



MAY NEWS FROM YOUR LIBRARY

Music Performance: Inventi

Prokofiev's *Cinderella* will dance with new life when the Inventi Ensemble performs at the library on May 10.

The performance will weave together the timeless tale with Sally Whitwell's captivating composition for flute, oboe, bassoon, violin, viola and cello.

Inventi promises a symphonic metamorphosis that will transport you through every twist and turn of the much-loved story of Cinderella.

Details

Friday 10th May

Doors open at 5.30pm, performance from 6pm

Free for members, non-members \$20

Book [here](#).



New Staff Member

Welcome to Katy Watters, our new acquisitions librarian, who started in late April and will be working Mondays and Wednesdays.

Katy has extensive experience as a librarian and most recently worked as a Children and Youth Services Librarian for the City of Boroondara.

She is a qualified first aider, has taught Japanese Jiu-Jitsu to adults and holds a black belt (first dan).

Please join us in welcoming Katy to the library.





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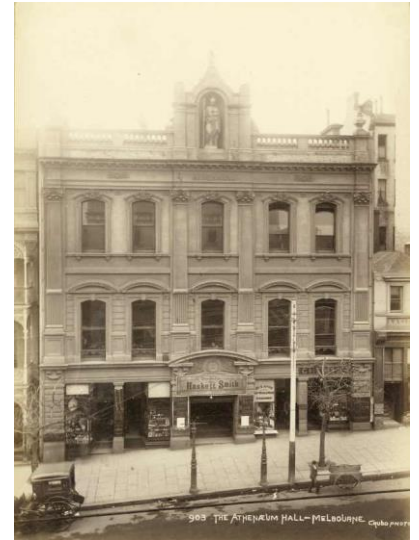
Ath Tours for Members

The Athenæum holds a special place in Melbourne's history and members have the opportunity to hear some of its fascinating stories when our member tours resume in late May.

Tours are free and members are invited to bring along a guest. Tours will start on Monday 27th May at 10am in the foyer and will be held on the fourth Monday of each month.

Bookings are essential, by either calling the library on 9650 3100, emailing library@melbourneathenaeum.org.au or [via this link](#).

Wednesday evening tours and Saturday morning tours are also being considered, subject to demand. If you are interested in attending a tour on those days please speak to the library staff.



Book Launch: Michael Prewer

R.E.Generation, the debut novel by Michael Prewer, will be launched in the library on May 25 – and members are invited to this free event.

R.E.Generation presents a near future where humanity is succumbing to the ravages of a changing climate and a reproductive blight, and a distant future where a few volunteers struggle to survive on a reborn Earth. Can they remember the lessons of the past and create a better society capable of repopulating the Earth, or will human greed, selfishness and conflict bring the whole experiment down?

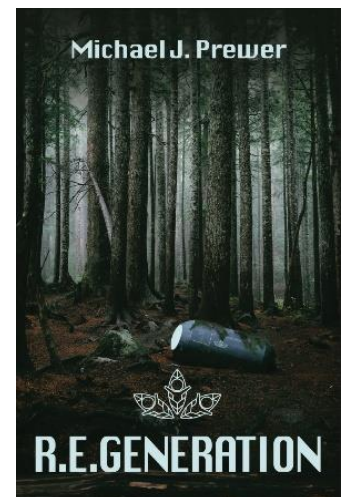
Michael Prewer is a paediatric speech pathologist who has been writing plays and stories and developing board games for as long as he can remember.

Details

Saturday 25th May

2.30pm – 5pm

Book [here](#).





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Our Tireless Volunteers

National Volunteer Week is later this month and we take this opportunity to thank our team of hardworking volunteers.

Their contribution is essential to the smooth running of our library and we are very grateful for their continuing support and work.

If you would like to volunteer at the library please speak to the library staff.



New Committee President

Christine Gibbs (pictured) was appointed President of the Melbourne Athenæum Inc Committee of Management at April's AGM.

Christine has been a library member since 2008 and joined the committee almost eight years ago. She brings a wealth of management and communications experience to the role and said she initially joined the committee "because I wanted to support the governance of the Athenæum due to its rich history, and help secure its future.

"Our late president put our building on a secure financial footing and we need to ensure that this continues well into the future."

Thank you to committee members Marianne Dunham and Chris Johnson, who retired from the committee at the April meeting. They have each made a significant contribution.

Welcome to new committee members Jo Dalvean, Madeliene Wilson, Paul Dabrowa and Wing Tang.





