

Innovating Traditions: Activation projects at the Ballarat Mechanics' Institute

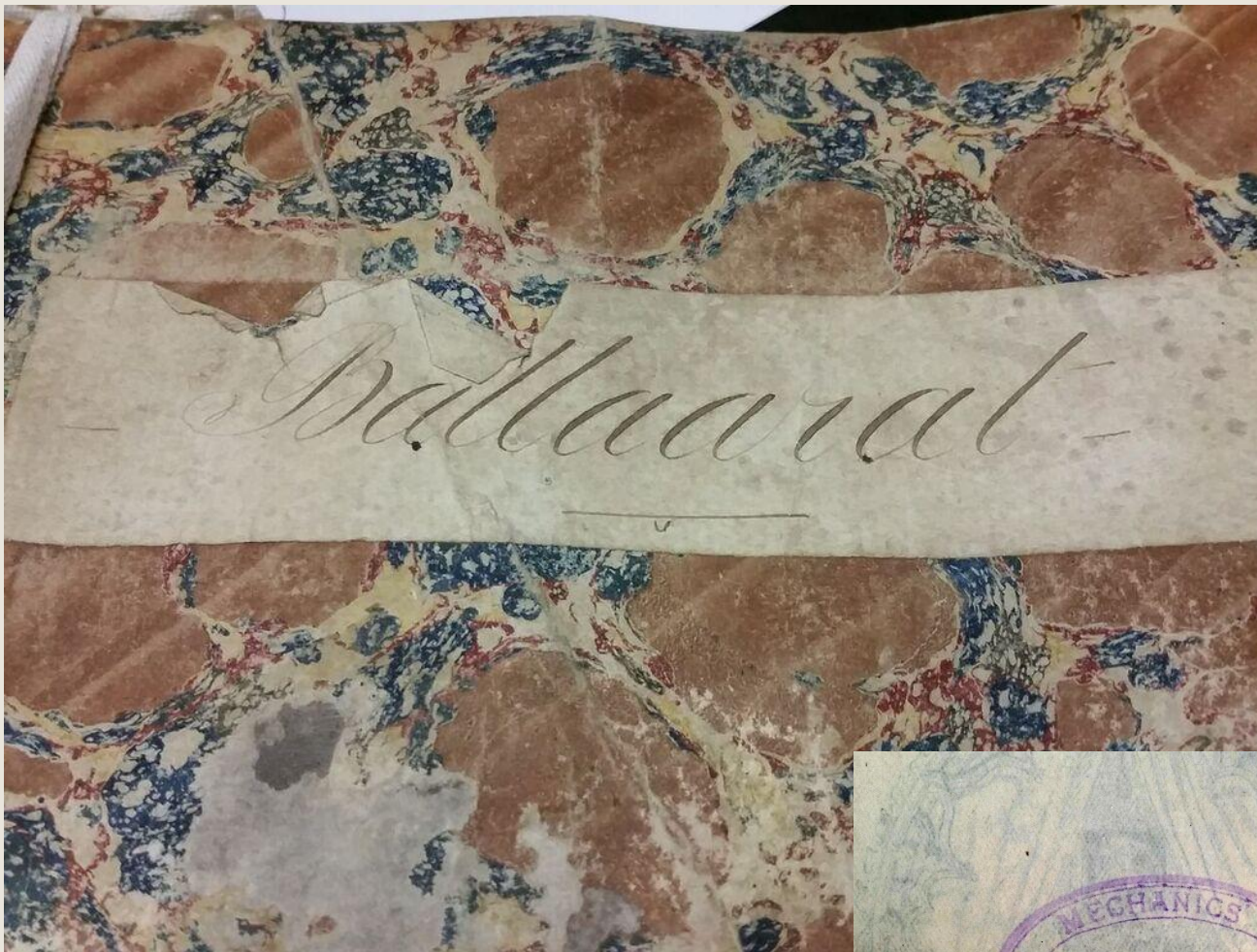
Amy Tsilemanis

Federation University Australia and Ballarat Mechanics' Institute (BMI)

