

Stories Matter: Australian Publishers' Guide to Live Literature Opportunities on the Mid-North Coast

Bringing Australian stories to regional audiences, together.

First Addition - June 2026

Forward

Strategic Framework Launch

In October 2025, the NSW Government launched the Stories Matter framework which is a strategic initiative designed to recognise and strengthen writing, books and reading across the state, and endorsed by the Australian Publishers Association. A core pillar of this strategy focuses on growing and diversifying Australia's readership through targeted partnerships with universities, local councils and cultural institutions.

Alongside this, national organisations such as Australia Reads have invested in rigorous research into live literature, examining its impact, as well as the benefits and barriers associated with sourcing, programming and promoting authors and illustrators. This research identifies live literature as a critical driver of reading culture in Australia. It also highlights that successful programming is built on strong relationships between libraries, authors and publishers.

Public libraries across the Mid-North Coast of New South Wales have a strong track record of delivering live literature events that connect authors with regional audiences. However, as with many regional areas, touring opportunities can often be difficult to assess, requiring publishers and publicists to navigate sometime limiting information formats and differing local contexts.

In response, Mid-North Coast libraries have collaborated to align information, expectations and delivery approaches, creating a shared resource to support more informed and efficient tour planning, the 'Stories Matter: Australian Publishers' Guide to Live Literature Opportunities on the Mid-North Coast. This guide brings together practical details on venues, audiences, promotion and local conditions, enabling publishers to confidently assess and engage with regional opportunities.

Rather than prescribing a single touring model, this approach recognises that successful live literature takes many forms. By improving visibility and consistency across the region, libraries aim to support flexible, scalable opportunities that meet the needs of authors, publishers and communities, while strengthening access to Australian stories across regional New South Wales.

Libraries remain central cultural institutions that champion access to stories and ideas. They foster the practice and pleasure of reading in everyday life, providing welcoming, inclusive spaces where communities can connect with authors, engage with diverse perspectives, and participate in a vibrant reading culture.

*Eve Lucock, Senior Library Officer (Programs), Clarence Valley Council
Claire Halford, Library Programs Facilitator, Coffs Harbour Libraries*

About This Guide



Live Literature Opportunities

This guide provides an overview of live literature opportunities across public libraries on the Mid North Coast of New South Wales. It is designed as a practical resource for publishers and publicists, offering clear and consistent information on participating libraries, their facilities, audiences and programming approaches.



Public Library Role

Public libraries play a vital role as accessible community hubs that support literacy, lifelong learning and cultural participation. Beyond their collections, libraries offer trusted, inclusive spaces where authors can connect directly with engaged and diverse audiences. Across the Mid North Coast, libraries have a strong track record of delivering high-quality live literature events and supporting the author community through locally responsive programming.



Development and Support

Rather than presenting a fixed touring model, this guide is intended to inform and support the development of tailored author circuits. By bringing together key information in a consistent format, it enables publishers and publicists to identify opportunities, assess regional viability and design touring pathways that align with their authors, schedules and audiences.

Through this approach, the Mid North Coast is positioned as a connected and accessible region for live literature—supporting flexible, scalable touring opportunities while strengthening access to Australian stories in regional communities.

Working With Mid-North Coast Libraries

Collaborative Regional Network

We invite publishers and publicists to engage with this guide as a starting point for collaboration.

The Mid North Coast offers a connected network of libraries, experienced in delivering high-quality live literature programs and deeply invested in their communities. By working together—sharing knowledge, aligning opportunities and building relationships—we can create meaningful, sustainable touring pathways that bring Australian stories to regional audiences, and ensure live literature continues to thrive across our coastal communities.



Working With Mid-North Coast Libraries

Collaborative Regional Network

Regional Liaison Approach

Publishers and publicists are encouraged to initiate contact with a single lead library aligned to their proposed tour or author. From this starting point, the contacted library can act as a coordinating partner, sharing the opportunity across the Mid North Coast network and facilitating connections with other interested libraries. This approach streamlines communication while maintaining flexibility for libraries to opt in based on local relevance, community interest, shared audiences and capacity. It supports a more connected and responsive regional approach to tour development, without requiring a fixed circuit model.

