

**PHANTOM
BILLSTICKERS**

**NATIONAL
POETRY
DAY AUG22**

**EVENT GUIDELINES
& REGISTRATION PACK**

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Overview

Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day is a nationwide celebration of poetry in New Zealand, held in 2025 on **Friday 22 August**. The day consists of a series of coordinated public events and activities which give local communities the chance to enjoy, discover, share and explore New Zealand poetry. This is the twenty-eighth year of the event, organised in association with the New Zealand Book Awards Trust and sponsored by Phantom Billstickers.

This pack contains all the information and resources you will need to successfully **organise, promote, execute** and **report** on your own Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day event or activity. Even if you are a return organiser, we encourage you to read the contents of this pack carefully, as it includes important dates and other requirements for registration.

Please note the following dates and deadlines for 2025:

- **Seed Funding Applications:** due 3 June
- Seed Funding Allocations advised: 19 June
- **Registrations not requiring Seed Funding:** due 14 July
- Event Posters and Calendar blurbs: due 16 July
- **Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day: Friday 22 August 2025**
- **Online Evaluation Reports:** due 12 September 2025

If you have questions unanswered by this information pack, please contact National Coordinator, Gill Hughes, at poetryday@nzbookawards.org.nz.

What is Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day?

Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day gives communities all over New Zealand an opportunity to enjoy poetry off the page: to discover local poets, share their own work and explore the poet inside themselves. It is a series of coordinated public events and activities created by independent event organisers from across the country. Each event aims to involve as many people as possible in celebrating New Zealand poetry.

The **objectives** of Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day 2025 are:

- To encourage access to poetry in a variety of communities
- To popularise poetry with new audiences
- To celebrate the unique and vibrant voices that make up New Zealand poetry
- To support new and emerging poets

To find out more about Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day, visit our [website](#).

Organising Your Event

Your Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day event or activity can be anything that promotes New Zealand poetry or poets to the public. If you register your event, it will be included in the official calendar of events promoted to the national media and publicised on the NPD website and social media pages. The national coordinator will be with you each step of the way.

When organising your event, you will need to decide on your:

- Event activity
- Date, time and venue
- Entry cost
- Audience
- Budget ([see p.7](#))
- Promotion strategy ([see p.9](#))

Stuck for ideas? Examples of successful Poetry Day events and activities have included:

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| * Open mic nights | * Collaborative performances |
| * Poetry readings | * Street-chalking events |
| * Poetry slams | * Music-poetry jams |
| * Visual poetry projects | * Haiku battles |
| * Improv contests | * Public workshops |
| * Creative challenges | * Online events |

Think BIG. What would attract a large audience?

Event Guidelines

To be considered for seed funding or to be promoted on our official calendar, your event should follow the official **core criteria** for Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day events. These are:

1. The event or activity will provide an opportunity for the New Zealand public to experience, create or share poetry, and discover New Zealand poets and poetry books.
2. The event or activity will showcase poetry in an engaging, creative or entertaining way that is likely to attract an audience.
3. The event or activity will promote poetry, New Zealand poets and Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day to new audiences and the wider community. It involves a workable plan to use local and social media to promote each activity, as well as the contributing poets and National Poetry Day itself, to a target audience and the wider community. (see p.9)

As an event organiser, you will be required to create a calendar blurb for the national calendar for each activity. You will also be required to create a digital poster, for promotion on the Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day Facebook page and other social media platforms.

4. Entry is free, koha or low-cost.
5. The event or activity takes place on Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day, **Friday 22 August 2025**.
 - i. Prelude and wrap-up events are permitted in the week prior to and the weekend following Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day, provided they will promote the wider calendar of events and be clearly described as warm-up or wind-down/wrap-up activities.
 - ii. For competitions, submission dates should not precede the finalised NPD competitions calendar and should align with the date of Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day in some way. (see p.8)
6. The event should not run at the same time as other events in the same area. Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day is a day of coordinated activities and in places lucky enough to have multiple events, the timetable should allow people to move from one event to another, sampling all that their local poetry scene has to offer. We recommend communicating with other event organisers in your community. You can contact the National Coordinator to query available times or find out who you need to touch base with. Be prepared to be asked to move the time of your event if there is a timetable clash.