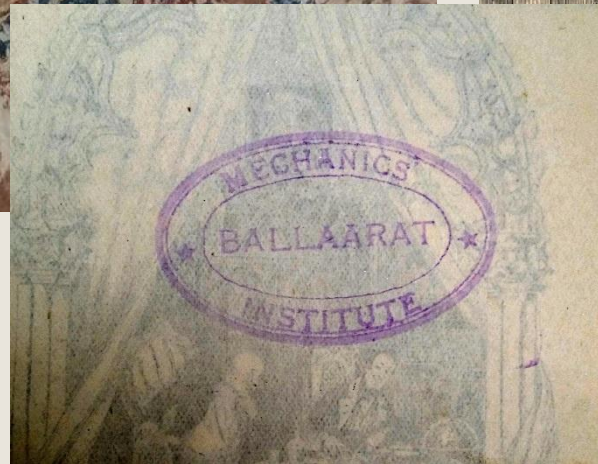
@amytinderbox @bmiballarat
ballaratmi.org.au







The Ballaarat Mechanics' Institute





Corner of Sturt and Lydiard St

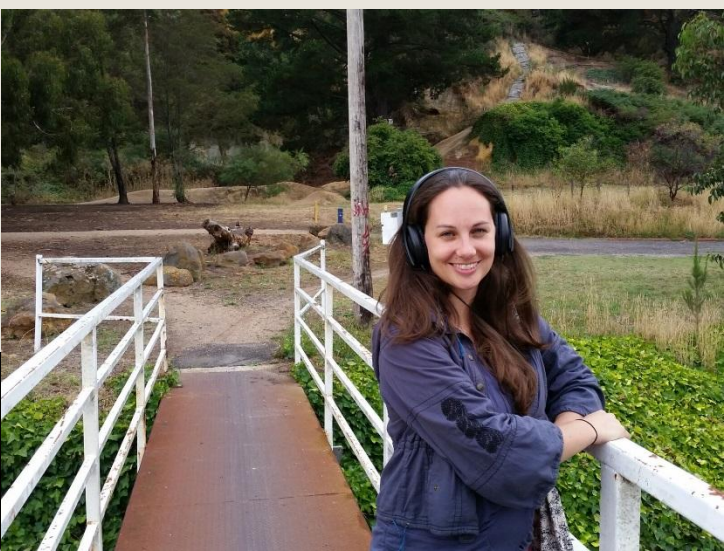
Reveal the past and the present!



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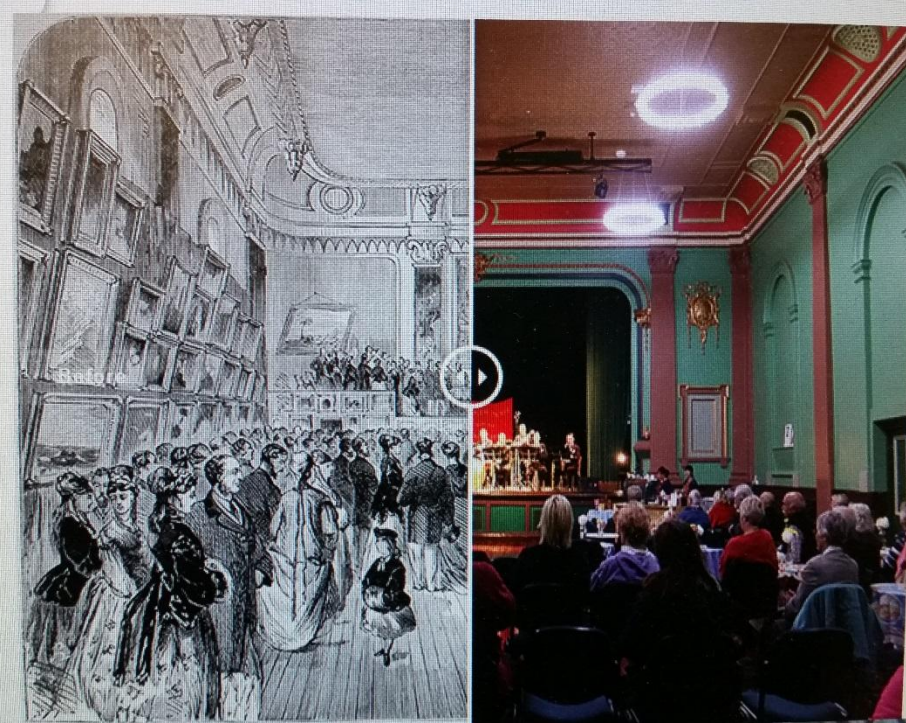
‘Creative Activation of the Past’





