



MIDCOAST FESTIVAL OF STORIES

26 APRIL - 23 MAY

THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO TELL A TALE

The MidCoast Festival of Stories
returns with extraordinary tales
from a host of storytellers

EXTRAORDINARY TALES FROM A HOST OF STORYTELLERS

They're coming from near and far and, as always, it's the stories inside you that we are really excited to hear.

Lisa Wilkinson shares her experiences from childhood to talk show host. Peter FitzSimons discusses the process of recognising/preserving history through gripping narratives. Stephen Michael King will guide young artists in illustrating and also describe the creative journey from book concept to published work with budding authors. John Heath and Lynda Holden share powerful family accounts of colonisation from the past and the continued effects today. Children's book creators Mick Elliott and Matthew Lin tour local schools with creative insights and buckets of inspiration.

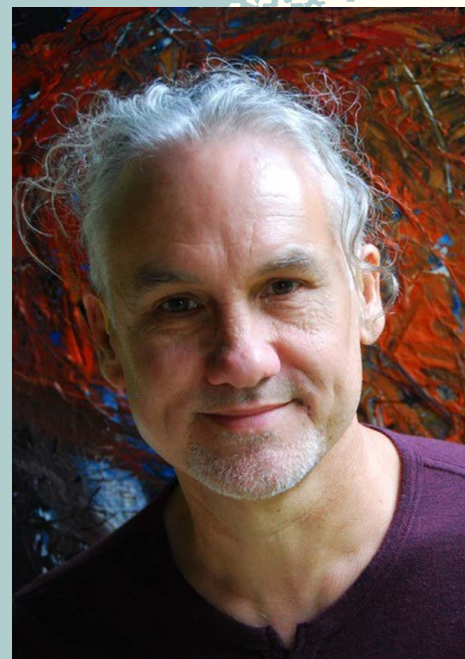
There's cultural heritage, local history and studies of nature, skill-building and creative design workshops, special Storytimes and a live radio broadcast. Share your own stories with deep water story-telling and don't miss our online, interactive story building collage where you can drop a plot twist or set up a happy ending whilst going into the draw to win double passes to a fantastic selection of Manning Entertainment Centre (MEC) events.

THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO TELL A TALE, AND THEY'RE ALL RIGHT HERE



Bookings essential

Scan the QR code to view the full festival program or call 7955 7001



Stephen Michael King

Step into the magical world of children's book author and illustrator, Stephen Michael King, at this hands-on illustration workshop. Stephen will guide young artists through the process of creating their own drawings.

Then, for anyone interested in the world of children's literature, Stephen will present an insightful talk on the process of creating children's picture books.

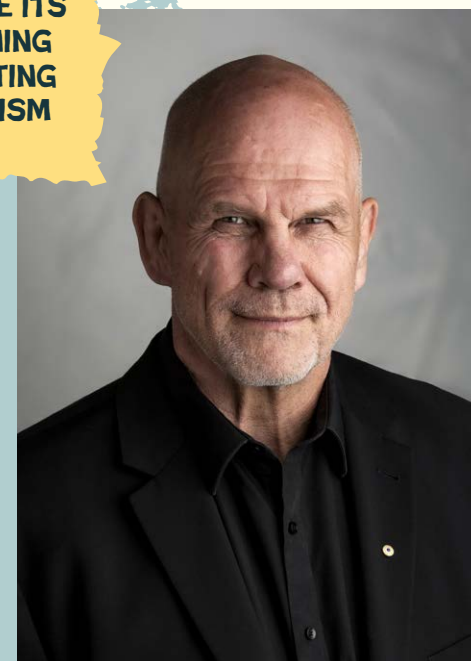
**Saturday 3 May Forster Civic Centre
1 – 2pm and 3.30 – 4.30pm**

PASSIONATE ABOUT AUSTRALIA'S HISTORY, PETER BRINGS TO LIFE ITS HEROES, LEGENDS, AND DEFINING MOMENTS THROUGH CAPTIVATING STORYTELLING AND JOURNALISM

Peter FitzSimons

Bestselling author and well-known journalist known for his gripping narratives on Australia's war history, Peter will discuss his bestselling books and share his process of bringing these powerful historical events to life with focus on themes of courage, resilience and camaraderie.

**Saturday 10 May
Forster Civic Centre 2pm**





Ngarralinyi Live Broadcast

Join us for a special live broadcast from Forster Library's Podcast Studio as Ngarralinyi Radio Station takes over for the day. Come in and check it out or tune in and listen here: 103.3FM or ngarralinyi.com.au/stream
Monday 28 April Forster Library



Cut, Paste, Publish

In this hands-on, interactive workshop, participants will learn the art of zine-making, an empowering practice that allows individuals to express themselves freely and creatively.
Thursday 1 May Hallidays Point Library
Monday 12 May Tea Gardens Library
Both sessions 10am – 1pm



The Come Up: Hip Hop Workshop

UP&UP present a hands-on rap writing and performing workshop. Led by an experienced MC and a Hip Hop music producer, participants will craft their own lyrics, learn microphone and vocal techniques and perform their creations.
Saturday 26 April MEC 1pm



Podcasting 101

Unlock your creative potential with hands-on training in our state-of-the-art Podcast Studio. You'll learn everything you need to know to start your own podcast or recording project. Everyone has a story to share and anyone can podcast!
Monday 5 May Forster Library
1.30 – 4:30pm

