



JUNE NEWS FROM YOUR LIBRARY

Library Closure

The library will be closed on Monday 9th June for the King's Birthday public holiday.

Member Renewal Invoices

From July, membership renewal invoices will be emailed to members rather than being posted.

If you don't have an email address registered with us we will continue to send it via mail. If you would prefer to continue to receive your invoice via mail please let the library staff know. And if you have changed your email address or want to check that we have the correct one please speak to the library staff, either in person, by calling 9650 3100 or via library@melbourneathenaeum.org.au



Funding Boost for History Project

The Minister for Local Government, the Hon. Nick Staikos MP, visited the library earlier this week to announce the Mechanics' Institutes Grants Program 2024-25.

The Melbourne Athenaeum will receive \$9,000 for an oral history project, which will record interviews and collect people's memories and anecdotes about the institution.



Speaking at the event, Melbourne Athenaeum President Sophie Arnold said the Ath was "very proud of its history as a mechanics' institute, and happy to be here 185.5 years later."

Mr Staikos said the Melbourne Athenaeum was "one of the most important places in Melbourne" and joked it was "older than Parliament House and in better condition". He said \$109,000 would be shared by 11 mechanics' institutes and the peak body, Mechanics' Institutes of Victoria. More information on the grants can be found [here](#).

Pictured: Committee members Barbara Gliddon, Kevin Quigley, Sophie Arnold and Christine Gibbs, and library manager Fiona Malcolm with Minister Nick Staikos



JUNE NEWS FROM YOUR LIBRARY

Vale Anne Marsden

We were all saddened to hear of the passing of Anne Marsden, whose work in researching the history of the Melbourne Mechanics' Institution (now the Ath) was invaluable.

Anne, a long-time volunteer with the archives, penned *The Making of the Melbourne Mechanics' Institution*, which took a close look at the 50 men elected to the first committee of the Melbourne Mechanics' Institution.

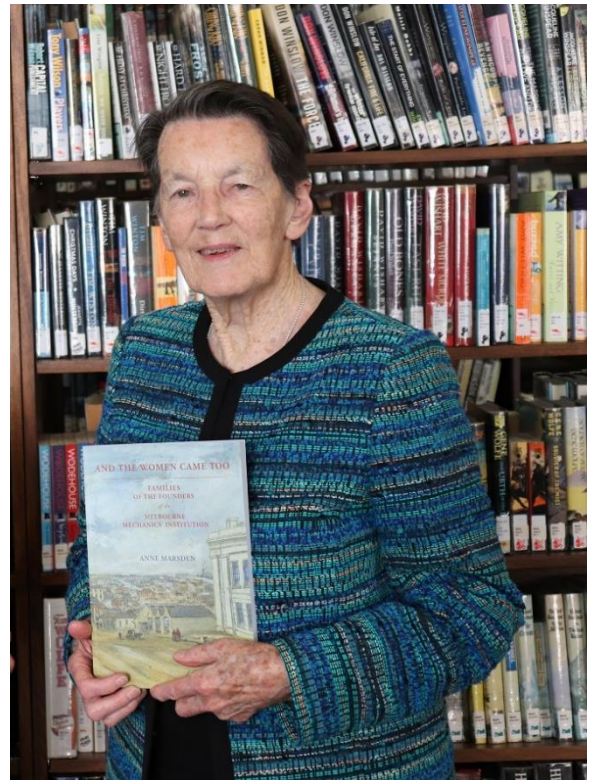
While researching that book, Anne unearthed fascinating stories of the pivotal role of women in the fledgling settlement and this led to *And the Women Came Too: the Families of the Founders of the Melbourne Mechanics' Institution*. Both books are available to borrow from the library.

Anne became a writer later in life. She graduated from Leeds University with a science qualification and came to Australia in early 1957.

She married an Australian and, while busy with a young family, did her teacher training and worked at University High School. After retiring, and when her husband became ill, Anne decided to write a book about his family, who had arrived in Melbourne in 1841.

Her husband's great-grandfather, Joseph Ankers Marsden, was on an early committee of the Melbourne Mechanics' Institution and Anne spent time in the Athenæum archives doing research. She loved being in the archives and vowed to return as a volunteer.

As well as the books, Anne wrote many essays and spoke about the history of the mechanics' institute movement at numerous conferences.





JUNE NEWS FROM YOUR LIBRARY

Books and Bubbles: Body in the Library

Join us for an evening of criminally good readings and author talks.