THE KITCHEN SISTERS





ballaratrevealed.com



www.hulballarat.org.au/photo_fader.php

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Slide the blue button left and right to fade between the contemporary photograph and historic artwork

Sturt Street Ballarat from above

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BALLARAT MECHANICS INSTITUTE
ESTD 1859

Spring Celebrations

1 - 3 SEPTEMBER 2016
3 NIGHTS OF LIVE MUSIC

In collaboration with FedUni Live Production
Tickets at: ballaratmi.org.au/SpringCelebrations

OPEN DAY - FREE
3 SEPTEMBER, 10AM - 5PM

Local Music and Performance
Photography and Film Exhibitions
Launch of the Max Harris Photography Collection
Fascinating displays from the BMI Collection
Educational Talks and Kids Activities
... and much more!

BALLARAT'S GRAND MECHANICS' INSTITUTE IS RESTORED, REVITALISED & BLOOMING AGAIN!
Get reacquainted with Ballarat's oldest and newest treasure, bursting with 3 days of celebratory events with something for everyone to enjoy.

Info at: ballaratmi.org.au/SpringCelebrations
117 STURT STREET, BALLARAT, VIC 3350
P: (03) 5331 3042

@bmiballarat
f t i

Event Sponsors

CITY OF BALLARAT

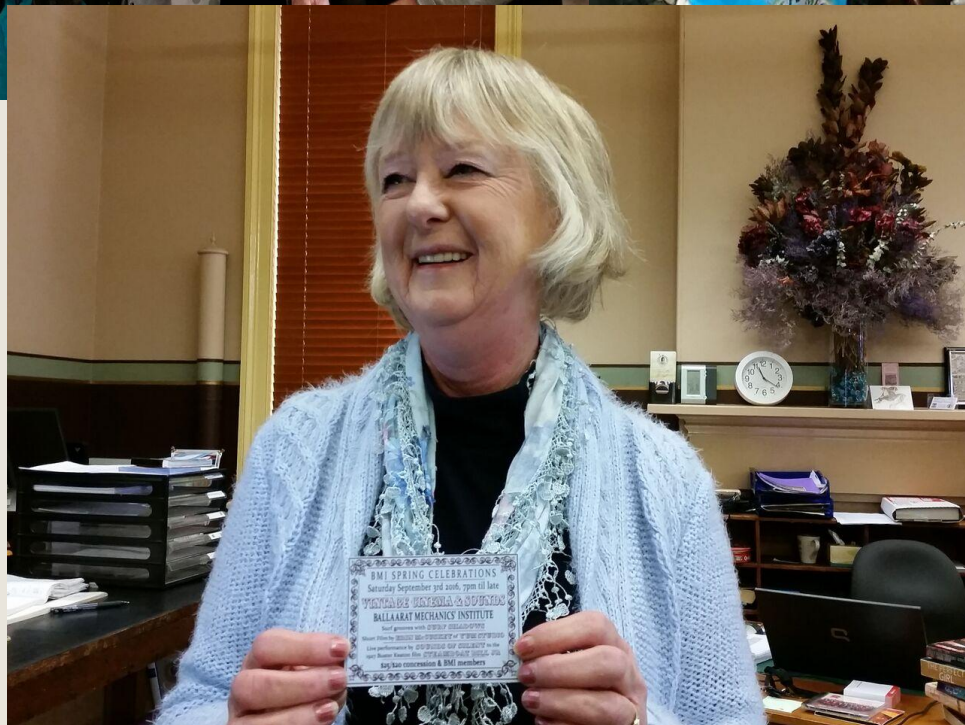
FedUniLive

YUM

Michael Unwin Vintages



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BMI SPRING CELEBRATIONS
 Saturday September 3rd 2016, 7pm til late

