

FOOTNOTES

Footscray Mechanics' Institute Inc. Library Newsletter

#4 APRIL 2022

THE ENIGMA OF MATA HARI



Welcome to issue #4 of FOOTNOTES newsletter

Cover star for this issue is world famous Mata Hari (aka Margaretha Zelle)

She is known now as being an infamous WWI double agent, who was executed by the French in October 1917.

In her day she was renowned as a famous celebrity - in modern terms in the same rarified stratosphere of superstardom as Madonna or Beyonce.

Mata Hari was born in Netherlands in 1876, and her marriage took her to the Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia). An unhappy marriage, ensued involving tragedy for her children, and she consequently separated and returned to Europe.

Remarkably she developed the Mata Hari persona, and took Europe by storm. Her exotic dances incorporating Hindi mythology and Javanese dance routines made her the talk of Paris, and later all Europe, and very soon internationally famous.

Unfortunately WWI put her in a precarious position, and both the Allies and the Germans were intent on recruiting her as a spy, since she was able to transit borders easily, and also had the confidence of many high-ranking politicians and military leaders from both sides.

History proves she was agent H-21 for Germany, and also recruited by the French as a counter-agent, but her spying activities in reality were of little value for either side. She was eventually used by the French as a scapegoat for disastrous military strategies used by the French which cost countless lives on the Western Front. As a prototype liberated women existing in the early 20th century, she was also a target for mysoginists, in particular French secret service agent Ladoux, and again made an example of for reasons of personal animosities.

The embodiment of the 'femme fatale', Mata Hari's legend has lived on in popular culture, and has been the subject of 14 major films - the most famous being 1930 (Greta Garbo), 1964 (Jeanne Moreau), and 1985 (Sylvia Kristel).

The FMI library collection includes the following biographies on this ill-fated starlet:

The Man Who Loved Mata Hari (Dan Sherman) (1985)

Femme Fatale: Love, Lies, and the Unknown Life of Mata Hari (Pat Shipman)(2007)

Tangled Web: Mata Hari - Dancer, Courtesan, Spy (Mary W. Craig) (2017)

Cover Star: MATA HARI

Circa. 1905 (Original B&W publicity postcard)

Colourised by: Olga Shirnina (2019)

Link to more of Olga Shirnina's amazingly detailed colour restorations of Mata Hari
<https://www.thevintagenews.com/2019/07/27/mata-hari-photos/>

