

citylibraries



TOWNSVILLE'S

# FESTIVAL of STORIES

PROGRAM

28 - 29 MARCH  
RIVERWAY PRECINCT

Everybody has  
a story to tell.

[What's On Townsville](#)

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE	WHO	✓	
DAY 1 FRIDAY	<b>28 MARCH</b> 4.30 – 5.30pm	<b>SLEEPY STORYTIME WITH KELLIE BYRNES</b> Join us for a cozy storytime session with Kellie Byrnes. Kellie will be reading her entertaining children's book <i>This is NOT a Book!</i> followed by a chat and play. Bring your favourite blanket and cuddle up for a magical, restful experience.	CITYLIBRARIES RIVERWAY – CHILDREN'S AREA	0 – 10 years	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>28 MARCH</b> 6 – 6.30pm	<b>TOWNSVILLE'S FESTIVAL OF STORIES OFFICIAL OPENING AND WELCOME</b> Celebrate the launch of Townsville's Festival of Stories 2025. Immerse yourself in the rich cultural heritage and vibrant narratives that shape our community. Join us for an unforgettable evening of storytelling and connection.	RIVERWAY AMPHITHEATRE	All ages	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>28 MARCH</b> 6.30 – 7.30pm	<b>ANCIENT WISDOM, MODERN INSIGHTS AN EVENING WITH BRUCE PASCOE</b> Acclaimed author and storyteller Bruce Pascoe's books range from his groundbreaking research in <i>Dark Emu</i> , to his latest reflection on life and caring for country in <i>Black Duck</i> . His bestselling books invite you to understand our past and imagine a different future for Australia.	RIVERWAY AMPHITHEATRE	All ages	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>28 MARCH</b> 7.30 – 8pm	<b>EDITS &amp; ANNOTATIONS PODCAST – OFFICIAL LAUNCH</b> How does a book come into being? What does the creative process entail? How do you build a writing life? Join the creators of Townsville's newest podcast, from the JCU Roderick Centre for Australian Literature and Creative Writing, to help launch this brand new series which features several Festival authors.	RIVERWAY AMPHITHEATRE	All ages	<input type="checkbox"/>
DAY 2 SATURDAY	<b>29 MARCH</b> ALL DAY	<b>STORIES OF TOWNSVILLE SHOWCASE</b> Unlock the rich history of our region with <i>Stories of Townsville</i> , Citylibraries' new interactive online resource that brings our community's collective memory to life. Browse through thousands of images and search for news stories from Townsville's recent history.	CITYLIBRARIES RIVERWAY – FOYER	All ages	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>29 MARCH</b> ALL DAY	<b>NORTH QUEENSLAND TELEVISION COLLECTION</b> Hit rewind and explore North Queensland Television from yesteryear. Featuring curated news footage rescued from the old TNQ-7 station, this collection offers a unique journey into the past. Experience the nostalgia firsthand in the Citylibraries Riverway Theatre, or view the collection at <a href="https://stories.townsville.qld.gov.au">stories.townsville.qld.gov.au</a>	CITYLIBRARIES RIVERWAY – THE CANVAS	All ages	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>29 MARCH</b> ALL DAY	<b>SCAVENGER HUNT</b> Join our Festival of Stories Scavenger Hunt! Explore, discover and complete exciting challenges. Each action brings you closer to becoming a library member and enjoying endless resources. Don't miss out on the fun – join today and start your adventure!	CITYLIBRARIES RIVERWAY	All ages	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>29 MARCH</b> 8 – 9am	<b>CHILDREN'S STORYTIME</b> Join us for a storytime session featuring beloved children's authors – Cheryl Leavy, Kellie Byrnes and Townsville authors Linda Wright and Rosa Christian. Each author will share their enchanting tales, bringing characters to life and sparking imaginations. Perfect for young readers, this interactive hour promises fun, creativity and inspiration. Don't miss this unique opportunity to meet your favourite storytellers.	RIVERWAY AMPHITHEATRE	All ages	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>29 MARCH</b> 9 – 10am	<b>STORYTIME WITH BOORI MONTY PRYOR</b> Join Boori Monty Pryor for an unforgettable storytime and performance for all ages! This celebrated storyteller will captivate families with his engaging tales, cultural insights and dynamic performances. Perfect for creating lasting memories, this session promises fun, learning and inspiration. Don't miss this unique experience.	RIVERWAY AMPHITHEATRE	All ages	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>29 MARCH</b> 9 – 10.30am <b>BOOKINGS REQUIRED</b>	<b>WRITING WORKSHOP – CREATING CHARACTER</b> Join Alyson Walton from the Townsville Writers and Publishers Centre, and explore how to create characters that will bring your story to life.	CITYLIBRARIES RIVERWAY – MIXHAUS MAKERSPACE	14+	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>29 MARCH</b> 10 – 10.30am	<b>THE MAGIC OF WRITING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE – PANEL DISCUSSION</b> How do you capture the imagination of children and young people in your writing? Hear from our panel of experienced and engaging writers, including Dr Melanie Seward, Cheryl Leavy and Townsville author Laura Kinch, as they share their tips on writing for a young audience.	RIVERWAY AMPHITHEATRE	12+	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>29 MARCH</b> 10 – 10.30am	<b>STORYTIME WITH ELSA</b> Join us for a magical children's storytime with Elsa from Frozen! She'll enchant young listeners with her favourite tale and join families for photos and conversations. Perfect for little ones who love magic and wonder, this session promises fun and imagination for all.	CITYLIBRARIES RIVERWAY – CHILDREN'S AREA	0 – 10 years	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>29 MARCH</b> 10.30 – 11.20am	<b>MYSTERY MAKERS – INSIDE THE MINDS OF CRIME FICTION AUTHORS – PANEL DISCUSSION</b> Join acclaimed authors Veronica Lando, Candice Fox and Chris Hammer for a riveting panel discussion on Australian crime fiction. Explore their unique approaches to crafting suspenseful narratives, complex characters and gripping plots. Perfect for crime fiction enthusiasts, this session promises thrilling insights and engaging conversation.	RIVERWAY AMPHITHEATRE	18+	<input type="checkbox"/>