Support for Your Event

The following support will be provided to local and regional event organisers:

- Inclusion in the online national calendar of events.
- An organisers' pack of planning and promotional tips, contacts, links and a guide to the process all the way through to reporting.
- Access to the password-protected event organisers' webpage where you will find all the information and digital resources you need, whenever you need them.
- Poster templates, visuals, logo and a press release template for your promotions.
- Promotion of your digital posters on the Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day Facebook and Instagram page.
- Advice and support in developing your event, linking with the poetry community and bringing your event to successful completion – provided by the National Coordinator.
- Exposure to national media coverage of the Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day calendar of events.
- The opportunity to apply for seed funding. Please be aware that available funding is limited, so it shouldn't be your only source of financial support.

Registering Your Event

To register your event, complete the [online registration form](#) available on our website. There is a template available on [page 15](#) of this document if you would like to draft your registration before submitting the online form.

You can register your event up until **the 14th of July 2025** BUT **seed funding applications must be submitted by 3rd June 2025**.

If you are registering multiple events, please provide full information for all activities in one registration form.

All registered events and activities will be included in the national calendar of events provided they meet the Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day event criteria.

By registering you agree to fulfil the minimum criteria for Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day activities.

Applying for Funding

You can apply for Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day seed funding to get your event started, to cover the basics such as poet fees, promotions, venue hire or special materials. Seed funding is limited and may not be used to cover administrative time or catering/refreshments. You are encouraged to seek additional sponsors if further funding is needed.

Events will be considered for funding up to \$250, but this will only be allocated to events with free, koha or low-cost entry. Preference for funding will be given to event organisers who register a number of events, activities with a large community audience, and events on the day itself.

Applications for seed funding are submitted *at the time of registration*, using the online event registration form. Seed funding registrations are due by **3rd June 2025**.

Please note that:

- The seed funding application form requires you to supply a budget detailing how funding will be spent.
- Any funding which may be awarded is GST exclusive.
- Those who are successful in gaining funding and who are registered for GST will need to provide an invoice that includes their GST and account info.

**You will be advised whether your application has been successful
by Thursday 19th June 2025.**

See → Page 8 for information about Running a Competition
or → Page 9 for the requirements for Promoting Your Event

Running a Competition

Writing competitions are a great way to encourage your community to get actively involved with Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day! And they are eligible to receive seed funding. You might wish to run a competition for your town, region or even the whole country. **If you decide to run a competition, make sure you are prepared to run and promote the competition as early as possible. You should allow at least six weeks for entries to be prepared and give as much notice as possible to potential participants.**

Competitions require careful **planning** and **organisation**. Organisers often underestimate the number of entries they will receive, so make sure you have the resources to manage and process the demands of a competition before committing to organising one.

If you are organising a National Poetry Day competition, you will need to consider:

- Who will process entries and forward them to judges?
- Who will judge the competition?
- Will they need to be paid for their time?
- Are they going to be available to deliberate and reach a decision when needed?
- What will be the timeframe for submissions and judging?
- Will there be a range of categories/age groups/themes?
- Will it be open nationwide (and promoted nationally) or will it be a regional competition?
- How will the winner(s) be announced and when? e.g. in your local newspaper and/or at a local event on Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day.
- What kind of prize will be offered?
- Will the winning poems be published somewhere?
- How will copyright issues be managed?

Your competition must:

- Promote the winners and winning poetry.
- Provide participants with a sample of published, contemporary New Zealand poetry to read for inspiration.
- Seek a high participant rate.
- Be open to email submissions.

See → Page 13 for a template of the **Competition Calendar Blurb**.
Final blurb copy is due no later than 16 July.

Promoting Your Event

Once you have planned and registered your event, it's time to publicise it! As a local or regional event organiser, **you are required to create an entry for the national calendar of events** for each of your registered activities, so that your event/s may be:

- included in the online calendar of events on the Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day website, which is promoted to national media.
- promoted on the Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day Facebook page and other social media platforms.

See → Page 12 for a template of the **Event Calendar Blurb**.
Please note that your finalised blurb is *due no later than 16th July*.

You are also required to:

- Create a digital poster for online promotion (see p.14).
- **Posters are due Wednesday 16th July 2025.**

In addition to your calendar entry and online poster, we recommend that all event organisers:

- Create at least one online presence for your event in addition to the calendar and your usual website (e.g. Facebook event, X profile, Eventfinda, The Big Idea), and include the URL hyperlinks in your calendar blurb.
- Send a press release to local media to arrange promotional coverage of your event and the nationwide calendar. Any media releases must mention Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day in full (including the sponsor name).

It is a **requirement** to:

- Include the names of all contributing poets in all major promotional materials.
- Prominently display the Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day logo and web address in all promotions.