THE FOOTSCRAY MECHANICS' INSTITUTE INC. LIBRARY

<https://www.footscraymechanicsinstitute.org.au/>

Our main website with our latest news and events

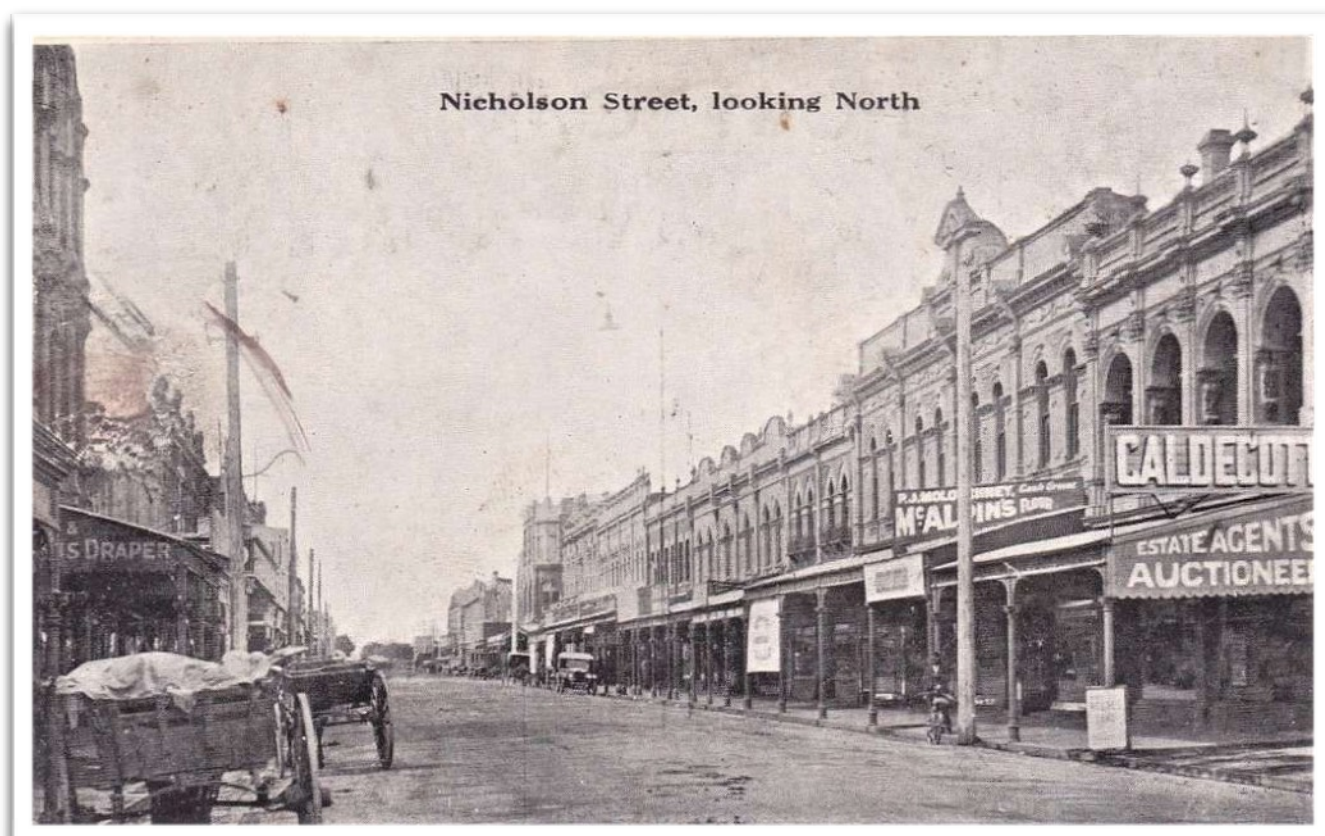
[https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/FootscrayMechanicsInstituteLibrary/)

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Our facebook pages, featuring latest FMI related photos, renovations, collection additions, events and regular book reviews

https://www.instagram.com/fmi_library/

Instagram - FMI Committee members Liz and Michelle documenting the changes and improvements to the FMI in pictorial form



Nicholson Street, Footscray c.1900 (State Library of Victoria)

REMINDER - LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS WERE DUE MARCH 1st 2022

Your \$10 subscription goes towards maintenance of FMI building and Library, and the purchasing of the newest editions of books to our amazing lending collection.

"FOOTNOTES" newsletter subscription is included with your membership, and will be emailed directly to you on publication each quarter.



Pickles, the smallest Library Assistant ever, took ages returning the books to their shelves

.854 - 1954) / Mon 1 Dec 1913 / Page 7

FOOTSCRAY MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.

MEMORIAL STONE OF NEW BUILDING.

A fine pile of buildings is in course of erection at the intersection of Nicholson-street and Napier-street, Footscray, for the local mechanics' institute. The reading room on the ground floor and the billiard room above measure 48 feet by 28 feet, and there are in addition reading rooms for both sexes, smoke rooms, curl rooms and a large classroom.

On Saturday afternoon an inscribed memorial stone was laid, in the presence of a large number of subscribers, and in calling upon Cr. A. McDonald, ex-M.L.A., to perform the ceremony, Mr. E. Jamieson (secretary) referred to the fact that the management had been able to provide such a commodious structure owing to the row of shops and dwellings erected on the land falling into its hands under the arrangement by which Mr. C. J. Polain erected them, on condition that he hold all rights over them for 21 years.

Cr. McDonald said that, as a resident of Footscray for 35 years, he had had long and pleasant associations with the institute, and felt proud to assist at the erection of a building that would be a credit to the management and the district. He regarded the new building as an adjunct of the technical college shortly to be erected on an adjoining block of land. In tracing the history of the institute, he went back to the early fifties, when it was established in a small iron building by a few enthusiasts. At that time the population of Footscray was 200. Later a hall was built on the site of the present post office, and was utilised as council chamber, court of petty sessions and general meeting place. They had now 6000 volumes, which, thanks to an endowment of £500 by the late Mr. James Cum- ington, were being continually added to; and a membership of over 300, a number that should be trebled when the new building was opened. With a population of 25,000 persons, and a charge of only 10/- per annum, they should, he thought, have at least 1000 members, and he advised the young people of the district especially to take advantage of the opportunities offered. (Ap- plause.)

