



FEBRUARY NEWS FROM YOUR LIBRARY

REOPENING NEWS

It has been wonderful seeing so many of our members visit the library in the first few weeks of reopening. In just the first three days we had 250 people through the doors and 227 books were borrowed. We look forward to catching up with more of our members in the coming weeks, particularly now that the library is open from Tuesdays to Saturdays.

As we kick off 2002, our thanks go again to our loyal members for sticking with us through a very difficult period. We hope you enjoy the extra three months membership that has been added to your membership as a thank you.

BOOKISH EXHIBITION AND TALK

Some of the library's bookshelves will be transformed into exhibition spaces in March as the library plays host to *Bookish*, an exhibition of contemporary artists' books by members of the Print Council of Australia.

Members will be able to view the artists' books from March 17-19 and March 23-26 during the library's usual opening hours.

Business Manager Sue Westwood said the library was thrilled to be hosting *Bookish* as part of this year's 8th Melbourne Art Book Fair, which celebrates our status as one of only 11 UNESCO Cities of Literature in the world.

As part of *Bookish*, the library will host an artist talk with former artist-in-residence Deborah Klein, and printmaker Bronwyn Rees. Deborah and Bronwyn will speak about the art of making artist books on Wednesday 23rd March from 6pm. The event is free but RSVPs are required on 9650 3100 or library@melbourneathenaeum.org.au

PLAY READING - *SNUFF*

Actors Zak Pidd and Emily Goddard will entertain members on Thursday 24th February with a play reading of Melissa Reeves' new work, *Snuff*. *Snuff* tells the story of Robbie, who works part-time in a dead-end job at a suburban newsagency. He is going nowhere, feeling nothing. Robbie gets drawn in to a macabre underground film industry and is seemingly unaware that his life is in danger. Until he meets Petra, the local real estate agent, and she decides to save him.

Melissa Reeves, the library's 2021 resident playwright, has teamed up with award-winning independent theatre director Susie Dee to bring *Snuff* to life.



Tickets to the play reading, which starts at 6pm, are \$10 for members and \$15 for guests and include a glass of wine. Bookings are required by calling 9650 3100 or emailing library@melbourneathenaeum.org.au

MUSIC IS BACK – WITH ULTRAFOX

Ultrafox will kick off what we hope will be a very busy 2022 music program with a performance on Friday 18th March from 6pm. Ultrafox draws their inspiration from Django Reinhardt and The Hot Club of France, and is known for elegant swing, tender jazz ballads, gypsy waltzes and original compositions. As always, the music event is free for members and just \$10 for guests. Bookings are essential, on 9650 3100 or library@melbourneathenaeum.org.au. Refreshments will be provided.

SECOND MUSIC EVENT IN MARCH

Songstress Tanya-Lee Davies will be back at the library on Friday 25th March, for the library's first contemporary music performance of the year. Tanya-Lee has enthused about playing in the library, describing one of her earlier performances as being "so beautiful being amongst the books and singing and telling stories".

Members are free and guests pay \$10. Bookings are essential, on 9650 3100 or library@melbourneathenaeum.org.au

If you RSVP and are unable to attend please let us know as we often have a waiting list.

2022 PLAYWRIGHT-IN-RESIDENCE

We are delighted to announce Declan Furber Gillick as the library's 2022 playwright-in-residence. Born in Mparntwe (Alice Springs), Declan is an independent, multi-disciplinary artist, writer and performer whose practice and artistic interests span writing, theatre, poetry, music, rap, film and visual art.

Since completing the Victorian College of the Arts' Masters of Writing for Performance in 2017, Declan has seen his plays performed at festivals including the Melbourne Fringe, won Green Room Awards, and enjoyed a residency as part of the Melbourne Theatre Company's Next Stage Program.

Declan will spend time working in the library throughout the year.



OUR MOST POPULAR BORROWINGS

The results are in and our top six borrowed books in 2021 were *Out of our minds* (Ken Robinson), *The darkest evening* (Anne Cleeves), *The dictionary of lost words* (Pip Williams), *The yield* (Tara June Winch), *A song for dark times* (Ian Rankin) and *Transient desires* (Donna Leon). Anne Cleeves' novel was the most-borrowed book that was not included on a library book club list.

Magazines proved popular also, with the highest borrowings for *The Literary Review*, *Architectural Digest*, *The New Yorker*, *Inside Out*, *Choice* and *Delicious*.

NEW BOOKS ADDED TO THE COLLECTION

The library purchases more than 100 new books each month, and new book lists are added to the library website within the first few days of each month. Please check the website soon for January's new books or contact the library for the book list.