



# Wollongong Living Books

Real Stories, Real People



Wollongong City  
Council presents –

## **Wollongong Living Books**

Program  
commenced in  
Wollongong 2008





# What is Living Books?



A program where the 'books' are **people** from a diverse range of backgrounds, who share their own life story and experiences ; 'readers' sit down and have an interactive half-hour conversation



**Wollongong Living Books**  
Real Stories, Real People

Our 'books' are ***real***  
people

Telling their ***real*** stories



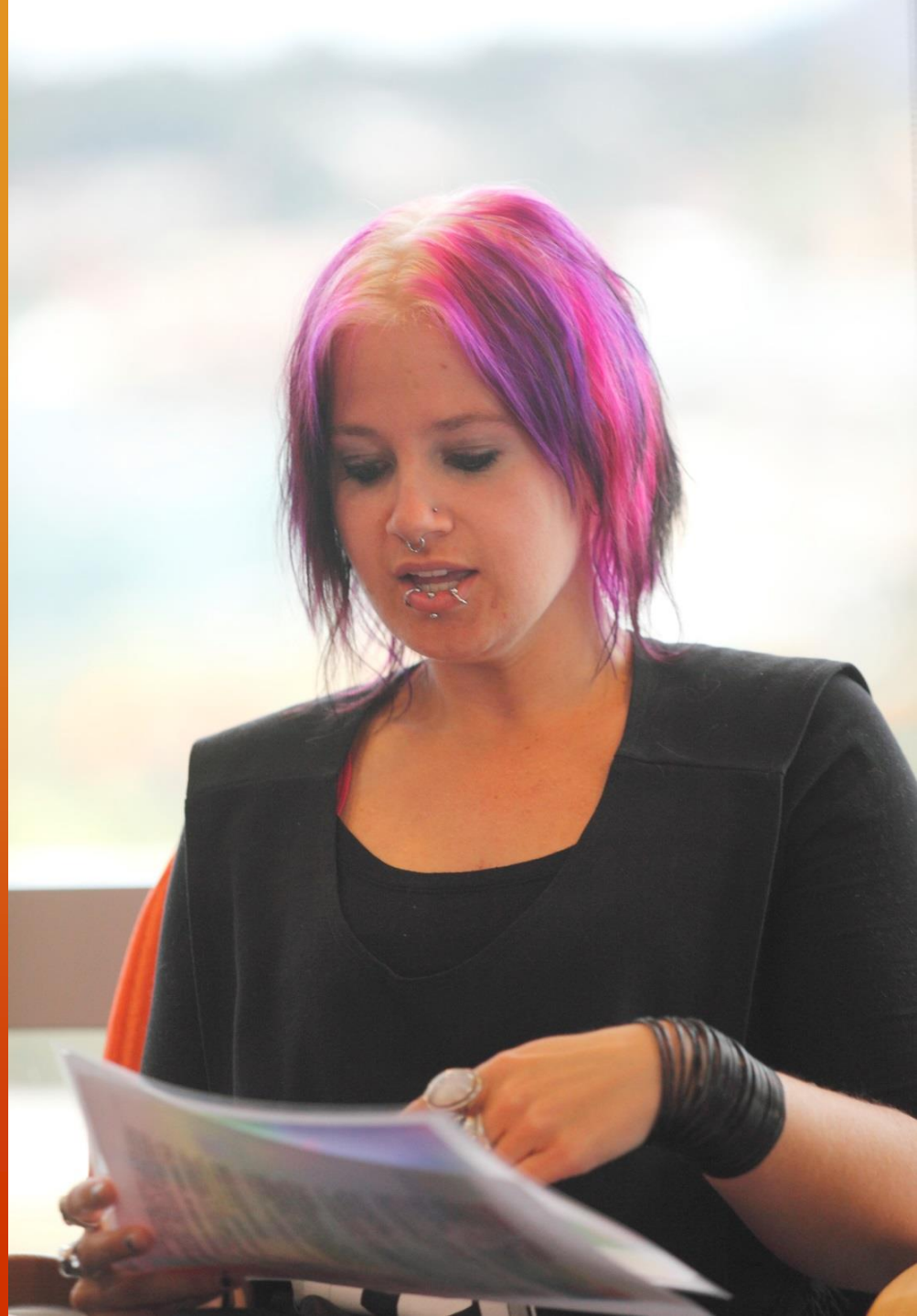
# Our Aims

- Break down and challenge stereotypes
- Build bridges of understanding
- Celebrate diversity
- Allow you to ask questions you have always wanted to ask



# Snap shot

- 27 people who are active 'living books'
- Held 87 events
- 31 High School events
- Visited 14 High Schools
- Visited 13 Organisations
- 8262 conversations
- 4134 readers



