



AUGUST NEWS FROM YOUR LIBRARY

Lift Works and Library Closure

The resurfacing and repainting of the metal external lift doors on each level will be done over two days in August, and the library will be closed to members on Saturday 15th August.

We apologise for the closure but the works will enable the lift doors to have an overhaul in time for their 100th birthday.

Thanks again to the members who were able to donate to our Annual Giving Appeal and support this project.



Shut Up and Write Date and Time Change

Due to the lift works, our monthly Shut Up and Write session will be held a week later than usual, on Saturday 22nd August.

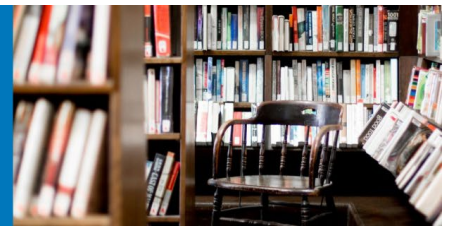
From August these sessions will run from 2pm to 3pm.

Bookings are not necessary but if you have any questions please speak to the library staff.

The remaining session dates for 2026 are (Saturday) September 19, October 17 and November 21.

Photo credit: Unseen Studio on Unsplash





AUGUST NEWS FROM YOUR LIBRARY

Author Talk: Maxine Beneba Clarke



Join author Maxine Beneba Clarke as she reflects on a career that has spanned spoken word, poetry, memoir, non-fiction, journalism, fiction and writing for theatre.

Maxine is the author of many books for adults and children, including the ABIA and Indie Award-winning short fiction collection *Foreign Soil*, critically-acclaimed memoir *The Hate Race*, the Kate Greenaway Medal longlisted *When We Say Black Lives Matter*, and *The Patchwork Bike*, which won the Boston Globe/Horn Prize for Best Picture Book.

Her poetry collections include the Victorian Premier's Award-winning

collection *Carrying the World*, *How Decent Folk Behave*, *It's the Sound of the Thing: 100 new poems for young people* (which won an ABIA for Book of the Year for younger readers), *Stuff I'm (Not) Sorry For: 99 more poems for young people* and the recently-released *Beautiful Changelings*.

Details

Thursday 20th August

Doors open 6.40pm

Talk from 7pm

Free for members and non-members

Book [here](#).





AUGUST NEWS FROM YOUR LIBRARY

Music: Flinders Quartet

Celebrating 26 years on the world stage, Flinders Quartet is one of Australia's most celebrated ensembles.

The quartet is known for its insightful interpretations and depth of understanding, particularly in the string quartet greats of Mozart and Beethoven.



Mozart's Adagio and Fugue in C minor is a work of dark intensity, its intricate counterpoint pointing toward Beethoven's world even as it crowns Mozart's mastery of classical form. That world arrives in full with Beethoven's String Quartet in E flat, Op. 127 - the first of his visionary late quartets, opening with majestic chords before unfolding into one of the most expansive and profound journeys in all of chamber music.

Details

Friday 21st August

Doors open 5.40pm

Music from 6pm

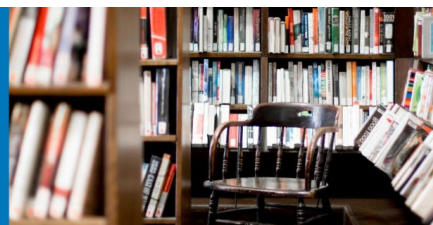
Free for members, \$25 for non-members

Book [here](#).





THE
MELBOURNE
ATHENÆUM



AUGUST NEWS FROM YOUR LIBRARY

Music: Tanya-Lee Davies and Sam Lemann

Songs by four of the greatest American music stylists - Patsy Cline, Loretta Lynn, Lucinda Williams and Linda Ronstadt – will be performed in the library by Tanya-Lee Davies and guitarist Sam Lemann.

In the time-honoured tradition of country storytelling, expect heartbreakers, heart racers and heart-stopping romantic thrillers, road trip tales and odes to triumph and tragedy.

We are fortunate to have Tanya-Lee and Sam performing instead of previously-scheduled Xani Kolac.

Details

Friday 4th September

Doors open 5.40pm

Music from 6pm

Free for members, \$25 for non-members

Book [here](#).



Join the Cartridge Family Writers

The Cartridge Family Writers, a friendly and established writing group at the library, is seeking new members.

The group meets at the Athenaeum every third Thursday of the month from 1.30pm to 3.30pm.

If you are interested in joining the group or have any questions please email chairperson Patsy at beacon01@optusnet.com.au

Photo by Gavin John Photography





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Library Award

Congratulations to librarian James Baker who has been shortlisted for the Victorian Library and Information Award through the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA).

As secretary of the ALIA Graphic Novels and Comics committee, James has promoted the value, diversity and legitimacy of comics and graphic novels in libraries.

He was instrumental in developing two graphic novel events for Melbourne Rare Book Week and has played a key role on the Mechanics' Institute Australia Bicentenary 2027 Committee.

The award winner will be announced on August 28 and the winner will receive a trophy and a year's ALIA membership or training voucher.

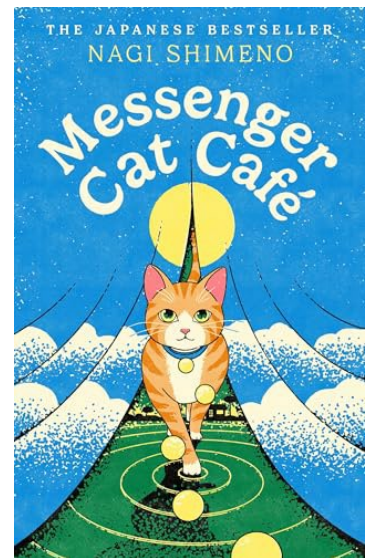


Book Recommendation

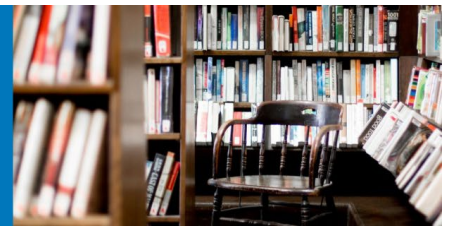
Library staff member Jill recommends *Messenger Cat Café* by Nagi Shimeno, describing it as a “sweet book that reveals the depth of relationship a cat has for his owner and the lengths he will go to in order to see her again”.

“The adventures on the way to fulfilling his wish are many and varied, but all highlight the different ways love is revealed in our daily lives,” said Jill.

Messenger Cat Café tells the story of tabby cat Fuuta who has passed into the afterlife. Eager to see owner Michiru again, Fuuta interviews for a position at Café Pont, which is known for its unique service: its living customers can request meetings with the person they would most like to see again. Fuuta must investigate and deliver his messages without unnerving the living or upsetting the balance of the universe. It is a weighty task for a tabby cat, but Fuuta rises to the challenge.



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



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Upcoming Events

Check upcoming eNews for details and booking links for these events:

- September 11: (classical) Partridge Quartet (pictured)
- October 16: (contemporary) Stella Anning
- October 24: (talk) Greg Gardiner
- November 14: drawing workshop with Alissa Duke.



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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