

CRITERIA & INFORMATION

Publishing Trailblazer

Are you, or someone you know, a rising star in New Zealand publishing? The Publishing Trailblazer Award celebrates creative, innovative publishing professionals who are making their mark on our book industry. If you have been working in publishing for up to 10 years and are doing exciting work, we want to hear from you. Self-nominations and nominations from colleagues or employers are warmly encouraged.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Anyone who has worked in book publishing for up to 10 years as at 31 March 2026, and who is currently working in publishing in New Zealand. You may nominate yourself or a colleague.

THE PRIZE

Recognition and celebration. The winner will be announced at the Book Industry Awards on Saturday 25 July 2026. The winner will have opportunities for media exposure and to share their publishing journey with the wider industry.

WHAT TO SUBMIT

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

Do not worry about being overly formal. We want to understand what makes this person special and why they deserve recognition.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

Tell us about someone—or yourself—who is bringing energy, creativity, and fresh thinking to publishing. We want to celebrate professionals who:

- **MAKE A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE**
How have they contributed to New Zealand's book industry? This could include building an exciting list, championing important voices, supporting their team, working collaboratively with authors and booksellers, or contributing meaningfully to their organisation's success.
- **SHOW PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE**
What makes their work stand out? Tell us about their skills, achievements, creativity, and the quality they bring to their role, whether that is editorial excellence, rights success, marketing innovation, or another area of publishing expertise.
- **SHOW REAL POTENTIAL**
This award celebrates people on the way up. Share evidence of strong achievements so far, alongside a clear sense of their future potential within the industry.

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

You may wish to include:

- Books acquired or projects worked on, and their impact
- Awards, recognition, or critical or commercial success
- International rights sales or export achievements
- Testimonials from authors, booksellers, colleagues, or employers
- Examples of engagement with the wider publishing community
- Anything else that demonstrates passion, talent, and achievement

Doing great work in publishing, or know someone who is? Enter now and help us celebrate the future stars of New Zealand publishing.

[ENTRY FORM](#)

DEADLINE
17 APRIL 2026, 5PM

Booksellers
Aotearoa New Zealand

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