



NOVEMBER NEWS FROM YOUR LIBRARY

Library Closure

The library will be closed on Tuesday 4th November for Melbourne Cup Day. It will reopen at 10am on Wednesday 5th November.

Music Event: Shuffle Club

For 21 years the Shuffle Club have been filling dance floors with their playful blend of jazz, swing, blues and boogie-infused vintage party tunes.

The band cut their teeth in St Kilda and have played clubs, pubs and bars with the same enthusiasm as concert halls, festival and theatres around the world.

For over a decade they routinely toured with The Famous Spiegeltent and as the late-night house band they accompanied a range of guests including vocalists, circus performers, cabaret artists and comedians.



Featuring Ashley Gaudion (saxophone and vocals), Paul Griska (double bass and vocals), Rodney Gilbert (drums and vocals) and Dannie Bourne (keyboard and vocals), The Shuffle Club is looking forward to celebrating their 21st year with a special performance in the library.

Details

Friday 14th November

Doors open 5.40pm, music from 6pm

Free for members and non-members

Book [here](#).



NOVEMBER NEWS FROM YOUR LIBRARY

Talk: Fascinating History of David Syme's Tomb

Hidden within a suburban Melbourne cemetery lies a remarkable piece of Egyptian-inspired architecture: the tomb of David Syme, one of the world's first media tycoons and the influential proprietor of *The Age* newspaper.

Built in 1910, 12 years before the discovery of King Tutankhamun's tomb, this heritage-listed mausoleum is a miniature replica of Trajan's Kiosk on Agilkia Island in Egypt.

Designed by renowned architects Walter Richmond Butler and Ernest Royston Bradshaw, and with iron fittings crafted by artist Mabel Young, the tomb is a masterpiece of Arts and Crafts design.



In this captivating talk, artist-turned-researcher Setken delves into the fascinating history of the Syme tomb.

Featuring unpublished research, stunning visuals and compelling storytelling, this talk is a journey into Melbourne's hidden past and the life of a complex man.

Details

Thursday 20th November

Doors open 6.40pm, talk from 7pm

Free for members and non-members

Book [here](#).





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Music Event: Partridge Quartet

The Partridge String Quartet returns to the library on Friday 21st November with a program including Shostakovich String Quartet no. 8 and Mozart in D Minor.

The quartet formed at the Australian National Academy of Music in 2017 and have received national recognition in prestigious chamber music competitions.

The quartet strives to connect with their audiences through their fresh and creative performances. They have collaborated with widely-recognised Australian artists and participate in festivals, concert series and projects around Australia.

Details

Friday 21st November
Doors open 5.40pm, music from 6pm
Free for members, \$20 non-members
Book [here](#).



Volunteers for Oral History Project

We are seeking volunteers for our oral history project, which involves collating materials for our Archive.

The project will record interviews with various Ath contributors, including some long-standing members, former staff members, artists-in-residence and historians. Recordings will be of archival quality, thanks to a grant from the Victorian Government's Mechanics' Institutes Grant Program.



Volunteer roles could include conducting interviews, transcribing interviews, and organising project logistics. Full training will be provided.

If you are keen to be involved, or have any questions, please email fiona.malcolm@melbourneathenaeum.org.au with your preferred task and potential availability.



NOVEMBER NEWS FROM YOUR LIBRARY

Ned Kelly Award Winners

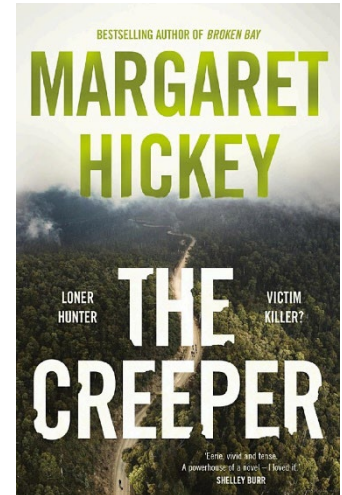
Check the library shelves for the winners in the Australian Crime Writers Association's 2025 Ned Kelly Award winners.

The Creeper by Margaret Hickey won the Best Crime Fiction category, with judges praising it for "its chilling storytelling [and] incredible setting and for seamlessly drawing readers into the dark world of the protagonist".

Best True Crime Writing was won by *A Thousand Miles from Care*, "a gripping and heartbreaking story" by Steve Johnson

Best International Crime Fiction was *A Case of Matricide* by Graeme Macrae Burnet, which judges described as "extremely clever, witty and moving".

And the Best Debut was won by *All You Took From Me* by Lisa Kenway.



