



# APRIL NEWS FROM YOUR LIBRARY

## Library Closures

The library will be closed for the Easter break on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April, Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April and Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April.

It will also be closed on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April for Anzac Day.

eBooks can be downloaded at any time. If you need help with an eReader or downloading eBooks speak to the library staff.



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## Storytime with Leigh Hobbs

There are still places left to join artist, author and Athenaeum member Leigh Hobbs for a special storytime as we celebrate 30 years of one of his most popular characters, 'Old Tom'.

On 9<sup>th</sup> April we will officially unveil Leigh's generous gift to the Ath's 185<sup>th</sup> birthday – a picture of Old Tom – and hear Leigh speak about his writing.

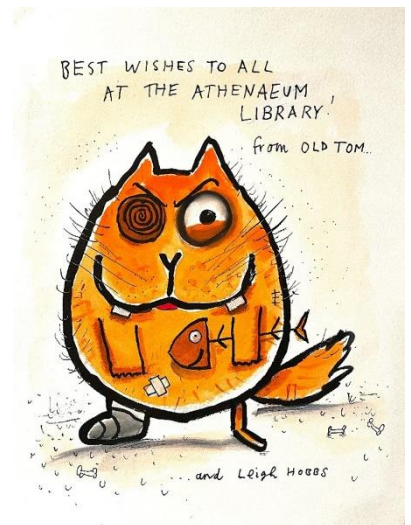
Librarian Katy will read *Old Tom* and everyone (including members' children and grandchildren) is welcome.

### Details

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April

From 11am

Free for members and guests but bookings required (via email to [library@melbourneathenaeum.org.au](mailto:library@melbourneathenaeum.org.au) or 9650 3100)





# APRIL NEWS FROM YOUR LIBRARY

## History of the Athenaeum Art Gallery

Discover the story behind the opening of the Melbourne Athenaeum Art Gallery and its role as one of our city's most significant art spaces at a free lecture on May 5 by Archives Manager Fiona Moore.

Established in 1839 as the Melbourne Mechanics' Institute, the Melbourne Athenaeum provided the city with its first library, museum and exhibition space. In 1910 its role as an arts hub was expanded with the opening of the Athenaeum Art Gallery.



The vision was to create a gallery in the central business district open to both established and emerging artists. The gallery operated for more than 60 years and exhibited the work of some of Australia's most acclaimed artists.

Its history remains relatively unknown and this lecture will unveil the enduring artistic legacy of this significant art gallery.

The lecture is part of the National Trust's [Australian Heritage Festival](#).

*Photo caption: Exhibition of Charles Wheeler's Paintings at the Athenaeum Gallery, Melbourne, 1920, State Library of Victoria*

### Details

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May

Lecture from 11am-12pm

Free for members and non-members but bookings are required

Book [here](#).

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# APRIL NEWS FROM YOUR LIBRARY

## Author talk: 150 Years of Chloe

On May 1, author Katrina Kell will discuss the intriguing mystery surrounding the identity of the model in Jules Lefebvre's painting, *Chloe*, which has graced the Young & Jackson hotel in Flinders Street since 1909.

Lefebvre's painting debuted 150 years ago at the Paris Salon and was first exhibited

in Melbourne at the 1880 Melbourne International Exhibition. Its subsequent showing at the National Gallery of Victoria in 1883 lasted only three weeks before it was removed from display due to the controversy surrounding its full-length depiction of a female nude.

Katrina Kell, author of *Chloe: revolution, art and intrigue in bohemian Paris*, will reimagine history by bringing together revolutionary Paris and the cultural and artistic scene of early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Melbourne to unearth the identity of Chloe and reveal her connection to the Melbourne Athenaeum Gallery.

This free author talk is part of the National Trust's [Australian Heritage Festival](#).

### Details

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May

7pm-8pm

Free for members and non-members but bookings are required

Book here.



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## Specialist Advice Sought

Do you have commercial property management or leasing experience? If so, the Athenaeum's Committee of Management would like to hear from you. The committee is seeking specialist advice in this area and we thought we'd ask our members first. If you are willing to help and have experience please speak to Fiona Malcolm, either in person or by calling 9650 3100.





