



Library book club guidelines for onsite groups

Inner West Council Libraries organise book clubs for each of its branches including book loans. Clubs meet once a month and are limited to ten members. Participation in these organised clubs is subject to the following guidelines.

Book clubs

- Are enjoyable and informal meetings.
- Self-run.
- Limited to 10 members.
- Meet monthly in the library, during school term.
- Open to members of the public to join.

What do I need to join?

- Become a library member. Membership is free and open to everybody.

Library book clubs are in high demand. If there is no availability at your preferred location, staff will give you the option to join a waitlist.



Guidelines for club members

- Follow the [library user guidelines](#), including:
 - ✓ Be respectful of others.
 - ✓ Be polite to others and respect cultural differences.
 - ✓ Respect the rights of all library users and staff.
- Attend meetings in person. We understand you may not make every meeting. However, please let us know if your availability changes.
- Return books according to instructions, by the due date.

Self-run

- Choose and reserve which books the club will read.
 - ✓ Staff can help you borrow from the extensive book club collection or use the multi-access eLibrary.
 - ✓ Clubs work best when democratic and when everyone contributes suggestions for the next read.
- Nominate one person to act as an 'organiser'. The organiser will:
 - ✓ Act as point of contact with library staff, on behalf of the group.
 - ✓ Reserve the books that the group chooses to read. Library staff can assist with reserving book club sets.



- Tips for the discussion:
 - ✓ Share the responsibility for finding a little about the author, presenting a few reviews and keeping the discussion focused on the book.
 - ✓ Go around the table to see what else members have been reading. This can generate more discussion and ideas for future books.
 - ✓ If disagreement arises, take steps to resolve it as a group. Remember, don't take it too seriously. It's meant to be an enjoyable time together. Contact library staff immediately if conflict or behaviour occurs that violates the library user guidelines.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can my friend join the library book club?

Yes, if there is a vacancy. Please enquire with library staff. All Inner West library book clubs are open to members of the public to join. There may be a waitlist, and vacancies will be filled on a first come, first served basis.

Are book clubs catered?

No, Inner West libraries does not provide catering or beverages for book club meetings.



What books are available for clubs to read?

The library offers an extensive book club collection (10 per set) borrowable for six weeks. You can browse the collection using the [online catalogue](#).

Alternatively, use the library's multi-access eAudioBooks or eBooks for your book club, where there are no waiting periods!

We recommend you do not choose books from the general lending collection, from other public libraries, or brand-new releases, unless the club has come to this decision as a group. There may not be copies available for everyone, and library staff cannot guarantee you will receive the book in time for your meeting.

How do I borrow from the book club collection?

Book clubs can pick up their next read from the information desk at the library where they meet. Staff will provide you with instructions specific to your club and location.

Where do I return books?

Please return the book at your meeting. Late returns may affect other book clubs who have reserved the set next. It is important to return the book at the library where your club meets, to avoid confusion. Please let staff know if you cannot return the book on time.

INNER WEST

Can I request a book to be added to the book club collection?

Yes, we regularly review our book club collection. We may add popular books to the collection once they are no longer in high borrowing demand. Please let staff know if there is a particular title you are interested in.

Where do we meet?

Library staff will provide a regular reserved space in the library. If the meeting location changes for any reason, staff will advise the club organiser in advance.

Do library staff facilitate the book club discussion?

Library book clubs are self-run. Library Programming staff are available to assist the club with any enquiries and provide customer service, however, staff do not facilitate discussion or stay for the duration of the event.

I am travelling, can I pick up the book early, or return it late?

No, book club sets are borrowable for a maximum of 6 weeks. If you are travelling, check if the book is available to borrow from the general collection or eLibrary. Or speak to library staff for assistance.

INNER WEST

Can library staff put me in touch with another club member?

The library service does not disclose personal information. Library membership details are confidential under Australian Privacy Laws.