MEMORIAL STONE OF NEW BUILDING

(The Age, Mon 1st December, 1913 p.7)

One of the many articles detailing the history of the Footscray Mechanics' Institute Inc. which can be discovered searching TROVE

TROVE is an amazing database of Australian knowledge, articles and learning and is freely available from National Library of Australia

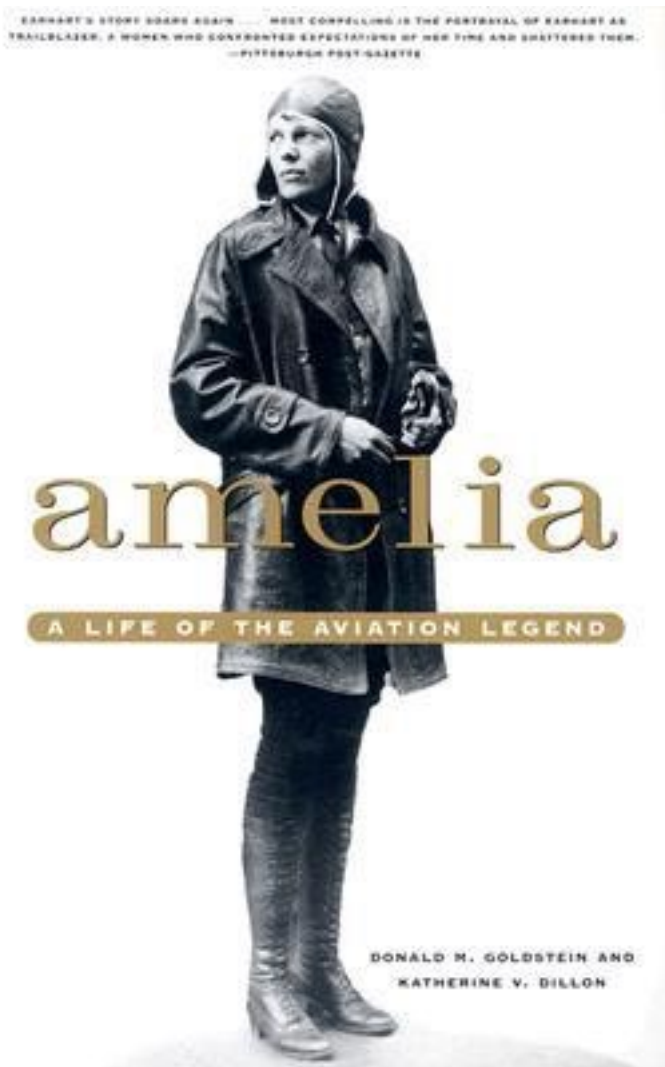
Link to TROVE here:

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/>

Our Memorial Stone is still in pride of place, and in excellent condition, on front portico of our building facing Nicholson Street.

NEW BOOKS FOR LOAN

As usual a selection of new purchases to the Footscray Mechanics' Institute Inc. Library collection, and available for loan now.



AMELIA - A Life of the Aviation Legend

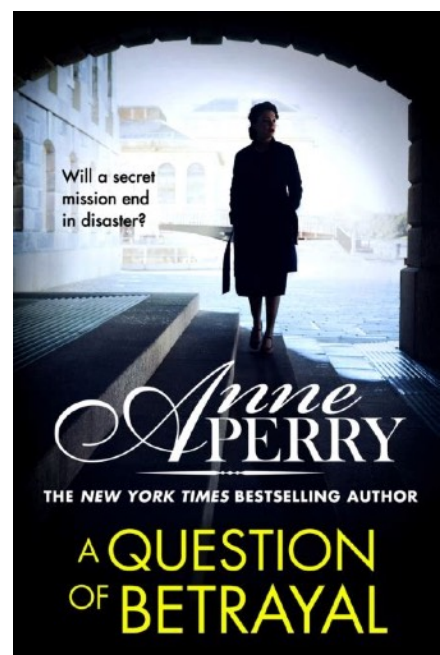
What happened to pioneer aviatrix Amelia Earhart? Her disappearance over the Pacific Ocean in 1937 continues to confound investigators. Here, the authors provide new insights into the mystery as well as a full biography of the world's most revered aviatrix.