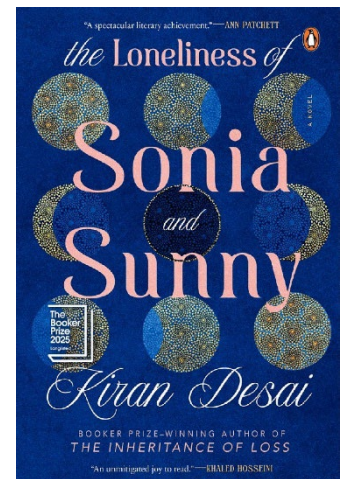
Booker Prize Shortlist

The shortlist for the coveted Booker Prize has been announced and the books can all be found in our library catalogue.

The Booker Prize celebrates the best works of long-form fiction by writers of any nationality, written in English and published in the UK and/or Ireland between 1 October 2024 and 30 September 2025.

The overall winner of the Booker Prize will be announced on November 10 in London and the winner will receive £50,000.

The shortlisted books are *Flesh* by David Szalay, *The Land in Winter* by Andrew Miller, *The Rest of Our Lives* by Ben Markovits, *Audition* by Katie Kitamura, *The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny* by Kiran Desai and *Flashlight* by Susan Choi.



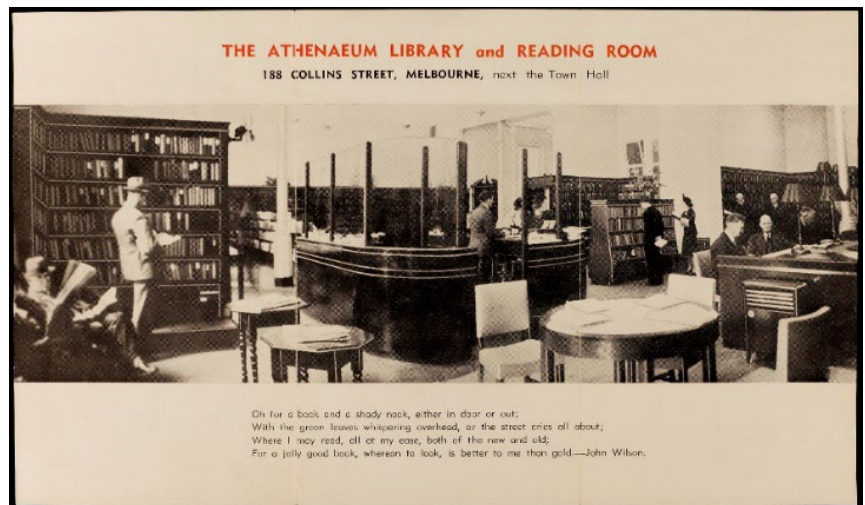


NOVEMBER NEWS FROM YOUR LIBRARY

News from the Archive

As one of Melbourne's oldest cultural institutions, the Melbourne Athenaeum Archive provides a rich insight into the history and development of the institution, from its founding in 1839 as the Melbourne Mechanics Institution to its current day operations.

The Archive reveals how the institution became a central meeting place and arts hub for the Victorian public as well as setting out the wider cultural, social and political history of the city of Melbourne from the time it was a fledgling village to the bustling metropolis of today.

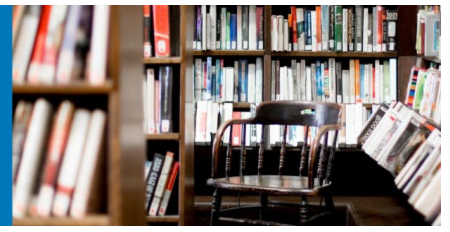


In 2023, the Melbourne Athenaeum was fortunate to receive a grant from the Public Record Office Victoria to digitise its archive with a view to making its contribution to Melbourne's cultural history more accessible and well-known.

The *Stories from the Ath* digitisation project will culminate in significant items from the Archive being digitised and searchable online through the Melbourne Athenaeum Library website as well as on Trove in 2026. It is hoped that online access to the Archive will generate new research opportunities and enhance interest in the collection by introducing new audiences to its unique holdings.

Watch this space in 2026 as the Melbourne Athenaeum Archive goes live.

Pictured: *Melbourne Athenaeum Library Brochure*, 1940, Melbourne Athenaeum Archive



NOVEMBER NEWS FROM YOUR LIBRARY

Upcoming Events

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

- Friday 12th December, classical music, Inveni Ensemble plays The Nutcracker
- Friday 13th February, classical music, Wattleseed Ensemble (pictured)
- Friday 27th February, contemporary music, Bohemian Nights
- Friday 13th March, classical music, Connie Chamber
- Friday 27th March, contemporary music, Catherine McQuade.



Help the Melbourne Athenaeum continue to live up to its position as Melbourne's first and finest cultural institution by supporting our Giving Appeal at

<https://www.givenow.com.au/annualgivingappeal>



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