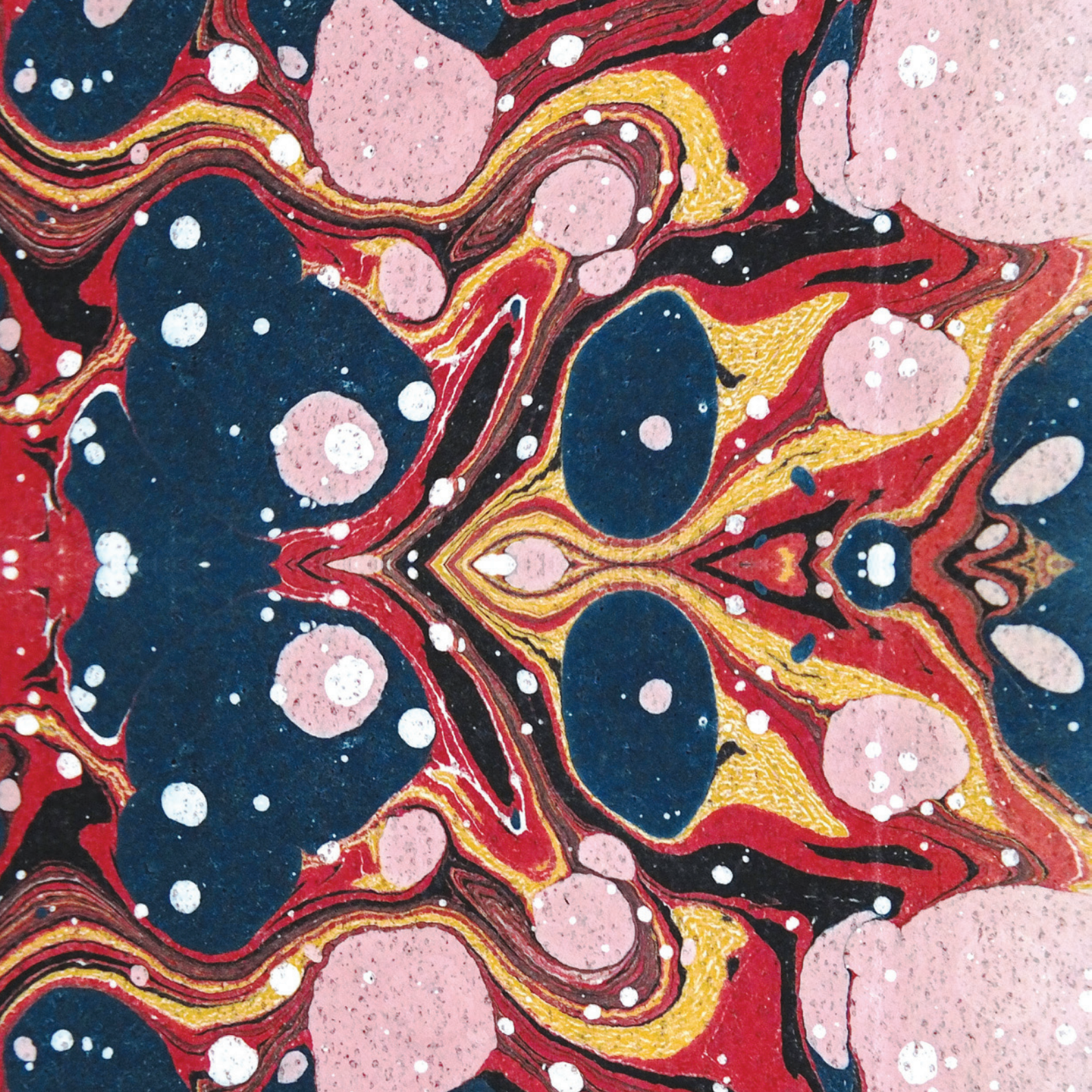


ESTD 1859

## CREATIVE ACTIVATION AT THE BALLAARAT MECHANICS' INSTITUTE (BMI) 2016-2019

Amy Tsilemanis





ESTD 1859

CREATIVE ACTIVATION AT  
THE BALLAARAT MECHANICS'  
INSTITUTE (BMI) 2016-2019

*Amy Tsilemanis*

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## Introduction

In 2016, the Haymes Family made a special donation to the BMI- the gift of the 'Max Harris Photography Collection' of over 3000 Ballarat images dating back to the 1860s. In addition, they provided funds for the role of a part-time curator over three years. The aim was to build greater public engagement with the BMI, in its grand restored building and with its heritage collections, as a path to the future.

The imagery collected in this book captures my work as BMI curator that also became practice-led research for a PhD at Federation University Australia. The people, events, and creativity featured here spring from the generous support of multiple stakeholders, and the possibilities that were opened and embraced. The project also coincided with a creative period in Ballarat's cultural life including inaugural city-wide events such as White Night Ballarat and the development of strategies for arts and heritage in the city.

This project celebrates the meeting of arts and heritage, in 'creative activation of the past' and the power of collaboration and ideas brought to life. The photographs and promotional designs featured in this book trace the launch of the photography collection being at the BMI with three days of Spring Celebrations in September 2016, through to exhibitions and events as part of White Night Ballarat, Ballarat Heritage Weekend, the Ballarat International Foto Biennale and Open House Ballarat in 2017, and culminate in the 2019 Talking Shop exhibition and program of events.

All images are part of the newly created BMI Audio Visual Collection and are courtesy of the BMI or Amy Tsilemanis unless otherwise credited. Thank you also to the professional photographers who have captured exhibitions and events so beautifully: Chippy Rivera; Erin McCuskey; Michael Watson; Samantha Kaspers, and the largely unknown photographers of the Max Harris Collection.

It is with deep thanks that I acknowledge that the project has taken place on, and drawn strength from, the traditional Wadawurrung land and culture. May we walk forward together. Heartfelt appreciation to the funders who made this project possible (Haymes Family Foundation, Federation University Australia, Ballarat Arts Foundations and Sovereign Hill Museums Association); the local media who promoted it, and the amazing creative people that gave it life. This book is for you.

To read the full PhD thesis and access further multimedia see: *Creative Activation of the Past: Mechanics' Institutes, GLAM, heritage and creativity in the twenty-first century* via Federation University Australia.

# MAX HARRIS

## PHOTOGRAPHY COLLECTION



ESTD 1859

Explore the historic Ballarat Mechanics' Institute and enjoy curated displays of vintage Ballarat photographs.

The Max Harris Photography Collection features images from the 1860s through to the 1960s collected by Max over the last forty years, and is the newest addition to the BMI treasures.

Buy your own prints to take home. Share your knowledge and memories.

Talk to us about donating your historic photographs. Join our donors and become a philanthropic supporter of the collection.

**BALLARAT'S INDEPENDENTLY RUN CULTURAL HUB**

**117 STURT STREET, BALLARAT, VIC 3350**  
**P: (03) 5331 3042**

**OPENING HOURS: MON-FRI 10-4 / SAT 9.30-12**

**Info at: [ballaratmi.org.au](http://ballaratmi.org.au)**  
**[ballaratmi@gmail.com](mailto:ballaratmi@gmail.com)**

DISCOVER THE COLLECTION AT THE BMI

@bmiballarat







## Foreword

Taking a dream into the real world is an extraordinary talent. Spinning vibrant and captivating cultural connection from a bulking plan craves a force of nature.

This glorious book, bursting with life, culture and joy cannot possibly convey the depth of work, skill, creative and cultural dexterity that had its origin with author Amy Tsilemanis.

The Ballaarat Mechanics' Institute had no idea who walked in the front door that day. And when she walked out again the place was different. The air was different. The spaces were different. The building had exhaled, and our joy expanded.

Art and culture talk to us of who we are. The places that hold art, culture and notions of us, tell us where we belong. And it takes someone with a big idea to take us by the hand and entice us to the place where they fuse. In that fusion we understand what it is to be human, to be here together and to fully understand what it means to symphonise.

Amy long may you dream up notions of how brilliantly we can shine. The aftereffects will outlast us all.

Thank you for seeing it through.  
Your friend and collaborator,  
*Erin M McCuskey*

Pictured: Still from film 'Make Your Own History at the BMI', (Yum Studio).



# 2016

## RENEWAL AT THE BMI

The first year of the curatorship saw events that brought staff, volunteers, members and visitors together to explore possibilities and creative links between the past and the future. The Max Harris Photography Collection at the BMI was launched with 3 days of Spring Celebrations that featured exhibitions, workshops, live music, film screenings and more. The BMI was alive with energy and ideas, using the heritage collections as a spark.

**Pictured:** AVAT494 BMI in Spring 2017

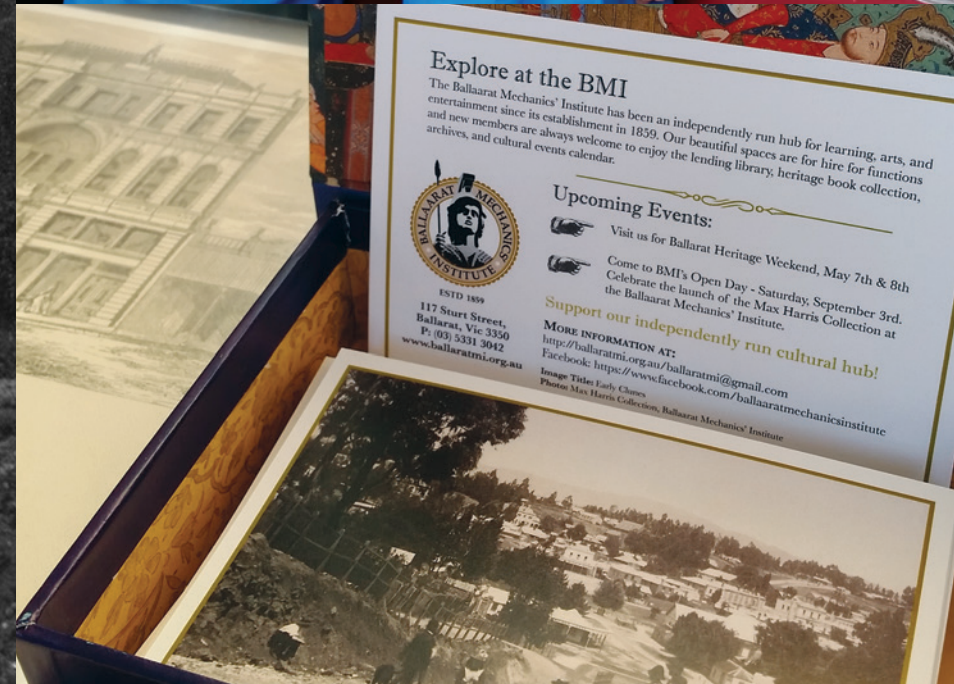




## CLUNES BOOKTOWN

BMI volunteers presented a stall at Clunes Booktown and promoted the new photography collection and upcoming events.

**Pictured (L-R):** MH630 Clunes 1887;  
AVAT118 Danny Stonehouse and Judy Peters  
at Clunes bookstall with new BMI aprons,  
2016; AVAT269 BMI Clunes Booktown  
postcards at stall.







## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

The BMI celebrated International Women's Day in the Humffray Room with an event that featured Sing Australia Choir, a performance by Marg Dobson, a talk from past BMI president Wilma Bridges, and special items on display.

**Pictured (L-R):** AVAT147 Sing Australia entertains IWD 2016; AVAT143 Fiona Watson, Marg Dobson and Sing Australia members, IWD 2016.





Gather together to enjoy company and support the ongoing development of the **Ballaarat Mechanics' Institute**. Bring a friend and be entertained by **Marg Dobson** (an excerpt from her *'Women on the Goldfields'* play) and **Sing Australia** (our in-house choir). Do you have any fascinating stories about your mothers and grandmothers?

**Humffray Room,**  
**Ballaarat Mechanics' Institute**  
 117 Sturt Street, Ballarat

**Tuesday 8 March 2016 at 10:30 am**  
 Please advise **Rosemary** on 5331 3042 of your attendance for catering purposes

**Pictured (L-R):** AVAT65 On the roof of the BMI - Amy Tsilemanis, Lynden Nicholls and Marg Dobson; AVAT146 Julie McLaren from Art Gallery of Ballarat with Women's Quilt Project IWD 2016; AVAT264 BMI Morning Tea poster (designed by David Berry).