We encourage you to think of other creative ways to advertise, publicise and promote your event, both online and off! You might like to try poster runs, flyer drops, community notice boards, radio interviews, or even creating your own YouTube videos. The cheapest and strongest promotional tool is social media, in particular Facebook, Instagram and X.

Our hashtag is #NZPoetryDay
Add this to all your social media posts and make your event easy to find!

Executing Your Event

There's a lot involved in executing a successful Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day event, but it's also a lot of fun. Here are some tips to help you keep things organised. Leading up to Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day, you should:

- Organise a few **volunteers** to help you out with your promotions and set-up.
- Prepare a detailed **timetable** or a checklist which makes note of important times, actions, resources and people, and allows for contingency situations.
- Contact all your **participating poets** and make sure they are ready to go.
- Depending on the scale of your event, have a full **production meeting** or run through.
- Check you have the technical equipment you are going to need, and on the delivery of any **hire equipment**.

If you are planning multiple events, prepare a timetable or checklist for each one!

On Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day, you should:

- Work from your **timetable** or checklist to ensure your event runs as smoothly as possible.
- Make sure that **poetry books** are on sale (where possible).
- Remember to **document your work** and to **take photographs**, both for your own records and to assist with reporting.
- Remember to **thank** your participants and sponsors.

Please remember that you are also required to **report** on your event after it has taken place.

See → Page 11 for the requirements for **Reporting Your Event**

Reporting Your National Poetry Day Event

As a registered event coordinator, you are required to submit feedback at the conclusion of your event. This vital information will be summarised for inclusion in a report to the New Zealand Book Awards Trust and our sponsors. It will help us to secure funding to support future events, and to know what kinds of activities to encourage next year.

In your event report, you must provide:

- A **description** of your event
- An **account** of the demographics of your audience/participants
- **Attendance** numbers
- Your **methods** of event promotion

It is also useful to document and evaluate your event for your own purposes. Internal reporting can help you to identify the strengths and weaknesses of your event, and provide a starting point for future events you organise.

An event feedback online form will be sent to you after Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day. The deadline to return these is **Friday 12th September 2025**.



If you have questions unanswered by this information pack, please contact the National Coordinator, Gill Hughes, on poetryday@nzbookawards.org.nz

Calendar Blurb Template for Events and Activities

Use the headings and format outlined below to create calendar blurbs for your Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day events. Submit your final blurb(s) to poetryday@nzbookawards.org.nz by **Wednesday 16th July**, ready for the Event Calendar to go live **Thursday 31st July 2025**.

For competitions, see the **Competitions Calendar Blurb Template**.

Calendar Blurb Template

Event Title: Title as it will appear on the calendar of events and your poster.

Description: Tell people what to expect from your event. Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day wants a short, catchy description of your event. Your blurb should sum up what your event is, who is involved and why they are worth coming to see. You'll also want to tell people who it's for and how they can participate (e.g. bring a poem to share). If you have a theme, this is the place to share it. Please write in the third person and stick to a 100-word limit. Short sentences help. They have more impact too.

Entry Details: Cost. Event open to (e.g. R18, youth or all ages?). Any RSVP requirements.

Date/Times: Day, month, start time – end time.

Location: Venue name and full street-address (including town).

Contact: Name and email (required).

Further Info: Facebook Event | Web address | Eventfinder Listing (at least one is required).

Blurb Example

The Poetry Troupe on Show

Join The Poetry Troupe at The Place on Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day this year. An all-day interactive poetry exhibit gives you the rare opportunity to see The Poetry Troupe's work on show in visual form. Wander around and be inspired. Add to a collaborative poem being created throughout the day. Watch a poetry film in the video booth to experience innovative, local performance poetry. Cast includes Poet 1, Poet 2, Poet 3, and Poet 4 from The Poetry Troupe. All ages welcome.

Entry Details: Free. Open to all ages.

Date/Times: 22 August, 10am-4pm

Location: The Place, 123 Street, Citytown

Contact: Poet 1, poet1@poetrytroupe.co.nz

Further Info: www.facebook.com/poetrytroupe/linkdetails | www.thepoetrytroupe.co.nz/npdevent

Don't forget to name your contributing poets in your blurb – we can't celebrate poetry without celebrating the poets!

Calendar Blurb Template for Writing Competitions

Use the following headings and format outlined below to create calendar blurbs for Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day writing competitions. Submit your **final blurb** to poetryday@nzbookawards.org.nz for the Competition Calendar **by 16th July 2025**.