Funding for live literature varies across libraries. While some have dedicated programming budgets, others balance events alongside core service delivery. Many libraries are willing to invest in author events—particularly where there is strong audience interest or opportunity for community impact. Opportunities for shared investment or partnership with publishers and publicists are encouraged, with funding arrangements considered on a case-by-case basis.



Circuit Libraries Participating:

Mid-Coast Council Libraries

- Forster Library
- Taree Library
- Gloucester Library
- HallidaysPoint Library
- Harrington Library
- Tea Gardens Library
- Wingham Library

Kempsey Shire Libraries

- Kempsey Library
- South-West Rocks Library
- Stuarts Point Library

Coffs Harbour Libraries

- Harry Bailey Memorial Library
- Woolgoolga Library
- Toormina Library

Clarence Valley Library

- Maclean Library
- Yamba Library
- Grafton Library
- Iluka Library

Richmond–Upper Clarence Regional Library

- Casino Library
- Evans Head Library
- Kyogle Library

Tamworth & Central Northern Regional Library

- Tamworth Library
- Bingara Library
- Narrabri Library
- Quirindi Library
- Uralla Library
- Walcha Library

Armidale Regional Library

- Armidale War Memorial Library
- Guyra L.T. Starr Memorial Library

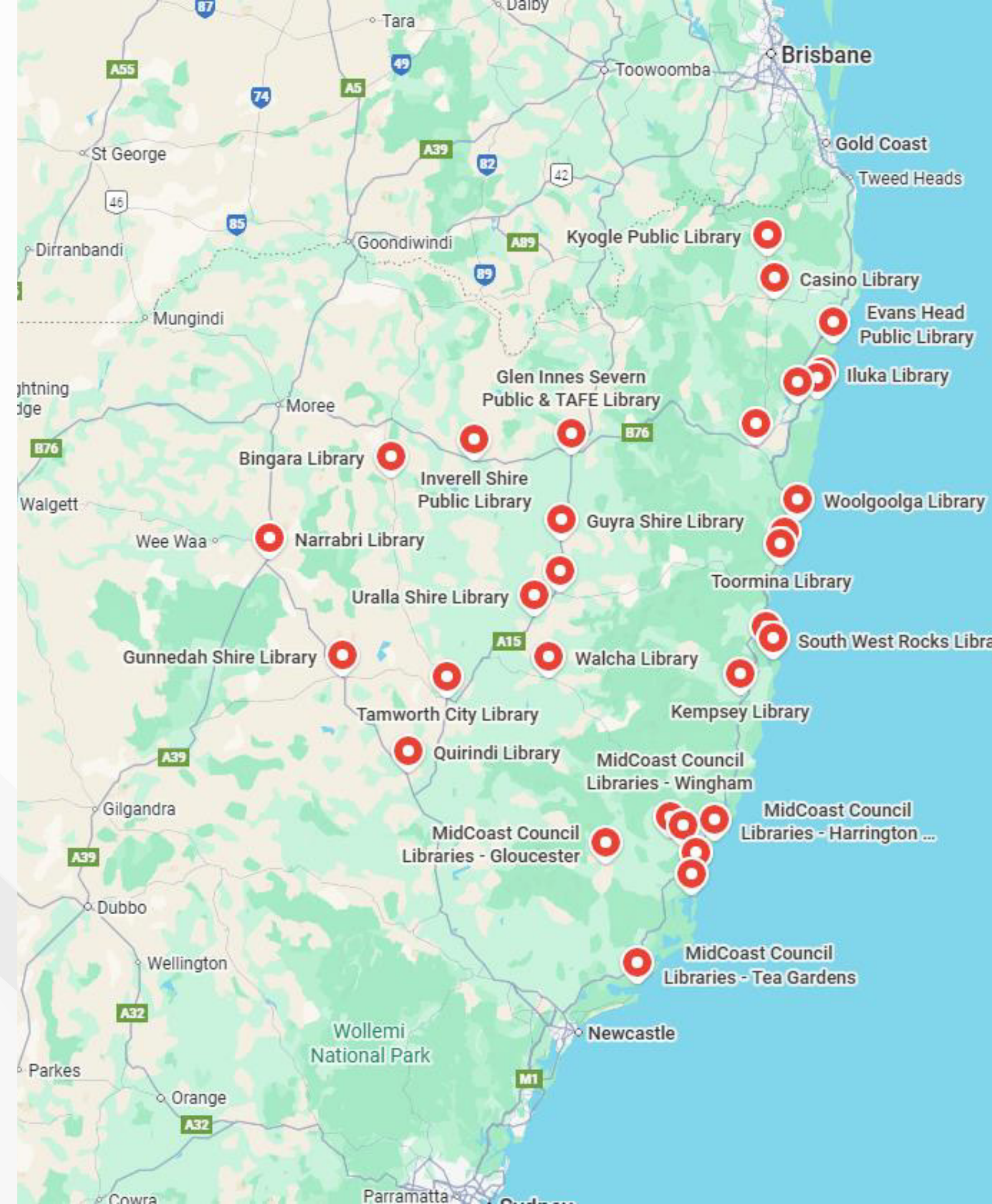
Glen Innes Severn Library

Gunnedah Shire Library

Inverell Shire Library

Bellingen Shire Library

- Bellingen Library
- Dorrigo Library
- Urunga Library



Clarence Valley Library

libraryevents@clarence.nsw.gov.au
(02) 6641 0102

Clarence Valley Library operates five branches across the Clarence Valley area. Our programs are designed exclusively for these libraries to engage, inform and connect our community through a diverse range of initiatives – from author talks to interactive events. With limited budget and one program officer, we require **more lead times** to help deliver programs effectively.