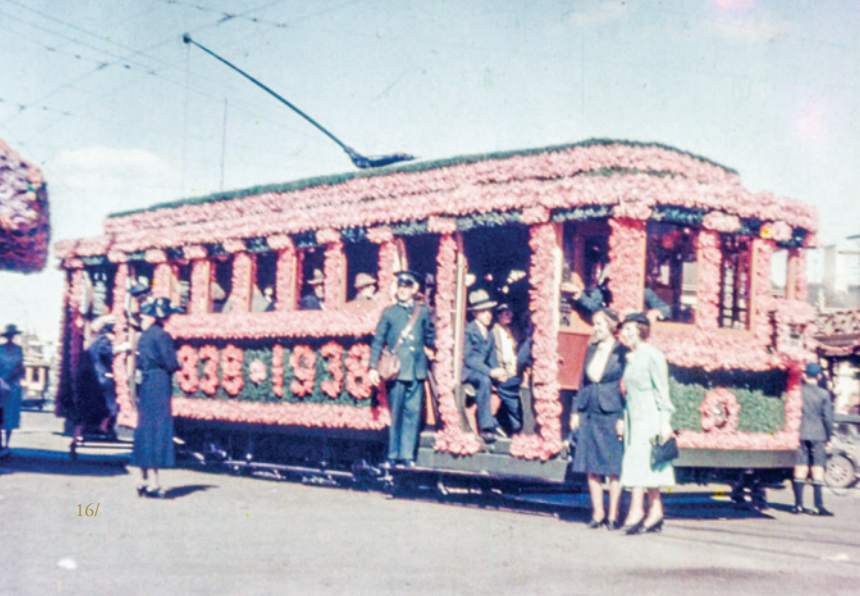
## GARDENS IN PRINT

BMI presented 'Gardens in Print' as part of the Ballarat Gardens in Spring event. Here Ballarat's 1938 Floral Festival as part of the city's centenary celebrations inspired decoration of the BMI building and the exhibition showcased BMI collection items with a garden theme.

**Pictured:** MH1311 Carlyons Hotel & Area 1938.







**Pictured (L-R):** AVAT142 Reading Room Guests, Gardens in Print 2016 (Michael Watson); AVAT139 Library during Gardens in print event 2016 (Michael Watson); AVHR003 Victoria Centenary Ballarat Tram during Floral Festival 1938 (Herb Richmond); AVAT36 Volunteer Geraldine Roberts decorating building for Gardens in Print 2016.



# BMI OUT AND ABOUT PROMOTING THE COLLECTION AND BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

Volunteers presented a stall at Springfest at Lake Wendouree, and visited the State Library of Victoria to meet with the team there and share ideas and resources.

**Pictured (L-R):** AVAT114 BMI Springfest stall with volunteers Amy Tsilemanis, Andrew Wallace and Max Harris; AVAT113 Jenny Haymes, Amy Tsilemanis, Jane Valpied and Geraldine Roberts visit the SLV and meet with Kate Torney, Indra Kurzeme and Jo Ritale.





## SPRING CELEBRATIONS AND OPEN DAY

This event was filled with colour and activity, inviting all kinds of engagement with the BMI and its collections and stories.

**Pictured:** MH1330 Mechanics' Institute visit of Prince Alfred 1867.







**BALLARAT MECHANICS INSTITUTE**  
ESTD 1859

## Spring Celebrations

**1 - 3 SEPTEMBER 2016**  
**3 NIGHTS OF LIVE MUSIC**  
In collaboration with FedUni Live Production  
Tickets at: [ballaratmi.org.au/SpringCelebrations](http://ballaratmi.org.au/SpringCelebrations)

**OPEN DAY - FREE**  
**3 SEPTEMBER, 10AM - 5PM**  
Local Music and Performance  
Photography and Film Exhibitions  
Launch of the Max Harris Photography Collection  
Fascinating displays from the BMI Collection  
Educational Talks and Kids Activities  
...and much more!

**BALLARAT'S GRAND MECHANICS' INSTITUTE IS RESTORED, REVITALISED & BLOOMING AGAIN!**  
Get reacquainted with Ballarat's oldest and newest treasure, bursting with 3 days of celebratory events with something for everyone to enjoy.

Info at: [ballaratmi.org.au/SpringCelebrations](http://ballaratmi.org.au/SpringCelebrations)  
117 STURT STREET, BALLARAT, VIC 3350  
P: (03) 5331 3042

@bmiballarat  
f t i

Event Sponsors



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Michael Unwin  
Wines  
VINEYARDS

NEWS  
**FOOTY CAR PARK CHAOS**



NEWS  
**LET'S COUNT AT KINDER**

**Pictured (L-R):** AVAT266 BMI Spring Celebrations poster 2016 (designed by Peter Gaulke); AVAT271 Ballarat Courier front cover promotion with Amy, John and Susan 2016 (Caleb Cluff); AVAT209 Marketing Committee prepping promo - Jane Valpied, David Berry, David Dahlenburg and Lee Taylor.



ROLL UP, ROLL

**Behind doors**







Open Day at the Ballarat Mechanics' Institute.  
Pictured (L-R): AVAT165 Beryl and friend with flower crowns; AVAT151 Volunteers Ammie and Jayde with John Hosking as Mark Twain; AVAT157 Andrew Miller (BMI board member) with Spring crown.





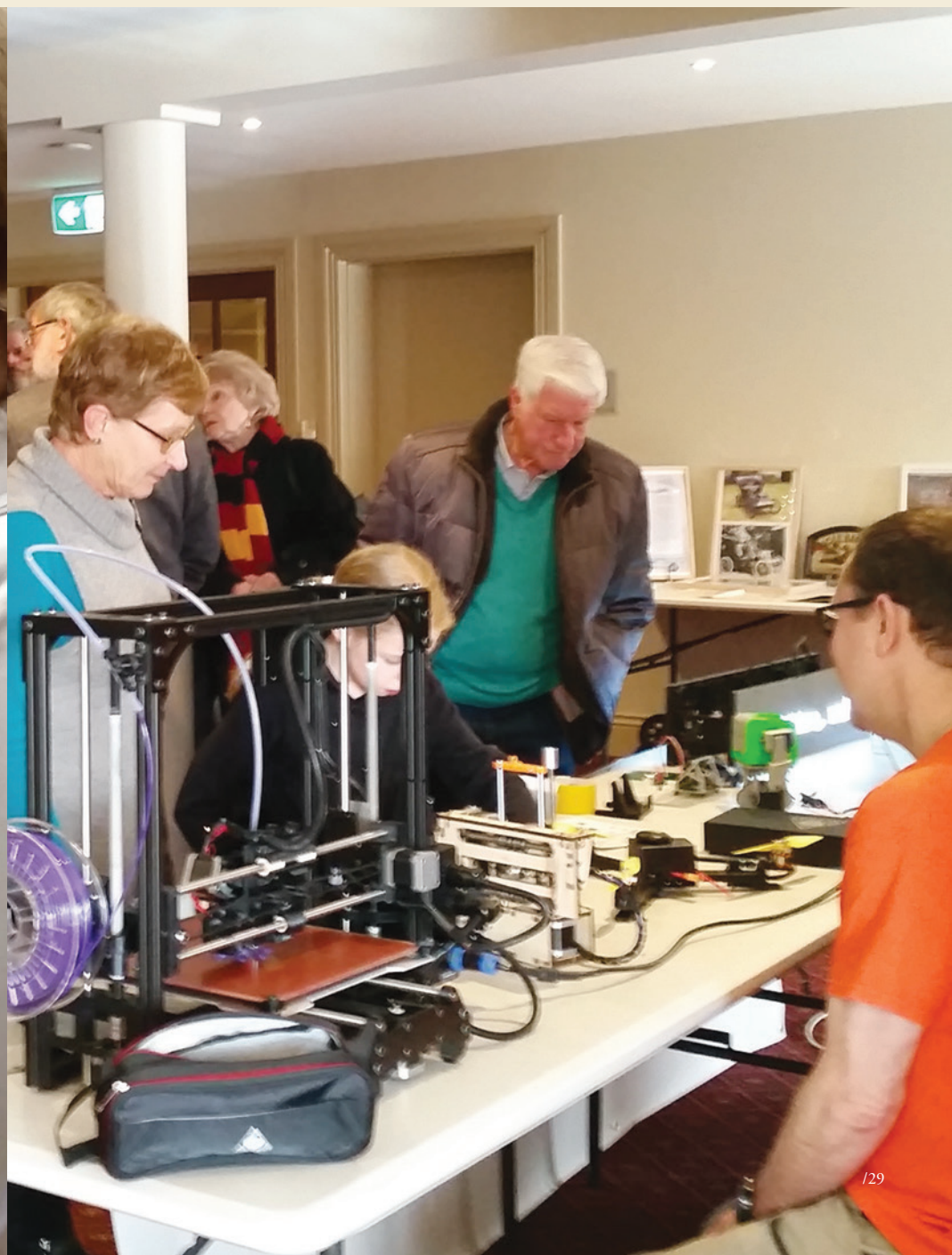
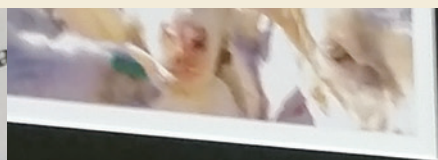


**Pictured (L-R):** AVAT186 Greta and Wendy Graham, BMI board member; AVAT205 Marie Anderson with Cinema display; AVAT190 In the Picture photography exhibition, The Ballarat Life images.

**Next pages pictured (L-R):** AVAT198 Kids BMI quiz; AVAT201 Liana Skewes with her image from the Ballarat Life exhibition; AVAT216 Phil Roberts doing tour and Hackerspace display.



2. Look for the room where...  
What was the board game that...  
**Chess**  
What is the oldest camera you can see on display?  
**1890-1900 Thornton**  
3. Can you find the library? What is the librarian's name?  
**rosemary**  
4. Find the old library not far from here. Why is it called...  
**to let light in**  
Look into the tall glass cabinet and find the answer.  
How much did it cost to make a telephone booth?  
**20**  
Whose office did these items come from?  
**Mr. Battens**  
Do you see the glass cabinets filled with books?  
Who was travelling over the rainbow?  
**SHIRLEY**







**Pictured (L-R):** AVAT164 Barry Breen poetry session in the Heritage Reading Room; AVAT175 Decoration preparation with volunteers; AVAT714 Amy Tsilemanis with Tegan Lang aka Miss Daisy Amazing Go Go dancing at Open Day (Chippy Rivera); AVAT265 BMI Open Day program (designed by Peter Gaulke).



## ALL DAY EVENTS

### ENTRANCE/HOOPER ROOM

**‘In the Picture: Ballarat through Time’**  
A collaborative photography exhibition featuring images from the Max Harris Collection, Ballarat Historical Society, and The Ballarat Life. Bring in your own historic or contemporary photographs to be archived and contribute your knowledge on historic images. Vintage Camera display

### LENDING LIBRARY

Lending library and membership information  
BMI Collection Highlights  
New Max Harris Photography Collection at the BMI area with featured images, books and prints for sale  
All day Book Sale  
Kids activities

### HERITAGE READING ROOM

Book Portraits Exhibition  
Collection Highlights

### HUMFFRAY ROOM

Devonshire Tea & Venue Hire Information  
Contribute your memories and learn about the Royal South Street Society  
FedUni performance extracts from ‘The Personal History, Adventures, and Observations of David Copperfield the Younger of Blunderstone Rookery.’

### MINERVA SPACE

**‘At the Pictures: Cinema History at the BMI’**

### WILLIAMSON FOYER

Ballarat Hackerspace Demos & Henry Sutton display

### VINTAGE CINEMA & SOUNDS

Dress in your Vintage wear & enjoy: **Surf Shadows** surf grooves. Short film by **Erin McCuskey**: Luxville Prologue & a new work including recently discovered footage of Ballarat. **Sounds of Silent** jazz quintet perform live to Buster Keaton’s Steamboat Bill Jr.