VINTAGE CINEMA & SOUNDS

BALLAARAT MECHANICS' INSTITUTE

Surf grooves with **SURF SHADOWS**

Short Film by **ERIN McCUSKEY** of **YUM STUDIO**

Live performance by **SOUNDS OF SILENT** to the
 1927 Buster Keaton film **STEAMBOAT BILL JR**

\$25/\$20 concession & BMI members



The **SOUNDS of SILENT**

present Buster Keaton in
 'Steamboat Bill Jnr'
 Saturday 3rd September 7pm

VINTAGE CINEMA & SOUNDS
 Dress in your favourite vintage gear. Enjoy Surf Shadows Surf Groove, short film by Erin McCuskey & 'At the Pictures' exhibition of BMI cinema history

1920s cinema experience
 silent film with live band

Ballarat Mechanics' Institute
 117 Sturt St, Ballarat
 Tickets \$25/\$20 ballaratmi.org.au/SpringCelebrations
www.soundsofsilent.com

FedUniLive YUM Michael Unwin



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FedUniLive
HEART OF THE RAT RECORDS
Info at: ballaratmi.org.au/SpringCelebrations
Ballarat Mechanics Institute
117 Sturt Street, Ballarat, Vic 3350
P: 03 5331 3042









WELCOME



WELCOME TO THE BMI, ONE OF BALLARAT'S OLDEST AND NEWEST TREASURES

The BMI is an independently run hub of culture, entertainment and learning, established in 1859, and funded through a mixture of membership, rentals, venue hire, events, philanthropy, and grants. The building is one of the grandest of Australia's Mechanics' Institutes and is filled with treasures.



Want to get involved?

- Become a member and enjoy reduced rates for events, and relax, research and learn with access to our lending library & heritage collection of books, archives and more
- Hire our unique spaces for your meetings, classes and functions
- Come in for a book signing or take a full tour of the building each Thursday at 2pm
- Enjoy historic images of Ballarat with the Max Harris photographic collection at the BMI and take home a piece of history with prints and postcards
- Join the Friends group or Volunteer in your area of interest and expertise
- Make a philanthropic donation
- Join us online @bmballarat #bmballarat #ballarattreasures

You can help this Ballarat treasure continue to be a special hub for Ballarat culture & community! Get other ideas for helping the BMI to bloom? Free to get in touch.



Who is Minerva?

The BMI icon and statue adorning the building watching over the city is Minerva: goddess of wisdom and sponsor of arts, trade, and strategy.
In 1868, as the BMI Committee finished its plans for the imposing front portion of the Sturt Street building with its Greek and Roman classical motifs, the choice of a statue to reign over the whole edifice had to be made. Minerva was the obvious selection. She was 'the Roman goddess of crafts and trade and of the intellectual activity necessary to their successful practice' who was also 'identified with the Greek goddess Pallas Athena and took over her martial tendencies' (Under Minerva's Gate, 2010).



Why is it called a Mechanics' Institute?

The term Mechanics referred to tradesmen in the practical arts such as mining and engineering and the Mechanics' Institute movement founded by Scotsman George Birkbeck in the early 1800s promoted self-education and the 'diffusion of useful knowledge' to those wishing to learn. Over time the role of Mechanics' Institutes have evolved with their audiences, incorporating popular fiction, billiards, debates, lectures, and entertainments. Today the BMI continues as a place to come with a thirst for knowledge, a place to exchange and enjoy Ballarat stories new and old.
In the past, spaces have been rented out by cinema operators, ball schools, Royal South Street, & Lyric Theatre to name a few. Today the Ballarat Mechanics' Institute continues to be used by the community, our spaces are hired for weddings, parties, concerts, conferences, workshops, even yoga and meditation. Our current long-term tenants are Woodward Nhill Financial Planning, Pot of Gold Bookshop, Playing in the Aerie gifts, & Sturt Street Cobblers.



Why the 'aa' in Ballarat?

No it's not a spelling mistake, this is the original spelling of the city's name and comes from Indigenous language meaning 'meeting place, or bended above'. We acknowledge that the land the BMI and its community rest on is traditional 'Wadawurrung country and we honour and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.



