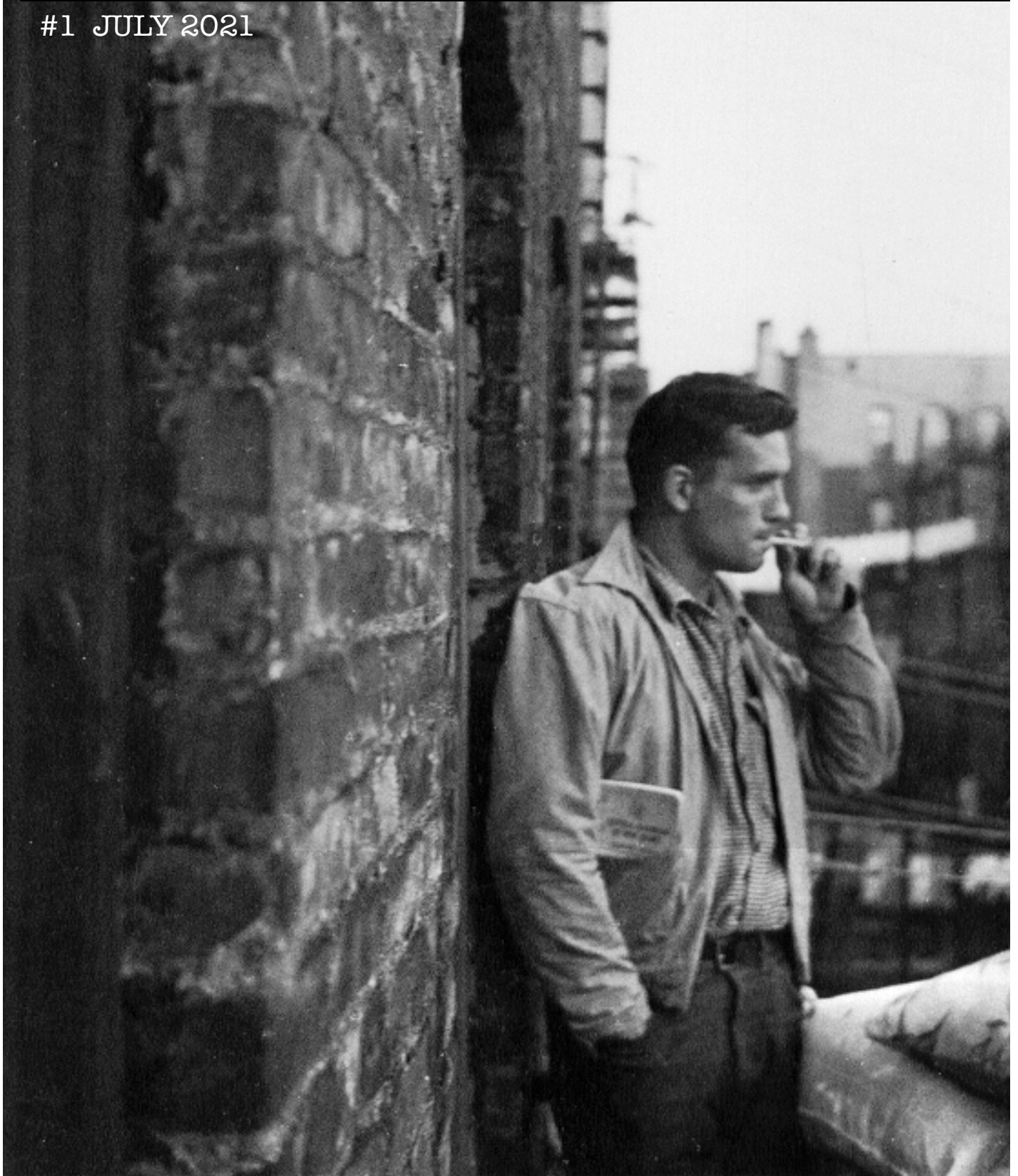


FOOTNOTES

Footscray Mechanics' Institute Inc. Library Newsletter

#1 JULY 2021



Portrait of Jack Kerouac w/ Brahman's Manual in Pocket, 1953.

A. Blumkinberg

Welcome to the first issue of our revived FOOTNOTES newsletter.

