

JUNE NEWS FROM YOUR LIBRARY

Library Closure

The library will be closed on Monday 8th June for the King's Birthday holiday. It will reopen at 10am on Tuesday 9th June.

Friday's Music Event

There are just a few seats left for tomorrow's music event (Friday 29th May) with the True Adventurers, featuring Ash Davies, Jeb Cardwell on guitar, Rick Plant on bass and Adrian Whitehead on piano. Doors open 5.40pm and music is from 6pm. Free for members and \$25 for non-members. Book [here](#).

Music Event: Affinity Quartet and Friends

Affinity Quartet's performances have been praised by critics for their 'flawless technique' and 'emotional breadth'.

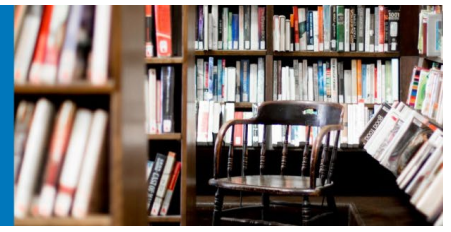
Now entering their second decade, Affinity Quartet is this year focusing on collaborations with some exciting guests, including two leading Australian musicians based overseas: Catherina Lee in London and Isabella Bignasca in Auckland/New York. Catherina (violin) and Isabella (viola) will join Nicholas Waters (violin), Josef Hanna (viola) and Mee Na Lojewski (cello) in the library to perform the following program:



- Huw Belling, Now vanishing, now forming - composed for TAIWA (2026)
- Mozart String Quintet no.5 in D Major K.593
- Brahms String Quintet no.2 in G Major Op.111

Details

Friday 12th June
Doors open 5.40pm, music from 6pm
Free for members, \$25 for non-members
Book [here](#).



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Join us for World Wide Knit in Public Day

The library is joining a worldwide community of knitters in hosting a Knit in Public Day on the second Saturday (10am to 4pm) in June.

World Wide Knit in Public Day began in 2005 as a way for knitters to come together and is now the largest knitter-run event in the world. Countries that have participated in events include England, Finland, France, Norway, Poland, South Africa, Sweden, the US, Canada and Germany.



The library will have a stash of wool, needles and patterns for anyone wanting to knit something for charity, or you can bring your own knitting project. Members are welcome to bring a friend, and there is no cost to participate.

Details

Saturday 13th June
10am to 4pm (drop in anytime)
Free for members and non-members

Restoring Our Lift

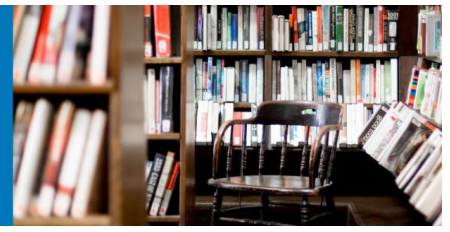
Our Annual Giving Appeal is underway and we are inviting members to make a tax-deductible donation to assist in a facelift for our treasured lift, which will turn 100 in just four years.

The lift is one of only two of its vintage in Melbourn and is greatly admired for its decorative and stylish interior. Through the Annual Giving Appeal we are hoping to resurface and paint the metal external doors on each level to significantly improve the appearance of the lift.



If you would like to donate, please click on this [link](#).

Thank you for considering a donation.



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Music Event: Secret Trio

Secret Trio is the latest project from guitarist and composer Robbie Melville, and members and their guests will be able to enjoy it on Friday 19th June.

Featuring Sophie Dunn on violin and viola (Devil Goat Family String Band) and accordionist Phil Mcleod (The Blue Grassy Knoll), the trio explore a juxtaposition of heavily-structured arrangements with free-spirited extemporisation.



Their music is informed in equal measure by contemporary jazz and Norwegian folk, the sparse and playful writings of Richard Brautigan, the photography of Viktor Kolář, and the film soundtracks of Mark Orton.

Photo by Dan McKay

Details

Friday 19th June

Doors open 5.40pm, music from 6pm

Free for members, \$25 for non-members

Book [here](#).

Book Recommendations

Library Manager Fiona has a couple of suggestions if you are looking for a book or two to add to your reading list. *Miss Winter In the Library with a Knife* by Martin Edwards is a “really enjoyable read” and *Three Bags Full* by Leonie Swann tells the entertaining story of a shepherd who reads to his flock. When he is murdered the sheep investigate to find his killer. *Three Bags Full* has recently been made into a movie, *The Sheep Detectives*, starring Hugh Jackman and Emma Thompson.