Come into the library or jump online to discover more about the BMI story.
As the Jubilee Booklet of 1909 states, "May the priceless treasures of literature, which adorn their shelves, continue to speak to future generations of earnest seekers of knowledge, bright words of encouragement and hope, stimulating them to still higher efforts." Enjoy!

JOIN BMI ONLINE: @bmiballarat #bmiballarat #ballarattreasures



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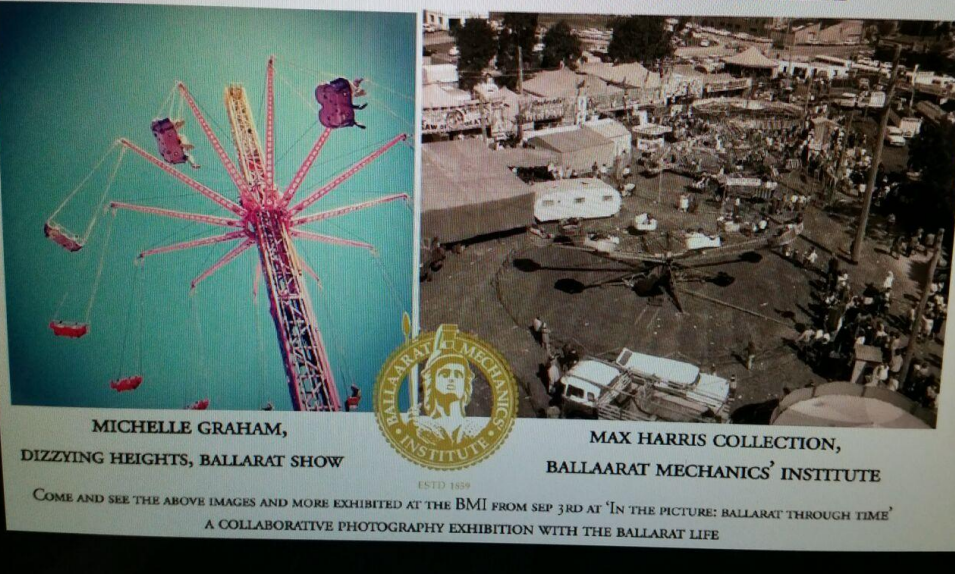
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Lauren Bourke and 144 other friends



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CELEBRATE #WORLDPHOTODAY BY SHARING A PHOTO
OF A BALLARAT TREASURE- A PERSON, PLACE, THING, IDEA
& TAG #BMIBALLARAT #BALLARATTREASURES #THEBALLARATLIFE



#bmiballarat

#ballarattreasures



fisoandlottie

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and caitaclysmic like this

fisoandlottie Gorgeous old machines! Had
a wander through the museum today and
we loved it . . . #bmiballarat
#ballarattreasures #theballaratlife
#visitballarat #trams #trammuseumballarat

bmiballarat Great shot!

bmiballarat Winner of our photo comp!
There will be a print waiting for you at the
library desk :)

fisoandlottie Fantastic!!! Thanks
@bmiballarat , couldn't be happier!





A BUSY MAN: Irene Hill and Jenny Greenbank with the portrait of Henry discovered in the collection of the BMI. Picture: Kate Healy.

The lives of Henry Hill

BY CALEB CLUFF

WHEN Irene Hill opened the Weekender in *The Courier* recently, she was glad to be sitting down at her daughter Jenny's home.

"My mum sang out to me," said Jenny Greenbank.

"She said 'Come and have a look at this. Who can you see in there?'"

"I said 'Oh my god! It's Dad!'"

The picture of Jenny's father and Irene's late husband

Henry Hill sitting in a Ballarat Radio Cab in the 1960s is just one of thousands from the Ballarat Mechanics' Institute's Max Harris Collection, and one of several pictures from the *In The Frame* exhibition that is running until September 30.

Exhibition curator Amy Tsilemanis is hoping more of the pictures will spark someone else's memories of life in Ballarat in the period 1950 to 1970.

But for Jenny and her mum

Irene, the photograph was all the more poignant because they hadn't seen it before.

It's possible it was a *Courier* picture, as Henry Hill worked at the town's newspaper on the overnight shift, rolling and packing the next day's edition from 1.30 am to 7.30 am.

