



FRIDAY 14 TO SUNDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2020

OFFICIAL PROGRAM



Libraries



MAYOR'S MESSAGE



It's my pleasure to welcome you to the Western Downs, and to the inaugural Words Out West Readers and Writers Fest.

Between 14 and 16 February, our region will come alive with the wonder of the written word and its power to uncover, excite and inspire the storyteller within us all.

Words Out West has something to spark every interest, with a comprehensive program spanning three days which includes a Writers Retreat, two full days of panel discussions, presentations and workshops with some of Australia's most renowned authors, and the highly anticipated Words Out West Gala Dinner featuring invited guest and Australian Paralympian Kurt Fearnley AO.

The Festival will offer a rare opportunity to hear from some of the country's best storytellers, with a stellar line-up of authors, illustrators, journalists, podcasters, narrators and cartoonists all offering an insight into their personal journeys in the literary world.

It's fantastic to welcome so many incredible Australians to our region and to offer a new and exciting opportunity for residents and visitors to be a part of our vibrant and diverse community.

While you're in town, take the opportunity to enjoy our homegrown, country hospitality at one of our many eateries, experience a slice of history at one of our many galleries and museums, or take a trip to the incredible Bunya Mountains to enjoy the tranquillity and wonder of the towering Bunya Pines.

I trust you will share in the delight of the first ever Words Out West Readers and Writers Fest and enjoy your time in our fantastic region.

Cr Paul McVeigh
Mayor, Western Downs Regional Council

OUR SPONSORS



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LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH

Have any questions, comments or feedback? We're always here to help.



Call us on **1300 COUNCIL** (1300 268 624)



Email us on **library@wdrc.qld.gov.au**



Find us online at **westerndownslibraries.com**



Like us on Facebook at **Western Downs Libraries**



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Tickets are available online now at
WESTERNDOWNSLIBRARIES.COM/
WORDSOUTWEST
Still deciding on your festival
itinerary? Tickets are available
at the door.

SATURDAY

AUDITORIUM

ROOM ONE

OFF-SITE

SUNDAY

AUDITORIUM

**Due to unforeseen circumstances this program has been amended. We apologise for any inconvenience and hope you enjoy the fantastic line up at Words Out West!*

9am				
9.30am				
10am	10–10.45am <i>Featured Author</i> John Marsden			10–11am <i>Featured Author</i> Rachael Treasure
10.30am				
11am	11–11.45am <i>Featured Author</i> Fleur McDonald	11.15am–12pm <i>In Conversation</i> Young Writers Making Their Mark		
11.30am				
12pm	12–12.45pm <i>Featured Author</i> David Fagan			
12.30pm		12.30–1.30pm <i>My Smoko Break</i> with Hayley Maudsley		12.30–1.30pm <i>Presentation</i> Stig Wemyss
1pm	1–1.45pm <i>Partners in Crime</i> Alison Sandy and Paula Doneman			
1.30pm				
2pm	2–2.45pm <i>In Conversation</i> Politics: Taking the P@%\$	2–2.45pm <i>In Conversation</i> Publishing from the Western Downs		
2.30pm				2pm <i>Page to Screen</i> Movie Session Dolittle (PG)
3pm	3–3.45pm <i>Featured Author</i> Tony Park	3–4pm <i>Workshop</i> Craft of Writing with Isabelle Carmody		
3.30pm				
4pm				
6.30pm			6.30pm–late Dalby Events Centre <i>Words Out West</i> Gala Dinner with Kurt Fearnley	

Tickets are available online now at
[WESTERNDOWNSLIBRARIES.COM/](https://westerndownslibraries.com/wordsoutwest)
WORDSOUTWEST

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itinerary? Tickets are available
at the door.



JOHN MARSDEN FEATURED AUTHOR

10–10.45am Auditorium \$25 pp

Mr John Marsden appears by arrangement with Saxton Speakers Bureau and is proudly flown by Airnorth.