Whilst our budget is limited, we can offer financial support (Travel/accom/speaker fees) based on the author and expected attendance. Our service does not charge patrons for events.



VENUE DETAILS

Venues (Capacity): Grafton Library (60+) | Yamba Library (100+) | Iluka Library (20) | Maclean Library (20) | Mobile Library (Location dependent)

Tech: Mic | Projector | Screen | Tech Support (*Location Dependent*)

Venue Accessibility: Wheelchair accessible | Accessible toilets

TRAVEL & PARKING

Closest airport/train station: Coffs Harbour Airport (1 Hour) | South Grafton Train station (10 Minutes)

Free onsite/nearby parking: Yes

Nearby accommodation options: Conveniently Located - Walking & Driving distance

EVENT PREFERENCES

Lead Time: 8 - 6 weeks – Longer if possible
Session Length: 1 – 1.5 hours
Preferred Times: Weekdays | Daytime | Evening

EVENT SUPPORT

Bookseller: Location Dependent (Book Warehouse)
Inhouse: Program Coordinator | MC / Host
Bookings Managed via: Spydus
We provide: Program Coordinator | MC / Host-(per request)

Catering options: Snacks | Tea/Coffee | Platters | Additional Catering (*Available Upon Request*)

PROMOTION

We can provide: Poster | Socials | Website | Media Release | Bookings Management
We require: Media Kit – Bio, Book Cover, Author Image | Quotes | Social handles

Coffs Harbour Libraries

library.prog@chcc.nsw.gov.au
(02) 6648 4900

With a vibrant literary program, strong community engagement, and a stunning new venue in the heart of Coffs, we offer authors unforgettable events in one of Australia's most inspiring regions. A regular stop on the regional circuit between Byron, Armidale, and Newcastle, we host everything from headline talks to hands-on youth workshops - connecting writers with diverse audiences.



