

A History Month Special: Sarah Smith, author of 'The Sawmiller's Daughter'

Overview

Step into Australia's past with this powerful debut novel from Dorrigo-based author Sarah Smith.

Join us for a History Month special event with Dorrigo author Sarah Smith.

Step into Australia's past with this powerful debut novel from Dorrigo-based author Sarah Smith. Set against the rugged beauty of the Eastern Dorrigo Plateau, *The Sawmiller's Daughter* follows the protagonists, Margaret "Mag" McClement, a determined young woman growing up in the demanding world of the timber industry.

From the hardships of the Great Depression to the upheaval of World War II, Mag's journey is one of resilience, ambition, and courage. Raised among sawdust and struggle, she defies expectations and a difficult family life to carve out her own place in a male-dominated industry, driven by grit, loyalty, and an unbreakable spirit.

Come and hear Sarah read a select passage from her book and be immersed in the world of Margaret 'Mag' McClement. Hear about Sarah's local historical inspiration for the book and the process that led her from a seed of an idea to the celebrated published work we see today.

Books available to purchase on the day.

Date: Saturday 1 August 2026

Time: 10.30 - 11.30am (book sales and signing to follow)

Location: Leaning Lab, Library Level 2, Harry Bailey Memorial Place, Yarrila Place

Fee: Free, bookings required.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Sarah Smith grew up in Port Macquarie and joined the Royal Australian Navy at the age of eighteen. Following a diverse and rewarding career across a range of industries, she now enjoys spending time with her family, camping, cooking and reading.

In 2024, Sarah completed an Advanced Creative Writing course through the Academy of Creative Writing in Melbourne, where she discovered a passion for storytelling. Drawing inspiration from the rich history of the Dorrigo region, she went on to write *The Sawmiller's Daughter*, her debut novel.