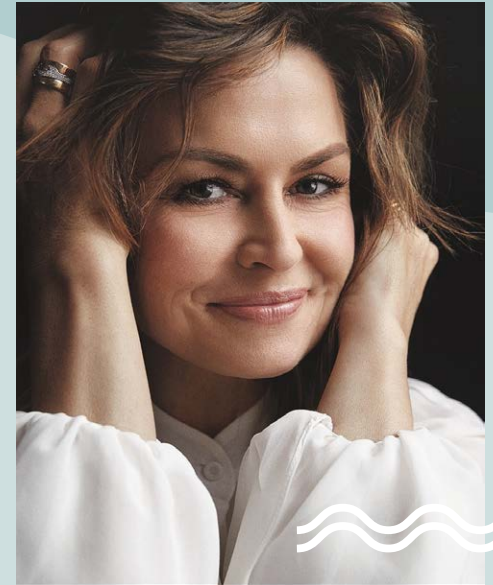
An Evening with Lisa Wilkinson

Join Lisa Wilkinson as she discusses life experiences, motivation, inspiration and justice.

Lisa Wilkinson is one of Australia's most respected journalists and media personalities. She received a Member Of The Order Of Australia in 2016 for her significant contributions to print and broadcast media as a journalist and presenter, as well as her work with youth and women's health groups.

She has lived her life in the public eye, but it all could have been so different . . . Subjected to horrific bullying as a teenager, Lisa survived by making herself as small as possible. But she swore when she left school that no one was ever again going to determine who she was – or limit what she

NO ONE WAS EVER AGAIN GOING TO DETERMINE WHO SHE WAS - OR LIMIT WHAT SHE WAS CAPABLE OF



was capable of. She became the youngest ever editor of *Dolly* magazine before moving onto *Cleo* magazine, then hosting *The Today Show* and *The Project*. Experience the highs and lows and be inspired as Lisa discusses how she finds inspiration and courage to seek the truth and stand up for herself and others.

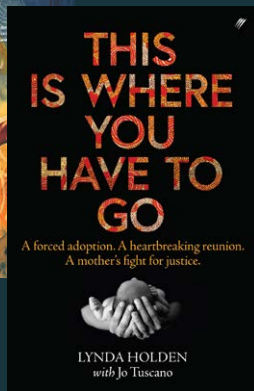
Friday 9 May 7:30pm
Flett Studio (MEC)



Warren Fahey's Bush Ballads, Folk Songs and City Dities

Celebrate 60 years of musical heritage with Warren Fahey in concert, joined by the talented Marcus Holden and Garry Steel! This special performance brings to life the timeless stories, songs, and history of Australia's past, through Fahey's unique blend of storytelling and folk music.

Thursday 15 May Flett Studio (MEC) 1pm and Forster Civic Centre 4pm



Lynda Holden, Jo Tuscano and John Heath

Join senior Dhungatti-Birapai woman Lynda Holden and co-author Jo Tuscano along with senior Birrpai Goori John Heath for a meaningful discussion about their work, creative processes, and the importance of sharing stories of history. Drawing on personal experience and extensive research, these author events will address the lasting effects of colonisation in the MidCoast region.

Lynda Holden, Jo Tuscano and John Heath, Friday 9 May Forster Civic Centre 10.30am
Lynda Holden and Jo Tuscano, Friday 23 May Gloucester Library 10.30am



Tales Beneath the Surface

Storytellers are invited to share their story with a supportive audience alongside the sea with MidCoast Stories. Inspired by the theme of "Deep Water," we're looking for stories that explore the theme in any way you choose.

Saturday 3 May Old Bar Surf Club 6pm



Heartfelt Pets

What is your favourite pet story? Something funny? Something adorable? Fibre artist Gemma Lee will guide you through the creative process to recreate this memory by using a variety of techniques including mixed media collage and needle felting.

Friday 16 May Harrington Library 10am – 12pm



The Search for a Song

Join Scott Greenaway from EMG Music Hub and tell your tale through song. Discover the inspiration within, your individual voice of expression and connection to feelings and thoughts through music.

Tuesday 29 April Forster Civic Centre 6 – 7.30pm
Wednesday 30 April Wingham Library 6 – 7.30pm
Saturday 10 May Gloucester Library 2 – 3.30pm



Storytime Visits

See illustrations in clay and piano keys right on the page with special visits from Emma Stephenson and Madeleine Hayes. Bookings not required, just come along.

Tuesday 13 May Wingham Library 10.30am
Wednesday 14 May Forster Library 10.30am
Thursday 15 May Taree Library 10.30am
Friday 16 May Hallidays Point Library 10.30am



Wish You Were Here

Stroll through our coastal town's history, using vintage postcards as our guide with MidCoast Stories. Visit Forster's landmarks as they once were, uncover hidden stories and hear the past come to life.

Wednesday 7 May
Forster Civic Centre
10.30am – 12pm



The Changing Nature of Wallis Lake

Join Local Land Services and Council staff for an interactive story-walk along Wallis Lake. Learn about the unique ecology and explore the area's natural significance.

Thursday 8 May
Forster Civic Centre
10am – 12.30pm



Cultural Heritage Nature Walk

Experience a guided walk through Booti Booti National Park where participants will learn about traditional Aboriginal resources and ways of life from a National Parks and Wildlife Service guide.

Saturday 10 May
Tiona 1 – 3pm

Interactive Story Collage

Be inspired by what came before you, give the plot the twist it needs, lay the groundwork for a happy ending or maybe even devise a tragic one.

Simply submit your addition and check back to see if it made the cut and got published! Make your contribution to our story smorgasbord and go into the draw to win a double pass to a range of fantastic MEC shows.

Scan the QR code to enter now.