Bestselling authors Donald Goldstein and Katherine Dillon provide new insights into a mystery that has confounded searchers for over sixty years. Much more than an investigation of Amelia Earhart's disappearance, however, this intimate biography describes a compelling young woman who rejected society's traditional female role to pursue an exciting, path-breaking career and who overcame the stigma such independence brought her. Amelia Earhart inspired many to reach for the skies. Her indefatigable spirit was, and still is, an inspiration to millions.

A QUESTION OF BETRAYAL - Anne Perry

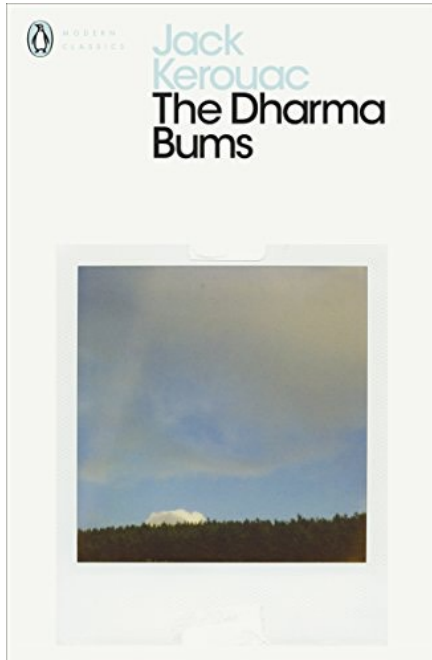
On her first mission for MI6, the daring young photographer at the heart of this thrilling new mystery series by bestselling author Anne Perry travels to Mussolini's Italy to rescue the lover who betrayed her.

Against the backdrop of a rapidly changing Europe, *New York Times* bestselling author Anne Perry crafts a novel full of suspense, political intrigue, and the struggle between love and loyalty to country.



WALKING SHADOWS - Faye Kellerman

Detective Peter Decker and his wife, Rina Lazarus, risk life and limb to solve a pair of brutal murders that may be tied to a crime from more than twenty years ago in this intense and addictive mystery from New York Times bestselling author Faye Kellerman.



THE DHARMA BUMS - Jack Kerouac

Two ebullient young men search for Truth the Zen way: from marathon wine-drinking bouts, poetry jam sessions, and "yabyum" in San Francisco's Bohemia, to solitude in the high Sierras and a vigil atop Desolation Peak in Washington State. Published just a year after *On the Road* put the Beat Generation on the map, *The Dharma Bums* is sparked by Kerouac's expansiveness, humour, and a contagious zest for life. Known as 'King of the Beats', Jack Kerouac's novel THE DHARMA BUMS is equally as impressive as his classic novel ON THE ROAD.

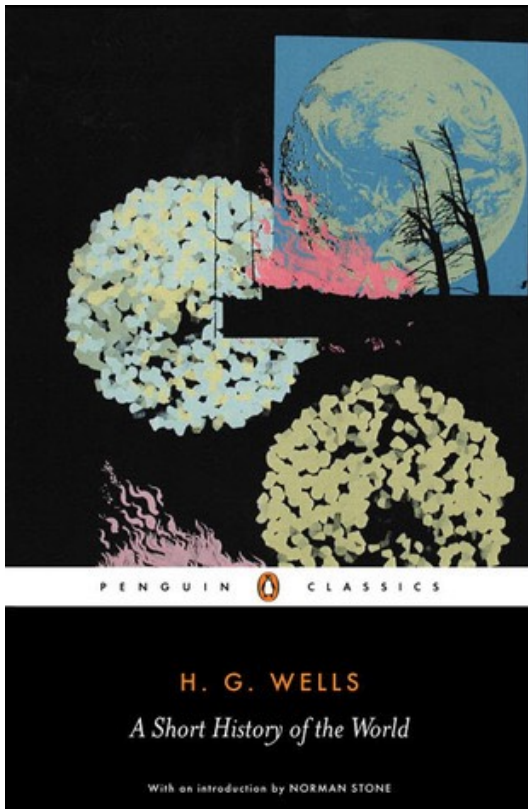
THE COLLECTED STORIES OF KATHERINE MANSFIELD

Noted New Zealand writer Katherine Mansfield's clear, sparkling and perceptive short stories revolutionized the genre, and this collection represents the whole range of her writing.