## SCHEDULED EVENTS

**11.30 - 12.00**  
Roger Burrows on history of photography and cameras  
**3.30 - 4.00**  
Aldona Kmiec on contemporary street photography

**10.00 - 10.45**  
Ballarat Memorial Concert Band  
**12.00**  
Launch of Max Harris Collection  
**11.00, 1.00 & 3.00**  
Building Tours

**11.00**  
Barry Breen Poetry  
**2.30**  
Gideon Haigh on Mechanics’ Institutes and Schools of Art

**12.30 - 1.15**  
Sing Australia  
**3.45 - 4.45**  
2nd Year FedUni acting students perform dramatised scenes from David Copperfield

**2.00 - 2.45**  
Go-Go dancing class with Miss Daisy Amazing

**Humffray Room from 6.30pm**  
Tickets: \$25.00 / \$20.00  
Concession & BMI Members  
Local beer, wine & snacks for sale

**POP UP PERFORMANCES THROUGHOUT THE DAY FROM JOHN HOSKING & OTHERS!**





Pictured (L-R): AVAT713 Roger Burrows discussing his camera collection on display at Open Day (Chippy Rivera); AVAT712 & AVAT711 Ballarat Memorial Band performing in library at Open Day (Chippy Rivera).



# HEART OF THE RAT RECORDS BALLARAT SONGWRITERS NIGHT MATT MALONE FREYA JOSEPHINE HOLLYCK DEAD MEN DUN MINER SEPTEMBER BALLAARAT MECHANICS INSTITUTE SEVEN P

## EVENING EVENTS

These three evenings presented local live music and filmmaking in the Humffray and Minerva Rooms, bringing the BMI's past and present to life.

**Pictured (L-R):** AVAT257 Ballarat Songwriters Night at BMI poster (designed by Heart of the Rat); AVAT290 Silver Rememberings on Yum Studio webpage; AVAT299 Vintage Cinema & Sounds ticket front (designed by Peter Sparkman based on one in the BMI archives); AVAT291 Sounds of Silent poster for Vintage Cinema Night 2016 (Sounds of Silent).

## SILVER REMEMBERINGS

#CreativeMedia #Arts #Film/Foto

Out of the dark of more hopeful times comes a vision of the hopeful 70s and the opening cinema in Ballarat. 'Silver Rememberings' is a commission by Amy Tsilemanis curator at **Mechanics Institute (BMI)** to create a short work using the recently discovered archival family.

The Anderson Family have run all things cinema in Ballarat for over 50 years. Their arch super 8 of Ballarat, the BMI and the Vegas cinema lift from a huge family archive created 'Jack' Anderson.

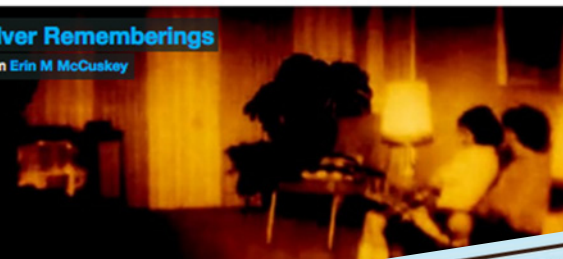
This film was first screened in The Minerva Space in September 2016 a space that has a cinema. It was also once The Britannia, then The Odeon. And then in the 70s the Andersons created The Vegas70, once the 80s hit it was simply the Vegas.

Here sitting in the dark of the Minerva Space watching people of the 70s excitement at a cinema, right there in the same space just years later.

Directed by Erin McCuskey, music by local composer **Christine Tammer** this film will transport you through time in one place.



**Silver Rememberings**  
from Erin M McCuskey



**BMI SPRING CELEBRATIONS**  
Saturday September 3rd 2016, 7pm til late  
**VINTAGE CINEMA & SOUNDS**  
**BALLAARAT MECHANICS' INSTITUTE**  
Surf grooves with **SURF SHADOWS**  
Short Film by **ERIN MCCUSKEY** of **YUM STUDIO**  
Live performance by **SOUNDS OF SILENT** to the  
1927 Buster Keaton film **STEAMBOAT BILL JR**  
\$25/\$20 concession & BMI members



# The SOUNDS of SILENT

present Buster Keaton in  
'Steamboat Bill Jnr'  
Saturday 3rd September 7pm



**VINTAGE CINEMA & SOUNDS**  
Dress in your favourite vintage gear. Enjoy Surf Shadows Surf Groove, short film by Erin McCuskey & 'At the Pictures' exhibition of BMI cinema history

1920s cinema experience  
silent film with live band





**Pictured (L-R):** AVAT173 Christine Crawshaw running the bar at Vintage Night; AVAT199 Lauren Bourke and Amy serving popcorn (Erin McCuskey); AVAT185 Graham Gooding and Erin McCuskey at Vintage Night; AVAT226 Sounds of Silent and Jeremy.







**Pictured (L-R):** AVAT704 Freya Josephine Hollick with Kat Mear Ballarat songwriters night BMI Spring Celebrations Sep 1 (Chippy Rivera); AVAT707 Motor City Sounds Ballarat songwriters night BMI Spring Celebrations Sep 2, produced by FedUni Live Production (Chippy Rivera).

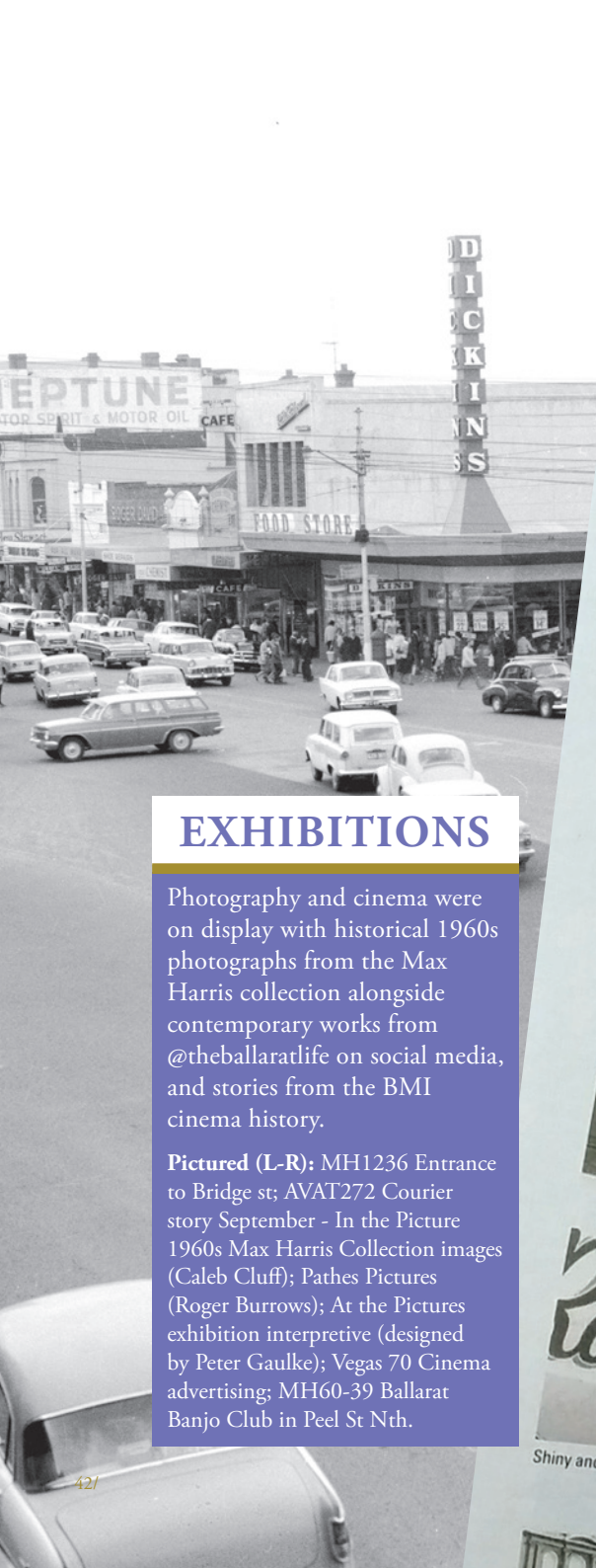




**Pictured (L-R):** AVAT708 Motor City Sounds Ballarat songwriters night BMI Spring Celebrations Sep 2 (Chippy Rivera); AVAT706 Windrush Ballarat songwriters night BMI Spring Celebrations Sep 2 (Chippy Rivera); AVAT705 Liana Skewes Ballarat songwriters night BMI Spring Celebrations Sep 2 (Chippy Rivera).







## EXHIBITIONS

Photography and cinema were on display with historical 1960s photographs from the Max Harris collection alongside contemporary works from @theballaratlife on social media, and stories from the BMI cinema history.

**Pictured (L-R):** MH1236 Entrance to Bridge st; AVAT272 Courier story September - In the Picture 1960s Max Harris Collection images (Caleb Cluff); Pathes Pictures (Roger Burrows); At the Pictures exhibition interpretive (designed by Peter Gaulke); Vegas 70 Cinema advertising; MH60-39 Ballarat Banjo Club in Peel St Nth.

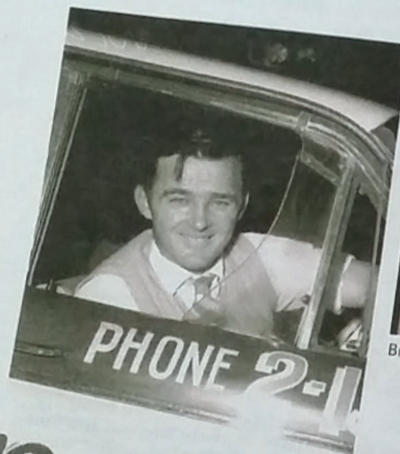
32 THE COURIER Saturday September  
**COVER**  
Weekender



Glamorous: a Vauxhall Velox in the Botanical Gardens.

### BLACK AND WHITE PAST

Do you recognise any of the people or events in these pictures? They range from the late 1950s to the late 1960s. Email [caleb.cluff@fairfaxmedia.com.au](mailto:caleb.cluff@fairfaxmedia.com.au) with your stories.



**Radio Cabs**

Shiny and new: Ballarat's Radio Cabs.

**PATHES PICTURES**  
THE HALL OF EASE.  
CHANGE OF PROGRAM WEDNESDAYS & SATURDAY

Long Gone: The Ballarat Banjo Club outside its premises.



Broken window: Connie Russo's hairdressers.



Dusting of snow: Looking up Sturt St



School outing: students and a nun in Humffray Street.

AT THE PICTURES,  
CINEMA AT THE BMI

The Minerva Space, now hired for performances, launches, weddings, and film screenings, operated as a cinema in various guises for most of the 20th century. The stories of these cinemas are presented here today with thanks to the Cinema and Theatre Historical Society of Australia based at the Prahran Mechanics' Institute, Trove, Public Record Office Victoria, as films in Ballarat today.

The space was originally designed as a lecture hall, meeting, function and exhibition room, as seen in the above image from 1909. But like a number of other Ballarat halls, the Ballarat Mechanics' Institute became a popular place for viewing pictures from the early beginnings of cinema itself.



Early Plan of the Ballarat Theatre, Ballarat.  
This plan is one of the earliest plans, dated 1895, showing the construction of the theatre. The plan shows the theatre as a large hall, with a stage at one end, and a balcony for the audience. The plan also shows the location of the theatre in relation to the other buildings in the area.



Britannia Pictures  
**Pass Out**

Britannia Pictures  
**PASS OUT.**

Britannia Pictures  
**Pass Out**



### The Invention of the Cinematographe

The Lumiere brothers screened the marvel that was their first film, *Sortie de l'école Lumière de Lyon* in 1895 using the amazing new invention of the cinematographe. The Lumières embarked on a world tour with this marvel of the age, travelling to great cities of the world. In 1896, Ballarat was a centre of industry, business and ideas to which great writers like Mark Twain would travel and lecture, in his of lecturing like the Mechanics' Institute. By December 1896, the Lumiere's world institute to see "the living picture show."

The Courier in December 1896 remarked:  
"The marvel of the cinematograph might be expected, taking increasing effect upon the public mind. The attendances at the exhibitions at the Mechanics' Institute grew larger daily, and all who witness the exhibit agree upon its phenomenal interest." - The Courier, 11 December 1896

The Cinema & Theatre Historical Society captured  
"Cinemas" lover who recalls seeing

## 3 BIG SHOWS TODAY!

SPECIAL PROGRAMME 1.15 p.m.	INTERMEDIATE SESSION 4.00 p.m.	EVENING SESSION 7.45 p.m.
 <b>KIDDIES SHOW</b>		
 <b>tom thumb</b>		
 <b>See "Miss Vegas 70"</b>		
<p>ARRIVE AT THE THEATRE AT 7.30 p.m. In... ★ A luxury Holden Premier by courtesy COLISEUM MOTORS PTY. LTD. ★ A glamorous evening gown, exclusive to WALTER DAVIS PTY. LTD. ★ A beautiful fur from STEVENS, THE FURRIER</p> <p>HEAR the Ballarat Highland Pipe Band play outside the Theatre from 7.15</p>		
<b>VEGAS 70</b>		

From the beginning to the end of the world, ELIZABETH TAYLOR and RICHARD BURTON.

