

BRWF 2024 VOLUNTEER APPLICATION GUIDE



Thank you for your interest in joining the Bellinggen Readers and Writers Festival 2024 (BRWF) volunteer team!

Each year we are delighted to have an amazing team of volunteers who dedicate their time and energy to create a dynamic Festival for our readers and writers. BRWF greet people with a friendly smile, answer questions about the program, keep our queues orderly and the authors on time. For most attendees, our volunteers are the face of the BRWF. The extraordinary work of our volunteer team is a major part of the BRWF success.

In 2024 we will be conducting the Festival at the Bellinggen Memorial Hall, St Andrew's church and grounds, and across the road in Maam Gaduying Park

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WILL ASSIST YOU TO FILL OUT THE VOLUNTEER APPLICATION FORM

Volunteer rosters are decided according to the times and dates you are available, the type and number of shifts you prefer and the roles you are interested in doing. This document will explain what you can expect from your time as a volunteer, what tasks you might be doing while on shift, and what we are looking for in your application.

VOLUNTEER CONDITIONS

Volunteers:

- **Must be over 18**
- Are expected to be available to work approximately 8-10 hours over the 3-day event
- Will not receive any financial compensation from BRWF.
- Are responsible for their own transport to and from the Festival.
- Must attend a Volunteers Briefing/Induction.
- Will have their photo on their Volunteer lanyard.
- Are covered by BRWF's Public Liability Insurance.
- Will be required to sign on and off a daily register each day they volunteer at the Festival.

SHIFT LOCATIONS

The BRWF is held at the Bellingen Memorial Hall, St. Andrews Church and surrounds and across the road in Maam Gaduying Park in the town of Bellingen on the NSW North Coast on Friday 7, Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 June 2024. The following venues will be part of this year's Festival:

- Main Hall, Bellingen Memorial Hall
- Studio, Bellingen Memorial Hall
- Book Warehouse Bookshop, St. Andrew's Church
- Local Authors and FringeFest Marquee, Maam Gaduying Park
- Green Room, Uniting Church Hall

By the start of the Festival, all volunteers should be familiar with the layout of the Festival. You will be provided with a map and information about the venues, a tour of the Festival area, and instructions for your arrival.

Volunteers will sign in at the Green Room within the Uniting Church Hall and then disperse to a specific location within walking distance.

Volunteers are required to wear their lanyard and closed-in shoes while on their shifts.

SHIFT TIMES

BRWF requires volunteers at various times throughout the Festival. If you are particularly interested in performing a particular role, remember that **consistent availability over consecutive days** will be of most help to the position.

There are 3 shifts per day:

MORNING	START: 8am FINISH: 1pm
AFTERNOON	START: 1pm FINISH: 5pm
EVENING	START: 5pm FINISH: 10pm

Shift start and finish times may vary as each venue has different requirements. Most shifts are 4-5 hours. Your roster will specify the exact shift times required of you on the day.

A light meal will be available before or after your shifts only. You will be asked to specify any dietary requirements at the end of the application form.

PREFERRED NUMBER OF SHIFTS

Every volunteer **must do a minimum of 2 shifts** though you may like to do more. You will be asked to specify your ideal number of shifts on the application form.



PRE-FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERING

In the week leading up to the Festival, volunteers may be required to help with transportation of authors to and from schools and to their accommodation. There may also be other tasks such as preparation of welcome material, lanyards for volunteers and site management activities.

COMPULSORY VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION DAY

The **compulsory** volunteer orientation day will take place from 9.30am-12.30pm on Saturday 1st June 2024. You will be notified of the venue closer to the date.

As the location of the Festival has changed for 2024, it is important that **ALL VOLUNTEERS** attend the orientation day so that they are spatially aware of and prepared for, their duties during the Festival.

The team will be briefed on general Festival information by BRWF committee members, taken on a tour of the Festival venues, given a full safety briefing and then, after a short break, a more detailed view of the systems relating to our volunteer team this year.

Please Note: non-attendance at Orientation Day means you may not be able to volunteer. While it is understandable that an emergency or unexpected event might prevent a prospective volunteer from attending the orientation, if you miss Orientation Day, your participation in the Festival is not guaranteed.

VOLUNTEER BENEFITS

All volunteers will be given a welcome kit and a lanyard to wear which identifies them to the general public.

The lanyard provides entry for the volunteers to all non sell-out Festival events.

Volunteers will have access to the Green Room and will be provided with a light meal either before or after their shifts.

VOLUNTEER ROLES PREFERRED

It is recommended that you remain open to perform multiple roles as this increases your chance of being given a roster. If you are happy to help with whatever is needed then please select all boxes on the application form and consider yourself a star!

If you have particular skills or experience that would suit a certain role, please note this on the application form.

The 2024 BRWF volunteer roles are:

- Production: Site Management Assistant
- Transfer of authors between accommodation and between schools (week preceding the Festival).



- Author airport transfers
- Transfers of authors between accommodation and the Festival
- Usher at venues
- Ticket sales*
- Venue set up and take down
- Green room catering assistant
- Conduct visitor surveys
- Floater

Production: Site Management Assistant

Please note this role requires you to be available during the day in the week leading up to the Festival and the day after the Festival. You will need physical strength and stamina. Tasks involve assisting the Site Manager with the placement of signs around the venues, set up of Festival flags, unpacking chairs, locating and emptying garbage bins.

Transfer of authors between accommodation and between schools (week preceding the Festival).

