



THE CHILDREN'S
BOOK COUNCIL
OF AUSTRALIA

SYMPHONY OF
STORIES

citylibraries



City of
Townsville

FESTIVAL *of* STORIES

& CHILDREN'S BOOK
WEEK PROGRAM

22 - 29 AUGUST

 What's On Townsville

Everybody has
a story to tell.

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE	WHO	✓
22 - 28 AUGUST	ALL DAY  SCAVENGER HUNT Explore the library and discover this year's shortlisted Early Childhood Book of the Year titles.	All branches	All ages	☐
	 MAKE YOUR OWN BOOKMARK Let your imagination run wild and create a bookmark to treasure.	All branches	All ages	☐
SATURDAY 22 AUGUST	9.15 – 9.45AM  CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK STORYTIME Celebrate Children's Book Week with stories from the 2026 shortlist, face painting and plenty of family fun.	Citylibraries Riverway	All ages	☐
	10.30 – 11.30AM  LITTLE BANG Discover stories, STEAM activities and hands-on building challenges inspired by the Children's Book Week theme, Symphony of Stories.	Citylibraries Riverway	0–5 years	☐
MONDAY 24 AUGUST	9 – 11AM  MESSY PLAY IN THE PARK Dress up as your favourite book character and enjoy sensory play, creative activities, movement and face painting.	Bluewater Park	0–5 years	☐
TUESDAY 25 AUGUST	9 – 9.50AM  TODDLER TIME Dress up as your favourite book character, and enjoy a fun morning of singing, dancing, storytelling and early literacy learning.	Citylibraries Riverway	0–5 years	☐
	9.30 – 10.30AM  SYMPHONY OF BOOKS Enjoy a free live performance by Melaleuca Strings, featuring children's songs for young families to sing, move and enjoy together.	Citylibraries Riverway	0–10 years	☐
	10.30 – 11.20AM  BABY RHYME TIME Dress up as your favourite book character and enjoy songs, rhymes, stories and playtime while connecting with other families and supporting early literacy development.	Citylibraries Riverway	0–5 years	☐
WEDNESDAY 26 AUGUST	9.40 – 10.30AM  STORYTIME Dress up as your favourite book character and enjoy facepainting while listening to Children's Book Week stories, songs and rhymes.	Citylibraries Flinders Street	0–5 years	☐
	10.30 – 11.30AM  SYMPHONY OF BOOKS Enjoy a free live performance by Melaleuca Strings, featuring children's songs for young families to sing, move and enjoy together.	Citylibraries Flinders Street	All ages	☐
	11 – 11.50AM  BABY RHYME TIME Dress up as your favourite book character and enjoy songs, rhymes, stories and playtime while connecting with other families and supporting early literacy development.	Citylibraries Flinders Street	0–5 years	☐
	3.45 – 4.45PM  CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK CELEBRATION WITH LYNELLE KENDALL Dress up as your favourite book character and celebrate Children's Book Week with author Lynelle Kendall, through stories, interactive activities and book discoveries. Adult supervision required.	Citylibraries Riverway	5–10 years	☐
THURSDAY 27 AUGUST	12.30 – 1.30PM  SYMPHONY OF BOOKS Enjoy a free live performance by Melaleuca Strings, featuring children's songs for young families to sing, move and enjoy together.	Citylibraries Aitkenvale	All ages	☐
	1.30 – 2.30PM  BABY RHYME TIME Dress up as your favourite book character and enjoy songs, rhymes, stories and playtime while connecting with other families and supporting early literacy development.	Citylibraries Aitkenvale	0–5 years	☐