Selling more than five million books worldwide and an icon of young adult fiction, you'll probably find a copy or two of John Marsden's books on your shelves. Author of *Tomorrow*, *When the War Began* (adapted for film and TV), *So Much To Tell You* and *Letters from the Inside*, hear John as he discusses his many lives as an author, educator and advocate.



FLEUR MCDONALD FEATURED AUTHOR

11–11.45am Auditorium \$25 pp

Bestselling author Fleur McDonald has firmly cemented herself as one of the country's favourite storytellers and a darling of Australian rural fiction. Hear Fleur's deep connection to the land as she speaks about the stories behind her work and forging the path for rural women in Australian fiction.



DAVID FAGAN FEATURED AUTHOR

12–12.45pm Auditorium \$25 pp

Go behind the headlines with David Fagan: author, commentator and former decade-long editor of the *Courier Mail*, as he discusses business, politics and whether Australia really is still the lucky country.



TONY PARK FEATURED AUTHOR

3–3.45pm Auditorium \$25 pp

International bestselling author Tony Park's story is more diverse than most: working as a reporter, press secretary, PR consultant and freelance writer; serving in Afghanistan; and living between Sydney and southern Africa; he also happens to have penned 17 novels and six works of non-fiction. Join Tony to hear the tales of his incredibly varied life and writings.

**Please check details on the day as sessions and locations may change without notice.*

MY SMOKO BREAK WITH HAYLEY MAUDSLEY

Rural Weekly columnist and country mum Hayley Maudsley has grown *My Smoko Break* from small beginnings to a large and vibrant online community, sharing her favourite family recipes and useful tips for around the house. Meet the online phenomenon as she makes the everyday special — without the fuss!

12.30–1.30pm
Room One
FREE EVENT



IN CONVERSATION POLITICS: TAKING THE P@%\$

Australia has a long history of poking fun at our politicians and satirising the bureaucracy — and long may it continue. Explore the personalities, backroom anecdotes and machinations of reporting on and interpreting politics and politicians. Featuring David Fagan (former editor of the *Courier Mail*) and Alison Sandy (*Seven Network's Freedom of Information Editor*).

2–2.45pm Auditorium **FREE EVENT**

CRAFT OF WRITING WITH ISOBELLE CARMODY

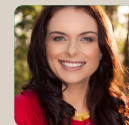
WORKSHOP
Universally loved by both adults and young people, Isobelle Carmody's name is synonymous with Australian fantasy fiction. Learn how to write 'stuff that matters' and escape the ordinary through the delicate and beautiful craft of writing.

3–4pm
Room One
\$25 pp



PARTNERS IN CRIME

With two hugely successful crime podcasts under their respective belts, Paula Doneman (*Pendulum*) and Alison Sandy (*The Lady Vanishes*) explore the cold cases that have gripped the nation's imagination, and discuss why this new brand of investigative journalism is compelling the public to find justice for victims previously left silenced.

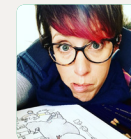


Auditorium 1–1.45pm \$25 pp

IN CONVERSATION PUBLISHING FROM THE WESTERN DOWNS

Facilitated by Lydia Burton

Join a panel of accomplished local authors as they discuss their publishing journeys and what it was like writing, creating and publishing their works from rural Queensland. Featuring Jane Grieve (*Slippin' on the Lino*, *In Stockmen's Footsteps*), Karen Land (*Eat Well, Be Well*), Jo Cuskelly (*Roses are NOT Red*) and Gregg Driese (*My Culture and Me*).



2–2.45pm Room One **FREE EVENT**



RACHAEL TREASURE FEATURED AUTHOR

10–11am Auditorium \$25 pp

With her first novel *Jillaroo* fast becoming one of Australia's iconic works of rural fiction, Rachael Treasure has changed the face of contemporary literature by inspiring other women to tell their stories of life on the land. A mother, regenerative agriculturalist and author, discover what draws Rachael to the tales of strong women in the country.



STIG WEMYSS FEATURED AUTHOR

12.30–1.30pm Auditorium \$19 pp

Stig Wemyss is proudly presented by Bolinda audio and Borrowbox.