Please note this role requires you to be available during the day in the week leading up to the Festival. The BRWF Schools Program will be run in the week leading up to the Festival. The program involves schools in the Coffs Coast Region, not just Bellingen. Volunteers will drive authors involved in the Program to and from their accommodation and the schools they are visiting. Volunteers will need to use their own cars and have comprehensive car insurance.

Author airport transfers

Many authors will be arriving to the region via air transport into Coffs Harbour Airport. Volunteers will meet authors at the airport baggage collection area. They will carry a BRWF sign. It is a good idea to read up on the authors being picked up so that you can be familiar with what they look like and their particular area of literary interest. Authors are billeted within the community, so volunteers will need to be familiar with where they're staying.

When taking authors to departures, collection times will be designed to ensure authors get to the airport at least an hour before their flight departs. Some will need to leave straight after a session and will have their bags with them. Volunteers will need to use their own cars and have comprehensive car insurance.

Transfers of authors between accommodation and the Festival

Authors are billeted within the community. Most billet locations are within walking distance of the Festival site. Volunteers will be required to drive authors to and from their accommodation and the Festival site. Volunteers will need to be familiar with where they're staying. Volunteers will need to use their own cars and have comprehensive car insurance.



Usher at venues

Ushers work in small teams to check event tickets, organise queues and ensure a smooth changeover between events. As queues can become quite long, volunteers will need to work as a team to manage the queues effectively.

Ticket sales

The box office is located at the front of the Bellingham Memorial Hall where Festival goers can collect tickets and programs. Volunteers will assist the ticket sales team but will not handle any financial transactions, cash or otherwise. Volunteers will need to be IT savvy.

*Volunteers will need to be available in the week leading up to the Festival for specific ticketing training. If you wish to take up this role, please indicate on your application that you are available in the week leading up to the Festival. Shifts are likely to be 2 hours duration for this role and volunteers will be expected to do at least 4 x 2 hour shifts.

Venue set up and take down

Volunteers help with behind-the-scenes set up and pack down of Festival venues. Tasks may include arranging chairs, carrying equipment between venues, clearing away rubbish, running errands, checking for lost items, and refilling water jugs for the stage. Glasses will be swapped for clean ones in the Green Room. This role suits physically active volunteers who enjoy being behind-the-scenes with the production team.

Green room catering assistant

The Green Room is the headquarters for all volunteer shifts at the Festival. Catering for authors, presenters and volunteers is located in the Green Room. All volunteers will check in here each day. The Green Room catering assistants will primarily assist in the kitchen which caters to all authors and volunteers. A willingness to prepare and serve food is essential for this role.

Conduct visitor surveys

Volunteers will spread out among the Festival goers to ask them to take a short survey. This work allows BRWF to apply for funding, program events relevant to Festival goers, and improve our customer experience across the Festival.

Floater

Floater are very important: they are often asked to assist multiple teams throughout a shift, helping when there is an unexpected surge in crowds, or replacing another volunteer when they get called away, or when a crucial task for BRWF staff needs doing very quickly. Floaters can offer assistance anywhere, to anyone, and so will provide much needed support at challenging times. Note: this is not a 'spare' position, but rather, one that is quite crucial to the smooth operation of our team!

YOU NOW HAVE ALL THE INFORMATION YOU NEED TO COMPLETE THE VOLUNTEER APPLICATION FORM.



AFTER APPLICATIONS CLOSE

Your roster will be built after applications close at midnight on **Sunday 31st March 2024**. As the rosters are determined by availability, we cannot guarantee that all applicants will receive a roster, though you will stand a better chance of success if you are open to a broad range of roles, shifts and dates. Ultimately, your availability determines your eligibility for a volunteer position.

Getting your roster

We will begin the roll out of the rosters on or by Friday 10 May 2024 and all volunteer applicants will have heard from the BRWF whether successful or unsuccessful in their application by this date.

Please ensure you reply to all emails from volunteers@bellingenwritersFestival.com.au, the Volunteer Coordinator, and confirm your roster as soon as you receive it. If at any time you are no longer available for one or all of the shifts allocated to you, please let the Volunteer Coordinator know as soon as possible so that we can change your roster.

Volunteer Satisfaction

BRWF believe there is a strong link between volunteers' satisfaction and the success of the Festival. We know that providing clear information about your role as a volunteer will help you enjoy your time with us. In order to better prepare you for your role as a volunteer, we will:

- Introduce the different volunteer roles to you in this document
- Email you information about your shifts once rosters are complete
- Provide further information and relevant training at the Orientation Day
- Have the Volunteer Coordinator to guide you while on shift

Our promise

In return for your commitment to volunteer throughout the Festival, we commit to taking all practical steps to ensure we deliver a volunteer program that is both engaging and rewarding for you to participate in. We promise to:

- Be reliable in our dealings with you
- Build rosters that are balanced
- Provide useful information and training in your role
- Give you clear instructions in a friendly and respectful way
- Recognise the value of your efforts
- Provide you with a safe working environment
- Respect your feedback
- Help you to enjoy your time at the Festival with us
- Provide you with entry to Festival events

THANK YOU!

We appreciate that you are considering offering your time to the Bellingen Readers and Writers Festival.

BRWF is one of the largest regional literary Festivals in Australia. It remains one of the most inviting and friendly Festivals to attend, for both audiences and authors alike. This is, in part, due to the commitment and friendliness of our wonderful volunteer team.

We look forward to another eventful Festival and hope you will choose to join us as a BRWF volunteer in 2024