

[MWF]

**Melbourne Writers Festival
Local Libraries Program**

May 2027

We respectfully acknowledge that Melbourne Writers Festival takes place on the traditional lands of the Kulin Nation, in particular the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Boon Wurrung peoples.

We pay our respects to Elders past and present, and to the more than 65,000 years of storytelling that has taken place on the lands and waterways of this Country. Sovereignty was never ceded.

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ABOUT MWF

Melbourne Writers Festival brings writers and readers together to be inspired, challenged and thrilled by an excellent, creative and surprising program of events celebrating books and ideas.

Since 1986, we have entertained hundreds of thousands of readers as the flagship annual writers festival of our UNESCO City of Literature. MWF ignites conversations across Melbourne and inspires curiosity and connection.

In 2026 Melbourne Writers Festival celebrated its 40th anniversary, welcoming 169 artists and over 25,000 audience members to 91 events across an extraordinary week.

In 2027, we return with another year of exciting programming, with the Festival taking place from **Thursday 6–Sunday 9 May 2027.**





Bring MWF to your community

Each year, we offer libraries around Melbourne the opportunity to bring a piece of Melbourne Writers Festival right into their own local community. Working closely with MWF's programming team, you'll have access to our wide catalogue of guests. Together, we can develop an event that's most appealing to your community.

In recent years, we have produced some wonderful events with our library partners including:

- An in-conversation with international bestselling crime novelist **Dervla McTiernan** on her gripping latest book *Three Reasons for Revenge*: a high-stakes story about three seemingly unconnected people, caught in a lethal web of deceit and unhealed wounds.
- National treasure and bon vivant **Shaun Micallef** exploring the absurdist tale of the troubled Comte De'Ath in a hilarious chat about life, death, the living and the undead, and his new novel *De'Ath Takes a Holiday*.
- The beloved author of *The Secret River*, **Kate Grenville**, discussing *Unsettled*, her deeply personal memoir.
- A discussion with award-winning stand-up comedian and *USA Today* best-selling author **Benjamin Stevenson** on *Everyone in this Bank is a Thief* – the newest instalment in his million-copy, bestselling Ernest Cunningham series.
- An exquisite exchange of sky knowledge between award-winning First Nations writer **Bruce Pascoe** (*Dark Emu*) and astrophysicist **Ray Norris**, reframing astronomy as both a science and a philosophy.

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Feedback from MWF library partners

‘What a pleasure it is – as always – to work with all the staff from Melbourne Writers Festival! It’s always such smooth sailing and a very enjoyable experience. And I’m always extremely delighted that you want us to take part!’

‘Both speakers were excellent, engaging, thoughtful, and insightful. The audience responded extremely well – there were a lot of engaging questions. It was highly successful and very enjoyable.’

‘It was a great session. A couple of attendees commented that it was great to see MWF reaching beyond the CBD – particularly for those with physical limitations or transport difficulties. We would love to participate again with MWF.’

‘The partnership has enabled us to present events with high-calibre authors, many of them interstate speakers who we would otherwise be unable to feature at the library.’





Partnership benefits to your library:

- Collaboration with MWF's programming team to tailor your event to match your community's areas of interest;
- Access to MWF's guest list of artists, including local and interstate guests, fiction and nonfiction authors, options for general audiences and younger readers;
- Inclusion in the 2027 Festival program – plus associated event listings on the MWF website and in the printed program guide;
- MWF approved assets to assist with event promotion.

Investment for an event with MWF: \$2500 + GST

Note: The fee above includes speaker fees, per diems and travel costs for up to two (2) artists for a single event, usually a writer and a moderator. Further costs may apply for additional artists, final cost to be confirmed in consultation with MWF.



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Your library will:

- Manage ticketing and customer service, ensuring tickets are free;
- Oversee event delivery, including AV, Front of House, book signings and on-the-day artist liaison;
- Secure and liaise with a local bookseller for the event;
- Promote the event through appropriate Library channels and comms – such as eNewsletters, library notice boards, social media – utilising approved MWF event copy and imagery.

"I love the public library! There is nothing more punk nor beneficial to the community!" – MWF 2026 Local Library attendee



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Expressions of Interest

To participate in the Local Libraries Program, please submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) form via **this form**.