VENUE DETAILS

Venues (Capacity): Harry Bailey Memorial Library (140) | Woolgoolga Library (40) | Toormina Library (40) | Jetty Theatre (250) | Wiigulga (500)

Tech: Mic | Projector | Screen
Livestream | Tech Support

Venue Accessibility:
Wheelchair accessible | Hearing loop
Accessible toilets | Family Room

TRAVEL & PARKING

Closest airport/train station: Coffs Harbour Regional Airport (15 min) | Coffs Harbour Train Station (10 min)

Free onsite/nearbyparking: Yes

Nearby accommodation options:
Several Available, The Observatory (5 min drive)

EVENT PREFERENCES

Lead Time: 6 Weeks
Session Length: 1-1.5 hours
Preferred Times: Weekday (evening) | Weekend (Mid-Morning)

EVENT SUPPORT

Bookseller: Book Warehouse Coffs Harbour
Bookings: Managed via: Eventbrite
We provide: Program Coordinator | MC / Host | moderator or conversation host | Language or Auslan Translators

Catering options:
Snacks | Cheese Board | Tea/Coffee | Alcohol

PROMOTION

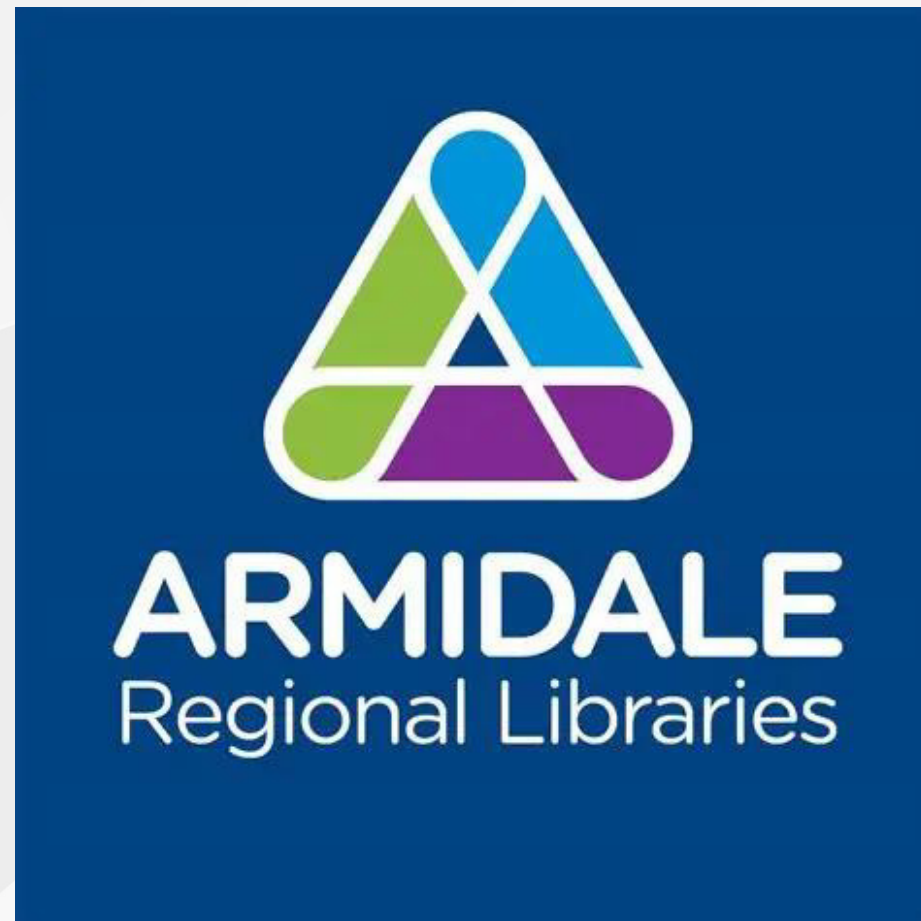
We can provide:
Poster | Socials | Website | Media Release | Bookings Management

We require:
Media Kit – Bio, Book Cover, Author Image
Quotes, Social handles

Armidale Regional Libraries

library@armidale.nsw.gov.au

(02) 67703636



VENUE DETAILS

Venues (Capacity):

Armidale Library (100) in an open area in the library | Meeting Room (30+) | Guyra Library (30+)

Tech: Mic | data projector (meeting room) | Screen | Laptop | Tech Support (Armidale) Mic | Laptop | Tech support (depending when held - Guyra)

Venue Accessibility:

Wheelchair accessible | Accessible toilets

TRAVEL & PARKING

Closest airport/train station: There is an airport and railway station at Armidale

Free onsite/nearby parking: Yes Nearby accommodation options: Armidale has a range of options, but Guyra is much more limited

EVENT PREFERENCES

Lead Time: 6 – 8 weeks

Session Length: 1 – 1.5 hours but could be longer depending on what the event was.