Competition Blurb Template

Event Title: Title as it will appear on the calendar of events and your poster - try to make it something that will stand out from other Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day competitions.

Event Description: Please **write in third person** and **stick to a 100-word limit**. Short sentences help. They have more impact too. Tell people about your competition. Your blurb should sum up **what** your competition involves, **who** it is for and who is judging, **why** it is worthwhile entering and why it is happening. You'll also want to tell people how to enter and what they will need to submit. If you have a theme, this is the place to share it.

Entry Details: Cost. Open to (e.g. age and regional restrictions). Submission details (e.g. send your poems with name and contact details by email to?; get entry forms from?).

Submission Dates: Open Date – Close Date.

Contact: Name and Email.

Further Info: Facebook Event | Web address | Event Finder Listing (**at least one is required**).

Blurb Example

National Online Poetry Competition

Mystery District Library is celebrating Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day with an Online Poetry Competition for the whole country. Have your poem published online and be in to win a prize and the glory. Competition open 20th July to 22nd August 2025. Winner announced on Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day. Competition judged by James K Baxter. Send up to 4 poems on any topic. Up to 2 poems per entrant will be published on the Mystery District Library Blog at <http://mysterydistrictlibrarydoesntexist.wordpress.com/>

Entry details: Free to enter. Open to all NZ residents aged 18 and over. Submit your poems and contact details by email to library@thelibrary.com. Limit of 4 poems per entrant.

Submission Dates: 20 July – 22 August 2025

Contact: library@thelibrary.com.

Further Info: See submission guidelines online at mysterydistrictlibrarydoesntexist.wordpress.com/

Visit the 2024 [Competitions Calendar](#) to view examples from last year.

Poster Guidelines

All official Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day events must have a digital poster for online promotions. We recommend that you also print posters and place them in your community and at local events. If you have a limited budget, think about creating a colour poster for online promotion and a black-and-white version for print. **You will need to send a digital copy of your poster in .jpeg format to the National Coordinator by Wednesday 16th July.** You may be asked to edit your poster before it can be approved – it is recommended you use the checklist below and consult with the National Coordinator on your draft prior to the final poster deadline.

Poster Checklist

Things to make sure you have on your poster:

- Event title (matched to calendar listing)
- Venue name
- Town
- Date and time
- Feature poet names
- Entry cost and booking info
- Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day logo (please do not alter the logo in any way)
- National Poetry Day website address – www.poetryday.co.nz

***Look at other event posters to get a feel for what works (and what doesn't).
Remember to spell check!***

Poster Templates

You are welcome to use the 2025 templates on the website as a background for your Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day poster (you will need to be registered to login and access these). There will be two basic digital poster templates to choose from. Or you may choose to design your own poster.

To use a template, simply download the .pdf or .jpeg version you like most in the [Organisers Page](#), open it in Photoshop, Paint, Word or a similar editing programme, add your event details in the white space and you're good to go. The template files are 300 dpi so they are appropriate for printing. You may need to reduce the resolution to create web-friendly versions.

Email your poster in .jpeg format to the National Coordinator before the **final deadline for posters, Wednesday 16th July.**

Poetry Day Registration Form Template

Use the headings below to prepare your registration in a text document you can save, and then enter your information into either the [Event Registration Form](#) (if you are not applying for seed funding) or the [Seed Funding Registration Form](#).

REMEMBER: Seed funding registrations close on Tuesday 3rd June 2025.

1. Region

2. Organisation name

3. Contact details

- Contact person name.....
- Phone.....
- Email.....
- Address.....

4. Title of each event/activity

5. Brief description of each event/activity. (What do you want to do?)

6. Each event date/start time/end time. (Events should be scheduled for Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day, Friday 22 August 2025 or align with the calendar launch dates. Events not scheduled for the actual day must still have some connection to it.)

7. Event address

8. Entry cost

- Free
- Koha/Donation
- Other (eg low cost). Details

9. Target audience:

10. Anticipated attendance

11. Promotions plan (e.g. social media, YouTube, flyers, local media, radio etc)

12. Are you applying for seed funding?

- Yes
- No (Skip Questions 13-20 and go to Declaration at end)

13. Total amount of seed funding sought [up to \$250]

14. Proposed budget (List your expenses and note what items you are requesting seed funding for. Eligible items include poet fees, prizes, special equipment, venue hire and promotional costs. Administration time and catering expenses/refreshments are NOT eligible for seed funding. If you have other sponsorship arranged, list this too. We encourage event coordinators to seek additional sponsorship from other community partners).

