

BYRON BAY WRITERS FESTIVAL 2007

Byron Inside Out

You'll be lost for words at the Byron Bay Writers Festival.

Not just for writers but the ultimate indulgence for all who find joy between the pages of a book, the Festival promises to open your mind with passionate debate, challenging workshops, intimate conversations, feasts for body and soul, poetry slams, book launches and authors guaranteed to make you laugh, make you swoon and show you new ways of viewing our world. This intoxicating Festival set against the spectacular coastline of Byron Bay invites you to come with an open mind and leave with indelible memories of the most beautiful literary event in Australia.

From its birth in 1997 as a single venue event boasting fifty writers and two hundred visitors, the Festival has matured to encompass a week of workshops and multiple venues which now welcomes more than a hundred authors of Australian and international significance. The Byron Bay Writers Festival attracts thousands of readers avid for encounters with the big thinkers, and provides the perfect stimulating yet relaxed arena for those keen to combine their love of literature and ideas with an authentic Byron Bay experience.

Think of the perfect holiday: for most of us it includes luxuriating on a pristine beach in the company of a great book. At the Byron Bay Writers Festival, the chances are that the author of that book will be sifting the sand right beside you. Australia's most welcoming literary Festival enables writers of national and international renown to get up close and meaningful with the readers who love them, as well as showcasing the most compelling and freshest new voices. Author Robert Drewe, a guest of the inaugural and many subsequent Festivals, said "There's only about three places in Australia outside the cities where you could hold a Festival dealing with 'deep down things' and Byron's one of them."

On the last weekend of July, the lush tropical grounds of the Byron Bay Beach Resort play host to the beautiful silken flags and vast white marquees where the celebration of words and ideas unfolds. With five venues to choose from, visitors to the Festival can immerse themselves in panels and conversations covering the entire range of topics and genres. Whether your fetish is poetry or performing art, journalism or fiction, history or humour, you're promised an unforgettable taste of Byron Bay and contemporary culture. Like the fabulous coffee to be enjoyed on site, the Festival has an intense local flavour but a richness that has earned it an international profile. And all this against the backdrop of sand, surf and skies that take your breath away, just five minutes from the heart of town.

Literary lunches are a popular feature of this Festival and a range of topics and options are offered at some of Byron's most feted restaurants. And for those whose love of words urges them to write, the Festival is preceded by five days of workshops, conducted by foremost industry professionals.

Admittance to the events at the Byron Bay Writers Festival site is via the purchase of a 3 Day or 1 Day Pass. A substantial range of Feature Events and single sessions is also offered at selected external venues, for which individual tickets may be bought. And if you're travelling with children, Festival Saturday has a venue devoted entirely to the best kids' authors.

Festival dates, information and ticket sales are available at www.byronbaywritersfestival.com or call Jetset Byron Bay on 02 6685 6262.