



Secondary Schools Day Essential Information

Thursday 8 August, Bangalow Showground

Not long now until Byron Writers Festival kicks off. This essential information will assist in the smooth running of the event. Please read and pass on to relevant staff, we look forward to welcoming you soon!

GETTING TO THE FESTIVAL

Secondary Schools Day sessions take place at the festival site Bangalow Showground, Market Street, Bangalow.

By bus

- All coaches to enter the festival site via Station Street ONLY, traffic marshall will assist with directions - NO ARRIVALS INTO MARKET STREET
- Please ask your bus company to arrive between 09:30am - 10:00am
- All coaches exit via Market Street ONLY and make a left turn on Byron Street (for those coaches heading west they will need to make a U-turn at the roundabout beyond the Bangalow Bowling Club).

Please note – we will **not** be using the Bangalow Primary School bus zone on Byron Street.

By car / minibus

- On-site complimentary car/minibus parking is in the festival car park and the entry is via Market Street. Please arrive between 09:30am - 10:00am

Student drop zone

- Students arriving by bus are to be dropped at the main festival entrance (see map below). Please ensure your bus driver does not open bus doors until instructed to do so by our festival team.
- Students arriving by car/minibus are to park in the main showing car park and make their way to the main festival entrance.

On-site parking

- On-site complimentary parking is available for coaches in the eastern festival car park. Cars and minibuses will be directed into the main showing car park. Follow instructions from our traffic marshalls.

Departure from site

- Teachers, it is essential that you have all your students in their groups ready for a seamless departure on buses by 2:10pm - the Festival team will direct you to your buses
- All returning coaches to enter the festival site via Station Street ONLY, traffic marshall will assist with directions - NO ARRIVALS INTO MARKET ST
- For those buses parked in the festival car park they will remain parked until your school group is escorted to the bus by our festival team for departure.
- All coaches exit via Market Street ONLY and make a left turn on Byron Street (for those coaches heading west they will need to make a U-turn at the roundabout beyond the Bangalow Bowling Club.

AT THE SITE

Check-in

Our festival team will check your group in at the main festival entrance. You do not need to have any tickets or paperwork.

Complimentary coffee from Southern Cross University

Secondary Schools Day sponsor Southern Cross University will provide a complimentary coffee for each attending teacher on Thursday 8th August. Each teacher can print or screenshot the attached voucher and redeem on site at any of our coffee vendors.

The Book Room – book sales

Books by featured authors will be available for sale on the day and can be pre ordered from the Book Room.

Students can purchase books either by:

- cash or card at the Festival;
- online at:
<https://thebookroomatbyron.circlesoft.net/c/bbwf-2024-secondary-schools>
- the Book Room order form (attached)
 - Please send this form to students prior to the Festival so they can fill in and return with cash on the day

Book signing

Signings are held during program breaks. Authors are happy to sign all books and bookmarks (including those brought from home) but are unable to sign loose sheets of paper.

Eat & drink

Food stalls will be on site serving meals, snacks and coffee.

What should students bring

- BYO water bottles, which can be refilled for free at our water stations.

- A keep cup for hot beverages - this year the festival is implementing a 'No single use packaging' policy as part of the Byron Shire Council's new waste management guidelines.
- Weather appropriate clothes – in our Northern Rivers Winter this will mean a sun hat and/or a jumper or rain coat!
- Book order form with cash

Lost property

Lost property should be handed to the marquee supervisor. Lost property will be held with the venue supervisor until the end of the day. Any unclaimed items will be returned to Byron Writers Festival head office (2/58 Centennial Circuit, Byron Bay) for collection the following week.

Filming / photography

Byron Writers Festival employs the services of professional photographers and videographers to record events throughout the Festival for archival and marketing purposes. If you, or any students in your care, do not wish to be recorded, please inform the photographer/videographer and a Festival representative on the day. Please be aware that media outlets may also be in attendance.

Note: Southern Cross University will be filming and taking photos at some of the sessions. They may ask individual students for short interviews and will only proceed if permission is given.