KEY DATES:

EOI Opens: 1 September 2026

EOI Closes: 30 September 2026

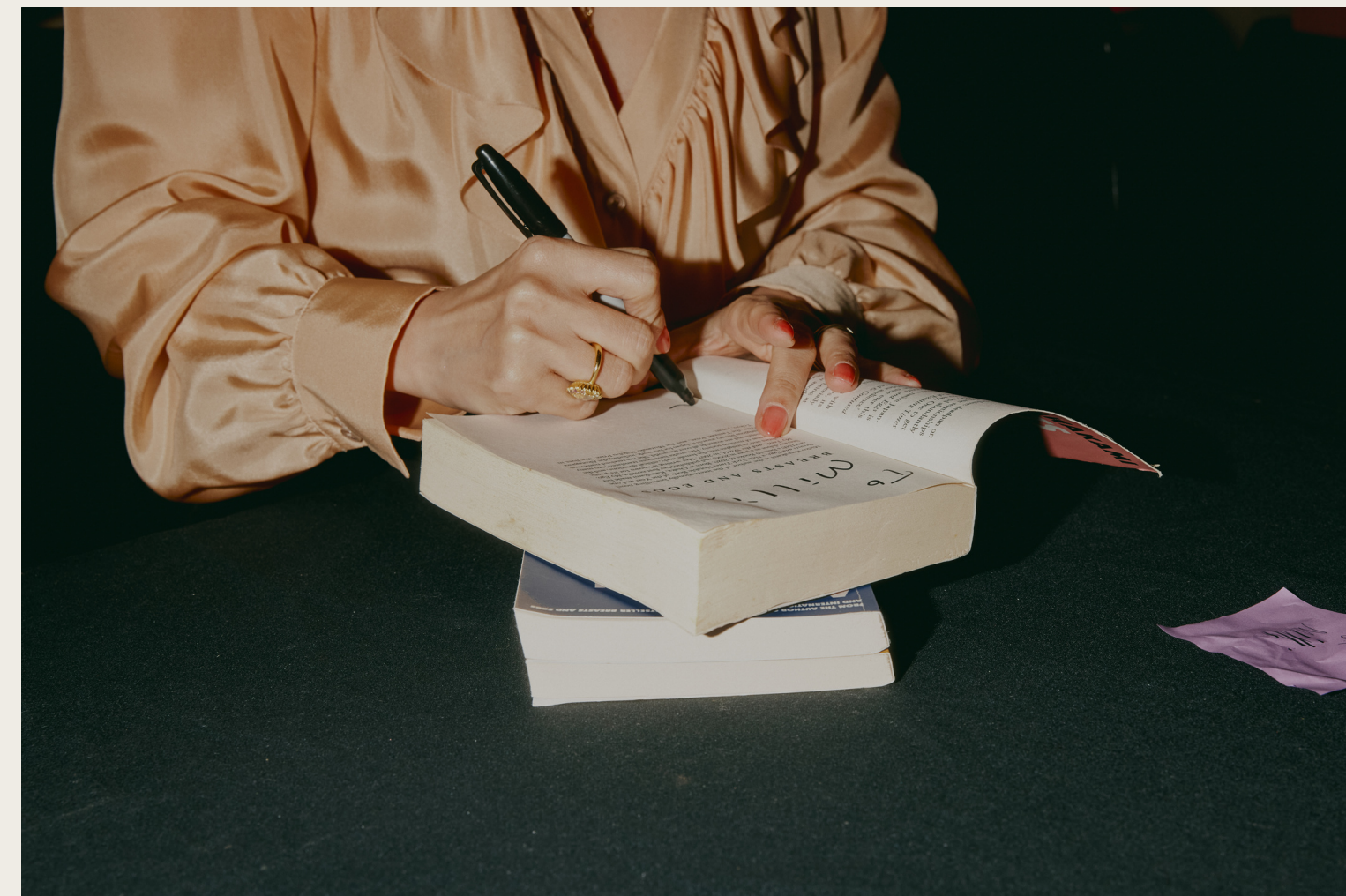
Outcome Notification: 16 October 2026

ADDITIONAL DATES:

Events confirmed: 12 November 2026

Payment due: 15 January 2027

Bookings open: 18 March 2027



Contact

For any queries about the MWF Local Libraries program not covered in this information pack, please contact:

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