



DECEMBER NEWS FROM YOUR LIBRARY

Library Closures



Thank you to all of our members – both long-standing and new – for another terrific year in the library. We've enjoyed a packed calendar of events and an expanding collection, and we wish our members a safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

The library will close at 4pm on Wednesday 18th December and reopen on Tuesday 8th January. As always, eBooks can be borrowed during the closure, and library staff are

happy to help anyone who needs assistance downloading eBooks.

Music Event: La Descarga

Join us for a night where literature meets music as iconic Colombian-tropical band La Descarga celebrates the 100th anniversary of *The Vortex*, José Eustasio Rivera's seminal novel.

On Friday 6th December, La Descarga will breathe life into Rivera's masterpiece through electrifying rhythms and heartfelt melodies.

Details

Friday 6th December

Doors open 5.30-pm, music from 6.30pm

Free for members, \$20 non-members

Book [here](#)





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Music Event: Phil Manning and Peter Beilharz

One of Australia's best-known guitarists, Phil Manning has single handedly turned more Australians on to the Blues than any other performer. Many Australians know him as a member of [Chain](#), the legendary blues band whose contribution to Australian blues music is unparalleled.

Phil's use of a range of acoustic guitars in both slide and fingerpicking styles emphasises his skill at covering a full range of acoustic blues. Phil is a consummate artist who continues to write, create and record but, true to the essence of blues and roots music, it is live on stage where he excels.



Peter Beilharz is Professor of Critical Theory at Sichuan University, China, and has previously held chairs at La Trobe, Harvard, Leeds and Curtin Universities. He has published 30 books and played as support to Chain in 1971.

Details

Friday 13th December
Doors open 5.30-pm, music from 6.30pm
Free for members, \$20 non-members
Book [here](#)

Christmas Gift Idea

As a special deal for Christmas, we are offering a \$10 discount on gift memberships so it's the perfect time to buy a membership for that literary family member or friend. Under the deal, full gift memberships are \$89 and concession gift memberships are \$79.

Please speak to library staff if you have any questions or would like to purchase a gift membership.





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Guitars En Masse

Formed in 2009 through the Classical Guitar Society of Victoria, the Guitar Orchestra has quickly become Victoria's leading community-based amateur guitar ensemble.

Under the direction of Benjamin Dix, the orchestra brings together guitarists of all backgrounds to enhance their skills and gain performance experience.

Since its formation, the orchestra has explored a blend of contemporary works, unique arrangements of time-honoured favourites and modern Australian compositions, striving to showcase the voice of the guitar in a way that has never been heard before.

On Sunday 8th December, the orchestra will present a program that centres around reimagining a collection of songs that span from traditional songs of South America and Ireland to a couple of well-known favourites.

This is an external event but library members are welcome to buy a ticket.

Details

Sunday 8th December

Event from 2.30pm

\$20 for members (please select the 'Library Subscriber' option when booking)

Book [here](#)





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Scarlet Stiletto Award Winners Announced



The winners of the 31st Scarlet Stiletto Awards were announced at a gala ceremony in late November, with Naomi Manuell winning the Melbourne Athenæum Body in the Library Award and Katrina Watson taking out the runner-up prize.

The overall Scarlet Stiletto Award was won by Newcastle author Nikki Lee Taylor.

This year, 195 short stories competed for 16 awards with a record \$13,400 in prize money.

Melbourne Athenæum management committee member Barbara Gliddon helped present the Body in the Library awards. Naomi, from Brighton, won for *The First Edition* and Katrina Watson, a retired doctor from Balaclava, took out the runner-up award for *Crime and Management*.

Within the next few weeks, the winning stories will be uploaded to our website for everyone to enjoy.

Actor-turned-barrister-turned-broadcaster-turned-true crime writer Susanna Lobez has narrated all of the first prize-winning stories since 1994 in a free podcast, *Scarlet Stiletto Bites: Scintillating Stories by Australian Women*. To listen visit [Apple](#), [Spotify](#) or [Amazon](#).



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Happy 185th!

Thank you to our Patron, Victorian Governor Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC (pictured), and all our members and guests who attended the Ath's 185th anniversary on 18 November.

The Governor spoke about how much she had enjoyed previous visits to both the Library and the Ath2 and enjoyed a slice of the extraordinary anniversary cake designed by staff members Aubrey Flood and James Baker and made by the [Cupcake Queens](#) (along with the Ath logo cupcakes!).

Please make sure you pick up a copy of the new history overview that was created to celebrate the anniversary when you are next in the Library.



2025 Event Preview

We are looking forward to some perennial favourites and some new performers gracing the library stage as part of our 2025 event schedule.

Performers already booked include the Flinders Quartet, Inventi, Ultrafox and Zoe Knighton – along with library newcomers singer/songwriter/composer Mick Harvey and violinist/composer/singer/songwriter Xani Kolac (pictured).

The best way to keep updated on event details and booking links is by reading the monthly eNews.

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