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE	WHO	✓	
DAY 2 SATURDAY	<b>29 MARCH</b> 11 – 11.30am	<b>STORYTIME WITH CAPTAIN HOOK</b> Ahoy, young adventurers! Join Captain Hook for a thrilling children's storytime as he reads an exciting tale. Perfect for little pirates who love swashbuckling adventures – listen to the story and then join Captain Hook for a chat and a photo. Don't miss out on the pirate fun!	CITYLIBRARIES RIVERWAY – CHILDREN'S AREA	0 – 10 years	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>29 MARCH</b> 11am – 12.30pm <b>BOOKINGS REQUIRED</b>	<b>WRITING WORKSHOP FOR YOUTH WITH DR MELANIE SAWARD</b> Unlock your writing potential with acclaimed author Dr Melanie Saward. Learn the art of storytelling, character development and effective writing techniques. Perfect for aspiring young writers, this interactive session offers personalised feedback and practical tips to elevate your craft.	CITYLIBRARIES RIVERWAY – MIXHAUS MAKERSPACE	12 – 17 years	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>29 MARCH</b> 11.20 – 11.30am	<b>BUSH BALLADS AND BANTER</b> Join the Townsville Bush Poetry Mates for an engaging session of poetic recitations and insights into their vibrant group. Experience the charm of bush poetry, connect with fellow enthusiasts and learn about the group's activities. Celebrate the art of verse from the heart of the outback.	RIVERWAY AMPHITHEATRE	All ages	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>29 MARCH</b> 11.30am – 12.20pm	<b>CONNECTION AND CARING FOR COUNTRY – PANEL DISCUSSION</b> Join renowned authors Cheryl Leavy, Penny Van Oosterzee and Simon Cleary for an enlightening panel discussion. Explore their unique perspectives on First Nations knowledge, environmental stewardship and the deep bond between people, land and water. Don't miss this inspiring conversation!	RIVERWAY AMPHITHEATRE	All ages	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>29 MARCH</b> 12.20 – 12.30pm	<b>LOCAL STORIES FROM TOWNSVILLE AUTHORS</b> Join Phil Heang and the Townsville Writers and Publishers Centre for a snapshot of readings and insights into their writing journey. Learn how to connect with fellow writers and how to join Townsville's vibrant writing community of beginners and published authors.	RIVERWAY AMPHITHEATRE	All ages	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>29 MARCH</b> 12 – 1pm <b>BOOKINGS REQUIRED</b>	<b>HOW TO START A PODCAST WORKSHOP WITH TENILLE MCDERMOTT AND BETHANY KEATS</b> Learn the essentials of podcasting. From choosing the right equipment to crafting engaging content, the producers of Townsville's latest podcast series will guide you through every step. Perfect for beginners, this session will help you launch your podcast with confidence.	CITYLIBRARIES RIVERWAY – DIGITAL CREATIVE STUDIO 1	18+	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>29 MARCH</b> 12.30 – 1.20pm	<b>TRUTH AND TENACITY WITH PETER GRESTE</b> Join acclaimed journalist and author Peter Grete for an insightful talk on his latest book, <i>The Correspondent</i> . Discover his gripping experiences reporting from conflict zones and his journey through wrongful imprisonment. Gain unique perspectives on journalism, resilience and the power of truth.	RIVERWAY AMPHITHEATRE	All ages	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>29 MARCH</b> 1 – 2.30pm <b>BOOKINGS REQUIRED</b>	<b>WRITING WORKSHOP FOR ADULTS WITH DR MELANIE SAWARD</b> Unlock your writing potential with acclaimed author Dr Melanie Saward. Learn the art of storytelling, character development and effective writing techniques. Perfect for aspiring adult writers, this interactive session offers personalised feedback and practical tips to elevate your craft.	CITYLIBRARIES RIVERWAY – MIXHAUS MAKERSPACE	18+	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>29 MARCH</b> 1.20 – 1.30pm	<b>LOCAL STORIES FROM TOWNSVILLE AUTHORS</b> Welcome Alyson Walton from the Townsville Writers and Publishers Centre, who will be sharing her insights into writing and self-publishing her first novel. Learn how and where to connect with Townsville's vibrant writing community.	RIVERWAY AMPHITHEATRE	All ages	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>29 MARCH</b> 1.30 – 2pm	<b>STORIES OF TOWNSVILLE OFFICIAL LAUNCH</b> Be a part of history! The official launch of <i>Stories of Townsville</i> is an event that's not to be missed. Popular broadcaster Sam Kumm will be on hand to talk about the importance of the collection to the community. Visit the platform anytime at <a href="http://stories.townsville.qld.gov.au">stories.townsville.qld.gov.au</a>	RIVERWAY AMPHITHEATRE	All ages	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>29 MARCH</b> 1.30 – 2.30pm <b>BOOKINGS REQUIRED</b>	<b>HOW TO START A PODCAST WORKSHOP WITH TENILLE MCDERMOTT AND BETHANY KEATS</b> Learn the essentials of podcasting. From choosing the right equipment to crafting engaging content, the producers of Townsville's latest podcast series will guide you through every step. Perfect for beginners, this session will help you launch your podcast with confidence.	CITYLIBRARIES RIVERWAY – DIGITAL CREATIVE STUDIO 1	18+	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>29 MARCH</b> 2 – 3pm	<b>FOOD AND FAME, FAILURE AND FREEDOM WITH JULIE GOODWIN</b> Be inspired by the extraordinary life of Australia's beloved Julie Goodwin, first winner of MasterChef, bestselling author of multiple cookbooks, and her candid, deeply moving memoir <i>Your Time Starts Now</i> .	RIVERWAY AMPHITHEATRE	All ages	<input type="checkbox"/>	



