



2016 NEW ZEALAND BOOK AWARDS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS - MEDIA PACK

The 2016 New Zealand Book Awards for Children and Young Adults are a unique celebration of the contribution New Zealand's children's authors and illustrators make to build national identity and nurture our cultural heritage.

CRITICAL DATES 2016

Tuesday, 1 March	HELL Reading Challenge begins
Monday, 21 March	HELL Children's Choice opens, Stage 1
Friday, 13 May	HELL Children's Choice closes, Stage 1
Wednesday, 8 June	Finalists are announced in all six categories HELL Children's Choice opens, Stage 2
Friday, 22 July	HELL Children's Choice closes, Stage 2
Monday, 1- Tuesday, 9 August	Finalist authors and illustrators tour: Finalist authors and illustrators to feature at events for children and young adults in selected locations
Monday, 8 August	Winners' ceremony in Wellington
Sunday, 4 December	HELL Reading Challenge closes

PRIZES

Awards in the New Zealand Book Awards for Children and Young Adults are made in six categories. Backgrounds on the named awards are on page 4.

1. Young Adult Fiction
2. Esther Glen Award for Junior Fiction
3. Elsie Locke Award for Non-Fiction
4. Picture Book
5. Russell Clark Award for Illustration, and
6. Te Kura Pounamu Award for books written entirely in te reo Māori

The judges (see below) select up to five finalists for each category; this shortlist is announced on Wednesday, 8 June.

From each of those six categories, a winner is chosen. All six awards carry prize money of \$7,500. In addition, the judges may decide to award a Best First Book prize of \$2,000 to a previously unpublished author or illustrator. The overall award, the Margaret Mahy Book of the Year Award, carries a prize of \$7,500. All winners are to be announced at a ceremony in Wellington on Monday, 8 August.

J U D G E S

The New Zealand Book Awards for Children and Young Adults are judged by a panel of three. The Te Kura Pounamu Award is selected by a separate panel of judges.

The judges for the 2016 Awards are Fiona Mackie (convenor), Kathy Aloniu and Melinda Szymanik, with Professor Martin Salisbury advising on the Russell Clark Award for Illustration. For backgrounders on these judges, go [here](#).

The judges for the Te Kura Pounamu Award are Te Rangi Rangi Tangohau, Lawren Matrix and Mereana Taungapeau, with the convenor being Riki-Lee Saua. There's more information on these judges [here](#).

H E L L C H I L D R E N ' S C H O I C E

Books chosen for kids, by kids. In this unique parallel stream of the New Zealand Book Awards for Children and Young Adults and sponsored by HELL Pizza, children get to choose the finalists for the HELL Children's Choice award. Children from all over New Zealand take up the challenge to help create shortlists of three books in five categories: Young Adult Fiction, Junior Fiction, Non-Fiction, Picture Book and te reo Māori - 15 finalists altogether. The winners of each category are then selected. Each category winner receives \$1,000. There is no overall winner.

The voting has two stages:

Stage 1: 'Judge schools' register groups and classes of students to select their top titles. These are compiled to create shortlists for each category. This stage opened on 21 March and closes on Friday, 13 May.

Stage 2: Students from all over New Zealand are invited to select a winner from each of the five categories. Stage 2 opens on Wednesday, 8 June and closes on Friday, 22 July.

There is more information on the HELL Children's Choice award [here](#).

HELL READING CHALLENGE

Now in its third year, the HELL Reading Challenge is a highly successful programme proven to get kids reading and enjoying the pleasure of stories - with the bonus of free pizza rewards. Schools and libraries are welcome to take part in the HELL Reading Challenge.

Children in years 1-8 complete the pizza wheel by reading seven books. With the pizza wheel stamped and authenticated by their school teacher or librarian, the child can then redeem a free 333 Kids' Pizza from their local HELL store. There's no limit on the number of wheels they can complete over the nine-month period of the HELL Reading Challenge.

Sponsored by HELL Pizza, the New Zealand Book Awards Trust is most appreciative for not only HELL Pizza's support of, and commitment to, the HELL Reading Challenge, but also for its huge enthusiasm for children's reading.

The HELL Reading Challenge began on Tuesday, 1 March and finishes on Sunday, 4 December 2016.

To find out more about the HELL Reading Challenge, go [here](#).

FUNDERS

The New Zealand Book Awards for Children and Young Adults could not exist without the generosity, commitment and vision of its very generous sponsors. The New Zealand Book Awards Trust is hugely grateful to all these organisations for their support.

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The 2016 New Zealand Book Awards for Children and Young Adults are administered by the New Zealand Book Council on behalf of the New Zealand Book Awards Trust.

QUERIES?

For media queries on the 2016 New Zealand Book Awards for Children and Young Adults, please contact me at Adroite Communications on 04 496 5513 or 029 286 3650, or email adrienne@adroite.co.nz

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Esther Glen Award for Junior Fiction

Esther Glen 1881-1940

As well as being a children's writer and journalist, Esther Glen also worked as a philanthropist, setting up children's clubs to help alleviate hardships experienced during the Great Depression.

Esther Glen published her first children's novel, *Six Little New Zealanders*, in 1917. This was one of the first children's novels to be written by a New Zealander and based on the experiences of children living in New Zealand. Esther went on to write a further three children's novels after this, with her last published in 1929.

Having initially worked as a freelance journalist during the 1920s and 1930s, Esther worked for the *Christchurch Sun*, and was involved in setting up and editing a children's section for this newspaper. When the *Sun* closed in 1935, Esther transferred to *The Press* where she was responsible for two children's supplements. She also wrote children's drama for radio.

The Esther Glen Award was created in her memory in 1945. It is New Zealand's longest-running literary prize for children's literature, having been awarded annually almost without exception since 1945 by the Library and Information Association of New Zealand Aotearoa (LIANZA).

Elsie Locke Award for Non-Fiction

Elsie Locke 1912-2001

Elsie Locke was a renowned writer, historian and activist, who played leading roles in New Zealand's feminist, peace and communist movements. In the 1930s Elsie was involved in setting up a monthly feminist journal, *The Working Women*, which later became *Woman Today*.

It wasn't until the 1950s that Elsie started to concentrate more on her writing, including non-fiction political writing, fiction, poetry and essays. In 1958 she received the Katherine Mansfield Memorial Award for her non-fiction essay, *Looking for Answers*.

Elsie is, however, best known for her contribution to children's literature, writing a number of children's novels and books and contributing to the *New Zealand School Journal*. Her first and most popular children's novel was *The Runaway Settlers*, which is the longest continuous printed novel of all New Zealand children's books; it won the Gaelyn Gordon Award for a Much-loved Book in 1999.

The Elsie Locke Non-Fiction Award was first established as part of the LIANZA Children's Book Awards in 1986.

Russell Clark Illustration Award

Russell Clark 1905-1966

One of the few national awards celebrating illustration, the Russell Clark Illustration Award commemorates the work of Christchurch-born Russell Clark: artist, illustrator, sculptor and university lecturer.

After studying at the Canterbury College of Art, Russell Clark worked for a time as a commercial artist for an advertising agency, before taking up a position with Dunedin publisher John McIndoe. He also worked as an exhibiting artist and produced public murals and statues. In 1939, Russell became the first designer for the newly-established *New Zealand Listener*, and he continued to work as its main illustrator until 1962. Throughout the 1940s and 1950s, Russell also worked as principal illustrator for the *New Zealand School Journal*. His work during this period included illustrations for other publications, and a large number of public mural paintings and sculptures.

The Russell Clark Illustration Award was first established as part of the LIANZA Children's Book Awards in 1975.

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