



# NOVEMBER NEWS FROM YOUR LIBRARY

## Cup Day and Christmas Closure Dates

The library will be closed for Melbourne Cup Day on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November. It will reopen at 10am on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November.

The library will close for the Christmas and New Year period on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 4pm. It will reopen to members on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January at 10am.

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## Workshop: Watercolour Pencil Sketching

Join Alissa Duke for an inspirational class/workshop with watercolour pencils amongst the bookshelves, and learn tips and techniques along the way.

No previous experience is required – just bring your enthusiasm. Kits will be available to purchase on the day for \$25.

Alissa Duke was the library's 2024 artist-in-residence and is a librarian who is part of a global Urban Sketchers movement.

Alissa carries her sketchbook, watercolour pencils and ink pen everywhere as she says there is always something to draw.



### Details

Saturday 14 November

2pm to 5pm

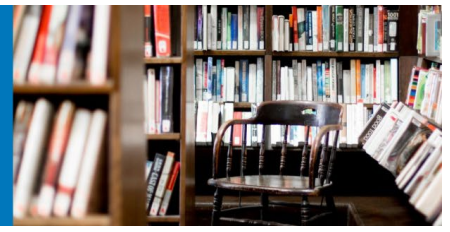
Free for members and non-members

Book [here](#).

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THE  
MELBOURNE  
ATHENÆUM



# NOVEMBER NEWS FROM YOUR LIBRARY

## Talk: Printing the Plays of Shakespeare

In this talk, Professor David McInnis explores how Shakespeare and fellow dramatists wrote their plays, tracing the textual evolution from authors' hands to playhouses and eventually the printers.

This period features a fascinating array of experimental approaches to translating the success of ephemeral performance to the printed page. Understanding how the plays of Shakespeare's day were transmitted to us in the present is a vital aspect if we are to appreciate their meaning and significance now.

David McInnis is Professor of Shakespeare and Early Modern Drama at the University of Melbourne, and is editor of *Shakespeare Quarterly*.

### Details

Thursday 26 November

Doors open 6.40pm, talk from 7pm

Free for members and non-members

Book [here](#).





# NOVEMBER NEWS FROM YOUR LIBRARY

## Music: Pierre Jaquinot Trio

The Pierre Jaquinot Trio will perform at the library for the first time with a program of tunes from some of Pierre's favourite composers.

The songs will focus on the works of legendary jazz figures such as Thelonius Monk, Dizzy Gillespie, Jim Hall and Dave Brubeck.



Pierre Jaquinot has been described in USA's *Jazz Guitar Today* as "one of the finest jazz guitarists in Melbourne".

His current trio, which includes the talents of Ben Robertson on double bass and Scott Hay on drums, formed three years ago and has performed at many venues across the state.

### Details

Friday 27 November

Doors open at 5.40pm

Performance begins 6.00pm

Free for members, \$25 for non-members

Book [here](#).





# NOVEMBER NEWS FROM YOUR LIBRARY

## Book Launch: *Kingdom of Men*

Members are invited to the launch of *Kingdom of Men* by Lea Weaver and Alayna Cole, a book that tells the story of Zoe, who has always believed that when something frightens her it is worth pursuing.

When a client offers Zoe a job teaching Shiatsu at a high-security men's prison, she says yes. Each week, Zoe enters a classroom alone with a group of men she has been warned to fear. She connects with her students, bends the rules, and gradually finds herself more at ease with the prisoners than with the guards, her clients, and even her friends. What begins as an unlikely job evolves into a deeply human story of love, grief, and defiance. In this place known for violence and fear, the men offer Zoe something she has rarely known: respect.

Author Lea Weaver has done many things in her life, including teaching weaving at the Rudolf Steiner Curative Home, completing her Bachelor of Education in Arts and Crafts from Melbourne University in 1992, being an artist-in-residence at various primary schools, and teaching Shiatsu at the Port Phillip high security men's prison. She recently spent two years as a co-presenter and interviewer for the JOY 94.9fm writers' program *Take Me to Your Reader*.

Author Alayna Cole has spent the last decade working in and around the games industry. She's been a producer in various studios, run a not-for-profit, mentored emerging developers, and taught game studies at several Australian universities. She has published short stories, a memoir, textbooks, and journal articles. Her most recent book, *Becoming Wild: Essays on Self and Society*, is a creative memoir about what it means to be ourselves.



### Details

Thursday 3 December  
Doors open at 6.30pm  
Book launch 7pm  
Free for members and non-members  
Book [here](#).

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# NOVEMBER NEWS FROM YOUR LIBRARY

## Book Recommendation

With a state election only weeks away let's have a look at one of the Victorian parliament's most enduring and fascinating mysteries.

If you want to have a go at solving this so-far unsolved crime (before you read the book) have a look at [this](#) page on the Victorian Parliamentary website, which gives you the clues, and the suspects. Or read the book - *The Curious Case of the Stolen Mace: solving Australia's strangest political crime* by Sally Young.