## Event Information:

### Free entry

Festival of Stories is free for everyone.

### No bookings required to see your favourite authors

Writing and podcasting workshops require bookings.

### Seating

Some seating is available. We recommend attendees bring a picnic blanket or folding chair and enjoy the shaded views of the main amphitheatre stage.

### Food and drinks

Food and drinks will be available to purchase from food trucks and the Café at Riverway.

### Meet the authors

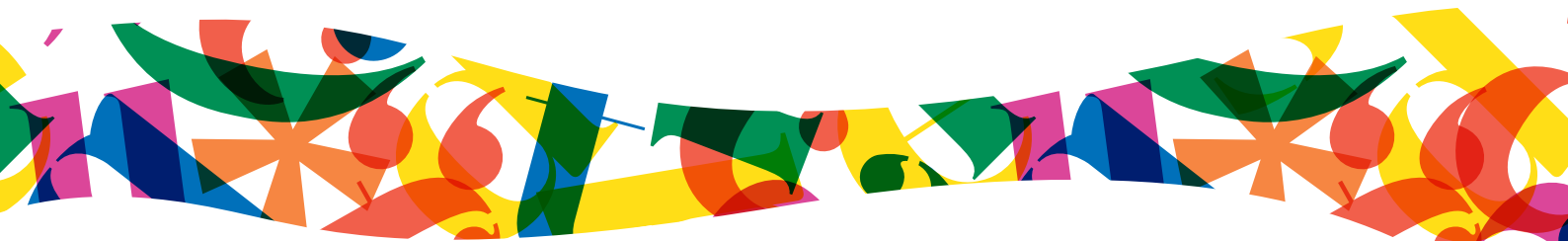
Purchase a book and get it signed by the author at the book signings, hosted by Mary Who? Bookshop.

### Auslan interpreted

All presentations at the Riverway Amphitheatre will be Auslan interpreted.

### Accessibility

Accessible parking and pathways are available throughout the venue.



## Visiting Citylibraries

### Citylibraries Aitkenvale

📍 4 Petunia Street,  
Aitkenvale

☎ 4727 8310

Mon, Thu & Fri: 9am – 6pm  
Tue & Wed: 9am – 8pm  
Sat: 9am – 3pm  
Sun: 9am – 3pm

### Citylibraries Flinders Street

📍 Level 1/280 Flinders Street,  
Townsville City

☎ 4727 9666

Mon – Fri: 9am – 5pm  
Sat: 9am – 12noon  
Sun: 9am – 1pm

### Citylibraries Riverway

📍 20 Village Boulevard,  
Thuringowa Central

☎ 4773 8811

Mon, Tue, Wed &  
Fri: 9am – 6pm  
Thu: 9am – 8pm  
Sat: 8am – 3pm  
Sun: 9am – 3pm

### Citylibraries Mobile

Visit [townsville.qld.gov.au](http://townsville.qld.gov.au) to find out where the mobile library is.

### 24/7 eLibrary

Our 24/7 eLibrary is always available via the Townsville Citylibraries app and website.

*We are closed on public holidays and the Easter long weekend. We may operate reduced services and hours between Christmas and New Year.*

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