**Hurry! Hurry!**  
BOOK YOUR SEATS  
• TICKETS SELLING FAST  
BOOKING OFFICE OPENS  
10 a.m.-12.30 p.m., 2 p.m.-5 p.m.  
BOX PLAN AT THEATRE.



ESTD 1859



# STREET AUG 27 PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

SPECIAL WITH ALDONA KMIEC 10-1pm, 117 Sturt St

Part of BMI Spring Celebrations, supported by City of Ballarat

Get snapping out on the street  
followed by editing tips and  
group critique.  
Participant images will be  
digitally displayed at 'In the  
Picture' photography exhibition,  
BMI Spring Open Day on  
September 3rd, 2016  
BYO camera



CITY OF  
**BALLARAT**

Limited places! Book now at  
[ballaratmi@gmail.com](mailto:ballaratmi@gmail.com) 03 5331 3042



**Pictured (L-R):** AVAT255 Aldona Kmiec Street Photography Workshop poster as part of 'In the Picture' 2016;  
AVAT315 Street Photography Workshops with Aldona Kmiec.  
**Next page picture:** AVAT238 The Ballarat Life exhibition drinks with participants Sep 2 (Chippy Rivera).







# THE HERITAGE READING ROOM

## THE HERITAGE READING ROOM AND FORMER MINING EXCHANGE HALL

You are standing in the BMI's Heritage Reading Room, but what you might not know is this was once the hall of Ballarat's first Mining Exchange. From as early as 1857 shareholders are known to have gathered in an area between this building and the Unicorn Hotel next door. By 1865 the mining exchange of 'the Corner' as it became known was constructed. This hall is now all that remains of that original building.

Take a moment to imagine the "promenading of a large number of the frequenters of change..."

...surrounded on three sides with two stories of offices, lighted by a glass roof. Round the upper story runs a balcony with a balustrade of open ironwork of light and tasteful design, the open roof and its timbers being ornamented with a series of mouldings, and the woodwork of the fronts elaborately moulded and painted, much in the style of the offices already tenanted near the entrance from the street."

In 1887-88 a new and larger Mining Exchange was built and the hustle, bustle, wheeling and dealing of Ballarat's sharebrokers and mining community moved to the Lydiard St building we know today. In 1935, the Old Mining Exchange (hall) was acquired by the BMI and converted into the Institute Library.

-The First Fifty Years of the Mechanics' Institute' in Minerva's Gaze, by David Rowe and Wendy Jacobs



The space you see today was restored as part of extensive building renovations and the mezzanine level was reinstated with support from the Ian Potter Foundation in 2006. Today the Heritage Reading Room houses the BMI's heritage collection, one of historical significance for its strong association with the Mechanics' Institute movement and the important role it played in the intellectual, cultural and social development of Victorians throughout the latter part of the nineteenth century and the early twentieth century.

The book collection, predominantly non-fiction, is largely nineteenth century in nature, although it does include early publications such as The Annual Register of History, Politics and Literature 1758-1883. It includes early movement and the important role it played in the intellectual, cultural and social development of Victorians throughout the latter part of the nineteenth century and the early twentieth century.

"The heritage reading room, occupying what was the trading floor of Australia's first stock exchange, holds a collection of early publications such as The Annual Register of History, Politics and Literature 1758-1883. It includes early movement and the important role it played in the intellectual, cultural and social development of Victorians throughout the latter part of the nineteenth century and the early twentieth century."

- Gideon Haigh in the Australian, August 2016

Interpretive display boards created for the Open Day and ongoing use.

JOIN BMI ONLINE: @bmiballarat



ESTD 1859

## THE LENDING LIBRARY AND COLLECTIONS

### BMI LENDING LIBRARY COLLECTIONS

principles outlined in 1859 were "The diffusion of and other useful Knowledge and the supply of 'creation to its Members." While this has evolved current day, the Ballarat Mechanics' Institute is ained a substantial collection of 19th and 20th is representative of the holdings of a large, istitute during that period.

### ITE CONTAINS FOUR COLLECTIONS:



### Heritage Collection

The Ballarat Mechanics' Institute collection of some 16000 heritage l periodicals and newspapers (approximately 80,000 issues) acquired f since 1859 is heritage listed and presents a rare example of the rang material available to the citizens of Ballarat and District from the n' to early part of the 20th century. These items are predominantly h Heritage Reading Room.



### Archive Collection

The fourth collection is the Institute's own Archives Colle c.1857 including minutes, correspondence, annual report and objects. The Heritage Book Collection & Newspapers and archives are available on request for research and can Pat Foster, BMI volunteer archivist describes the Archi

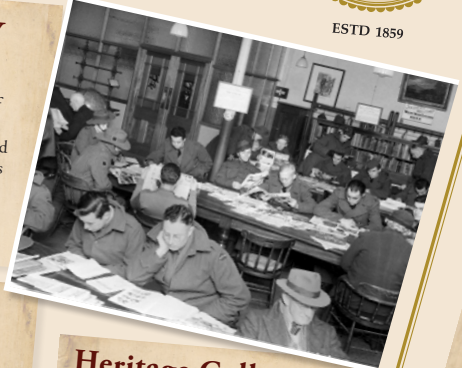
The BMI Archives Collection is made up of thousands of documents, minute books, ledgers, artefacts, ephemera, il Each of these items is connected to the whole by a single of the life and times of the Ballarat Mechanics' Institue

From prosperity to decline and re-emergence, marking e the rise and fall of cultural icons and social convention panyport to the BMI world and the Ballarat zeitgeist's historical register the BMI Archives Collection is a a Australian culture. Membership of the BMI helps m

The Collection forms an unbroken chain from our beyond as the Ballarat Mechanics' Institute open the Archives year by year. Thanks to the thousands volunteers, all these precious materials are summa and preserved for future generations and research



ESTD 1859



### WHAT IS 'THE BALLARAT LIFE'?

The Ballarat Life is a hashtag on social media, described as a "visual love letter to the city." Anyone can tag #theballaratlife and have the chance of being featured, and curator Stu Rapley has selected fifty five of his favourites for display as part of this exhibition.

"I have tried to find a balance of photos, architecture, the nkes, the countryside, daily life, the people and much nically a cross section of Ballarat Life as seen ntos of our contributors."

- Peter Butters on the 1960s

## MAX HARRIS PHOTOGRAPHY COLLECTION

### WELCOME TO STAGE 1 OF THE MAX HARRIS PHOTOGRAPHY COLLECTION AT THE BMI!

The Max Harris Photography Collection was purchased in February 2016 by the Haynes family and gifted to the BMI along with funding for the appointment of Amy Tallema as curator of the collection.

The 3000 strong collection of historic Ballarat images is the result of Max's forty years collecting, gathered from various archives and private contributions, lovingly reouched, displayed and compiled into books over this period.

The Lending Library will feature a dedicated space for the Max Harris collection with revolving displays, access to the online catalogue of the collection on Victorian Collections, and research assistance for members. For those wishing to take home a piece of Ballarat's history, prints will be also available for purchase with all funds raised going back into the continuation of the BMI as a hub for Ballarat culture and community.

Max Harris is a history lover and photographer who was born in Ballarat in 1946. He worked at BTV6 in its early days before joining the RAAF and getting his training in photography. He worked for many years as a commercial photographer in Ballarat before devoting his time in later years to collecting and restoring the historic Ballarat images that make up this collection.

Max's own Ballarat images taken in the 1970s and 1980s will also be digitised from negatives and added to the collection to be enjoyed by current and future generations.



Looking up Starr street from Greenville street, Ballarat



Image: Max Harris, David Harris, Amy Tallema, Jenny Haynes, Frank Hardy and Graham Gauding



Image: Max Harris taking aerial images in past days

In the tradition of the BMI, Ballarat citizens and business people will contribute funds and services to the establishment and evolution of the Max Harris Collection at the Ballarat Mechanics' Institute.

Benefactors will be acknowledged on a special board. Our thanks thus far go to: Max Harris, Amy Tallema, Jenny Haynes, Frank Hardy and Graham Gauding.



ESTD 1859

## WELCOME TO THE BMI, OF BALLARAT'S ST AND NEWESTURES

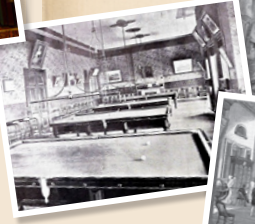
independently run hub of culture, entertainment established in 1859, and funded through a mixture rentals, venue hire, events, philanthropy, and ie one of the grandest of Australia's thurst for knowledge, a place to exchange and enjoy



### Why is it called a Mechanics' Institute?

The term Mechanic referred to tradesmen in the pra engineering and the Mechanics' Institute movement Birbeck in the early 1880s promoted self-education knowledge' to those wishing to learn. Over time the have evolved with their audiences, incorporating pol lectures, and entertainments. Today the BMI contin thirst for knowledge, a place to exchange and enjoy

In the past, spaces have been rented out by cinema South Street, & Lyric Theatre to name a few. Today Institute continues to be used by the community, o weddings, parties, concerts, conferences, workshops Our current long-term tenants are Woodward Nhill Gold Bookshop, Playing in the Attic gifts, & Sturt



### Why the 'aa' in Ballarat?

No it's not a spelling mistake, this is the original spelling of the city's name and comes from two Aboriginal words meaning "balla arat", or "resting place". We acknowledge that the land the BMI and its community meet on is traditional Waddawurrung country and we honour and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.



ae city is ategy.  
ressive front n classical motifs, e made. Minerva rafts and trade and rice' who was also over her martial

ne to discover more about the BMI story.  
es, "May the priceless treasures of literature, which adorn their shelves, continu  
nowledge, bright words of encouragement and hope, stimulating them to still h





# CHRISTMAS SHOPPING NIGHT

**Pictured (L-R):** AVAT122 Trudy McLauchlan, Christine Hickson and Jenny Haymes; AVAT288 Christmas Shopping Night Promo in newsletter; AVAT126 Erin McCuskey and Trudy McLauchlan from Playing in the Attic stalls; AVAT124 Kelly Grundy and Bren Luke DJing.



**Buy local this Christmas and support Ballarat's independently run cultural hub while you're at it!**

Photographic prints, books, postcards and other BMI goodies are available in the library. On Friday December 9th the library will be open for a special member Christmas shopping evening from 4pm - 5.30pm and 6:30pm - 8pm. Enjoy the Sergio de Pieri Twilight Talk and take home some gifts. This will also be the last date to put in print orders for the year. Would be great to see you there!

*For more information contact Amy at [ballaratmi@gmail.com](mailto:ballaratmi@gmail.com)*





**Pictured (L-R):** AVAT130 Artist and volunteer Christine Hickson with president Phil Roberts; AVAT128 Twilight talk guests visit christmas shopping in the library. AVAT132 Card making at Christmas shopping night; AVAT133 Volunteer Geraldine Roberts and visitors at Christmas shopping night.





# 2017

## CONNECTING TO BALLARAT CITY

This was a busy year, in which BMI took part in various city events and partnered with local artists, businesses, and organisations. The BMI collections were again used for inspiration and knowledge in creative works and projects.

**Pictured:** MH1103 Mechanics Institute block at night, 1938 Centenary Lighting.







The White Night at the BMI program featured live music and performance and an installation work by Ellen Sorensen.

**Pictured (L-R):** AVAT06 White Night 2017 BMI exterior (David Berry); AVAT302 White night flyer (designed by Lee Taylor); AVAT13 White Night with BMI (Michael Watson); AVAT328 Amy & Minerva pre White Night 2017, testing lights with Rex Hardware/FedUni Live Production.