In fact it's hard to imagine when Mr Hill had time for anything. When he wasn't driving or dispatching taxis, he worked at the Victorian Inland Meat Authority in

Learmonth Road, Alfredton, represented the National Servicemen's Association, was playing golf or simply helping people.

Irene says she would sometimes accompany Henry in his taxi when he began to drive.

"It didn't seem to matter whether you were with them or not, because it was an old car; it wasn't like the Radio Cabs," said Irene.

Jenny said the taxi was a Valiant.

"It was car number 35.

I remember it was a black Valiant, and many weekends he would polish it up and put white ribbon on the front and white tulle in the back windscreen and it was used for weddings."

Mr Hill drove for many owners in Ballarat, including Jack Stewart, Clive Dallas, Knoll Vordrey, Jeff Armstrong and Ray Lane. Irene says seeing the picture was astonishing. "It felt like he was sitting next to me!"

BALLARAT TRAINS TO MELBOURNE

DEPART 5.10am* (coach - arrives 6.40am), 5.12am (6.31am), 6.13am (7.30am), 6.38am (7.59am), 7.17am (8.37am), 7.39am (8.58am), 8.04am (9.40am), 9.14am (10.40am), 10.14am (11.40am), 11.14am (12.40pm), 12.14pm (1.40pm), 1.14pm (2.40pm), 2.14pm (3.40pm), 3.14pm (4.40pm), 3.52pm* (5.13pm), 5.15pm* (coach - 7.10pm), 5.35pm (7.27pm), 6.52pm (8.38pm), 8.10pm (9.45pm), 9.10pm (10.45pm), 10pm (11.45pm)

* Service departs Ballarat. All other services from Wendouree.

TRAINS FROM MELBOURNE

DEPART Southern Cross 5.14am (Arrive Ballarat 7.02am) 6.13am* (7.41am) 7.26am* (9.13am) 8.17am (9.45am) 9.17am (10.44am) 10.17am (11.44am) 11.17am (12.44pm) 12.17pm (1.44pm) 1.17pm (2.44pm) 2.17pm (3.44pm) 3.17pm (4.39pm) 4.02pm (5.07pm) 4.33pm (5.38pm) 4.54pm (6.00pm) 5.10pm (6.17pm) 5.51pm (6.57pm) 6.26pm (7.35pm) 7.15pm (8.33pm) 8.25pm (9.43pm) 9.25pm (10.43pm) 10.25pm (11.43pm) *Trains terminate at Ballarat.

INSIDE TODAY

News

1-8 Comics

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WEATHER

TODAY

TOMORROW

CONTACTS

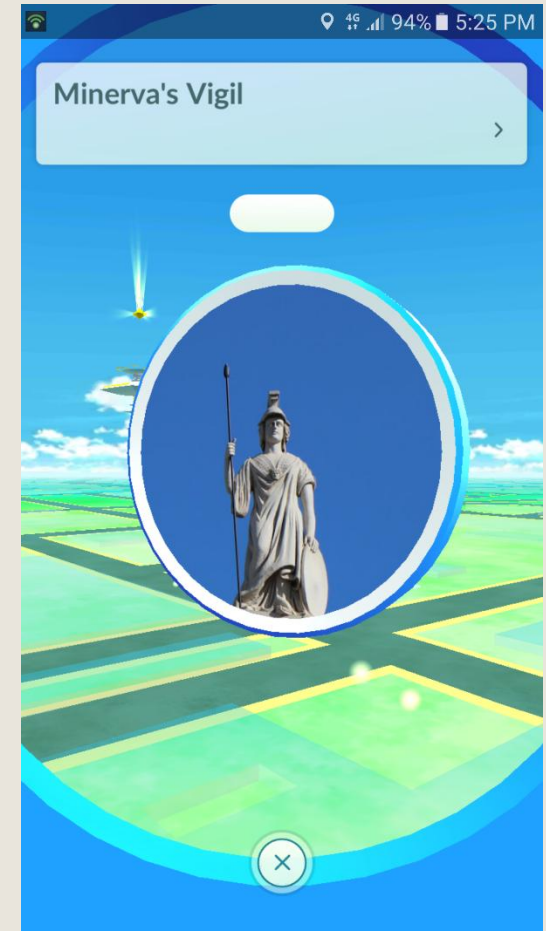
The Ballarat Courier is published six days a week and can be read online at www.thecourier.com.au.