Preferred Times: Weekday (evening or late afternoon) | Saturdays

EVENT SUPPORT

Bookseller: Collins or Readers Companion

Inhouse: Program Coordinator

Bookings Managed via: Calendar entry

We provide: Program Coordinator | MC / Host | moderator or conversation host | Language or Auslan Translators

Catering options:

Snacks | Tea/Coffee

PROMOTION

We can provide:

Poster | Socials | Website | Media Release | Bookings Management

We require:

Media Kit – Bio, Book Cover, Author Image | Quotes | Social handles

Bellingen Shire Libraries

jtsang@bellingen.nsw.gov.au
02 6655 1744

Bellingen Shire Libraries covers a regional area of around 13,500 people with 3 services with branches in Bellingen, Dorrigo and Urunga townships. We require 6-8 weeks lead time to confirm financial viability as our budget is limited. Our members are very engaged readers and our author talks are well attended.



VENUE DETAILS

Venues (Capacity): Bellingen Library (40), Dorrigo Library (30), Urunga Library (30)
Tech: Mic | Projector | Screen | Tech Support

Venue Accessibility:
Wheelchair accessible | Hearing loop Accessible toilets |

TRAVEL & PARKING

Closest airport/train station: Coffs Harbour
Airport – 30 minutes (90 minutes to Dorrigo)
Free onsite/nearby parking: Yes
Nearby accommodation options: several available

EVENT PREFERENCES

Lead Time: 6 – 8 Weeks
Session Length: 1 – 1.5 hours
Preferred Times: Weekdays | Daytime | Evening

EVENT SUPPORT

Bookseller: AlternativesBookstore Bellingen, Book Warehouse Coffs Harbour
Inhouse: Program Coordinator | MC / Host
Bookings Managed via: Humanitix

We provide: Program Coordinator | MC / Host | moderator or conversation host
Catering options:
Snacks | Cheese Board | Tea/Coffee | Alcohol

PROMOTION

We can provide:
Poster | Socials | Website | Media Release | Bookings Management
We require:
Media Kit – Bio, Book Cover, Author Image | Quotes | Social handles

Glen Innes Severn Library

Library@gisc.nsw.gov.au
(02) 6730 2600]

The Glen Innes Severn Library offers a free and inclusive annual library program to meet the diverse needs of our creative community, from author talks, creative art and music events, interactive cooking, gardening, sustainability and permaculture workshops. Connecting inspirational writers and ideas to our community.



VENUE DETAILS

Venues (Capacity): William Gardner Conference Room (90), Glen Innes Severn Library (150)

Tech: Mic | Projector | Screen
Livestream | Tech Support

Venue Accessibility:
Wheelchair accessible | Hearing loop
Accessible toilets | Family internal and external covered | Splay area

TRAVEL & PARKING

Closest airport/train station: Inverell Airport (45 mins) | Armidale Airport (1 Hour, 15 mins)

Free onsite/nearby parking: Yes
Nearby accommodation options: The Rest Point Motel (5 mins walk), New England Motor Lodge (2 mins drive)

EVENT PREFERENCES

Lead Time: 8 - 6 weeks
Session Length: 1 - 1.5 hour
Preferred Times: Weekday (evening) | Weekend (Mid-Morning)

EVENT SUPPORT

Bookseller: None
Inhouse: Program Coordinator | MC / Host
Bookings Managed via: Eventbrite

We provide: Program Coordinator | MC / Host (conversational style)

Catering options:
Snacks | Cheese Board | Tea/Coffee | Additional Catering (Available Upon Request)

PROMOTION

We can provide:
Poster | Socials | Website | Media Release | Bookings Management

We require:
Media Kit - Bio, Book Cover, Author Image | Quotes | Social handles

Gunnedah Shire Library

robyndraper@gunnedah.nw.gov.au

(02) 6740 2190

Gunnedah Shire Library, with a limited budget, runs approximately 14 programs a week for children, adults and intergenerational.

