



# Judging Panel 2024

## GENERAL INFORMATION FOR ENGLISH JUDGES

Expressions of interest in being a judge of the New Zealand Book Awards for Children and Young Adults are invited from members of the public with relevant experience, and from the children's literature community. They may be authors, publishers, academics, reviewers, critics, booksellers, teachers, librarians, and beyond. What is important is that they have:

- A wide knowledge and appreciation of New Zealand children's literature.
- Relevant experience and/or qualifications and a recognised standing in the field of children's literature.
- An appreciation of book illustration and design.
- Ideally some knowledge of te reo Māori, and appreciation of te ao Māori.
- The ability and a commitment to work to the timelines required for the judging process.
- The availability to travel as required to judging panel meetings and to the awards ceremony.

Judging of the titles submitted in the English language and bilingual categories, as well as the Illustration category, will be undertaken by a team of five judges, one of whom will be appointed as convenor. The five judges will be appointed to the panel by the New Zealand Book Awards Trust Te Ohu Tiaki i Te Rau Hiringa.

The Trust will also separately select and appoint three fluent te reo Māori speakers to judge Te Kura Pounamu Award for books written entirely in (or translated entirely into) te reo Māori. A general information pack for prospective judges for Te Kura Pounamu category can be found [here](#).

### **Role of the English judging panel**

The five-person judging panel has responsibility for:

- Working with the Awards Administrator to meet judging deadlines.
- Reading all books entered (approximately 150) and establishing a shortlist of up to five titles in each of the following categories:
  - Picture Book Award
  - Junior Fiction Award
  - Young Adult Fiction Award
  - Non-fiction Award
  - Illustration Award
  - Best First Book Award

- Attending one briefing meeting and at least three judging meetings (three of these meetings will be via Zoom and one in-person), and the awards ceremony.
- Selecting a winner in each of the four English language and bilingual categories, the Illustration category and the Best First Book Award (the latter in consultation with Te Kura Pounamu panel if te reo Māori titles are eligible).
- Together with Te Kura Pounamu panel, selecting the Margaret Mahy Book of the Year from the six main category winners (including Te Kura Pounamu winner, but excluding Best First Book).
- Sharing the tasks of writing comments on each of the finalists for the finalists' booklet and website, and preparing speeches and citations for the winning books to be read at the awards ceremony.
- Participating in presentations at the awards ceremony.
- Contributing to the preparation of a confidential report on the judging process for the Book Awards Trust.

**NB:** Bilingual books are eligible in the categories which the English-language panel will judge, and the organisers welcome applicants with a deep knowledge of te ao Māori and te reo Māori, to provide a Māori lens on both these and all the entries.

### **Role of the convenor of English language judges**

The convenor of the five-person English judging panel has responsibility for:

- Selecting the remaining judges in discussion with the Book Awards Trust.
- Attending one briefing meeting and at least three judging meetings (three of these meetings will be via Zoom and one in-person), and the awards ceremony.
- Guiding the judging process, in consultation with the Awards Administrator.
- Ensuring deadlines for judging are met.
- Developing a strong rapport with Te Kura Pounamu convenor to facilitate collaboration of the two panels.
- Advising the Awards Administrator, in confidence, of the judges' decisions on finalists and winners, by the agreed deadlines.
- Liaising with the Awards Administrator and publicist on administration and public relations questions.
- Representing the judging panel in media and public relations activities (e.g. meeting with sponsor representatives, press interviews). The convenor must be available (possibly during the day or evening) for media interviews for the key periods of the finalists' and winners' announcements.
- Compiling the written judges' comments and statements on finalists and winners for publication on the website and in the finalists' booklet.
- Preparing a statement providing an overview of the judging process and commenting in general terms on the nature and calibre of the entries, how the judges approached their task etc, to be read at the awards ceremony.
- Participating in presentations at the awards ceremony.
- Preparing a confidential report on the judging process, with recommendations, for the Book Awards Trust.

### **Specialist advisors**

The judging panel may wish to consult with outside experts on specific questions or issues. The Awards Administrator will organise an appropriate advisor.

## **New Zealand Book Awards Trust**

The New Zealand Book Awards Trust Te Ohu Tiaki i Te Rau Hiringa represents the interests of the groups involved in the development of the NZ Book Awards for Children and Young Adults, in addition to the Ockham New Zealand Book Awards, and Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day. The Trust has established the policy and direction for the NZ Book Awards for Children and Young Adults, and is committed to ensuring a high public profile for the Awards and associated promotional activities.

### Current Members of the NZ Book Awards Trust are:

Publishers Association of New Zealand, Claire Murdoch

Booksellers Aotearoa New Zealand, Renée Rowland

Library and Information Association of New Zealand Aotearoa (LIANZA), Laura Caygill

New Zealand Society of Authors, Melinda Szymanik

Independent members, Nicola Legat (chair), Rachael King, Richard Pamatatau, and Garth Biggs

### **Role of Awards Administrator**

It is the Awards Administrator's role to support and assist the judges in the judging process and to ensure deadlines for the judging process are met. While the Awards Administrator may attend judging meetings, they have no involvement in the judging decisions. Judges may call for advice or assistance at any time during the judging process and should direct all communication through the Awards Administrator.

### **Judging Timeline / Commitment**

#### **2023**

25 Oct – Expressions of interest due from potential judges

Mid Nov – Judging panel confirmed

16 Nov – Call for submissions from publishers for 2024 NZ Book Awards for Children & Young Adults

Early Dec – Judging panel announced (media release)

Early Dec – Judges' briefing meeting (via Zoom)

Mid-Dec 2023 to end Mar 2024 – Judges' reading period. Books will be sent to the judges in batches (approx 150 books in total)

#### **2024**

Early April – Judges' finalists meeting (via Zoom)

Mid- to late May – Judges' category winners meeting (in-person, location tbc)

Mid- to late June – Judges' meeting to decide the Margaret Mahy Book of the Year (via Zoom)

Early to mid-August – Awards Ceremony (in Wellington)

## **Honoraria & Expenses**

Judges receive a full set of books submitted for the awards together with an honorarium for English language judges of \$1,500 (ex GST, before tax). The convenor of judges in the English language section will receive an honorarium of \$1,800 (ex GST, before tax).

Travel for attendance at meetings and the awards ceremony will be arranged by the Awards Administrator and costs borne by the Trust. Any other reasonable expenses which are incurred by the judges in connection with their task, such as postage or telephone calls, will be reimbursed.

## **Selection process**

The English language judging panel will be selected by board members of the New Zealand Book Awards Trust, along with the Awards Administrator and 2024 convenor of judges. Geographic, cultural and community representation, as well as relevant qualifications and experience, will all be considered in the final make-up of the panel. The Book Awards Trust reserves the right not to appoint from the applications received, and reserves the right to appoint by invitation. Unsuccessful applicants will be advised before the panel is announced, and are welcome to reapply in subsequent years.