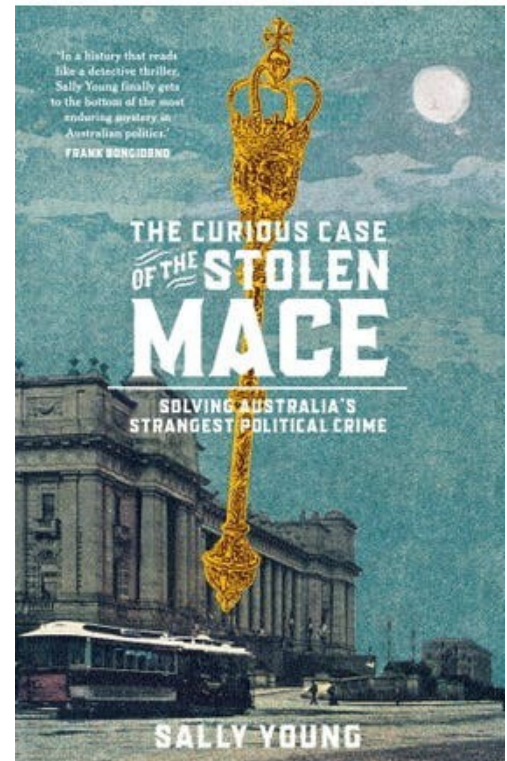
In 1891, the sacred symbol of the Victorian Parliament, its ceremonial mace, was stolen. A long, heavy club topped with a crown, it was popularly thought to be made of solid gold.

The colony's best detectives, a dour Scot named Tom Nixon and the famous Ned Kelly-hunter Mick Ward, were assigned to the case, but the mace was never recovered.

No-one was ever charged and a substantial reward remains unclaimed. Was the thief a corrupt politician who took the mace to a brothel on a drunken lark? A parliamentary worker who was seen with an odd-shaped package? A carpenter who snuck in through an open window? Or a political activist?

In *The Curious Case of the Stolen Mace*, old and new evidence, including letters, witness statements and police reports, are pieced together after 135 years to reveal the thief and how he got away with the political crime of the century.

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





# NOVEMBER NEWS FROM YOUR LIBRARY

## Donation of Art Catalogues

The Melbourne Athenaeum is fortunate to have received a large donation of exhibition catalogues, many for exhibitions held at the Athenaeum Art Gallery.

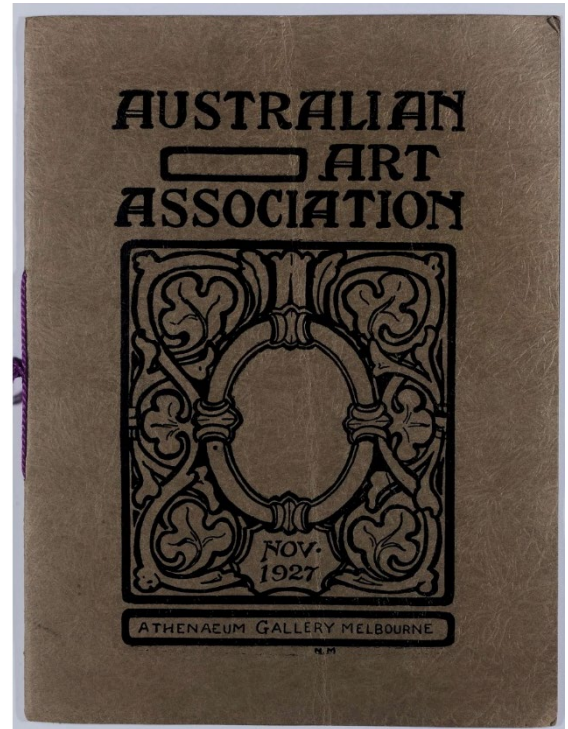
This gallery operated for more than 60 years in the space now known as Athenaeum 2 and exhibited the work of some of Australia's most significant artists and artists' groups, including Arthur Streeton, Tom Roberts, Albert Namatjira, Clarice Beckett and the Australian Art Association.

The catalogue collection was donated by Paul Hewison and Lesley Alway, in memory of Albert Edward Davies.

Albert Davies was born in Ballarat of Welsh heritage and trained as an artist and art teacher at the Ballarat School of Mines. He taught at the Gordon in Geelong and the Working Men's College in Melbourne (now RMIT University). He also attended the National Gallery Art School and travelled to London and Paris to further his artistic knowledge. Davies specialised in watercolours and was friends with artists such as Harold Herbert and Leslie Wilkie (both of whom exhibited at the Athenaeum Art Gallery). In the 1920s and 1930s he regularly attended exhibitions at the Athenaeum and other Melbourne galleries.

The donation will provide many new research opportunities to enhance our knowledge of the Athenaeum's history as an important artistic hub. The Melbourne Athenaeum extends its sincerest thanks to Paul Hewison and Lesley Alway for this wonderful addition to the archives.

*Caption: Exhibition Catalogue, Australian Art Association, Athenaeum Gallery, November 1927, Melbourne Athenaeum Archives, donated by Paul Hewison and Lesley Alway in memory of Albert Edward Davies.*





# NOVEMBER NEWS FROM YOUR LIBRARY

## New Recordings

Members can continue to enjoy the music of two groups that have recently graced the library stage, thanks to new recordings.

Affinity Quartet's debut album, *A Listening Air*, features the work of four Australian composers, Brett Dean, Thomas Misson, Alice Chance, and Peter Sculthorpe. Affinity's album can be streamed on [Spotify](#), [Apple Music](#), and [Amazon Music](#).

Soprano Christelise de Graaf and classical guitarist Meredith Connie (pictured) have released *my splendors are menagerie*. Their album of Australian Art Songs for soprano and guitar is available for streaming [here](#).



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## Upcoming Events

Check upcoming eNews for details:

- Saturday 21 November: *Shut Up and Write* session from 2pm
- Friday 11 and Saturday 12 December: Inventi plays *The Nutcracker* (photo: Agatha Yim)
- Saturday 19 December: *Shut Up and Write* session from 2pm
- Friday 29 January 2027: Music – Margret RoadKnight.



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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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