We run a Seniors Engagement Talks programs on the third Monday of each month, at 12.00, on topics of interest for seniors. All are welcome to attend these programs, which are free of charge. An author talk would be ideal for SETs.

Authors can sell their books if they have the stock and the means of taking cash and card payments.



VENUE DETAILS

Venues (Capacity): **GunnedahShire Library (25)**

Tech: **Mic | Projector | Screen Livestream | Tech Support**
No tech facilities available

Venue Accessibility:
Wheelchair accessible | Accessible toilets |

TRAVEL & PARKING

Closest airport/train station: **Tamworth airport (1 hour)**

Gunnedah train station (10 mins)

Free onsite/nearby parking: **Yes** Nearby

accommodation options: **Many**
conveniently located – walking and driving distance

EVENT PREFERENCES

Lead Time: **6 weeks**

Session Length: **1 hour**

Preferred Times: **third Monday of the month, 12.00 noon**

EVENT SUPPORT

Bookseller: **None**

Inhouse: **Librarian/library staff will host**

Bookings Managed via: **EvolvePlus in house booking system**

We provide: **host – library staff member**

Catering options:

Tea, coffee, water, Light refreshments as required including gluten free

PROMOTION

We can provide:

Poster | Socials | Website | Media Release | Bookings Management

We require:

Media Kit – Bio, Book Cover, Author Image | Quotes | Social handles

Inverell Shire Library

library@Inverell.nsw.gov.au
02 67288130

The Inverell Shire Library operates a vibrant service in the heart of Inverell and sees good support for literary events. We have one meeting space, that can host 30 - 50 people for a presentation and up to 20 people for a hands-on workshop. We do have a small budget available to support events and can usually offer accommodation and/or an appearance fee. Our region is known for inland fishing and gem fossicking, with a range of boutique shopping in the CBD. We are 1.5hrs by road from Armidale, 2.5hrs from Tamworth, 5hrs from Brisbane, 3.5hrs from Coffs Harbour.



VENUE DETAILS

Venues: Inverell 30-50 people

Tech: Mic | Projector | Screen
Livestream | Tech Support

Venue Accessibility:

Wheelchair accessible | Accessible
toilets



TRAVEL & PARKING

Closest airport/train station:
Inverell Airport (limited flights) 15
minutes | Armidale Airport 1.5hrs

Free onsite/nearby parking: Yes -
plentiful Nearby accommodation
options: a mixture of traditional and
boutique options, several in walking
distance to the library

EVENT PREFERENCES

Lead Time: 4 weeks
Session Length: 1-2 hours
Preferred Times: Weekday mid-afternoon,
(evenings possible), Saturday 10am-4pm

EVENT SUPPORT

Bookseller: None
Inhouse: Program Coordinator | MC /
Host Bookings Managed via: Inhouse

Catering options:
Tea/Coffee | Light Refreshments

PROMOTION

We can provide:
Poster | Socials | Website | Media Release
| Bookings Management
We require:
Media Kit – Bio, Book Cover, Author Image
| Quotes | Social handles

Kempsey Shire Libraries

kempsey.library@kempsey.nsw.gov.au
02 6566 3210

Kempsey Shire Council operate 3 libraries in the beautiful Macleay Valley NSW. From the hinterland to the coast, our communities are passionate, engaged and value reading and seeking out information.

From author talks and art displays to children's activities and festival participation, our tailored outreach services are valued and well received.

The birthplace of Slim Dusty and home to other notable icons such as *Akubra* and *Milo*, the Kempsey Shire is proud of its heritage. We acknowledge the land of the Thunggutti/Dunghutti Nation.