# CITY OF BALLAARAT

...ate of Registration under Regulation No. 9 of  
...e City of Ballaarat of any Hall or other B...  
...public meetings, or of any such Building or any  
...public amusements are conducted.

is Hereby Certified that the \_\_\_\_\_



THE COMMITTEE  
(1917)

Ellen Sørensen

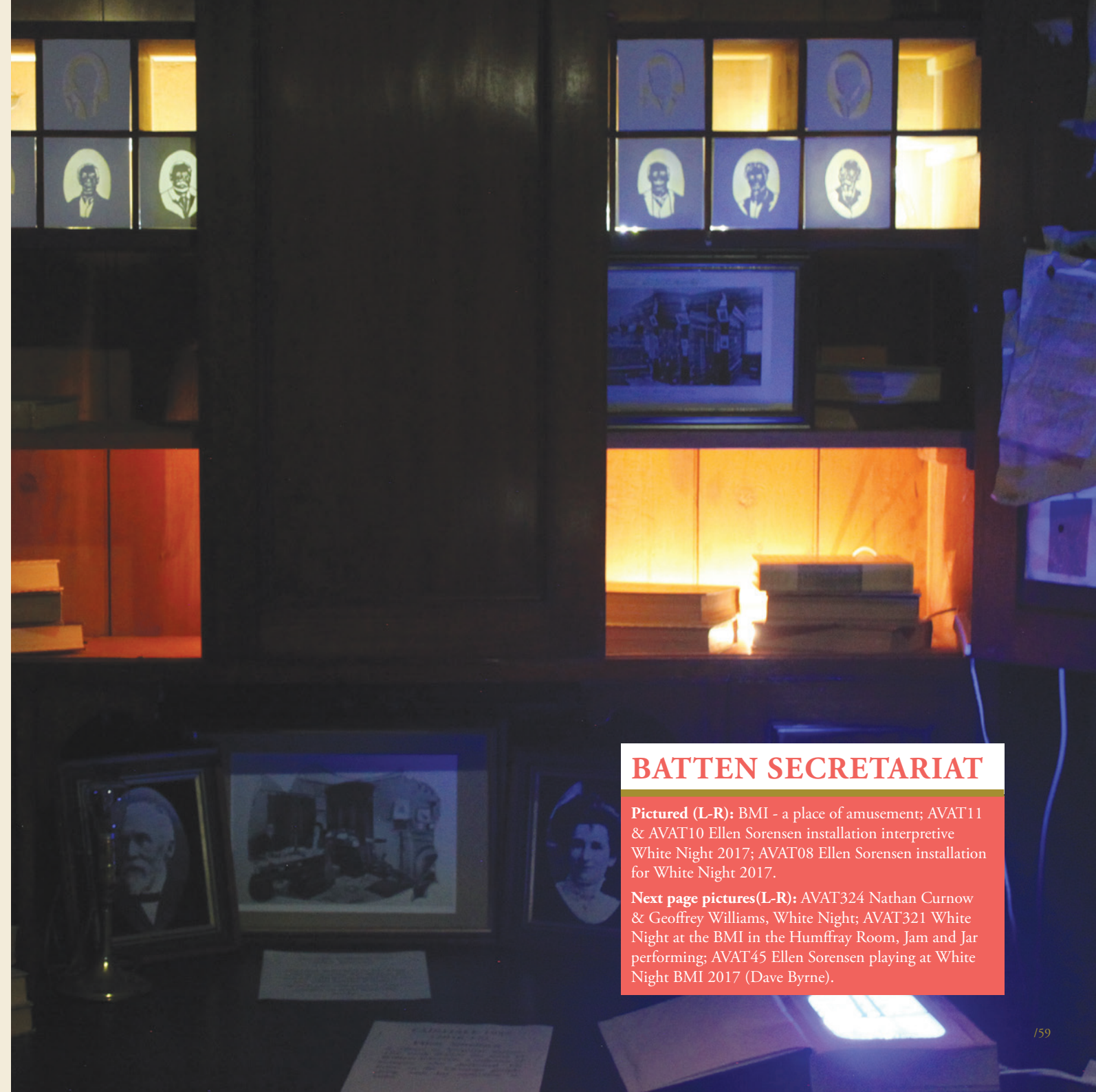
The BMI Committee from the  
1909 Jubilee Booklet



The BMI welcomes artist  
Ellen Sørensen.

This desk belonged to our long-  
serving secretary Mr Batten, he  
and his wife are pictured here in  
our 1909 Jubilee Booklet.

Watch past and present dance  
tonight, in these beautiful  
works.



## BATTEN SECRETARIAT

**Pictured (L-R):** BMI - a place of amusement; AVAT11 & AVAT10 Ellen Sørensen installation interpretive White Night 2017; AVAT08 Ellen Sørensen installation for White Night 2017.

**Next page pictures(L-R):** AVAT324 Nathan Curnow & Geoffrey Williams, White Night; AVAT321 White Night at the BMI in the Humffray Room, Jam and Jar performing; AVAT45 Ellen Sørensen playing at White Night BMI 2017 (Dave Byrne).







## BEERS THROUGH THE YEARS

Beers through the Years was a collaboration with City of Ballarat's Heritage Month and featured an exhibition and event programme, complete with tasty beers.

**Pictured:** MH1850 Red Lion Hotel; AVAT260 Beers Through the Years flyer (designed by Peter Gaulke).



117 Sturt Street,  
Ballarat, Vic  
P: (03) 5331 3042  
ballaratmi.org.au



**'Beers through the Years' is a celebration of Ballarat brews through history.**

**Saturday May 20th, 10am-6pm**

FREE ENTRY, drinks at special event prices. Enjoy activities, performances and fascinating stories of the past, while tasting the liquid gold of Ballarat craft brewers Red Duck, Athletic Club and Cubby Haus in the Humffray Room and Minerva Space.

**10.30am & 1.30pm** - Lauren Bourke on women, beers and bars

**11am** - James Coghlan on Ballarat Brewing Co.

**12.30pm** - Anthony Perovic, Coach House Ale

**2pm, 3pm & 4pm** - Brewer talks on the hour  
Performance by Simon Carroll & more.

**Thursday May 25th, 6pm**

The Science of Beer with Peter Aldred,  
Head lecturer in Brewing at FedUni  
Humffray Room, Drinks at bar prices.  
Cost: \$10 / \$6 BMI Members

**Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th**

Ballarat Heritage Weekend  
'Beers through the Years' exhibition running  
May 20th-28th exploring Ballarat's  
brewing and hotel heritage.





**The Courier**  
May 20 at 8:00am ·

If tasting a few unique, local craft brews over a history lesson sounds like your kind of afternoon, then **Beers through the Years** at the BMI today is for you.



Ballarat's brewing history on show



FRONT PAGE ADVERTISE LATEST EDITION FACEBOOK CONTACT THE M

Home > News > Heritage beer drinking

**NEWS**

### Heritage beer drinking

May 24, 2017 397

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**GOOD BEER WEEK**  
MAY 12-21 2017

HOME WHAT'S ON HUB NEWS GBW TV ABOUT SUPPORT

# GOOD TIMES

B'BALL, GOLF, MUSIC AND BOWLS  
TEN DAYS OF GOOD VIBES  
PLUS A BIT OF KARAOKE

Pictured (L-R): AVAT258 Beers Through the Years Courier article shared by John Ruyg 2017; MH225 Coghlan and Tulloch's Ballarat Brewing Company; AVAT382 Friends of Minerva visit the Beers through the Years Exhibition in the Humffray Room; AVAT285 Beers Through the Years press in The Miner; AVAT277 Beers Through the Years, Good Beer Week promotion; AVAT381 Beers through the Years bar during Heritage Weekend (Michael Watson).







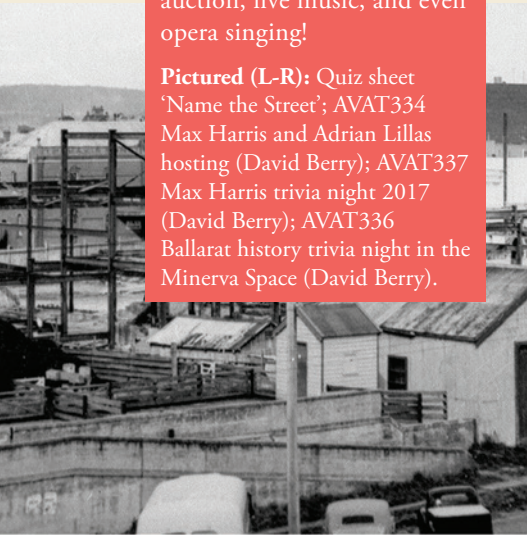
Pictured (L-R): AVAT387 Beers through the Years exhibition - curator Amy Tsilemanis with Dulcie Corbett (Michael Watson); AVAT386, AVAT384 and AVAT401 Beers through the Years exhibition (Michael Watson); Ballarat beer advertisement 'Try this, it's good,' from exhibition; AVAT353 Beers through the Years visitors.



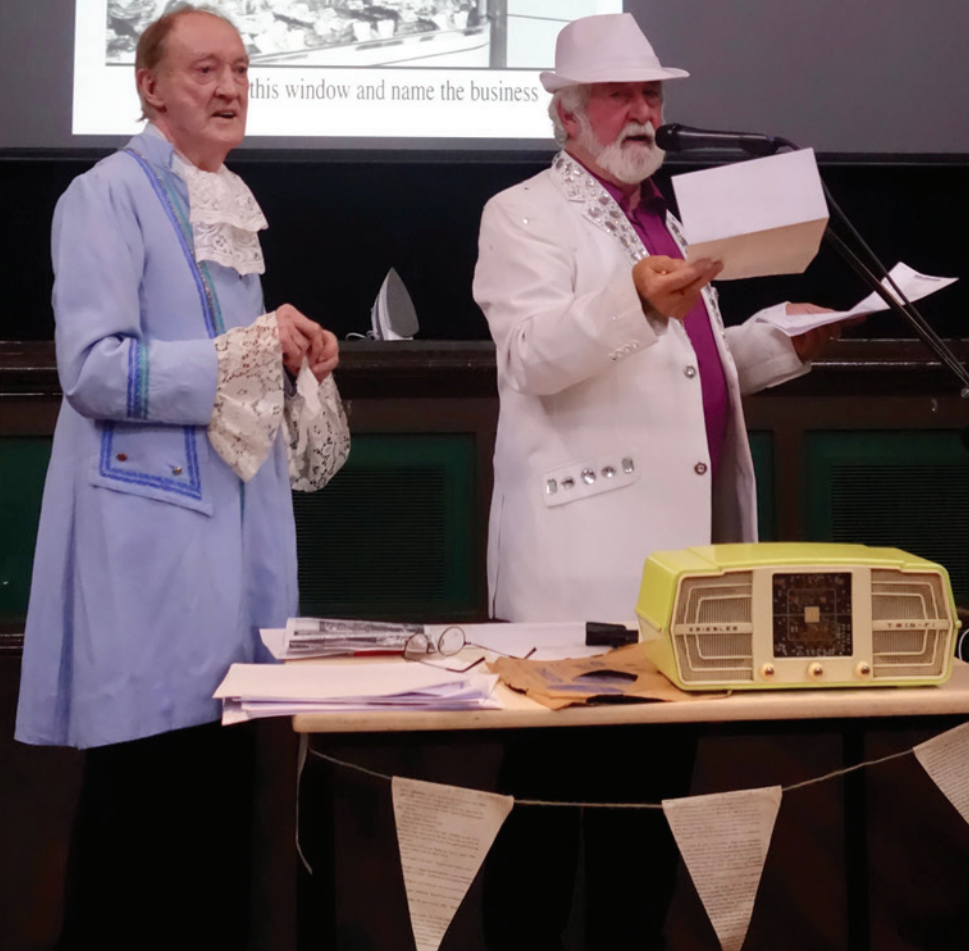
## BALLARAT HISTORY TRIVIA NIGHT

Max Harris and Adrian Lillas hosted this historical Ballarat trivia night for a BMI fundraiser. It featured a silent auction, live music, and even opera singing!

**Pictured (L-R):** Quiz sheet 'Name the Street'; AVAT334 Max Harris and Adrian Lillas hosting (David Berry); AVAT337 Max Harris trivia night 2017 (David Berry); AVAT336 Ballarat history trivia night in the Minerva Space (David Berry).



What is under constr







**Pictured (L-R):** AVAT339 Pat McCabe and Geoff Hassell performing at Trivia Night (David Berry); AVAT331 Christine Crawshaw doing her bar magic at Trivia Night; AVAT343 Sharon Rose and Amy as tally girls for trivia (David Berry).