We are coming

**Thursday**  
**August 3**





# WHAT HAPPENS ON THE DAY?

- You talk to 2 living 'books'
- Informal conversation
- Ask questions
- Each session is 30 minutes
- First bell - 5 minutes to go
- Second bell - session is over

# WHAT OUR 'BOOKS' DO

- They will share life experiences
- Their story page is a guide
- They may talk about very sensitive issues
- They have an 'ask me anything' approach

# **WHAT STUDENTS ENJOY MOST**

- **the privilege to hear such personal experiences**
- **Asking questions - the 'books' are so open**
- **The wisdom**
- **Getting to hear stories that I would have never been exposed to otherwise**



# STORIES YOU CAN CHOOSE FROM...



# **IN THE SHADOW OF THE BLACK DOG**

**At the top of his  
profession,  
depression struck**

**Signs and symptoms of  
depression**

**Recovery, staying well**



# **I HAVE A DREAM**

**My parents helped formed the Illawarra Aboriginal Advancement League**

**Facing racism with pride of who I am**

**Director of the Board for the Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation and of the Board for the Illawarra Academy of Sport.**

**I am a home owner with three beautiful children**





# **Find Your Cheerleaders**

**Growing up poor in rural Zimbabwe**

**Finding books**

**School, university and beyond**

**Aussie Books for Zim**



# **UNVEILING THE MYTH**

## **Life as a Muslim woman**

### **Common myths:**

- Wearing the veil**
- Oppression of women**
- Halal food**
- Religion v Terrorism**
- Religion v Culture**



# TRUST YOURSELF

- Growing up in Peru – shy & introverted
- Finding a 'gang' in LA
- only one out of my "gang" of 22 to graduate
- Beverly Hills - hair dresser to the stars
- Raising my sons in Miami
- Life in Australia





# **My Transgender Child**

**A story of love and strength –  
a mother's story**

**Things to learn and unlearn**

**Dumb stuff people ask and say**



# A KINGS TALE

**Growing up poor**

**Impact of a father with addiction**

**Overcoming domestic violence**

**Living with blindness**

**'Kingy' my assistance dog**



"Broken glass and rubbish is a problem for Kingy. I lose my independence without him"

Rhiannon  
Fairy Meadow

# The F Word

**Finding feminism, but do I have to burn my bra?**

**Busting myths**

**How domestic violence shaped my life**

**Speaking out**





# LIMBO SPACE

**Orphaned at 2yrs old**

**High school Depression & self medication**

**Substance abuse = addiction**

**Jobless & homeless**

**Detox & Rehab**

**Loss of my son**

**Rebuilding my life**



# LETS HAVE THE OTHER TALK

- **The cycle of an addict**
- **Support for family & friends**
- **Effects of addiction**
- **Perceptions formed by media**



# ***ANY QUESTIONS?***





# ○ Group 1

## ○ Group 2

## ○ Group 3



# SELECTION PROCESS

## Living Books WHSPA GROUP 1

Wollongong City Council

Thursday, 3 August 2017 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm (AEST)

North Wollongong, NSW



### Ticket Information

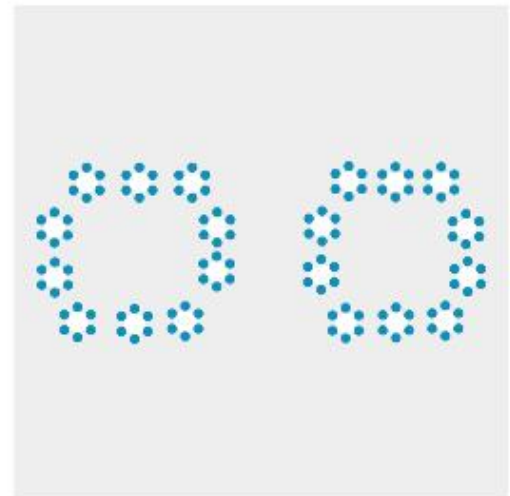
TYPE	END		QUANTITY
Session 1	31/07/2017	Free	0 ▼
Session 2	31/07/2017	Free	0 ▼

[Get Seats](#)

### Who's Going

Oops! We're having trouble connecting to Facebook. Please [try again](#).