LOTTO

Wednesday Lotto: Draw 3593
Winning numbers: 29, 4, 30.



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Anyone for Pokemon Go?



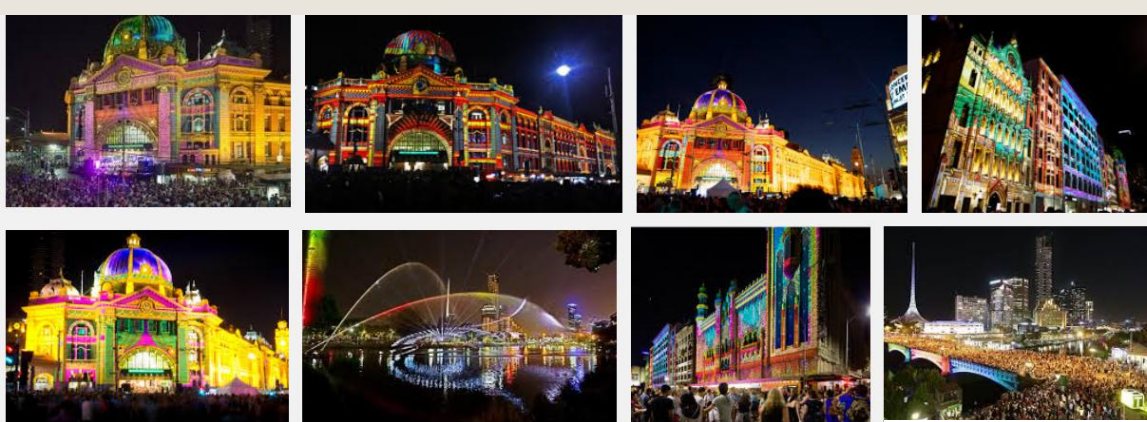


“I see no reason why we should not be able to provide for the wants of the most accomplished scholar, the most exacting seeker of amusement, and every learner of every degree of taste and aptitude.”

-Mr Joseph Jones, BMI president

Ballarat Star newspaper, May 21st 1868





**GOOD BEER WEEK IS “THE BEST BEER WEEK IN THE WORLD”,
ACCORDING TO MANY OF THE WORLD’S LEADING CRAFT BREWERS.**

MAY 12 - 21 2017, MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA



In just six years, it has grown from the spark of an idea to a global festival made up of 270 diverse and innovative events across Melbourne and Victoria that attracts seventy five thousand attendees from across Australia and overseas.

Run by an independent, not-for-profit association, the program has grown almost 500 percent in size since launching in May 2011 and in 2017 it celebrates its seventh anniversary with a lineup that will no doubt feature guests from around the world, big name chefs, masterclasses, sublime degustations, live music and a even a fashion show.

It is Australia's preminent beer event, one that has inspired smaller imitators interstate and in New Zealand, and is well placed to achieve its founders' stated goal of establishing the leading beer festival in the Asia Pacific region. It is the biggest single platform for local brewers and beer businesses to showcase themselves to a broad audience and also plays host to the Australian International Beer Awards (AIBA) and the three-day GABS 2016, Beer, Cider, Food Festival at the Royal Exhibition Building.



Wendy Graham

BMI Board Member





Collaboration and Partnerships

“At the heart of a learning organisation is a shift of mind – from seeing ourselves as separate from the world to being connected to the world. System change depends on sophisticated and widely distributed networks of communication or influence.”

-Peter Senge



Collaboration and Partnerships

Collective wisdom helps us transcend the duality of self and others because it is a reminder that we are part of a larger framework from which we act our role.



Social Capital

- sophisticated social networks
- high levels of trust
- high civic engagement
- symbols and rituals
- interdependence and reciprocity
- volunteering and community action
- shared hope and aspiration
- communities of practice – shared learning
- shared leadership



Ask ourselves:

- What do we want the Mechanics' Institute to mean in this particular community, in this context?
- With this population?
- What are we trying to create?
- How does this fit with our current strategic plan?



What's possible?

and

Who cares?



Where to Next?





Thank you!