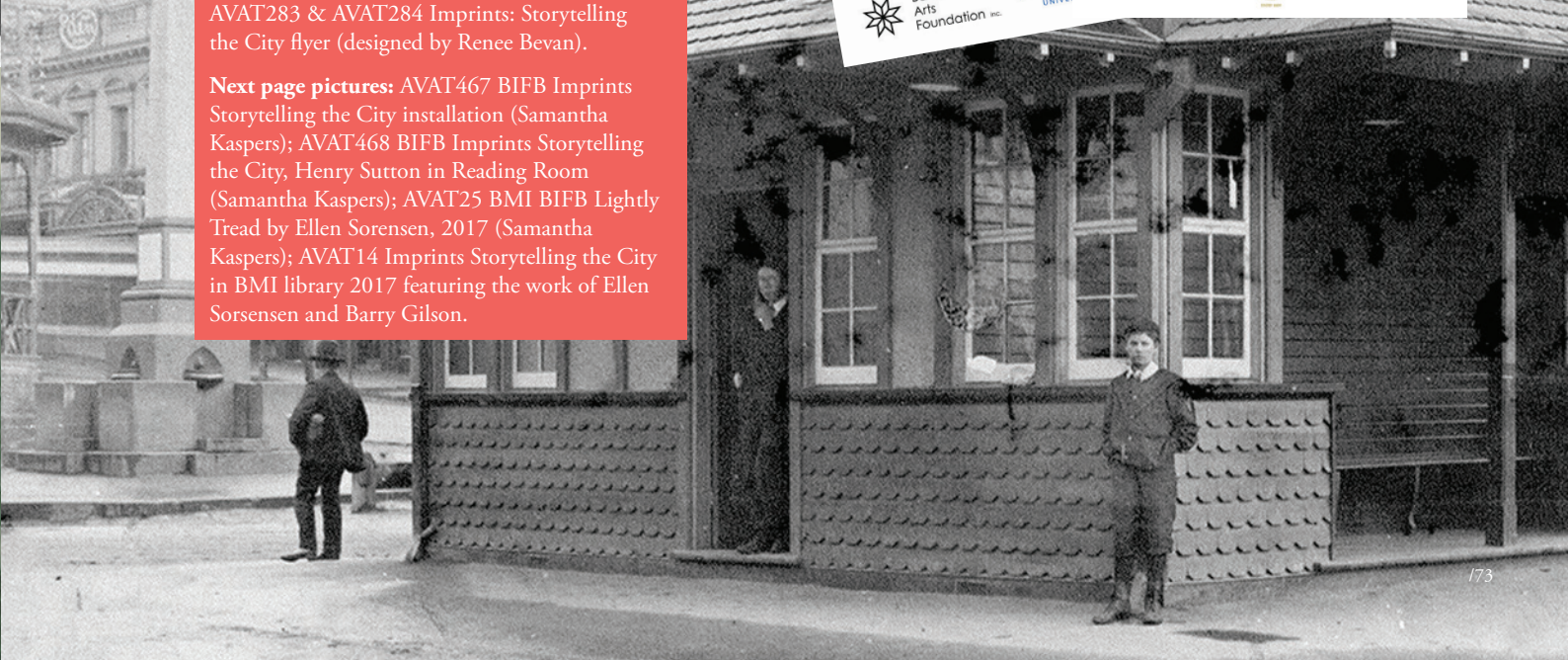


## IMPRINTS: STORYTELLING THE CITY

This was a very special exhibition as part of the Ballarat International Foto Biennale, which took place in the BMI library and Heritage Reading Room. The exhibition invited the artists Ellen Sorensen and Barry Gilson to create new works in response to the photography collection. It also exhibited images never before displayed by Ballarat inventor Henry Sutton captured in the 1890s; co-curated by Sutton descendant Lorayne Branch. The exhibition and its program of events explored different perspectives and layers of Ballarat city and new voices bringing their stories into the library space.

**Pictured (L-R):** MH206 looking up Sturt St from Grenville St.; MH1149 Railway Siding Ballarat East; MH1390 Tram shelter bottom Sturt St; AVAT283 & AVAT284 Imprints: Storytelling the City flyer (designed by Renee Bevan).

**Next page pictures:** AVAT467 BIFB Imprints Storytelling the City installation (Samantha Kaspers); AVAT468 BIFB Imprints Storytelling the City, Henry Sutton in Reading Room (Samantha Kaspers); AVAT25 BMI BIFB Lightly Tread by Ellen Sorensen, 2017 (Samantha Kaspers); AVAT14 Imprints Storytelling the City in BMI library 2017 featuring the work of Ellen Sorensen and Barry Gilson.



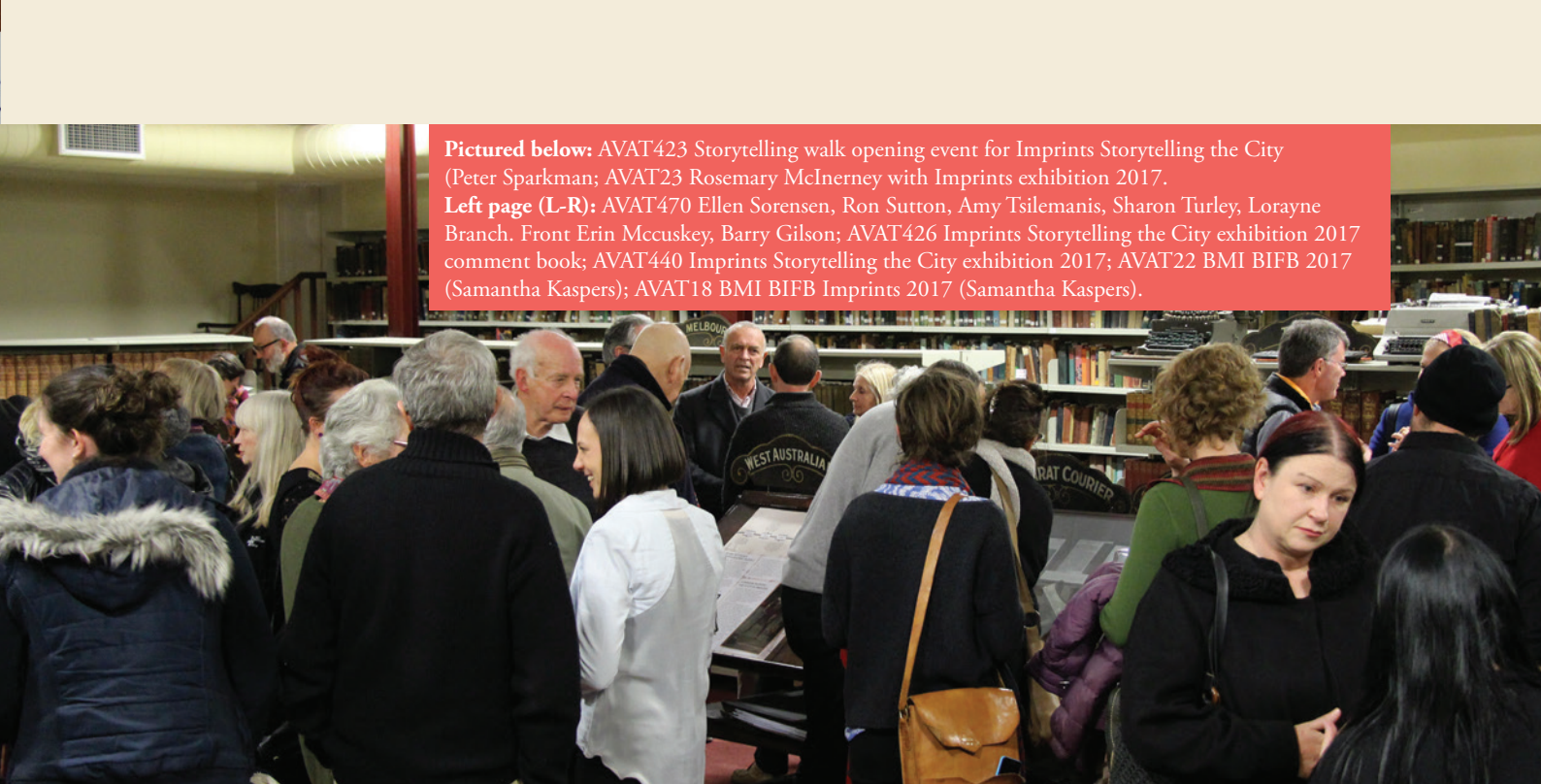




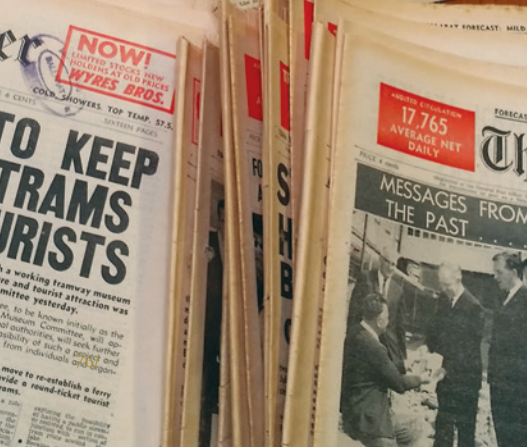




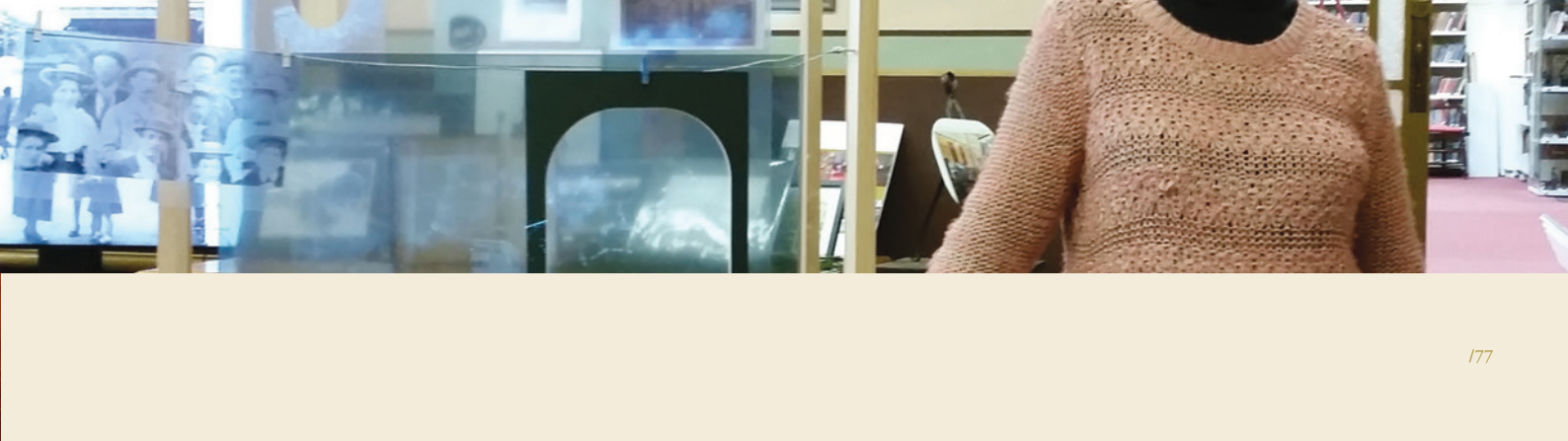
Unexpected treasure! D.  
This was such a lovely night  
A great talk from Barry and  
fantastic exhibition. xx SL  
Loved every word spoken and every  
image seen. What a fantastic ex  
loved it! xx  
Thank you for the knowledge  
the art, the stories, the  
the lights. You!



**Pictured below:** AVAT423 Storytelling walk opening event for Imprints Storytelling the City (Peter Sparkman; AVAT23 Rosemary McInerney with Imprints exhibition 2017.  
**Left page (L-R):** AVAT470 Ellen Sorensen, Ron Sutton, Amy Tsilemanis, Sharon Turley, Lorayne Branch. Front Erin Mccuskey, Barry Gilson; AVAT426 Imprints Storytelling the City exhibition 2017 comment book; AVAT440 Imprints Storytelling the City exhibition 2017; AVAT22 BMI BIFB 2017 (Samantha Kaspers); AVAT18 BMI BIFB Imprints 2017 (Samantha Kaspers).



I like the exhibit  
it is on. I liked the  
pictures. From George





## OPEN HOUSE BALLARAT

Open House Ballarat gave the BMI an opportunity to display various parts of the heritage building and collections as well as conduct a special basement tour, raising awareness of the fundraising in progress to make this intriguing space more accessible.