This was the in-house newsletter of the Footscray Mechanics' Institute Inc. Library many years ago, but its history and origins are now lost in the mists of time, so as a mark of respect we've revived the name for the latest incarnation of our very own newsletter.

FOOTNOTES will be your go-to guide as to the latest news, events, new books, happenings and other activities centred around our historic library located at 209 Nicholson Street, Footscray in inner-city Melbourne.

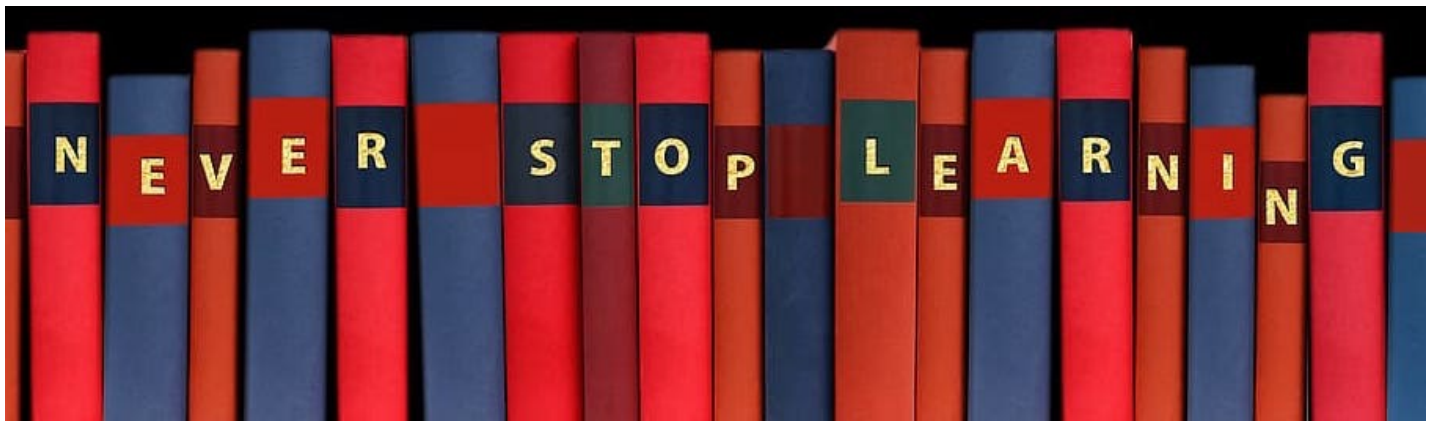


The cover star for our first issue is American writer Jack Kerouac. The photograph was taken by the late Allen Ginsberg. Both were pivotal and leading members of the Beat Generation of American writers of the 1950s, whose influence extends via the 1960s (Dylan, Donovan, Doors), 70s (Patti Smith, Joni Mitchell, Joe Strummer) and beyond into literature, music and poetry to the present day.

Jack's most famous novel is "On The Road" a stream of consciousness road novel, but other works including "Dharma Bums", "Subterraneans", "Visions of Gerard", and "Maggie Cassidy" are also worthy additions to his bibliography.

Allen Ginsberg is best remembered for his famous poem "Howl", and he was to be a leading counter-culture figure in the 1960s-1980s, with collaborations with Bob Dylan, The Clash as highlights.

The FMI Library will be curating its collection with Beat writers, inc. Kerouac, Burroughs, Ginsberg, Bukowski, Ferlinghetti, Corso and more in the near future!



Find us online too!

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

Our main website with our latest news and events

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

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

FROM OUR COMMITTEE - Neil Farren and Doug Clymo

FMI and dealing with pandemics

We as individuals and as an organisation have been affected by COVID. Lockdowns, distance learning and other restrictions have become part of our lives: this is not the first time.

In 1937 the FMI (Footscray Mechanics Institute) archives show that infant paralysis syndrome as it was referred to, was impacting on usage and attendance of the FMI. This illness (now known as polio) was a highly problematic illness of its time. It is caused by a virus.

A virus is simplistic at a biological level just a few genes and proteins and minute, yet as with COVID, Polio was potentially fatal in a percentage of cases. In the case of polio some had to be kept alive by artificial means.