VENUE DETAILS

Venues (Capacity): Kempsey (40 - 60) | South-WestRocks – external location used | Stuarts Point – external location used

Tech: Mic/PA | Digital display | Tech Support | Teams and Zoom connectivity

Venue Accessibility: Wheelchair accessible | Accessible toilets | Carparking

TRAVEL & PARKING

Closest airport/train station: Port Macquarie Airport – 50 mins
Kempsey Train Station – 5 mins
Free onsite/nearby parking: Yes

Nearby accommodation options: There are several motels and B&Bs within close walking or driving proximity to our library branches, as well as a variety of accommodation providers throughout the shire

EVENT PREFERENCES

Lead Time: 6 weeks
Session Length: 1 – 3 hours
Preferred Times: Weekdays during business hours | Saturday mornings

EVENT SUPPORT

Bookseller: Port Macquarie - Collins Books, BookFace & Kmart | Kempsey - Big W
In-house: Events Coordinator
Bookings managed via: Eventbrite, in-house
We provide: Events Coordinator | MC / Host / interviewer
Catering options: Biscuits | Tea/Coffee | Juice | Milk

PROMOTION

We can provide: Posters | Social media images | Website listing | Media Releases | Booking management
We require: Any type of Media Kit – Book cover image | Author image & bio | Quotes | Social handles | Advanced reading copy (optional but appreciated) | Company or partnership logos

MidCoast Council Libraries

library.events@midcoast.nsw.gov.au
(02) 7955 7001

MidCoast Council Libraries are safe, welcoming community hubs providing services and experiences that strengthen and inspire community with a focus on wellbeing, connection, resilience and creativity.

From intimate settings in the regions to large, state of the art facilities in Forster and auditorium amenities in Taree, we promote literacy and life-long learning with events featuring self-published authors through to best-sellers.

Our Community Outreach Team works with authors, illustrators, publishers and publicists, tailoring events to meet the requirements of presenters and speakers. The annual MidCoast Festival of Stories and author talk series are promoted in collaboration with Council's Communication, Engagement and Marketing Team to maximise exposure and reach new and existing audiences.



VENUE DETAILS

Venues (Capacity):

Forster Civic Centre Library (140) |
Beryl Jane Flett Studio (200) |
Manning Entertainment Centre (500) |
Branch Libraries (30): *Tea Gardens,
Taree, Hallidays Point,
Harrington, Wingham, Gloucester*

Tech: Mic | Projector/Screen
Livestream | Tech Support | Technical
Specifications | MEC Auditorium
Technical Specifications

TRAVEL & PARKING

Closest airport/train station:

Newcastle Airport | Port Macquarie
Airport | Taree Train Station

Free onsite/nearby parking: **Yes**

Nearby accommodation options: **Yes**

EVENT PREFERENCES

Lead Time: **6-8 weeks**

Session Length: **1 – 1.5 hours**

Preferred Times: **Various available**

EVENT SUPPORT

Bookseller: **The Sitting Wombat (Forster) |
Brush Turkey Books (Wingham)**

Inhouse: **Program Coordinator | MC / Host**

Bookings Managed via: **Spydus**

We provide: **Program Coordinator | MC / Host
| moderator or conversation host**

Catering options:

Snacks | Cheese Board | Tea/Coffee | Alcohol

PROMOTION

We can provide:

**Poster | Socials | Website | Media Release
| Bookings Management**

We require:

**Media Kit – Bio, Book Cover, Author Image
| Quotes | Social handles**

ACCESSIBILITY

Wheelchair | Accessible toilets

Richmond-upper Clarence Regional Library

ngarie.macqueen@richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au or
enquiries@richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au

Ph. 02 666 00 250

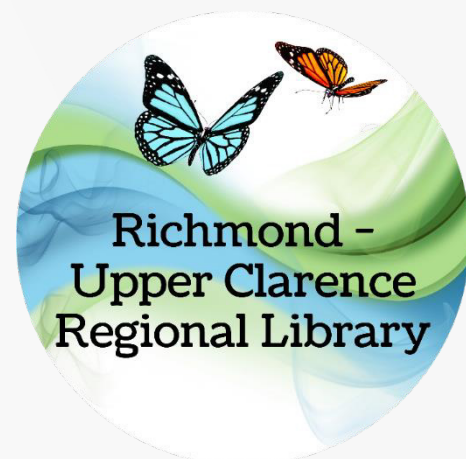
Library website: <https://bit.ly/rucrlhome>

Calling All Authors – Visit Our Regional Libraries

The Richmond-Upper Clarence Regional Library—serving Kyogle, Casino, and Evans Head—welcomes authors to connect with our vibrant communities.