**Pictured (L-R):** AVAT42 Historian David Waldron at Open House Ballarat BMI 2017; MH1392 Inside Mechanics Institute library 1930s; AVAT479 Open House Ballarat at BMI 2017.







**Pictured (L-R):** AVAT43 BMI's Andrew Miller giving basement tour for Ballarat Open House 2017; AVAT474 Open House Ballarat at BMI 2017, architecture students drawing; AVAT475 Guest speaker Wendy Jacobs with stereoscopic viewer Open House Ballarat at the BMI 2017.

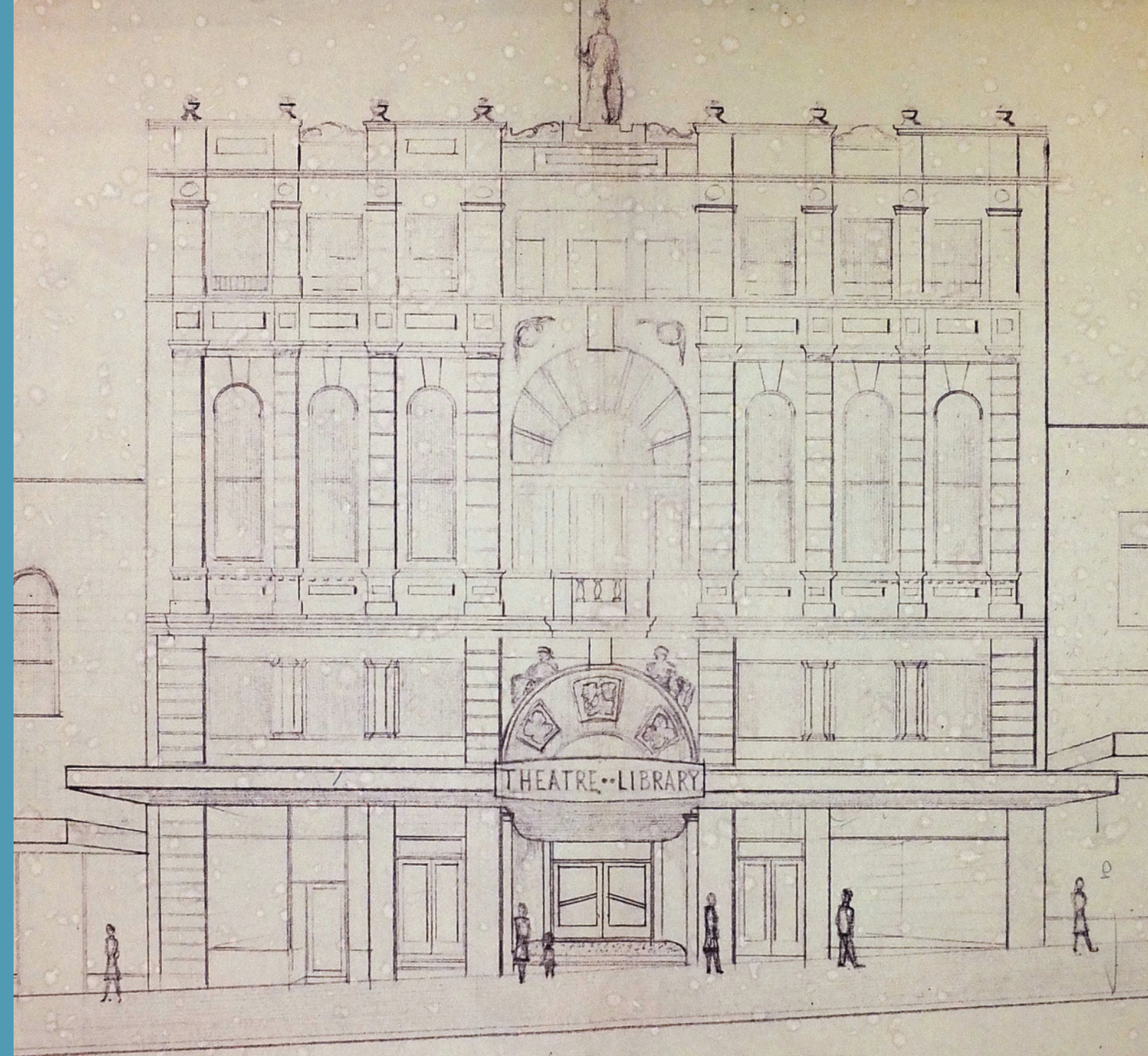


# 2018

## NURTURING LOCAL IDEAS AND STORIES

This year involved a new BMI 'pop-up' vintage shop, an exhibition featuring automobiles from the photo collection, member-led projects Word Banquet with Susie Surtees, and as part of Ballarat Winter Festival, the BMI Winter Salon with Christine Crawshaw and local artists. The BMI was full of song, stories and poetry.

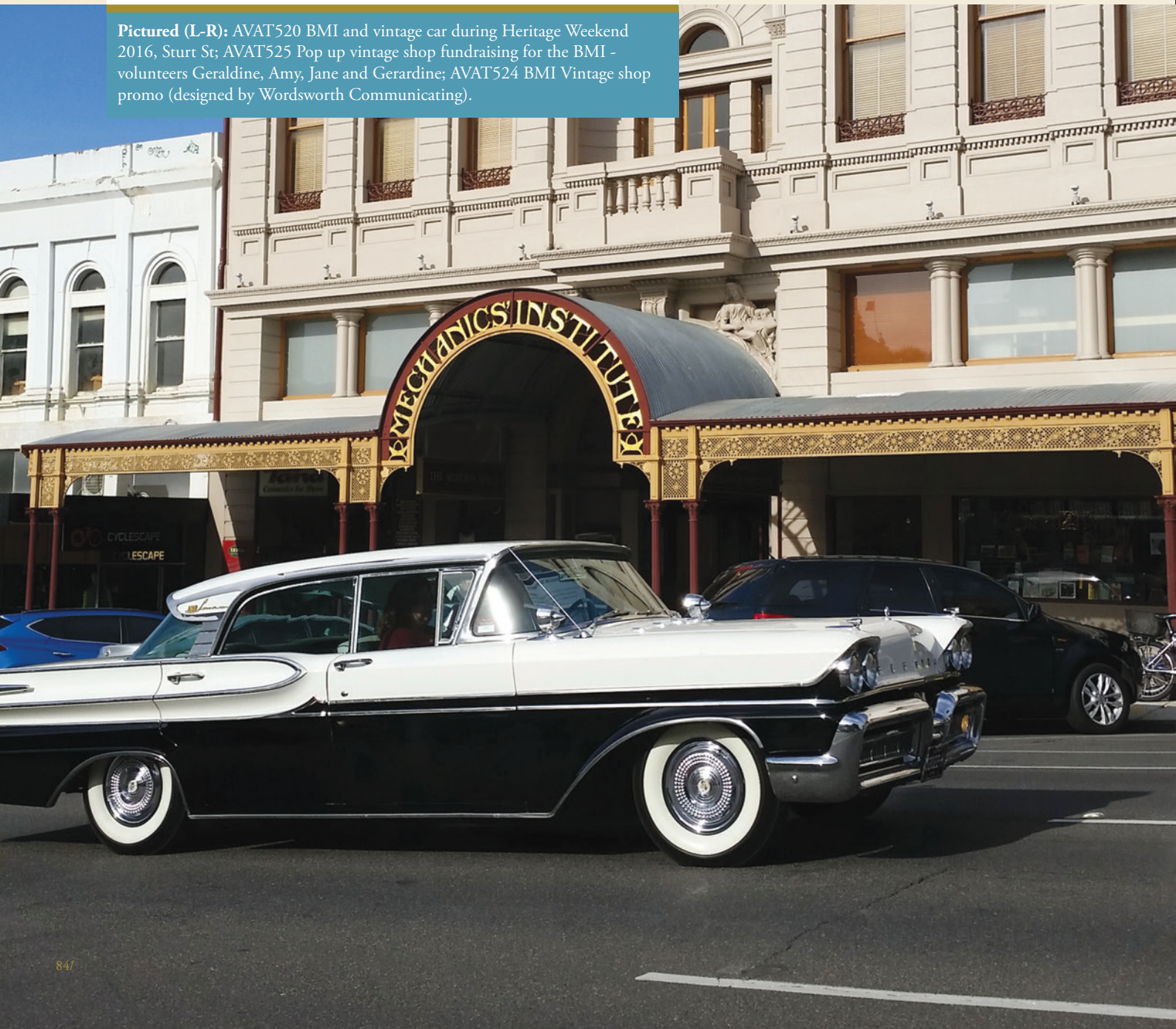
**Pictured:** Drawing from the BMI archives





BALLARAT HERITAGE WEEKEND

Pictured (L-R): AVAT520 BMI and vintage car during Heritage Weekend 2016, Sturt St; AVAT525 Pop up vintage shop fundraising for the BMI - volunteers Geraldine, Amy, Jane and Gerardine; AVAT524 BMI Vintage shop promo (designed by Wordsworth Communicating).



Selling books, prints, photos, jewellery,  
handbags, shoes and much more...

**Pre-loved  
and  
Vintage**



**Fridays 10am to 4pm  
Saturdays 10am to 2pm**

Excellent quality recycled & vintage clothing.

All funds raised go back to the BMI. Donation of items gratefully  
accepted any time at the Library Reception.







## WORD BANQUET

Word Banquet was a monthly event celebrating the written word, hosted by writer and artist Susie Surtees between March and July.

**Pictured (L-R):** AVAT541 Word Banquet signage in BMI window- love poetry; AVAT542 Organisor Susie Surties and Amy at first Word Banquet March 2018; AVAT544 After a Word Banquet heading over to The Lost Ones for drinks- Susie and friends, Sturt St; AVAT546 Word Banquet in the Reading Room, travel theme.

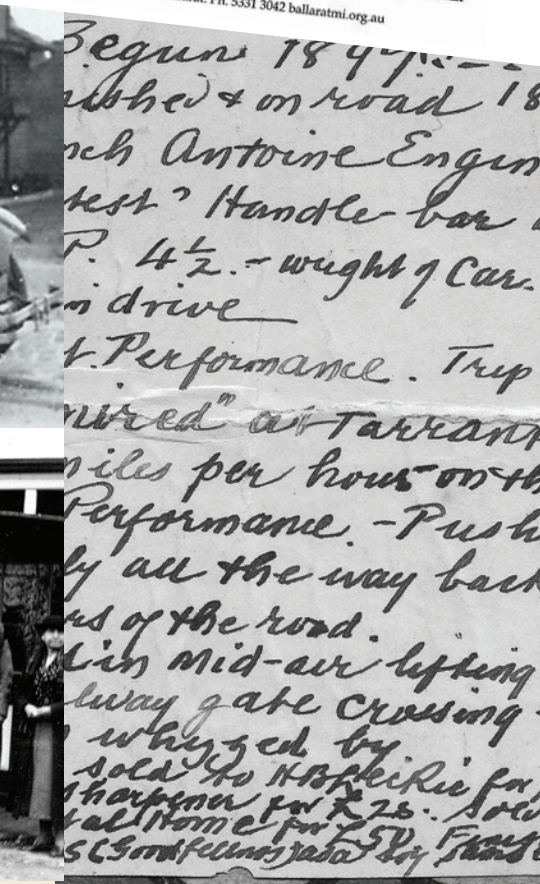
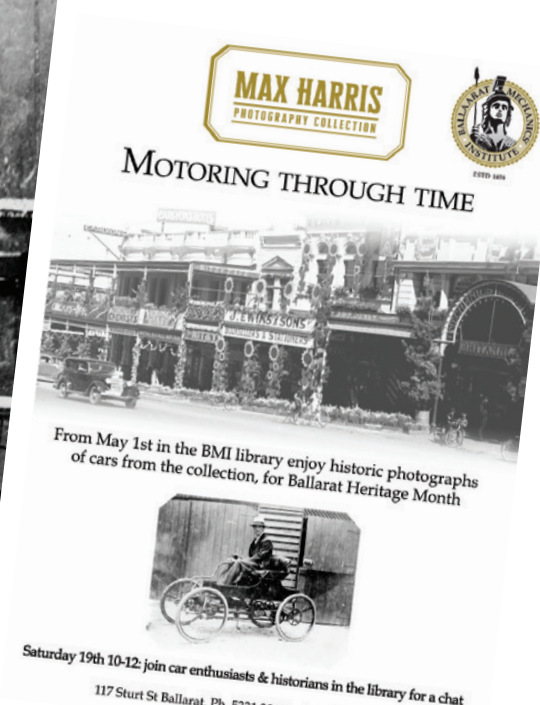




## MOTERING THROUGH TIME

The exhibition Motoring through Time invited contributions to the BMI collection and held a community event featuring the historians Norm Darwin and Peter Butters.

