

APRIL NEWS FROM YOUR LIBRARY

Library closure

The library will be closed on Friday 3rd, Saturday 4th and Monday 6th April for Easter and on Saturday 25th April for ANZAC Day.

Gather. Write. Repeat.

Shut Up & Write![®] is a free, global writing community built around showing up to write. Come for the accountability, stay for the community. No critique. No read-alouds. Just focused writing time, alongside others.

Commencing Saturday 16th May we are starting a *Shut Up & Write!*[®] group at the Ath, facilitated by library manager Fiona.



Sessions will run on the third Saturday of the month from 2.30pm-3.30pm.

Interested but want to know more? Find out more [here](#) and [here](#) or [email the library](#).

This year's session dates are (Saturday) May 16, June 20, July 18, August 15, September 19, October 17 and November 21.

Oral History Project Update

Our oral history project is kicking off and we have a wonderful team of volunteers trained and ready to go.

Funded by a \$9,000 State Government grant, this project will collect people's memories and anecdotes about our historic institution. Interviews will be recorded with artists, performers, historians and others associated with the Melbourne Athenæum.

Some members will be contacted regarding their interest in participating in an oral history interview. Emails will come from oralhistoryath@proton.me and you can either reply to that email or contact Fiona Malcolm by emailing Fiona.malcolm@melbourneathenaeum.org.au or calling 9650 3100.



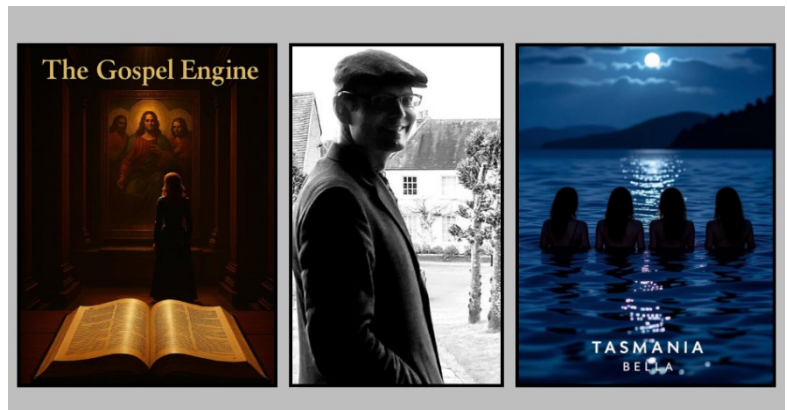


APRIL NEWS FROM YOUR LIBRARY

Author Talk: Samuel Thawley

Samuel Thawley has pursued a life outside the ordinary, living and working in over 15 places around the world in a wide range of organisations and in a broad mix of cultures.

At points along the way he has been recognised for the skills of his analysis, his ability to engage with cultures, and the quality of his extra virgin olive oil. He is interested in everything about the world we live in.



Samuel's books draw deeply from real experiences—his mother's childhood growing up in Tasmania, his grandfather's career in the Church, and his own decades spent travelling widely and building communities through events, social clubs, and hosting. As an author, Samuel aims to craft stories that feel real and contemporary. He is interested in how people's identity—their psychology, character, and complexity—drive their stories.

Details

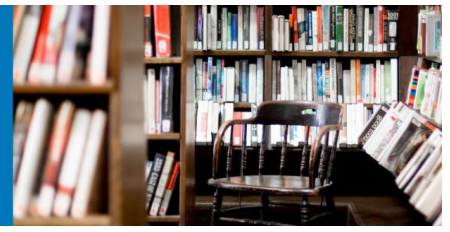
Thursday 23rd April
Doors open 6.40pm
Talk from 7pm
Free for members and non-members
Book [here](#).

Join our Newest Screen Club

We have a couple of vacancies in our newest screen club, which meets on the third Tuesday of each month from 5.45pm and is run by James Baker. The club will be discussing iconic Australian movie *Red Dog* at its April meeting.

If you would more information about the screen club, or to register, email library@melbourneathenaeum.org.au or speak to one of the library staff.

To view the books and movies on all of our book and screen club lists click [here](#). To view the library's latest acquisitions click [here](#). To view the library's catalogue click [here](#).



APRIL NEWS FROM YOUR LIBRARY

Stella: The Musical

In 2022, pianist/composer and singer/songwriter Monique diMattina performed *Miles Franklin the Musical* in the library, paying homage to Australian writer and feminist Stella Maria Sarah Miles Franklin. Franklin is best known for her early 1900s novel *My Brilliant Career*.

Now, the theatrical debut of *STELLA: The Musical* is pending. This seven-year labour of love for Monique will be staged at The Alexander Theatre at Monash University Performing Arts Centre, Clayton, from June 12 to 20.

STELLA: The Musical reveals the terrible cost Franklin paid for her smash debut, and the extraordinary legacy born of her struggles.

To buy tickets click [here](#).



Residency for Melbourne Author

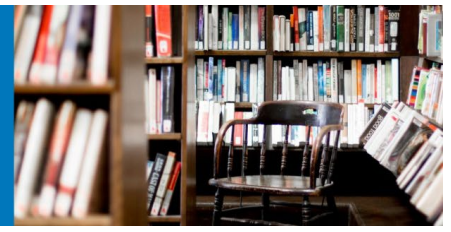
Dr Katrina Watson, who was runner-up in the 2024 Body in the Library category at the Scarlet Stiletto Awards, has been selected for a virtual residency during April with Scotland's Saltire Society.

The residency is through the Melbourne UNESCO City of Literature's Virtual Writers in Residence program and will see Dr Watson collaborating with one of Scotland's leading cultural societies.

Dr Watson, a Melbourne-based author and retired doctor, has various links to Scotland. Her first novel, *The Bones*, was inspired by Edinburgh, the home of graverobbing and murderer-bodysnatchers William Burke and William Hare. And she was named after one of Robert Louis Stevenson's novels (although her father got the spelling wrong when he went to the registry office).

Dr Watson is pictured at the 2025 Body in the Library readings in the library.





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 13th April in the library.

If you would like to attend the AGM please RSVP (for catering purposes) before Thursday 9th April by emailing 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 9th April 2026.

Upcoming Events

Here are a few dates to add to your diaries. Check upcoming eNews for details and booking links.

- Friday 1st May, Tulliah Goldsworthy (contemporary, pictured)
- Friday 15th May, Ultrafox
- Thursday 28th May, talk by Susannah Fullerton
- Friday 29th May, Ash Davies (contemporary)
- Friday 12th June, Affinity Quartet.



The Athenaeum Theatre and Ath 2 have lots of shows on for the Comedy Festival. For more details click [here](#).

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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