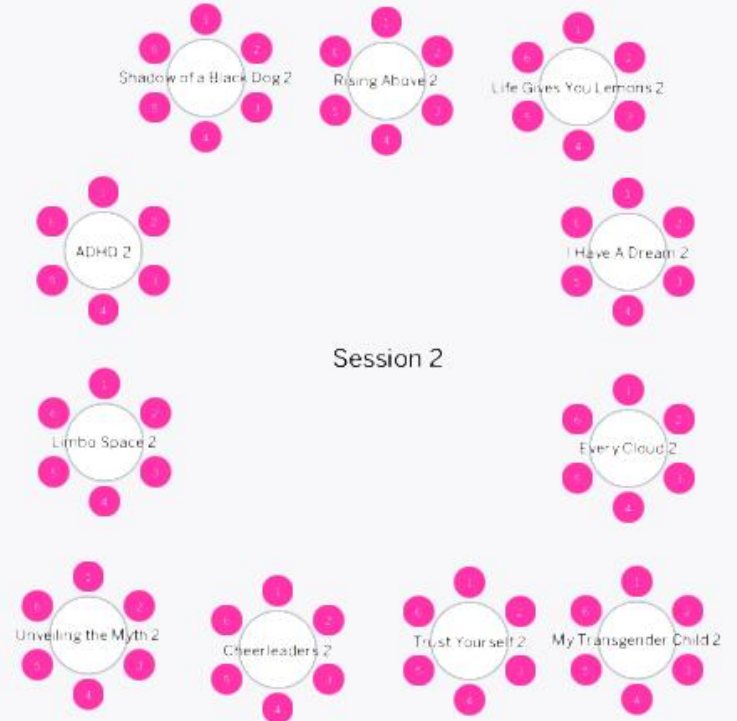
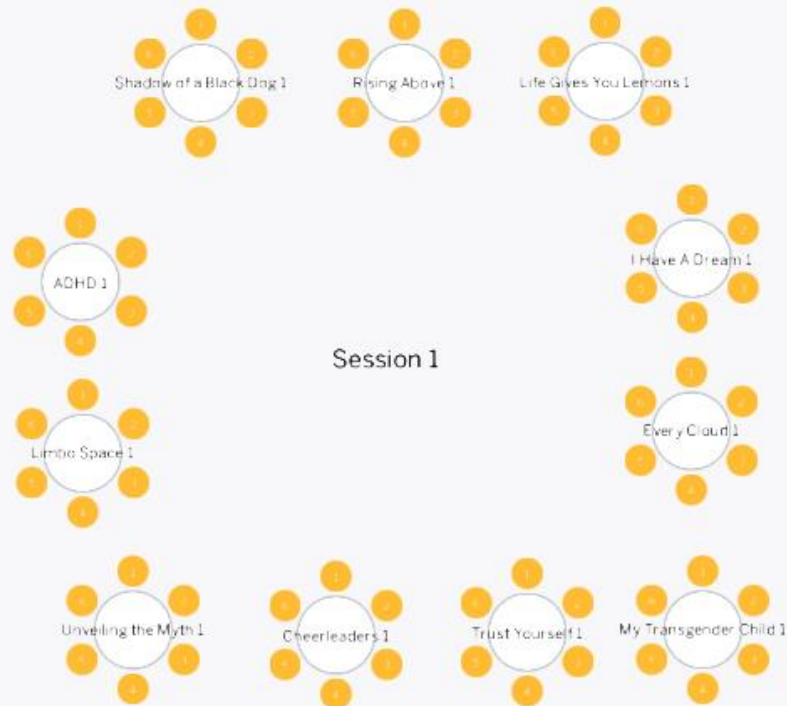
### Event Venue Map



[Select seats on the venue map](#)

# YOU SELECT 2 BOOKS

Zoom in on seats





**If full, CHOOSE ANOTHER BOOK**

**OR LOOK AT SESSION 2**

# TYPE YOUR CONTACT DETAILS

\* Required Field

## Your Information

---

Hi, [tneedham@wollongong.nsw.gov.au](#). Not you? [Sign Out](#)

First Name: \*

Surname: \*

Email Address: \*

## Other Information

---

Did you get your preferred book? \* ☐ Yes ☐ No

By clicking "Complete Registration", I acknowledge that I have read and agree with the Eventbrite [terms of service](#), [privacy policy](#) and [cookie policy](#).

[Complete Registration](#)

# CONFIRMATION – PDF

[Back to Living Books Group](#)

## You're going to Living Books Group 1!

 [Add to calendar](#)

---

Your order has been saved to My Tickets

- ✓ Order number 497128657 1 ticket
- ✓ Your ticket has been sent to **tneedham@wollongong.nsw.gov.au**

[GO TO MY TICKETS](#)

Hi Tracey,  
See you at the event!

 Thanks,  
Wollongong City  
Council

Questions about this event?

[CONTACT US](#)

 [View organiser profile](#)



497128657627162495001



Event

# Living Books Group 1



Date+Time

Thursday, 17 March 2016 from  
8:50 AM to 9:40 AM (AEDT)

Location

Dapto High School  
Cleveland Road  
Dapto, NSW 2530  
Australia

Payment Status

Free Order

Order Info

Order no. 497128657. Ordered by Tracey Needham on 3 March 2016 2:28 PM



Type

Shadow of a Black Dog [Orange]



# **GOOGLE LIVING BOOKS**

Click on first link - WCC

**Click on group 1, 2 or 3**