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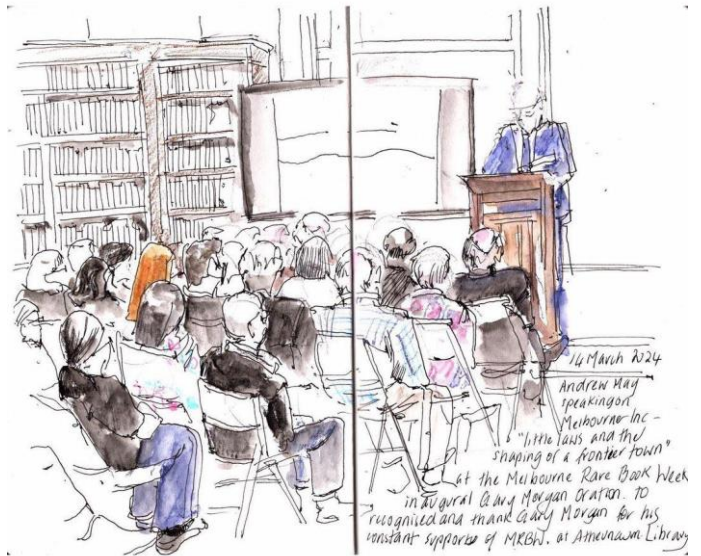
Artist-in-residence works

Artist-in-residence Alissa Duke captured the essence of the crowd when she attended the inaugural Gary Morgan Oration recently.

Library members and their guests were treated to an oration by the University of Melbourne's Professor Andrew May, who spoke about *Melbourne Inc. – little laws and the shaping of a frontier town*.

Alissa described the event as: "A fascinating talk and great company with Melbourne Rare Book Week friends."

Alissa is sketching at library events throughout the year.



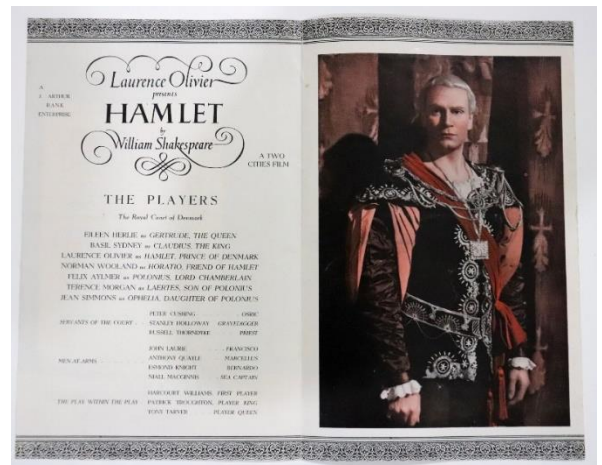
From the Archives

Archivist Fiona Moore continues to unearth some gems from our archives, including a souvenir program from a film screening of William Shakespeare's *Hamlet* at the Melbourn Athenæum Theatre.

Hamlet premiered at the Athenæum in June 1948 and, in a major coup for theatre lessee Frank Talbot, the film's star, Sir Laurence Olivier, travelled to Melbourne for the opening.

It was reported in the *Argus* newspaper the following day that Sir Laurence was met by an enthusiastic crowd that flowed out onto the street. The film's season was a major success for the Athenæum with tickets selling out.

The program was donated by film historian Ina Bertrand and has a special place in the Athenæum's archives.





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The Ath on ABC Radio

The Athenæum was the focus of ABC Radio's drive program in early April when it was the subject of the program's Unofficial History segment.

Various listeners called the program with stories about the Athenæum and presenter Warwick Long interviewed theatre usher Jake Waterworth about Roberta, the building's resident ghost.

Cataloguing librarian James Baker (pictured) also featured, speaking about the library and sharing a few enlightening anecdotes about our history, our name and our collection.

To listen to the interviews, click [here](#). Jake can be heard at the 23 minute mark and James at the one hour 19 minute mark.



Blogging about the Ath

The library has featured in a blog for retirees seeking ideas, inspiration and useful information about visiting Melbourne.

Blog founder Amy Gardner contacted the library to say: "I recently visited the Athenæum Library with my parents and we had a great time!"

The blog they wrote about their visit can be found [here](#).



Amy began the Seniors in Melbourne travel blog in January 2024 and says it is the first travel website to specifically target an older demographic. Seniors in Melbourne can also be found on Facebook and Instagram.



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Fringe Myrtles

The Fringe Myrtles Haiku Group is a group of Melbourne haiku poets and enthusiasts who have begun using the library as their regular meeting place. To celebrate their new meeting venue, members were invited to submit a haiku for inclusion in our eNews. The haiku below were judged as the best:

golden plane trees

the gentle rustle

of pages turning

(Louise Hopewell)

and

closing -

by the last page

the library empty

(Robbie Coburn and Olivia Ark joint composition)