Buckle up! Stig Wemyss brings zany and hilarious insights from his work as an author, producer and, most notably, audiobook narrator. Meet the voice of Andy Griffiths, Terry Denton, and Trent Dalton as this versatile artist shares his craft.



PAGE TO SCREEN MOVIE SESSION

DOLITTLE (PG) 2pm Auditorium Tickets at the door

Robert Downey Jr. electrifies one of literature's most enduring characters in a vivid reimagining of the classic tale of the man who could talk to animals: *Dolittle*.



IN CONVERSATION YOUNG WRITERS MAKING THEIR MARK

Facilitated by Katrina Walton

How do you make the transition from country town to a national platform? Join panellists Lydia Burton (*ABC Rural*), Harry Clarke (*Nine News Queensland*) and Sophie Volker (*ABC Radio National*) to find out how they took their love of words from the Western Downs to some of Australia's most trusted media outlets.



11.15am–12pm Room One **FREE EVENT**

Our Presenters

AUTHORS



ILLUSTRATORS



JOURNALISTS



PODCASTERS
NARRATORS



EDITORS



HARRY CLARKE



Growing up on the Western Downs, Harry Clarke is a crime reporter for Nine News Queensland. He has covered high profile criminal cases, natural disasters and Brisbane's 2014 G20 summit.

See Harry on Saturday

JO CUSKELLY



Jo Cuskelly is a Dalby-based artist and illustrator. In 2017 her book *Roses are NOT Red* was short-listed for the Speech Pathology Book of the Year.

See Jo on Saturday

LYDIA BURTON



Growing up on the Western Downs, Lydia Burton is an acclaimed rural reporter. Over the last six years she has reported for radio, online and for television programs such as *Landline* and *ABC News*.

See Lydia on Saturday

ISOBELLE CARMODY



Isabelle Carmody is an award-winning fantasy author for young adults. Her works include *Obernewtyn Chronicles* and *The Gathering*.

See Isabelle Saturday

PAULA DONEMAN



Paula Doneman is a multi-award-winning investigative journalist, who in addition to being a true crime author and podcaster, works as 7NEWS Brisbane's Crime Editor.

See Paula on Saturday

GREGG DREISE



Gregg Dreise is a gifted musician, storyteller, artist and ambassador for the Indigenous Literacy Foundation. He is also the author and illustrator of *Cunning Crow*, *Silly Birds* and *My Culture and Me*.

See Gregg Saturday

SALLY EELES



7 NEWS Brisbane Executive Producer and Walkley award winner Sally Eeles is the powerhouse who carved the way for a series of successful podcasts – including *Little Girl Lost*, *The Lady Vanishes* and *Pendulum*.

See Sally on Saturday

DAVID FAGAN



David Fagan is an author, journalist and former editor of *The Courier Mail*. David spent 30 years in journalism mainly in business and politics at *The Courier Mail* and *The Australian*.

See David on Saturday

KURT FEARNLEY



Kurt Fearnley is one of the most renowned and respected athletes in Australia. Kurt has competed in marathons and paralympic events around the globe and famously crawled the 96km Kokoda track.

See Kurt at the Gala Dinner

JANE GRIEVE



Jane Grieve is a Dalby local and author of *Slippin' on the Lino*, and *In Stockmen's Footsteps*. She has written for many publications and was involved in the establishment of the *Stockman's Hall of Fame*.

See Jane on Saturday

KAREN LAND



Karen Land is a naturopath and author, focused on empowering people to become healthier using herbal and nutritional medicine. Her novel *Eat Well, Be Well* is the latest step in achieving her goal.

See Karen on Saturday

JOHN MARSDEN



John Marsden has written more than 40 books, including *Tomorrow*, *When the War Began* and *Letters from the Inside*. He has won every major award in Australia for young people's fiction.

See John on Saturday

HAYLEY MAUDSLEY



Hayley Maudsley is the author of *My Smoko Break* and leads an enthusiastic online community of rural cooks via her Facebook page of the same name.

