



CRITERIA

CALL FOR ENTRIES

The PANZ Book Design Awards have been developed by the Publishers Association of New Zealand Te Rau o Tākupu to promote excellence in and provide recognition for the best book design in New Zealand. Publishers are now invited to submit entries for the 2026 Awards.

THE JUDGES

The highly qualified judging panel will choose one winner and up to three runners-up in each of the nine categories, and an overall Best Book for the 2026 PANZ Book Design Awards.

THE PRESENTATION

The winners will be announced on **Thursday 24 September 2026**.

ELIGIBILITY AND CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

1. Entries are open to books published between **1 January 2025** and **31 December 2025**.
2. The books must have been designed in New Zealand. There is no restriction on the place of typesetting or printing, etc.
3. Books can be of any kind, including educational, children's, and general fiction and non-fiction.
4. Educational books are judged to be those whose primary purpose is for use in the New Zealand classroom.
5. All books must be in stock and available for bookstores and the public (or schools for educational titles) to purchase should the book be selected as a finalist.
6. Publishers are asked to nominate the categories each entry is being made in.
7. Entries must be submitted before **5pm, Friday 29 May 2026**.
8. One copy of each book entered must be submitted plus the completed digital entry form.
9. Entries must be submitted by the publisher.
10. The shortlist will be announced on **Wednesday 29 July 2026**.
11. Publishers of shortlisted titles will be required to supply up to five additional copies of each shortlisted title and brief commentary about the design requirements and processes for judging and promotional purposes.
12. The entry fee for PANZ members is **\$75.00 (plus GST) per title**. The fee for non-members of PANZ is **\$120 (plus GST) per title**.
13. Entries remain the property of PANZ and the judges.
14. No correspondence will be entered into between publishers or designers and the judges.
15. Designers must be New Zealand citizens (by birth, naturalisation, or immigration) or be permanently residing in New Zealand. Evidence of permanent residency is required to confirm that all principal contributors meet this requirement. The work of New Zealand citizens living overseas is eligible if the book meets other criteria and has been published during the period stipulated for eligibility.

CATEGORIES

- BEST ILLUSTRATED BOOK
- BEST NON-ILLUSTRATED BOOK (minimum of 80% text)
- BEST CHILDREN'S BOOK
- BEST GENERAL COVER AWARD
- BEST EDUCATIONAL BOOK OR SERIES - PRIMARY
- BEST EDUCATIONAL BOOK OR SERIES - SECONDARY OR TERTIARY
- BEST COOKBOOK AND LIFESTYLE BOOK AWARD
- BEST COVER

The judges will also select from the entries:

- BEST TYPOGRAPHY
- OVERALL BEST BOOK

In all categories the judges will look for excellence, taking into account the appropriateness of the design to the author's work, the book's purpose, the publisher's requirements and the intended audience.

'General' books are non-illustrative books that are published into the trade at volume. They include a wide range of fiction and non-fiction genres, including, but not limited to crime, romance and adventure/thriller fiction, memoir, biography, sport and history.

'Lifestyle' books include a wide range of subjects like cookbooks, home and interior design, gardening, fashion, health and wellness.

An Educational Adviser will be appointed to provide an educational overview of the titles in the education categories to all the judges.

PAYMENT

An invoice will be issued and payment is required by direct credit or credit card within 7 days of receiving the invoice. Titles will not be considered for inclusion in the awards if payment has not been received. Note there is a surcharge for credit card payments.

Members \$75 per book plus GST (\$86.25)

Non-members \$120 per book plus GST (\$138.00)

HOW TO ENTER

- Complete the digital entry form
- Send one copy of each book entered
- Submit payment on receipt of invoice within 7 days

PLEASE SEND ONE COPY OF EACH BOOK ENTERED BY COURIER ONLY TO

<p>PANZ Book Design Awards 2026 Publishers Association of New Zealand Level 6, 19-21 Como Street Takapuna Auckland 0622</p>
--

PLEASE COMPLETE DIGITAL ENTRY FORM [HERE](#)