To view the library’s latest acquisitions click [here](#). To view the library’s catalogue click [here](#).





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Colour of Time Exhibition

The *Colour of Time* exhibition in the library will bring together one of the most ancient practices, the creation of glass, with Australia's oldest continuing culture to showcase the work of First Nations glass artists.



The exhibition will be held from Monday 6th July to Sunday 26th July as part of NAIDOC Week. It is a collaborative project between the Melbourne Athenæum and not-for profit organisation GLAAS Inc (Glass Light Art and Architecture Synergies), which progresses the use of glass in architecture, art and construction.

A panel discussion to be held on Saturday 11th July from 2.30pm will provide an opportunity to hear from the exhibiting artists about their artistic practice and their journey with glass as a creative medium. It will give an insight into the inspiration and cultural influences behind the making of the displayed works, and the power of glass to combine the contemporary and the traditional in art.

Supported by the City of Melbourne Arts Grants.

Image: Rickie Gugumah Martin, Yorta Yorta and Pairrebeenne/Trawlwoolway, Many Hands Make Light Work, (detail), 2026.

Details

Exhibition: July 6-26

Panel discussion: Saturday 11th July

Discussion from 2.30pm to 3.30pm

Free for members and non-members

Book [here](#).



CITY OF MELBOURNE

GLAAS INC.





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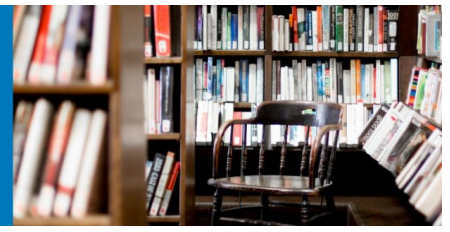
Rare Book Week Events

Members will be spoiled for choice with three terrific events being held in the library as part of Rare Book Week, which will run from July 23 to August 1.

Bookings for all events open on Thursday 4th June at 6pm. The events being presented by Rare Books Melbourne, in partnership with the library, are:



- Tuesday 28th July from 6.30pm - *Lloyd's Register of Shipping: shaping global shipping for four centuries*. Dr Liz Rushen will discuss Lloyd's Register, which was forged in Edward Lloyd's London coffee house in 1760 and is recognised as one of the most important books in maritime history. To this day the register remains a vital resource and has led to greater safety at sea. Dr Rushen AM is a historian, a Director of the Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network and on the Editorial Board of the Australian Dictionary of Biography. Booking details [here](#).
 - Wednesday 29th July from 7pm - *Big Show Offs: The clowning achievements of George Coppin and Barry Humphries*. Speaker Simon Plant, who delivered the Gary Morgan Oration in the library in March, will speak about George Coppin and Barry Humphries, who graced the stage a century apart, bringing life and laughter to Melbourne theatres and audiences. Simon, the author of *Entertaining Mr Coppin*, will speak about just how much these two thespians had in common, both in comedy and in life. Booking details [here](#).
 - Thursday 30th July from 6pm – *Graphic Novels and the Real World*. The comic book form is used as a narrative medium by creators to tackle social, historical and personal histories: protesting about the Vietnam War in Miranda Burton's *Underground*; Napoleon Bonaparte's Tasmanian imprisonment in Jamie Clennett's *The Diemenois*; and growing up with an autistic sibling in Gina Chadderton's *Oh Brother*. Join these creators, along with chair Bernard Caleo, as they present illustrated readings from their work and engage in a spirited discussion about comics and the real world. Booking details [here](#).
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Shut Up and Write!

Our *Shut Up & Write!*[®] sessions, which are part of a global writing community, have kicked off and will be held once a month in the library. This is a terrific opportunity for some quiet, focused writing time.

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) June 20, July 18, August 15, September 19, October 17 and November 21.

Upcoming Events

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

- July 24-26: Open House
- August 20: Author talk, Maxine Beneba Clarke
- August 21: (classical music) Flinders Quartet
- September 4: (contemporary music) Xani Kolac (pictured)
- September 11: (classical music) Partridge Quartet.



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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[melbourneathenaeum.org.au](https://www.melbourneathenaeum.org.au)