**BOOKINGS
REQUIRED**

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE	WHO	✓
FRIDAY 28 AUGUST	9 – 10AM BABY STAY AND PLAY Dress up as your favourite book character and enjoy play-based activities with other families. Siblings welcome.	Citylibraries Riverway	0–5 years	☐
	4.30 – 5.30PM DREAMTIME STORYTIME WITH UNCLE RUSSELL BUTLER Join us for a cosy storytime featuring local First Nations stories shared by Bandjin and Warragamay Senior Elder.	Citylibraries Aitkenvale Children's Area	0–10 years	☐
	5 – 6PM MUSIC WITH MELALEUCA STRINGS Enjoy live music from Melaleuca Strings before the official opening.	Citylibraries Aitkenvale Main stage	All ages	☐
	6 – 6.45PM WELCOME TO COUNTRY WITH WULGURUKABA WALKABOUTS Experience a traditional Welcome to Country and cultural storytelling through music and dance.	Citylibraries Aitkenvale Main stage	All ages	☐
	6.45 – 6.50PM HEADLINE WEEKEND OFFICIAL OPENING Celebrate the launch of the 2026 Festival of Stories' headline weekend with an evening of storytelling and community connection.	Citylibraries Aitkenvale Main stage	All ages	☐
	6.50 – 8PM IN CONVERSATION WITH VICTOR STEFFENSEN: THE KNOWLEDGE Hear from Victor Steffensen as he discusses Traditional Knowledge, Country and sustainability, followed by a book signing.	Citylibraries Aitkenvale Main stage	All ages	☐
SATURDAY 29 AUGUST	9.15 – 10.15AM SINGING THE STORY WITH ANIMALS ON COUNTRY Join Victor Steffensen for an interactive family storytelling adventure including singing, dancing and discovery, featuring his book <i>Animals on Country</i> .	Citylibraries Aitkenvale Main stage	All ages	☐
	10.15 – 10.45AM BOOK SIGNING WITH VICTOR STEFFENSEN Meet Victor and have your book signed at the Mary Who? Bookshop stall.	Citylibraries Aitkenvale Mary Who? Bookshop Stall	All ages	☐
	10.15 – 10.30AM BEYOND THE BOOKS – CHAPTER 1 Explore innovative library services, creative programs, local history resources and more, available through Townsville Citylibraries.	Citylibraries Aitkenvale Main stage	All ages	☐
	10.30 – 11.30AM STORIES OF STRENGTH AND SURVIVAL WITH SOFIE LAGUNA Join award-winning author Sofie Laguna as she shares insights from her acting and writing career, exploring creative inspiration, storytelling secrets and her belief that writing can set you free.	Citylibraries Aitkenvale Main stage	All ages	☐
	11.30AM – 12PM BOOK SIGNING WITH SOFIE LAGUNA Meet Sofie Laguna and have your book signed at the Mary Who? Bookshop stall.	Citylibraries Aitkenvale Mary Who? Bookshop Stall	All ages	☐
	11.30 – 11.45AM BEYOND THE BOOKS – CHAPTER 2 Explore innovative library services, creative programs, local history resources and more, available through Townsville Citylibraries.	Citylibraries Aitkenvale Main stage	All ages	☐
	11.45AM – 12.45PM WRITING PLACE, IDENTITY AND RESILIENCE WITH GABBIE STROUD AND GARY LONESBOROUGH Drawing on their lived experiences, Gabbie Stroud and Gary Lonesborough explore identity, resilience and navigating complex systems in contemporary Australia.	Citylibraries Aitkenvale Main stage	All ages	☐
	12.15 – 12.45PM BOOK SIGNING WITH MICHAEL ROBOTHAM Meet Michael and have your book signed at the Mary Who? Bookshop stall.	Citylibraries Aitkenvale Mary Who? Bookshop Stall	All ages	☐
	12.45 – 1PM BEYOND THE BOOKS – CHAPTER 3 Explore innovative library services, creative programs, local history resources and more, available through Townsville Citylibraries.	Citylibraries Aitkenvale Main stage	All ages	☐
	1 – 1.30PM BOOK SIGNING WITH GABBIE STROUD AND GARY LONESBOROUGH Meet Gabbie and Gary and have your book signed at the Mary Who? Bookshop stall.	Citylibraries Aitkenvale Mary Who? Bookshop Stall	All ages	☐
	1 – 2PM CRIME, SECRETS AND HUMAN NATURE WITH HAYLEY SCRIVENOR AND TIM AYLIFE Bestselling authors Hayley Scrivenor and Tim Ayliffe explore how crime fiction reveals the deeper social and psychological truths that shape human behaviour.	Citylibraries Aitkenvale Main stage	All ages	☐
	2 – 2.15PM BEYOND THE BOOKS – CHAPTER 4 Explore innovative library services, creative programs, local history resources and more, available through Townsville Citylibraries.	Citylibraries Aitkenvale Main stage	All ages	☐
	2.15 – 3PM INSIDE THE MIND OF CRIME WITH MICHAEL ROBOTHAM Hear from international bestselling author Michael Robotham as he explores the craft of crime writing and how suspense, psychology and human relationships drive compelling stories.	Citylibraries Aitkenvale Main stage	All ages	☐
	2.15 – 2.45PM BOOK SIGNING WITH HAYLEY SCRIVENOR AND TIM AYLIFE Meet Tim and Hayley and have your book signed at the Mary Who? Bookshop stall.	Citylibraries Aitkenvale Mary Who? Bookshop Stall	All ages	☐

Event Information:

Free entry

Festival of Stories is free for everyone.

Food and drinks

Food and drinks will be available to purchase during the headline weekend.

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 main stage will be Auslan interpreted.

Accessibility

Accessible parking and pathways are available throughout all Townsville Citylibraries branches.



[Learn more](#)

Visiting Townsville Citylibraries

Citylibraries Aitkenvale

📍 4 Petunia Street,
Aitkenvale

☎ 4727 8310

Mon, Thu & Fri: 9am – 6pm
Tue & Wed: 9am – 8pm
Sat: 9am – 1pm
Sun: 9am – 1pm

Citylibraries Flinders Street

📍 Level 1/280 Flinders Street,
Townsville City

☎ 4727 9666

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

Citylibraries Riverway

📍 20 Village Boulevard,
Thuringowa Central

☎ 4773 8811

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

Mobile Library

Visit 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.