Many suffered permanent impairment as a result of their contracting the virus that caused their illness. Some victims remain affected to this day.
One of FMI members recalls the situation (See Doug's email below)

Then as now people suffered on and survived

Neil

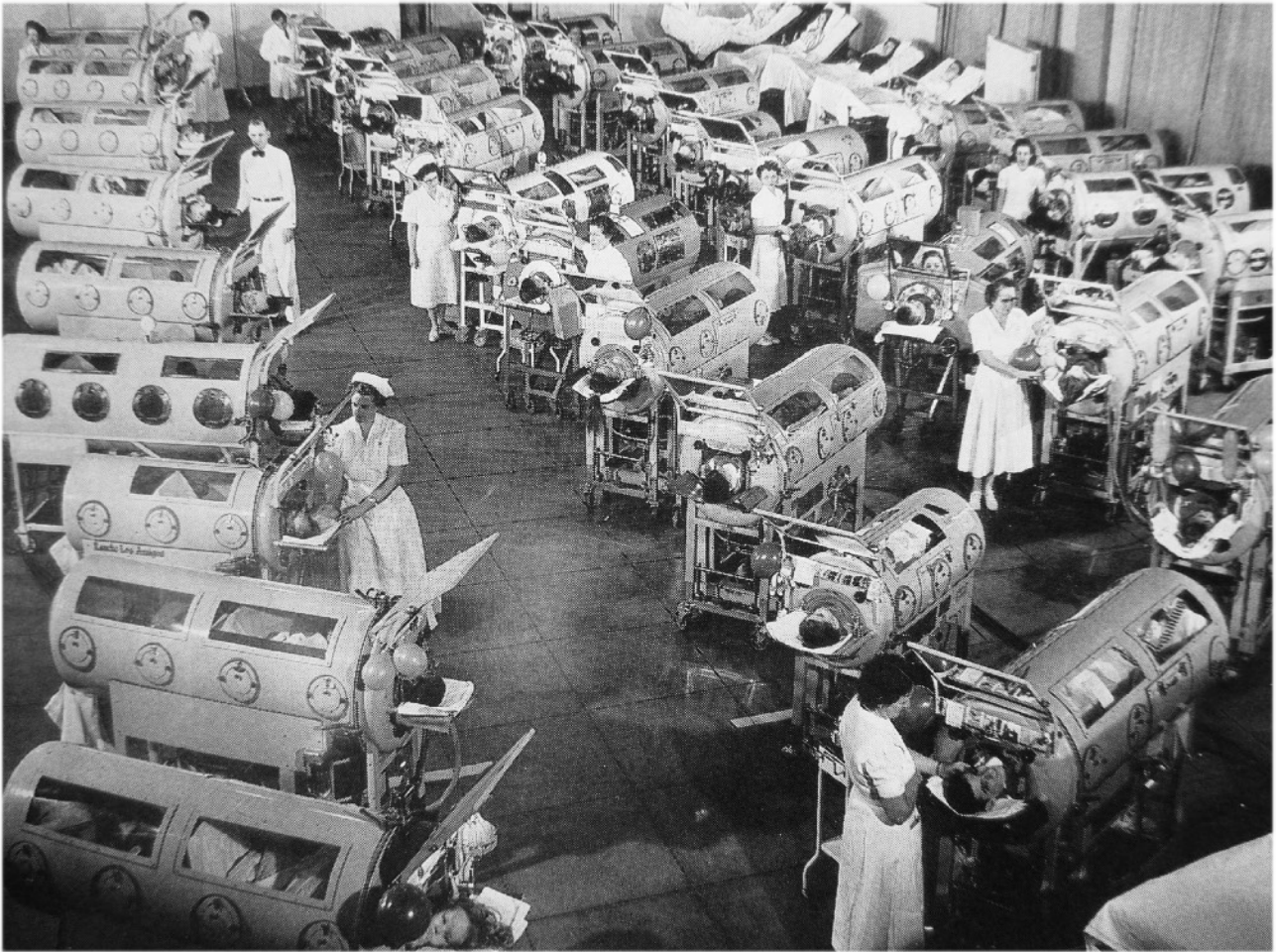


Photo of polio patients in iron lungs during 1953 epidemic
Pic - (Rancho Los Amigos Medical Centre, Downey, California)