Meet the sisters in crime who penned the winning entries from the Body in the Library category of the

2024 Scarlet Stiletto Awards, which the Melbourne Athenaeum Library has sponsored since 2012.



Runner-up Dr Katrina Watson's debut novel, *The Bones*, was described as "Helen Garner meets Jed Mercurio" by Booker short-list author MJ Hyland.

Winner Naomi Manuell is a Melbourne writer whose work has appeared in *Meanjin*. She contributes to *Newtown Review of Books* and writes on *Substack*.

The conversation will be moderated by writer Louise Bassett. Louise won the Ned Kelly Award for short crime fiction and her short stories have been published internationally.

Details

Thursday 19th June

Doors open 6.30pm, event from 7pm

Glass of bubbles on arrival

Free for members and non-members

Book [here](#).



JUNE NEWS FROM YOUR LIBRARY

Music: Sally Ford and the Idiomatics

The Idiomatics are returning to the library on Friday 20th June with two very special guests.

Poet, novelist and non-fiction writer Maxine Beneba Clarke will be reading excerpts of her work over a lush electro-acoustic underscore provided by the band.

And Alice Garner on cello will be bringing some sweet strings magic to the Idiomatics' uplifting, groove-drenched sound.

Details

Friday 20th June

Doors open 5.40pm, music from 6pm

Free for members, \$20 non-members

Book [here](#).



Music: Tanya-Lee Davies

Tanya-Lee Davies specialises in dreamy, country pop and psychedelic folk, and is big on melody, lush vocals and lyrics that cast spells.

As she prepares to deliver her next LP, with the tongue-in-cheek working title *Will You Still Love Me If I Write Sad Songs?*, Tanya-Lee will be performing at the library previewing songs from the new album and favourites from her past releases. Tanya-Lee will perform with Catherine McQuade, Gerard Rowan and Michaela Burke.

Details

Friday 27th June

Doors open 5.40pm, music from 6pm

Free for members, \$20 non-members

Book [here](#).





JUNE NEWS FROM YOUR LIBRARY

Music: Gryphon Baryton Trio

This concert is a rare chance to hear live some of the fascinating chamber works by Joseph Haydn for baryton.

The magnificent baryton, an instrument similar to a bass viol, was the favourite instrument of Haydn's employer, Prince Nikolaus Esterhazy. Haydn composed over 130 works for it,



the majority of which are for baryton, viola and cello - the so-called 'Baryton Trios'. The commission of a new baryton in 2023 - the only one in Australia - enables the Gryphon Baryton Trio to share this very special music with Australian audiences.

The trio draws on the combined experience of Laura Vaughan (baryton), Katie Yap (classical viola) and Josephine Vains (classical cello).

Details

Friday 4th July

Doors open 5.40pm, music from 6pm

Free for members, \$20 non-members

Book [here](#).





JUNE NEWS FROM YOUR LIBRARY

Rare Book Week Events in Library

Members will be spoilt for choice during Rare Book Week, with the library hosting five events in four days from Monday 28th July.

Bookings are now open for the following events, which are being presented by Rare Books Melbourne in partnership with the library. These events are free but bookings are required.

- Monday 28th July, 7-8pm. *Sixty years a bookseller*: Kay Craddock, AM, in conversation with author Jane Sullivan. Information and bookings [here](#).
- Tuesday 29th July, 7-8pm. *Outrageous Fortunes*: author Lucy Sussex in conversation with Jane Sullivan. Information and bookings [here](#).
- Wednesday 30th July, 11am-12pm. *Discover Melbourne's Oldest Lending Library* with Archives Manager Fiona Moore. Information and bookings [here](#).
- Thursday 31st July, 1-2pm. *From Convict Printers to Book Arcades*: Wallace Kirsop and Judy Donnelly in conversation with Des Cowley. Information and bookings [here](#).
- Thursday 31st July, 6.30pm. Talk by Anne Holloway, Special Collections Curator, Monash University. Click [here](#) for RBW program information.



On Wednesday 30th July, from 6.30pm to 7.30pm, Library Manager Fiona Malcolm and Archives Manager Fiona Moore will join an expert panel discussing *Rare Books in Mechanics' Institutes*. This event will be held at Prahran's PMI Victorian History Library. Information and bookings [here](#).



JUNE NEWS FROM YOUR LIBRARY

Upcoming Events

More details will follow in our upcoming eNews bulletins but some dates to add to your diaries are:

- Friday 1st August, Xani Kolac (pictured, contemporary music)
- Thursday 14th August, author talk with Jennifer Kloester
- Friday 29th August, Somesh Putcha (contemporary)
- Friday 5th September, Affinity Quartet
- Friday 12th September, Zoe Knighton.



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