Moving, resonant, full of light and colour, they range from short sharp studies to longer, richer tales, encompassing her three major volumes *Bliss*, *The Garden Party* and *In a German Pension*, and fifteen tantalizing fragments of unfinished stories published after her tragic death, including 'Honesty', an intriguing tale of two bachelors, and 'The Doves' Nest', an exquisite story of a widowed mother and her daughter in the Riviera who receive a mysterious gentleman caller.

Graceful, delicate and quietly devastating, they observe apparently trivial incidents to create sensitive, often painful revelations of her characters' inner lives.





A SHORT HISTORY OF THE WORLD - H.G. WELLS

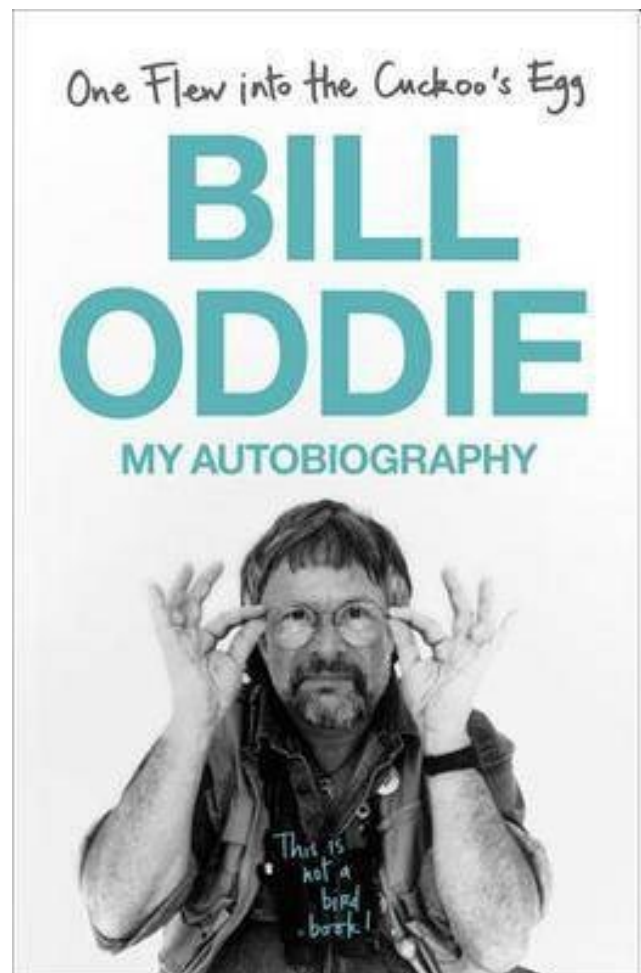
First published in 1922, this prophetic book shows the vision of noted British sci-fi writer H.G. Wells

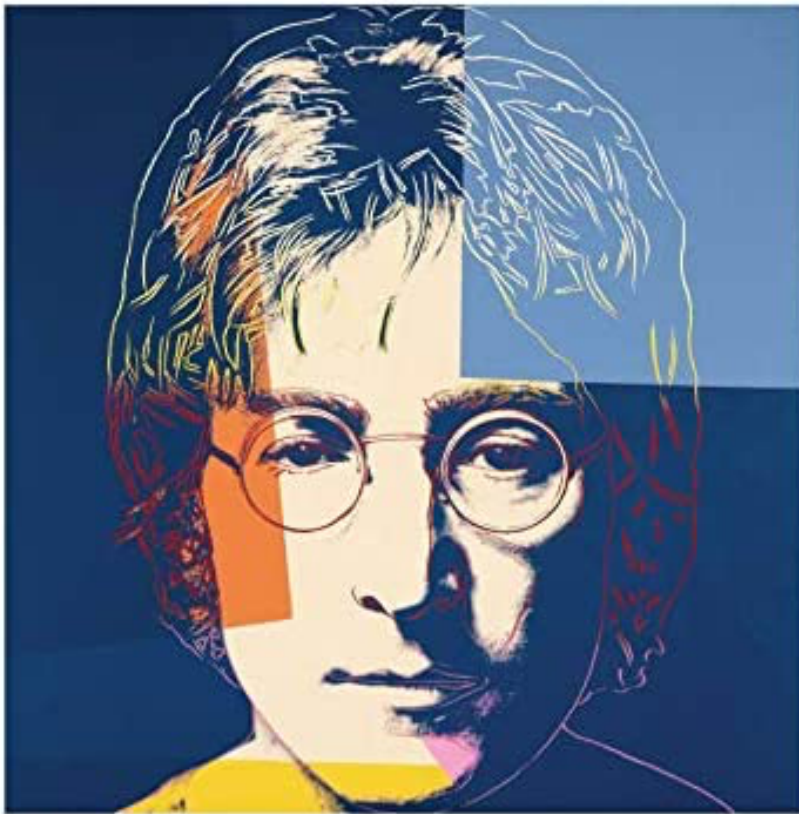
Spanning the origins of the Earth to the outcome of the First World War, this is a brilliantly compelling account of the evolution of life and the development of the human race. Along the way, Wells considers such diverse subjects as the Neolithic era, the rise of Judaism, the Golden Age of Athens, the life of Christ, the rise of Islam, the discovery of America and the Industrial Revolution.