See Hayley Saturday

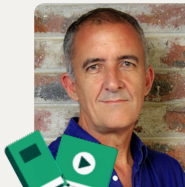
FLEUR MCDONALD



Fleur McDonald is a bestselling author and a celebrated storyteller. Her books, including *Red Dust*, *Crimson Dawn* and *Suddenly One Summer* are inspired by her life in rural Australia.

See Fleur on Saturday

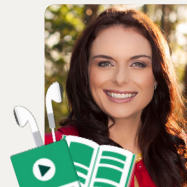
TONY PARK



Tony Park is an author and former newspaper reporter. He has written an impressive 17 thrillers and six biographies. Tony splits his time between Australia and South Africa where his novels are set.

See Tony on Saturday

ALISON SANDY



Alison Sandy is an award-winning journalist who produces *The Lady Vanishes*, a number one true crime podcast that explores the story of Marion Barter, who boarded a plane and was never seen again.

See Alison on Saturday

RACHAEL TREASURE



Rachael Treasure is the author of rural fiction such as *Fifty Bales of Hay*, *The Farmer's Wife* and most recently *White Horses*. Rachael is passionate about showcasing contemporary rural women.

See Rachael on Sunday

SOPHIE VOLKER



Growing up in Dalby, Sophie Volker is a producer for ABC Radio National. She covers a range of stories on *Drive* and *The Drawing Room* but her passion lies in stories that matter to rural Australians.

See Sophie on Saturday

STIG WEMYSS



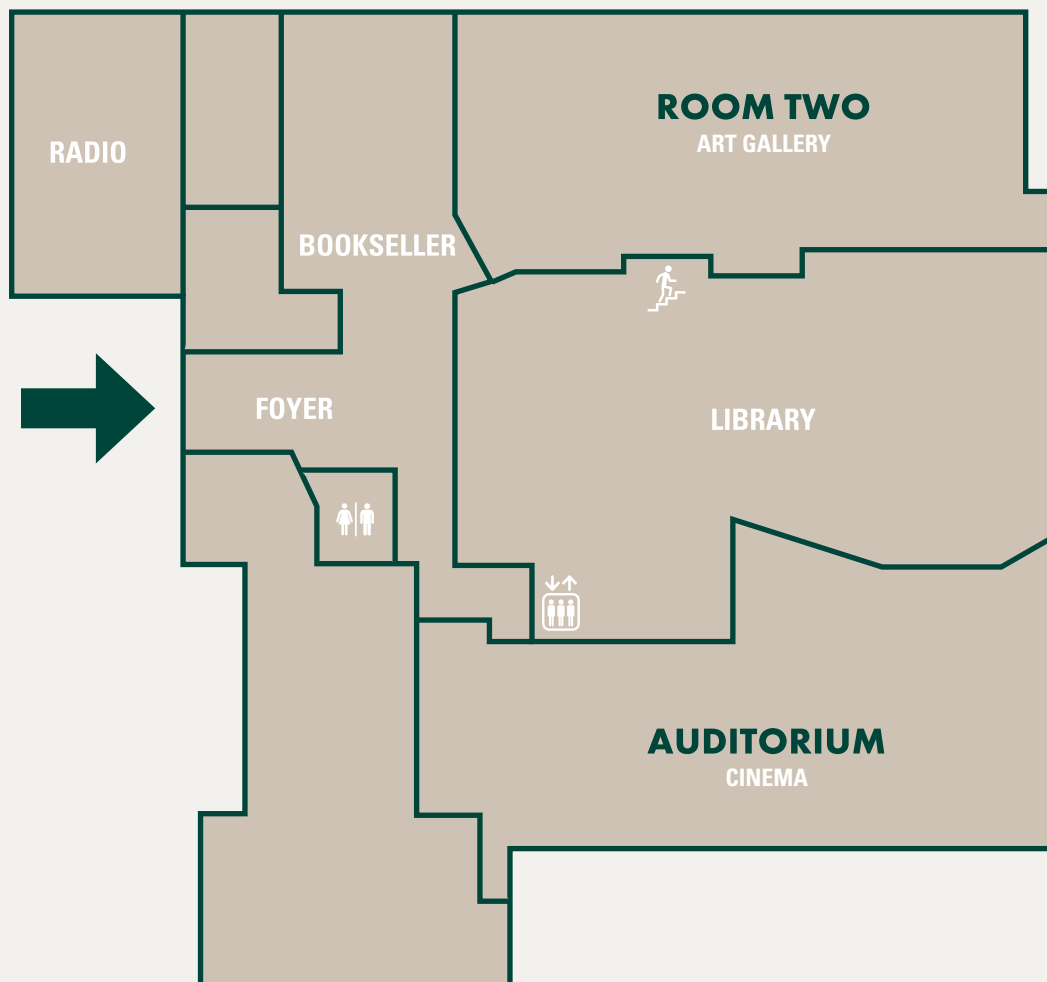
Stig Wemyss is a much-loved narrator for popular children's authors including Andy Griffiths, Paul Jennings and Tim Winton. His reading of Trent Dalton's *Boy Swallows Universe* was named 2019's Audiobook of the Year.

