

## CRITERIA & INFORMATION

# Bookshop of the Year

Is your bookshop doing great things? We want to hear from you! Bookshop of the Year celebrates the very best bookshops across New Zealand, whether you're an independent store, part of a chain, or selling online. If you're proud of what your shop has achieved, we'd love you to enter and share your story.

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Any New Zealand bookshop, including independent, chain, or online retailers. We encourage all bookshops to enter, regardless of size or location.

### THE PRIZE

Recognition as New Zealand's best bookshop! You'll receive a trophy at the Book Industry Awards on Saturday 25 July 2026, and the opportunity to share your success story with the media and inspire the wider book industry.

### WHAT TO SUBMIT

- A completed entry form
- One PDF document of supporting material, maximum 2 pages

Keep it real and authentic – we want to understand what you do well and why it matters. Include specific examples—numbers, photos, or customer feedback—that bring your story to life.

### WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

Tell us what makes your bookshop special. We want to celebrate shops that are thriving, serving their communities brilliantly, and doing excellent work across all aspects of bookselling. Share examples that show how you excel in these areas:

- **RUNNING A GREAT BUSINESS**  
How do you make your shop work brilliantly day-to-day? Tell us about your approach to curating stock, supporting your team, connecting with readers on social media, creative promotions, and building a positive workplace culture. We'd also love to hear about any steps you're taking toward environmental sustainability.
- **CREATING AN AMAZING SPACE (PHYSICAL AND/OR ONLINE)**  
What makes people want to spend time (and money!) in your shop? Whether it's your beautiful store design, welcoming atmosphere, easy-to-navigate website, or unique character, show us what makes your space special.
- **DELIGHTING YOUR CUSTOMERS**  
How do you go above and beyond for your customers? Share examples of exceptional service, how you help readers discover their next favourite book, and what keeps people coming back.
- **BEING PART OF YOUR COMMUNITY**  
How does your shop connect with and contribute to your local community? Tell us about events, partnerships, outreach, and how you support diverse voices and inclusive book-buying in New Zealand.
- **BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE**  
How are you ensuring your shop thrives long-term? Share evidence of commercial sustainability, resilience through challenges, or how you're preparing for whatever comes next.

Examples should relate to the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

Ready to enter? Put your bookshop in the spotlight and celebrate the vital role bookshops play in communities across New Zealand.

[ENTRY FORM](#)

**DEADLINE**  
**17 APRIL 2026, 5PM**

**Booksellers**  
Aotearoa New Zealand

 **Publishers  
Association of  
New Zealand**  
Te Rau o Tākupu