Breathtaking in its scope and passionate in its intensity, this history remains one of the most readable of its kind

ONE FLEW INTO THE CUCKOO'S EGG - Bill Oddie

GOODIES star, comedian, birdwatcher, writer, environmental campaigner. Best known for the wacky humour of the Goodies, and the irrepressible enthusiasm of his nature programs, off screen there has been a darker side. Bill has suffered from bouts of depression which have more than once taken him to the brink. Now he is back in control and wiser about the causes and the cure. It was a lonely and difficult start to life, but there were to be happier times. Touring with the Cambridge Footlights in the 1960s saw him alongside the greatest comic talents of his generation—John Cleese and of course fellow Goodies Tim Brooke-Taylor and Graeme Garden. Soon the Goodies were to become one of the biggest comedy hits of the 1970s—bringing a new brand of surreal humour to our screens. Now as Britain's favorite birdwatcher Bill has turned his private passion into his most public role and hosted more than 20 nature programs for the BBC. He has also become a fervent and outspoken campaigner for the environment. It has been an extraordinary and far from straightforward journey.





THE COMPLETE
JOHN LENNON SONGS

ALL THE SONGS. ALL THE STORIES. ALL THE LYRICS. 1970-80

PAUL DU NOYER

THE COMPLETE JOHN LENNON SONGS

Lennon's life after the Beatles was eventful and fascinating. He moved from stardom in the world's biggest pop group to global peace campaigner and figurehead for radical causes. He left England for a new life in the USA with Yoko Ono. He later abandoned public life and retired to his New York apartment to raise their son and live the life of a recluse. In 1980 he re-emerged with a new album, but the plan to resume his career was cruelly curtailed on a fateful night outside the Dakota Building when he was murdered. Upon first publication, this book was the first to examine and assess all of John Lennon's solo work. This updated edition includes lyrics and is released on the 40th anniversary of his death and the 80th anniversary of his birth.

JACKSON POLLOCK SPLASHED PAINT AND WASN'T SORRY - Fausto Gilberti

Jackson Pollock was unlike any other painter. Instead of sitting in front of an easel with brushes, he poured paint over canvases rolled-out across the floor, moving, splashing, and making the vivid liquid run with energy and rhythm. Pollock's story is told here with wit and eccentricity, perfectly paired with black-line illustrations - and splatters galore. Fausto Gilberti brings movement, life, and whimsy to the true life story of one of the most important contemporary artists of our time.



Joining the FMI and becoming a Member

New members are always welcome to the Footscray Mechanics' Institute Inc. Benefits of membership include library membership, and use of the Billiards Room (once fully renovated), use of Reader's Room for reading &/or study. Free WIFI access available to members within the FMI Library. Free subscription to Library newsletter - FOOTNOTES.

Membership is by application to the FMI Committee for approval. Simply fill out our easy application form at the FMI Library desk, present ID (showing current street address), and make payment of \$10. Subscriptions fall due on March annually, and the current renewal fee is \$10. Once your application has been approved, you'll be contacted to collect your Membership card and start borrowing!



**We Can
Beat It
Together**
#COVID-19

FOOTSCRAY MECHANICS' INSTITUTE INC. LIBRARY
FOOTNOTES newsletter
#4 - April 30th 2022

Contact: (03) 9687 1935
info@footscraymechanicsinstitute.org.au
Librarian: Cameron Borg

Website: <https://www.footscraymechanicsinstitute.org.au>

<https://www.facebook.com/FootscrayMechanicsInstituteLibrary/>

https://www.instagram.com/fmi_library/

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