We host regular author talks and workshops, offering intimate, engaging sessions ideal for smaller groups.

While we work with a limited budget, we provide warm, supportive spaces where readers and writers of all ages can truly connect. We don't charge attendees for events to make them as accessible for our community as possible. If you're passionate about sharing your story, we'd love to hear from you!



VENUE DETAILS

Venues (Capacity):

Casino Library (20) |

Evans Head Library (20) |

Kyogle Library (20)

Tech: Projector | Screen |

WiFi | Large TV Screen (*Casino and Evans Head*) | Tech Support (*Location Dependent*)

Venue Accessibility:

Wheelchair accessible | Accessible toilets

TRAVEL & PARKING

Closest airport/train station: **Ballina/Byron Airport** – 40 mins from Evans Head | Airport 1hr10 mins from Casino and Kyogle | Casino Train Station is 3 mins to Casino Library

Free onsite/nearby parking: **Yes**

Nearby accommodation options:

Conveniently located – walking and driving distance

EVENT PREFERENCES

Lead Time: 6 weeks (but can be flexible)

Session Length: 1-2 hours

Preferred Times: Weekdays – Daytime preferred | Happy to be flexible and negotiate weekend and evenings

EVENT SUPPORT

Bookseller: **None**

Inhouse: Program Coordinator | MC / Host

Bookings Managed via: Inhouse by staff

We provide: Program Coordinator | MC / Host / Conversation host

Catering options:

Snacks | Cheese Board | Tea/Coffee | Happy to negotiate other options if required

PROMOTION

We can provide:

Poster | Socials | Website | Media Release | Bookings Management | Local Community Radio and Newspaper

We require:

Media Kit – Bio, Book Cover, Author Image | Quotes | Social handles

Tamworth Central Northern Regional Library

a.minnage-dehnert@tamworth.nsw.gov.au

j.stilts@tamworth.nsw.gov.au

Phone Abbey 02 6767 5217

Phone Jonathan 02 6767 5221

Central Northern Regional Library operates 15 branches across six local government areas (Tamworth Region, Liverpool Plains Shire, Narrabri Shire, Gwydir Shire, Uralla Shire and Walcha)

Staff are highly experienced at running events and are good at facilitating “in conversation” events.



VENUE DETAILS

Venues (Capacity): Tamworth Library (200) | Bingara Library (100) | Narrabri Library (40) | Quirindi Library (40) | Uralla Library (40) | Walcha Library (20)

Tech: Mic | Projector | Screen
Livestream | Tech Support

Venue Accessibility: Wheelchair accessible | Accessible toilets |

TRAVEL & PARKING

Closest airport/train station:
Tamworth Airport | Railway stations at Quirindi | Tamworth | Uralla and Narrabri

Free onsite/nearby parking: Yes
Nearby accommodation options: Several accommodation options close by.

EVENT PREFERENCES

Lead Time: 6 weeks

Session Length: 1 – 1.5 hours

Preferred Times: Weekday (evening) | Weekend – 11am

EVENT SUPPORT

Bookseller: Collins Bookseller @ Tamworth

Inhouse: Program Coordinator | MC / Host

Bookings Managed via Spydus

We provide: Program Coordinator | MC / Host | moderator or conversation host | Auslan Translators

Catering options:

Platters | Cheese Board | Tea/Coffee | Wine |

PROMOTION

We can provide:

Poster | Socials | Website | Media Release | Bookings Management

We require:

Media Kit – Bio, Book Cover, Author Image | Quotes | Social handles

The Opportunity Ahead



Stronger partnerships between libraries and publishers.



Expand reach for literature.



Build engaged reading audiences.



Australian publishers and public libraries working together to grow a vibrant reading culture across the Mid North Coast.



"Live literature events provide rich and inspiring experiences, connecting readers directly with the creators of their favourite stories, and encouraging a lifelong love of books and reading."

- **Australia Reads**

<https://australiareads.org.au/>