See Stig at the Gala Dinner & on Sunday

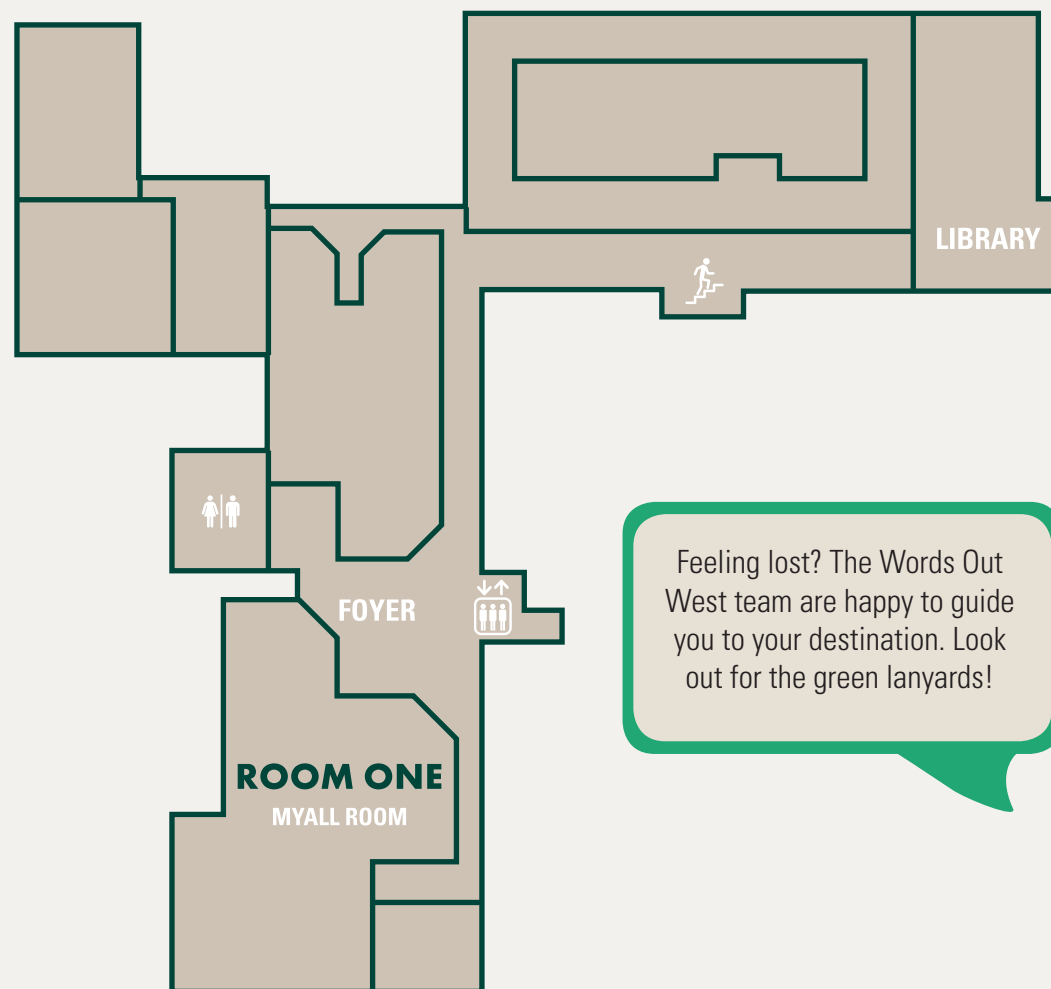
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MyALL 107
107 DRAYTON STREET, DALBY