First Aid

St Johns Ambulance will be on site for any scrapes, cuts or medical emergencies.

Accessibility

We strive to make the event accessible for all students. If you have students with special needs please reach out to discuss how we can make their experience enjoyable at info@byronwritersfestival.com

Risk Management & Insurance

Our Risk Management Policy & Procedure document and Public Liability Insurance are available on request by emailing info@byronwritersfestival.com. Copies will also be available onsite at the Box Office.

Byron Writers Festival Secondary Schools Day
Proudly supported by Southern Cross University



SECONDARY SCHOOLS DAY PROGRAM

All sessions will take place in the **Hakea Marquee** and are proudly supported by Southern Cross University.

- **Please note** there have been some minor timing changes to the schedule
- We appreciate your assistance in encouraging the students to remain seated during sessions
- Limited printed copies of the program will be available for teachers onsite.

9.30 - 10:00am	Arrive at Festival, please ensure your buses arrive during these times to reduce traffic congestion
10:10 - 10:40am	Graham Akhurst in conversation with Rhianna Patrick
10:40 - 11:10am	Lili Wilkinson
11:10 - 11:30am	Signings with Graham Akhurst and Lili Wilkinson
11:10 - 11:30am	Morning Tea
11:30 - 11:45am	Southern Cross University Writing Prize announcement and readings
11:45 - 12:15pm	Steph Tisdell in conversation with Merinda Dutton
12:15 - 12:45pm	Lisa Harvey-Smith
12:45 - 1:00pm	Signings with Steph Tisdell and Lisa Harvey-Smith
12:45 - 1:00pm	Afternoon Tea
1:00 - 1:30pm	Mykaela Saunders in conversation with Rhianna Patrick
1:30 - 1:45pm	Signings with Mykaela Saunders
2:00 - 2:15pm	Have your buses arrive at 1:45pm for departure before 2.15pm

MEET THE AUTHORS

Lili Wilkinson is the award-winning author of nineteen books for young people, including *The Erasure Initiative* and *A Hunger of Thorns*. Lili has a PhD from the University of Melbourne, and is a passionate advocate for YA and the young people who read it, establishing the Inky Awards at the Centre for Youth Literature, State Library of Victoria. Her latest book is *Deep is the Fen*.

Graham Akhurst is an Aboriginal writer and academic from the Kokomini of Northern Queensland. He is the Director of the Centre for the Advancement of Indigenous Knowledges at UTS. He is the author of *Borderland* published by UWAP.

Lisa Harvey-Smith is an award-winning astronomer, science communicator and Professor at the University of New South Wales. In 2018 she was appointed as the Australian Government's Ambassador for Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). She is the author of *The Secret Life of Stars*, *Little Book, BIG Universe*, *Aliens and Other Worlds*, *When Galaxies Collide* and best-selling children's book *Under the Stars*.

Steph Tisdell with an ever-growing list of acting (Class of '07, *Total Control*, *Bump* and Netflix Original *Love is in the Air*) and writing (*Fisk*, *Bump*, *Rosehaven*) accolades, Steph Tisdell's star is on the rise. *The Skin I'm In* is her first novel.

Mykaela Saunders is the author of *Always Will Be* (UQP 2024), which won the David Unaipon Award, and the editor of *This All Come Back Now*, the Aurealis Award-winning, world-first anthology of blackfella speculative fiction (UQP 2022). Mykaela has won other prizes for fiction, poetry, life writing and research, including the Elizabeth Jolley Short Story Prize and the Oodgeroo Noonuccal Indigenous Poetry Prize.

We hope this has answered any questions you may have about the day, feel free to reach out on info@byronwritersfestival.com if you need to clarify anything.

We look forward to welcoming you and your students to the leafy sanctuary of Bangalow Showground for a day of rich conversation on writing, storytelling, fantasy worlds, outer space, inner demons, human reckonings and inspiring futures.

See you at the festival!

The Byron Writers Festival team