# APRIL NEWS FROM YOUR LIBRARY

## Music event: Ultrafox

Ultrafox returns to the library for a concert of French-style jazz on May 9, featuring the guitars and vocals of Peter Baylor, Sam O'Halloran on guitar, Esther Henderson on violin, and Howard Cairns on double bass.

Ultrafox was formed by Peter Baylor more than 15 years ago and has built a growing reputation of one of the finest swing bands.

Hot swinging jazz, tender lyrical ballads, French melodies, gypsy waltzes and original compositions make up the band's extensive repertoire.



### Details

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May  
Doors open 5.30pm, music from 6pm  
Free for members, \$20 non-members  
Book [here](#).

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## New Staff Member

Welcome to our new Library Officer, Marissa King.

Marissa has degrees in information management and education, taught English in Japan for five years and is treasurer of the Australia Library and Information Association (ALIA) Graphic committee.

Please join us in welcoming Marissa to the library.





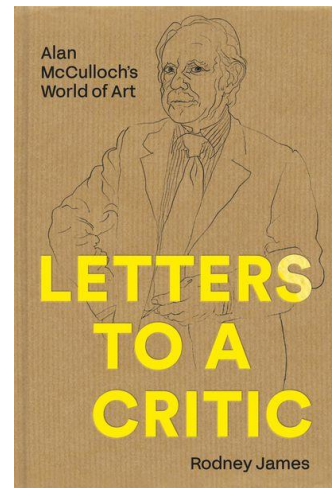
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### Community History Awards

*Letters to a Critic: Alan McCulloch's World of Art* by art curator and writer Rodney James has won the main prize in the recently-announced 2024 Victorian Community History Awards.

The work, which can be found on the library shelves, was described by the award judges as “an artwork in itself”.

It is a detailed examination of Alan McCulloch, an artist, art historian, critic and gallery director who championed emerging artists and promoted a new awakening in modern art in Melbourne in the 1960s. McCulloch also had links to the Athenæum, writing about artists exhibiting at the Athenæum Gallery.



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### Melbourne Writers Festival

Across four packed days in May some of Australia and the world's most incisive writers and thinkers will gather for the Melbourne Writers Festival.

Discussions at this year's festival, which runs from May 8 to 11, will span literature, politics, philosophy, history and psychology.

Festival Director Veronica Sullivan said: “You'll also encounter Booker Prize winners, inspiring memoirists, genre-defying storytellers, acute political analysts, vibrant podcasters, transcendent musicians, shimmering poets, and emerging writers who will shape Australian literature in years to come.”



Some events are being held at the Athenæum Theatre, including Irish novelist Marian Keyes (pictured) at an event hosted by British-Australian author Jane Harper. For the full program visit the MWF [website](#).

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# APRIL NEWS FROM YOUR LIBRARY

## Annual General Meeting

As outlined in the March eNews, our Annual General Meeting will be held at 1pm on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April in the library.

If you would like to attend the AGM please RSVP (for catering purposes) before Thursday 10 April by emailing [library@melbourneathenaeum.org.au](mailto:library@melbourneathenaeum.org.au)

If you are unable to attend but would like to appoint a proxy to vote on your behalf, a proxy form can be emailed to you. Please contact the library to arrange. Proxies must be received by COB Thursday 10 April 2025.

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## Upcoming Events

We have a busy schedule of events in the coming months and will keep members updated via the eNews. Some dates to add to your diaries are:

- Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May, interactive session with writer, dictionary expert, crossword creator and radio host David Astle (pictured) on the basic formulas of cryptic clues
- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June, Sally Ford and the Idiomatics
- Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July, Gryphon Baryton Trio
- Friday 1<sup>st</sup> August, Xani Kolac (contemporary music).



The Athenæum Theatre and Ath 2 have plenty of shows on for the Comedy Festival, which has just kicked off. For more details click [here](#).