GROUND LEVEL



UPPER LEVEL



Feeling lost? The Words Out West team are happy to guide you to your destination. Look out for the green lanyards!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS A FEATURED AUTHOR SESSION?

Featured Authors will deliver a keynote style presentation on various topics of their choosing, from their own lives and backgrounds and their work as writers and authors, to their writing styles and techniques. Each Featured Author session will also include a short time for questions and answers.

THE WORKSHOP I WANT TO ATTEND HAS MULTIPLE SESSIONS. DO I NEED TO ATTEND ALL OF THEM?

No, each session is a standalone workshop. Where there are multiple sessions the same workshop will be repeated.

ARE ANY OF THE SESSIONS INTERACTIVE?

All workshop sessions will be interactive. All other sessions are presentations or performances. Featured Author sessions will include a short time for questions and answers.

WILL THE AUTHORS BE AVAILABLE FOR BOOK SIGNINGS?

Yes! All Featured Author sessions will be directly followed by a book signing. Our authors and presenters may also be attending other presentations, panels and workshops as guests, so feel free to come and say hello.

WILL THERE BE BOOKS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT THE EVENT?

Yes! Dymocks will be on site with a selection of books available to purchase all day Saturday and Sunday until 12pm.

WILL THERE BE FOOD AND DRINKS AVAILABLE AT THE EVENT?

Yes! Please bring cash on the day, as not all vendors will have EFTPOS facilities.

WILL THERE BE PARKING AVAILABLE AT THE EVENT?

Yes! Ample free parking is available at all venues.

CAN I BRING MY CHILDREN?

Storytime in the Park is well suited for young families and no tickets are required. Saturday and Sunday events at MyALL 107 are primarily targeted at audiences over 15 years. However, parents and carers who would like to accompany their children may do so at their own discretion. Tickets are required for all attendees.

FOOD AND DRINK OPTIONS

Feeling peckish? A number of local food vendors will be available at MyALL 107 across Saturday and Sunday:

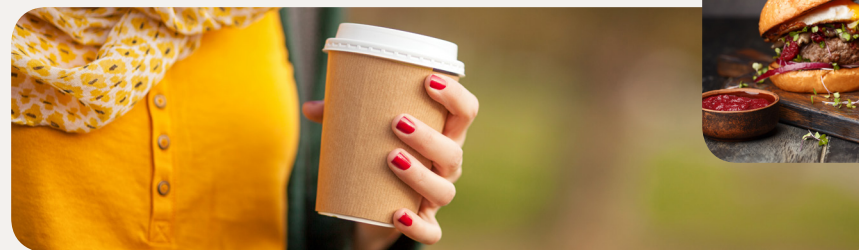
BIG BUDDY COFFEE

BUTCHERS PANTRY

C'EST CHEESE (Late Saturday & Sunday)

THE DONUT MAN (Saturday Only)

URBAN Paddock



Please note that not all vendors have EFTPOS facilities so have cash ready on the day.

FESTIVAL BOOKSELLER

Inspired by one of our presenters or just keen to pick up their latest reads? Dymocks will be on site with a selection of books available to purchase all day Saturday and Sunday until 12pm. Purchase your favourite titles then take them to be signed by your favourite author.





westerndownslibraries

Words Out West

WESTERN DOWNS READERS & WRITERS FEST



Share your experiences with us
#wordsoutwest

LOVE WORDS OUT WEST?

Use **#wordsoutwest** to show us your most memorable moments.

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook to discover even more events, workshops and activities from Western Downs Libraries.



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