**Pictured (L-R):** AVAT540 Motoring through Time exhibition, Norm Darwin with his car at front of BMI; AVAT533 Motoring through Time exhibition in library with Norm Darwin book; AVAT537 Motoring through Time exhibition in library event; AVAT532 Motoring through Time exhibition in library - Max Harris collection postcards; AVNL34 1901 Car built by Arthur Rob & Harold in Ballarat; AVNL25 1940c May Leckie outside 911 Sturt front; AVNL27 1940c Unknown Madge Dickinson Gus & Grace Leckie; AVNL35 Notes on Arthur's Car 1899; AVAT287 Motoring through Time promo (Wordsworth Communicating).





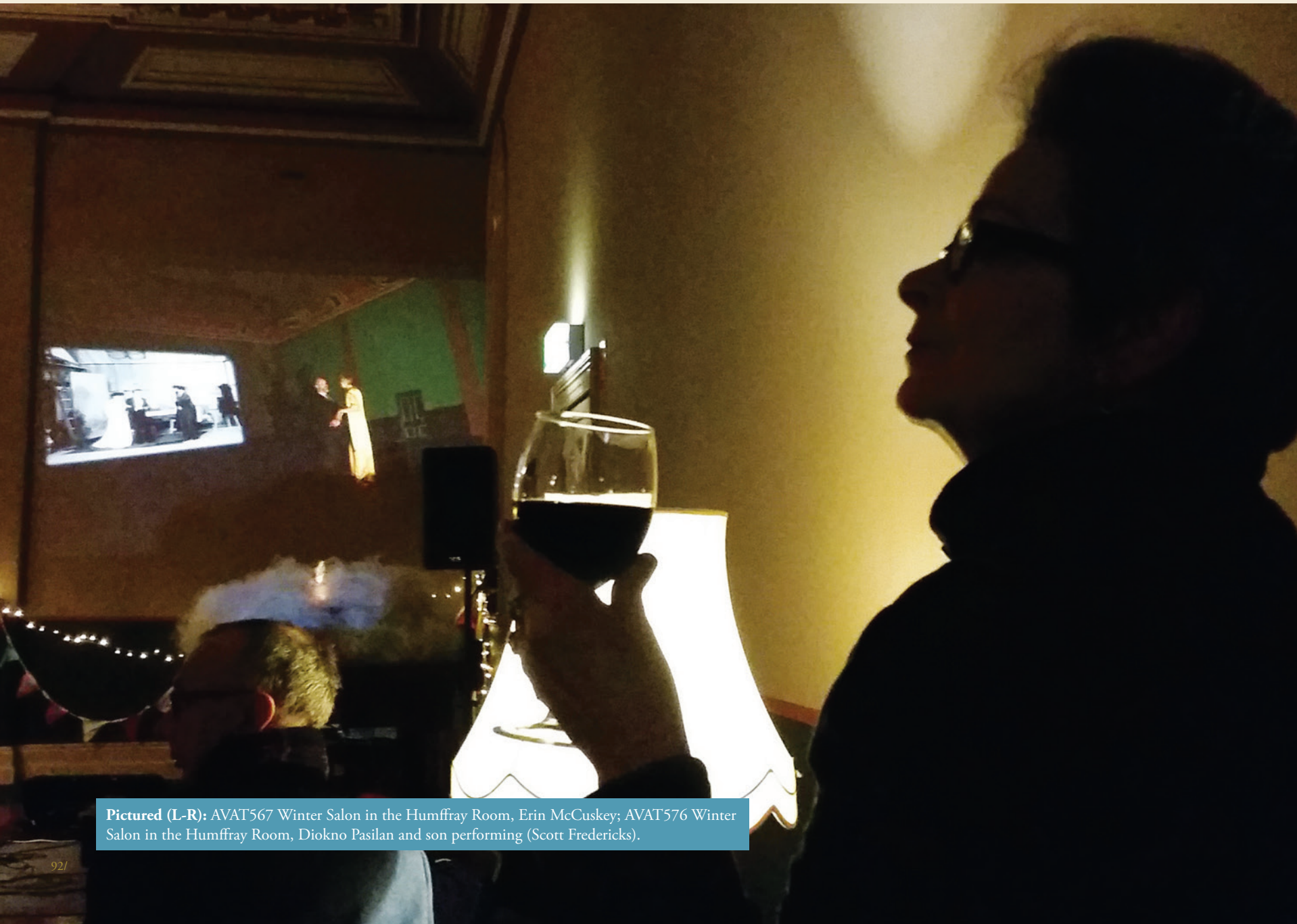
## WINTER SALON

The four-part Winter Salon event series created a casual cosy space in the Humffray Room to share conversation and a drink with friends and enjoy the work of local artists.

**Pictured (L-R):** AVAT559 Winter Salon in the Humffray Room; AVAT577 Winter Salon in the Humffray Room; AVAT561 Winter Salon in the Humffray Room, artist Sophie Livitsanis with Christine Crawshaw running bar.







**Pictured (L-R):** AVAT567 Winter Salon in the Humffray Room, Erin McCuskey; AVAT576 Winter Salon in the Humffray Room, Diokno Pasilan and son performing (Scott Fredericks).





# 2019

## COLLABORATION AND CELEBRATION

This was the final event of the three-year curatorship and ran between January and April: 'Talking Shop: Ballarat in Business and City life.' This exhibition partnered with local collectors, an artist-in-residence Pauline O'Shannessy-Dowling and creative collaborator Margie Balazic with primary school students; it also featured contemporary photography from @theballaratife, and had various programmes that invited community participation. The final weekend of the exhibition hosted talks, performances, and even a 160th birthday cake cut by Minerva's spear.

**Pictured:** AVR02 Hames and Woodward street; AVAT613 Entranceway with Pauline O'Shannessy-Dowling community installation work.





## TALKING SHOP

Pictured (L-R): AVAT53 Talking Shop Logo 2019; AVAT646 Talking Shop installation in Bridge Mall shop window with artist in residence Pauline O'Shannessy-Dowling; AVAT624 Pauline O'Shannessy-Dowling at work in the Reading Room; AVAT664 Klines shop; AVAT636 Talking Shop community day; AVAT295 Ballarat Courier story on Talking Shop exhibition P.2 Dec 2018 (Caleb Cluff).

# TALKIN SHOP



BALLARAT IN BUSINESS AND CITY LIFE



20 THE COURIER Saturday December 22, 2018 thecourier.com.au

## COVER STORY

weekender.



SALES: The staff of Crockers outside the Emporium in the 1920s or 30s. Pictures: Max Harris Collection.



PROMOTIONAL: The BMI's Amy Tsilemanis is curating the exhibition.

## Talking our shops

An upcoming exhibition at the Ballarat Mechanics' Institute reveals a strong retail history in the city, writes CALEB CLUFF.

**C**ROCKERS. Tunbridges. The Red Shop Tea Rooms. Edwin Moran & Co. Coltmans. Bracks Bros. Millidge Bros. Valpied the Fruiterer. Stansfield & Smith. Branstons Vinegar. Sirdar Picking Company. Dawson's Ironmongery. TG Skewes Dispensing Chemist. 'Shir-Glaze' boot polish. Some of these Ballarat businesses are still trading today; some have long disappeared. Many of them graced the main shopping strip of Sturt Street in years past; a bare few still ply their wares from the place they originally started. A new exhibition of photographs and memorabilia opening in the New Year at the

Insight into local businesses of the past is found in two key ways: how they advertised themselves and the living memories of people

Amy Tsilemanis

Ballarat, from the late 19th Century until the 1960s, contrasted with contemporary images. Drawing on the BMI heritage archives and private collections Talking Shop displays historic photographs, advertisements and ephemera, exploring the shops and businesses of Ballarat's past, and via contemporary photographs from The Ballarat Life. Curator Amy Tsilemanis has unearthed







**Pictured (L-R):** AVAT599 Amy and Pauline in Reading Room; AVAT55 Shirley and Vic Shelley at Talking Shop Community Day 2019; AVAT289 Shops in the spotlight Ballarat Times 2019 (Edwina Williams); AVMS13 Conder's; SW02 Carngham/Linton Ladies Football team, Shirley and friend; AVGW10 Landsborough St Milk Bar; SW22 Ballarat South St. Competitions, 1955.



## Shops in the spotlight

BY EDWINA WILLIAMS

THE Ballarat Mechanics' Institute is encouraging Ballaratians to step beyond its intimidating exterior to explore the current exhibition, *Talking Shop*, in their heritage reading room.

*Talking Shop* has been curated by Amy Tulemanis and focuses on Ballarat business and city life throughout the city's history and in our contemporary society.

It's a generous exhibition showing old and newer photographs, including Instagram shots from The Ballarat Life tag, as well as advertisements and ephemera.

Ms Tulemanis is coming to the end of her three-year curatorialship with the BMI and wanted to bring out photos and artefacts in new ways.

"*Talking Shop*'s really just about connecting people in this amazing space which is full of both the history of Ballarat, but also ideas for the future," she said.

"That's the thing I love, just seeing people come in and talk to each other around the material."

Pauline O'Shanessy-Dowling is *Talking Shop*'s artist in residence. She said the conversations and personal engagement sparked within visitors is joyful and nostalgic.

"People love saying, I remember when... I remember the trams and I remember what it was like then," she said.

"It's really quite exciting for people, I think, to be able to remember their own little piece of history and contribute it to something like this."

Although these conversations happen, Ms Tulemanis said it isn't always easy getting people into the BMI in the first place.

"This space is quite special... but the whole 'hidden treasure' thing is a blessing and a curse because often people just don't know we exist," she said. "The amount of people that have said, 'I've lived here all my life and I've never been in'."

"They might not necessarily use the library or be a member, but they can come in and be part of the Mechanics' Institute in another way. This is a



Remember when: Pauline O'Shanessy-Dowling and Amy Tulemanis are enjoying the conversations sparked by photos and artefacts in the Ballarat Mechanics' Institute's generative *Talking Shop* exhibition. Photo: EDWINA WILLIAMS

resource and a source of inspiration."

When people discover the BMI and its impressive original heritage reading room, Ms O'Shanessy-Dowling said it transports them to another world.

"It will take you somewhere away from your daily worries," she said.

"You sort of feel like you're in some kind of movie set or some really special place where you can do special things. People are completely blown away when they have a look around."

One of Ms Tulemanis's favourite pieces in *Talking Shop* is a very old, but coloured tourist advertisement. A business featured in the book was based at the front of the BMI building.

"It's got the most beautiful artwork and descriptions about the streets," she said.

"The Mechanics' has always had the shops at the front."

The Ballarat Life Instagram shots in the library's entry, and vintage milk bar photos have been popular with visitors.







Pictured (L-R): AVAT719 Talking Shop exhibition in Reading Room; AVAT618 Fun in the Reading Room, Talking Shop final weekend; AVAT49 Marg Dobson as Minerva with David Haymes, Talking Shop 2019; AVAT674 Talking Shop final weekend Margie, Pauline and Amy (Erin McCuskey); AVAT627 Talking Shop John Kerr and Max Harris; AVAT58 Eloise and Margie Balazic with Talking Shop artwork.





## TWILIGHT TALK

The Twilight Talk on April 26th was an opportunity to speak about the three-year project and launch a large part of the Max Harris Photography collection made available online at Victorian Collections (which can be explored here: <https://victoriancollections.net.au/organisations/ballarat-mechanics-institute>). Heartfelt thanks again to all those that made the curatorship and PhD project possible: Jenny Haymes and family, Federation University Australia, Ballarat Arts Foundation, the BMI, and all the beautiful artists and collaborators.

**Pictured (L-R):** AVAT695 Twilight Talk, the Winter Berries and visuals; AVAT602 Amy Tsilemanis Twilight Talk; AVAT610 David Dahlenberg, Wilma and Rex Bridges.







**Pictured:** AVAT659 Talking Shop final weekend, Twilight Talk - Jenny Haymes, Amy Tsilemanis and Max Harris. Back cover: BMI Instagram snapshot.

**End pages:** One of ten wrapping paper designs made from the BMI archives, 2016 (Julian Potter).