Subject: Re: Polio Virus

Thanks Neil,

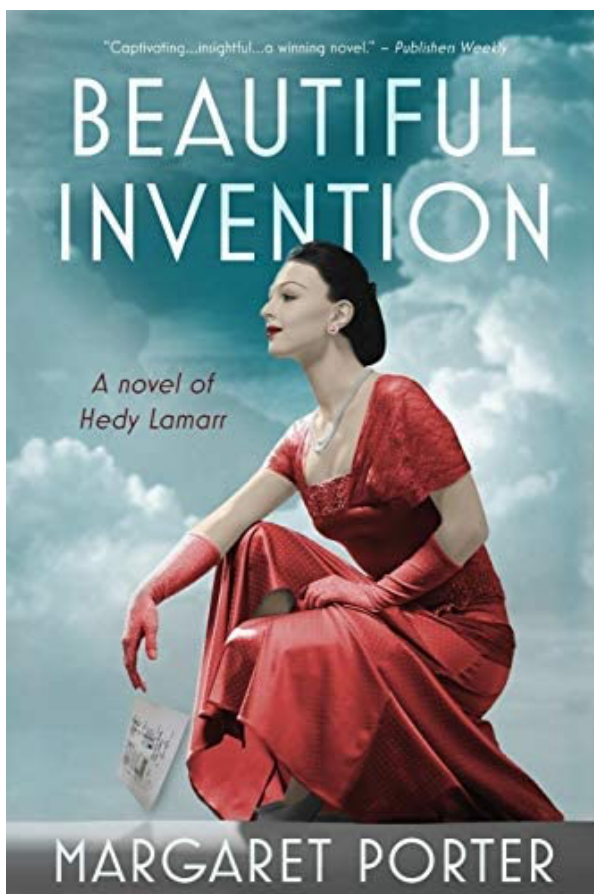
The Australian community was slowly overcoming the poverty and suffering resulting from the Great Depression (1929-1939) when, in 1937, it was very severely affected by a poliomyelitis pandemic (called "infantile Paralysis" because children were mostly infected). A lot died and a very large number were permanently crippled needing to wear steel callipers to walk. Some were so severely affected they were confined to the so-called iron-lungs for the rest of their lives. Schools were closed for a term (14 weeks) and tuition was by correspondence. Students were mailed weekly booklets which were to be completed and mailed back. At the time, the Correspondence Centre was situated in Carlton. An Australian nurse, Sister Kenny, to the benefit of many children, ignored and defied the medical hierarchy by using massage and manual manipulation of limbs. This pioneer rehabilitation lessened muscle wastage and lowered the degree of incapacitation.

All the best,

Doug.

NEW BOOKS FOR LOAN

Here's a selection of some of the new titles available for loan from the FMI Library...Happy Reading!



BEAUTIFUL INVENTION - A Novel of Hedy Lamarr

Hedy Lamarr was one of Hollywood's most beautiful starlets, but did you know she was also the first inventor to patent Wi-Fi and other breakthrough technologies?

THE EXPANSE SERIES - Books 1-10 by S.A. James Corey

Acclaimed sci-fi writer – these books are the basis of the Netflix hit series THE EXPANSE.

NOTHIN' TO LOSE (The Making of KISS) 1972-1975

How these New York musicians reinvented rock n roll, taking stagecraft in rock to a new level, and producing some legendary music in the process.

MORE NEW BOOKS!

Art Books - MICHELANGELO, LEONARDO DA VINCI (Complete Works)

Great coffee table books showcasing the artwork of the masters of the Renaissance

Latest Titles - Crime Fiction Writers - IAN RANKIN, RUTH RENDELL

FMI has an extensive and in-depth collection of crime fiction, the latest titles are now available from these great authors

