



- [Images HERE](#)
- [Interviews Available with Sydney Writers' Festival Artistic Director, Ann Mossop](#)

SYDNEY WRITERS' FESTIVAL'S LIVE & LOCAL PROGRAM RETURNS IN 2025 WITH BIGGEST PROGRAM YET

Sydney Writers' Festival's much-loved **Live & Local** program returns in 2025, streaming a curated selection of headline events to **more than 140 libraries, theatres and cultural venues nationwide** from **Thursday 22 to Sunday 25 May**. Now in its most expansive year to date, audiences from Alice Springs to Albany, Queanbeyan to Kalgoorlie will gain free access to world-renowned storytellers and urgent conversations — all direct to their local communities.

"Live & Local is one of the most powerful ways we connect with readers around the country," said **Ann Mossop**, Artistic Director of Sydney Writers' Festival. "We know not everyone can make it to Sydney, but that shouldn't mean missing out on extraordinary conversations. Whether you're joining us from a city library or a small regional town, Live & Local gives audiences the chance to hear from some of the world's most compelling writers, completely free of charge."

HIGHLIGHT AUTHORS

This year's Live & Local program features a stellar lineup of international and Australian literary voices.

International stars include *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* creator **Jeff Kinney**, who brings laughs and family fun with *The Hot Mess Show*; acclaimed Irish author **Colm Tóibín**, discussing his much-anticipated novel *Long Island* (2024); and **Samantha Harvey**, fresh from winning the 2024 Booker Prize for her novel *Orbital*.

Among the **homegrown highlights** are **The Moriarty Sisters** — Jaclyn, Liane and Nicola — who offer insights into their shared storytelling journey; **Markus Zusak**, author of *The Book Thief* (2005); and **Gina Chick**, winner of *Alone Australia*, sharing vivid, life-affirming tales from her wilderness memoir *We Are the Stars* (2024).

EXCITING EVENTS

Audiences can look forward to a wide-ranging program of free, livestreamed sessions that offer something for every kind of reader.

Indulge your sweet tooth with [Bakers' Delight](#), a warm conversation with Australia's leading pastry queens — **Nadine Ingram**, **Natalie Paull** and **Kate Reid**. Dive into high-stakes politics with [Trumpocalypse](#)



[Now](#), as experts and political commentators **Peter Beinart**, **Barry Cassidy**, **Emma Shortis**, and **Nick Bryant** unpack the implications of Trump's second term.

Fans of intrigue and espionage won't want to miss [Spies, Lies & Secrets](#), where former French spy **Jack Beaumont** and historian **Ben Macintyre** share insider perspectives on real-life special-intelligence and the stories it inspires. In [Untrue Crime](#), **Ian Rankin**, **Kate McClymont** and **Shankari Chandran** explore the murky boundary between fact and fiction in crime writing, and the ethical questions that come with telling stories of justice and wrongdoing.

Rounding out the program is audience favourite [Queerstories](#), a bold and heartfelt night of LGBTQIA+ storytelling, featuring the likes of **Torrey Peters** and **Rumaan Alam**.

Live & Local 2025 is co-presented by Sydney Writers' Festival and partner venues around Australia. All sessions are free to attend at participating locations. Visit swf.org.au for more information.

Follow Sydney Writers' Festival: [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [TikTok](#)

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*****Sydney Writers' Festival Press Pack and Images Available [HERE](#)**



EDITOR'S NOTES

ABOUT SYDNEY WRITERS' FESTIVAL

From Monday 19 to Tuesday 27 May 2025, the 28th Sydney Writers' Festival brings together some of the world's most exciting literary voices for a week of insightful discussions, thought-provoking ideas, and unforgettable storytelling. The Festival features a dynamic program of in-person and livestreamed events, including author talks, panel discussions, workshops, and special events across Sydney. For more information, visit swf.org.au.

PARTICIPATING LIVE & LOCAL VENUES

Live & Local will be hosted at the following locations across Australia:

NEW SOUTH WALES

Albury Library Museum
Armidale Regional Council
Bathurst Regional Council
Bega Valley Shire Library
Broken Hill City Library
Central Coast Library Services
Central West Libraries
Cessnock City Council
City of Coffs Harbour
CTC Robertson
Eurobodalla Libraries
Glasshouse Port Macquarie
Gloucester Arts and Culture Council
Inverell Shire Council
Kiama Municipal Council
Maitland Libraries
Merrigong Theatre Company
MidCoast Libraries
Mudgee Readers' Festival
Parkes Shire Library
Port Stephens Council
Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council

Shellharbour City Libraries
Singleton Council
Tamworth Regional Council
Wagga Wagga City Library

VICTORIA

Geelong Regional Libraries
Goldfields Library Corporation
Goulburn Valley Libraries
Kingston Libraries
La Trobe City Council
Merri-bek City Libraries
Rural City of Wangaratta

QUEENSLAND

Brisbane City Council Libraries
Cairns Regional Council
City of Moreton Bay
Empire Theatres
Gympie Regional Libraries
Hervey Bay Neighbourhood Centre

Mackay Regional Council – Library Service
Maleny Community Centre
Mount Isa City Council
Scenic Rim Regional Council

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Adelaide City Libraries
Adelaide Hills Council Library Service
Alexandrina Council
Campbelltown Public Library
City of Burnside
City of Charles Sturt
City of Marion
City of Mount Gambier
City of Norwood, Payneham & St Peters
City of Port Lincoln
City of Tea Tree Gully
City of Victor Harbor
City of West Torrens
District Council of Grant
Mitcham Memorial Library Services

Moonta Community Library
Quorn School & Community
Library
Town of Gawler
Town of Walkerville
Cleve School Community
Library

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Albany Public Library
Busselton Public Library
City of Fremantle Library
City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
City of Karratha
City of Mandurah
City of Subiaco
Shire of Broome
Shire of Chittering / Bindoon
Public Library
Shire of Esperance
State Library of Western
Australia

Libraries Tasmania – North
West Region
Libraries Tasmania – South
Central Region
Tamar Valley Writers Festival
State Libraries and Archives
Tasmania

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Alice Springs Public Library
Kununurra Community &
School Library

**AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL
TERRITORY**

Tuggeranong Arts Centre

TASMANIA

Libraries Tasmania –
Devonport
Libraries Tasmania –
Northern Region