15. Is this event contingent on receiving seed funding? (Your response to this question will not affect the decision of the seed funding panel).

- No - your event can be confirmed on registration.
- Yes - you have to wait until funding allocations are advised on **Thursday 19th June**, for event confirmation.

16. Are you GST registered?

- No
- Yes (If your application is successful, you will be asked to send an invoice with your GST details).

17. What bank account would you like seed funding to be paid into, should your application be successful? Please provide bank name, account name, and account number in the following format 1234-1234567-123.

DECLARATION: I / We agree to adhere to the guidelines and reporting requirements. Tick to indicate you agree to each of the following points before signing.

- Act as the official contact person for all events I have registered above.
- Communicate the relevant Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day guidelines to my team.
- Create at least one additional online source of further information about my registered activities.
- Submit a calendar blurb for each event, using the appropriate calendar blurb template.
- Submit a digital poster for each registered event, using the poster guidelines.
- Ensure the Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day logo and web address are included in all promotional materials.
- Engage local media coverage of all activities registered above and Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day itself.
- Submit a report summarising how successful your activities were.
- Provide materials before the required deadlines: 16 July (Event Posters and Calendar Blurbs), 12 September (Online Evaluation Report).
- Promote the name of our generous NPD sponsor Phantom Billstickers wherever possible!

Name:

Signature:

Date:

Scroll down for our Tricks and Tips on Event Planning

Planning Your Event – Step-by-Step

Vision and Ideas

It's important to develop a clear vision for your event, and to ensure that it reflects the primary objective of Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day 2025: **to put poetry into places and formats where it can be enjoyed by New Zealand communities**. When brainstorming your event:

- Consider what your organisation or business wants to **achieve** by being associated with Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day 2025. How are you going to make this happen?
- Try to devise a '**point of difference**'. What will make your event different or stand out? This will assist you in getting media coverage and in generating an audience.
- Consider whether you want to have a **theme** for/around your event. Is there anything distinctive about your area or group that you want to celebrate through poetry?
- Investigate whether you have any **high-profile poets** in your area. Do you want to involve them? How will they work with your theme, or should you fit your theme around the poet(s)? There may be opportunities for one of the four finalist poets in the 2025 Mary and Peter Biggs Award for Poetry at the Ockham NZ Book Awards to participate in regional events. Get in touch with the National Coordinator if you are keen to explore this possibility.
- Consider creating a balance with young emerging poets and more established poets to generate an **exciting mix** and encourage all age groups to attend your event.
- Ensure that your ideas are **practical**. Can you deliver on them in view of the time, resources and budget available?
- Devise a **target audience** profile and ensure that the event matches that profile in terms of content, time, venue and price.
- Think of a **catchy name** for your event, one that reflects your organisation or event activity. Ideally, the name should be a single word or brief phrase.

Planning

Thorough planning is the key to a successful event!

- Involve others and remember the importance of communication.
- Schedule regular planning meetings with your team of volunteers.
- Create a list of requirements and resources and have a contingency plan.
- Consult with those involved and create a timeline/checklist for actions and deadlines. This will ensure your plan is practical and deliverable.
- Prepare a list of contacts for everyone involved and distribute.
- Allocate and clearly communicate responsibilities.
- Contact your local bookshop.
- Pay attention to details. Continually check that deadlines are being met!

Budgeting

- Prepare a realistic budget based on available funds.
- Consider approaching local businesses for sponsorship to cover costs. Negotiate in-kind sponsorship for things like venue hire, printing, gear hire, prizes and refreshments in exchange for logo presence on your promotional materials.
- Obtain quotes for goods and services to help you establish a realistic working budget.
- Continue to monitor and take responsibility for expenditure.
- Allocate a contingency of at least 10% for unforeseen circumstances.

Organising Your Venue

Book your venue early and make sure your participating poets know what they will be working with on the night.

- Ensure that the venue is suitable for your event and have a wet weather contingency plan if planning an outdoor event.
- If your event involves a reading, consider whether you require a sound system.
- Consider room layout – your audience will want to be able to see the performers.
- Keep venue staff informed of your plans and requirements: Make sure they have copies of your promotional materials and place these in the venue in the lead up to your event.
- Check access to power and the lighting of the venue.
- Check and confirm all details and remember to re-check details just prior to the event.
- Ensure your venue has health, safety and emergency procedures in place and that insurance responsibilities are clarified.

**Register now! Become part of the 2025 Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day
nationwide promotion of New Zealand poetry and poets.
Go on – just do it!**

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