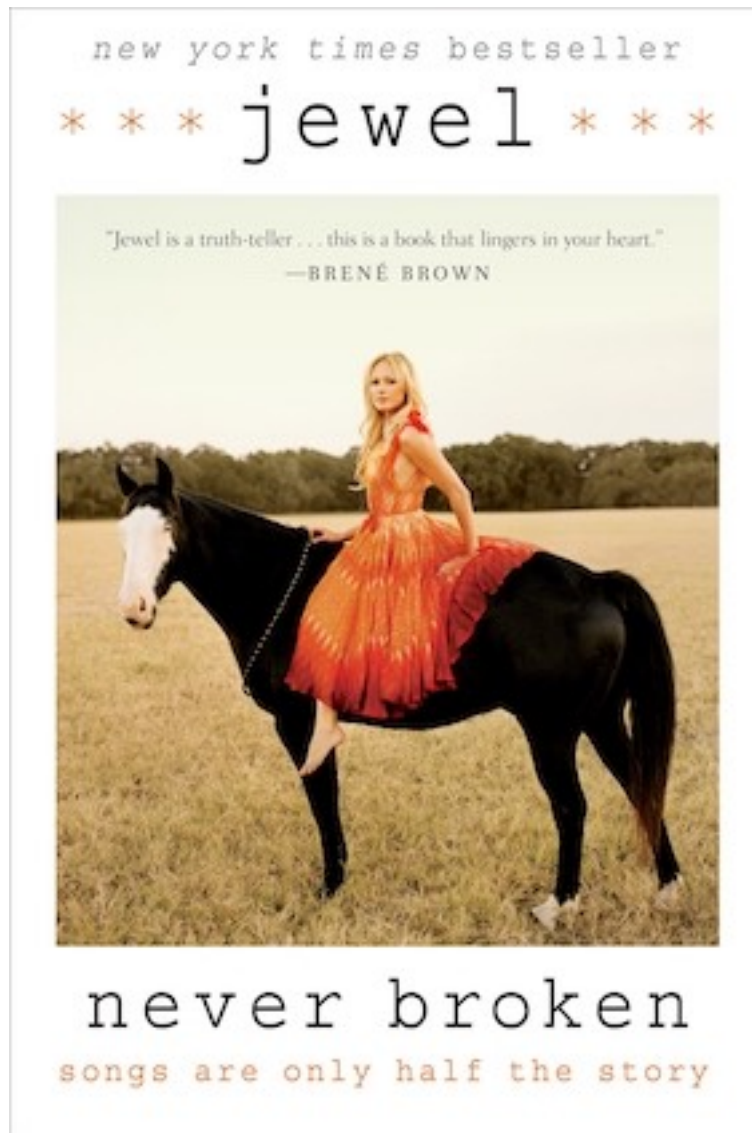
THE MIDNIGHT LIBRARY - Matt Haig The New York Times best-selling title!

MYSTERY OF A HANSOM CAB - Fergus Hume

Classic Aussie crime fiction set here in Melbourne

NEVER BROKEN - Jewel

Award-winning musician Jewel's autobiography of how she came from an impoverished background in Alaska, thru being a homeless street musician, to become a multi-platinum award-winning musician, poet and actress. An inspirational and life-affirming autobiography, which also topped the New York Times best-seller list.



Meet Your Librarian

The FMI Committee have asked me to share my story with you:

My name is Cameron Borg, and I've been a Librarian since 1995, mostly working in public library services within Central Queensland (Rockhampton, Yeppoon, Emu Park, Biloela).

I have a BA Degree, and also a post-grad Diploma in Archives, and have worked as a Reference Archivist for the Qld State Archives in Brisbane. In 2003 I completed my Masters Degree in Information Management, so hold dual qualifications as both a Librarian and also an Archivist.



Me - enjoying the great cuisine of downtown Footscray (Pic- Neil Farren)

Between 2008-2009 I was Library Manager for Banana Shire Council in outback Queensland, comprising five libraries, and also a mobile library service, covering an area the size of Belgium. Since moving to Melbourne I spent almost a decade as a Librarian with Hobsons Bay Libraries, until taking on the Librarian role with the FMI in March 2020.

Other things that I've also achieved outside of the Library world, include playing Rugby League and Aussie Rules football. I've also played in punk rock bands since 1982, and have also written and self-published several books of poetry, and two non-fiction rock music books (which were published by Moonlight Books). My fanzine is the second longest running zine in Australia, according to Sticky Institute here in Melbourne.

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!

For further details please pop in and see me during FMI Library opening hours, which are currently Weds-Thurs-Fri 10am-4pm. We look forward to meeting new members, and welcoming back former members who have previously enjoyed borrowing from our Library.



FOOTSCRAY MECHANICS' INSTITUTE INC. LIBRARY
FOOTNOTES newsletter
#1 - July 30th 2021

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

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

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

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

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