



**EMBARGOED TO 10 AM THURSDAY 9 DECEMBER**

## **Judges and new sponsor announced for 2022 New Zealand Book Awards for Children and Young Adults**

Award-winning authors, librarians, a children’s bookseller and reviewer, as well as respected proponents of te reo and te ao Māori, make up the two panels of experts selected to judge entries in the 2022 New Zealand Book Awards for Children and Young Adults.

Educationalist and author Pauline (Vaeluaga) Smith, who was a judge in the 2021 awards, will convene the English language panel in 2022. She is joined by acclaimed author Kyle Mewburn; public librarian Laura Caygill; children’s bookseller, reviewer and author Adele Broadbent; and Poutiaki Rauemi/National Manager Māori for Services to Schools at Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa National Library of New Zealand, Ruki Tobin. Ruki was on Te Kura Pounamu panel in 2021, and for the 2022 awards brings his deep knowledge of te ao Māori and te reo Māori to both judging panels.

The panel judging the Wright Family Foundation Te Kura Pounamu Award for books written or translated into te reo Māori for 2022 is convened once again by Anahera Morehu, Tumuaki Tuākana/Immediate Past President of the Library and Information Association of New Zealand Aotearoa (LIANZA). Alongside her is communications specialist Te Amohaere Morehu; Online Content Service and Rauemi Developer – Te Ao Māori at the National Library Horowaitai Roberts-Tuahine; and Ruki Tobin. Te Kura Pounamu panel is appointed by Te Rōpū Whakahaui, the national body representing Māori within the library and information profession.

In announcing the 2022 judges, chair of the New Zealand Book Awards Trust Nicola Legat says she is also thrilled to take the opportunity to reveal that the New Zealand Society of Authors Te Puni Kaituhi o Aotearoa (NZSA) will become the naming sponsor of the prize for the best first book at the New Zealand Book Awards for Children and Young Adults.

“NZSA is such a strong advocate for and supporter of authors, so it seems fitting that they should have their name attached to the award that recognises works by previously unpublished authors or illustrators, thereby helping to launch their careers in children’s literature,” she says.

NZSA President Mandy Hager says the society is delighted to be sponsoring the Best First Book prize. “It’s a huge achievement for an emerging children’s writer and/or illustrator to reach this

level with their first publication and we hope this award gives them the confidence and support to create more work to enrich Aotearoa's young people."

The 2022 judges will read and appraise an expected 160 or so entries in six categories: Picture Book, Junior Fiction (the Wright Family Foundation Esther Glen Award), Young Adult Fiction, Non-Fiction (the Elsie Locke Award), Illustration (the Russell Clark Award) and te reo Māori (the Wright Family Foundation Te Kura Pounamu Award). They will select up to five finalists in each category, as well as up to five finalists for the NZSA Best First Book Award, and then a winner in each category. The overall winner, the Margaret Mahy Award for Book of the Year, will be decided from the six main category winners.

Submissions for the 2022 awards are now open to books published between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022. The first deadline, for books published up to 30 November 2021, is Tuesday 14 December 2021. More details about how to enter can be found here:

<http://www.nzbookawards.nz/new-zealand-book-awards-for-children-and-young-adults/how-to-enter/>

Category finalists will be announced on 2 June 2022 and the awards ceremony is due to be held in Wellington in the first part of August 2022, preceded by a programme of finalist author events under the Books Alive banner.

The New Zealand Book Awards for Children and Young Adults are made possible through the generosity, commitment and vision of funders and sponsors Creative New Zealand, HELL Pizza, Wright Family Foundation, LIANZA, NZSA, Wellington City Council and Nielsen Book.

For more information about the 2022 judges, see below or go here:

<http://www.nzbookawards.nz/new-zealand-book-awards-for-children-and-young-adults/2022-awards/judges/>

Any queries about the New Zealand Book Awards for Children and Young Adults should be directed to Awards Administrator Joy Sellen at [childrensawards@nzbookawards.org.nz](mailto:childrensawards@nzbookawards.org.nz).

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Released on behalf of the New Zealand Book Awards Trust by:

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(Publicist Gemma Finlay of Notable PR will once again run the #NZCYA marketing campaign, from early 2022.)

### **Social Media Links**

Website: [www.nzbookawards.nz/new-zealand-book-awards-for-children-and-young-adults/](http://www.nzbookawards.nz/new-zealand-book-awards-for-children-and-young-adults/)

Facebook: /NewZealandCYABookAwards/

Instagram: nzcya\_awards

Twitter: /nzcya

Hashtags: #NZCYA #BooksAlive

## 2022 JUDGES

Convenor of judges **Pauline (Vaeluaga) Smith**, MNZM, is an author, and an educationalist with a career spanning 25 years. She has been a classroom teacher, lecturer for Otago University and was a founding member and General Manager of Māori and Pasifika cultural arts trust Mīharo. Pauline's heritage is Samoan, Tuvaluan, Scottish and Irish and she is based in the small rural Southland town of Aparima/Riverton. Her first book, *My New Zealand Story: Dawn Raid*, won the Best First Book award and was shortlisted in the Junior Fiction category at the 2018 New Zealand Book Awards for Children and Young Adults, and received a Storylines Notable Book award in 2019. Pauline has worked extensively alongside the Polynesian Panthers over the past four years producing and touring the *Dawn Raids – Educate to Liberate* exhibition around Aotearoa.

**Adele Broadbent** is a children's bookseller, reviewer, author and self-confessed book nut. Reading and writing stories since very young, she became an author herself in 2006 with the School Journal, then with Wendy Pye Publishing with an ongoing series of educational titles. Her novels have received Storylines Notable Book awards and were finalists in the 2012 New Zealand Post Children's Book Awards and 2015 LIANZA Children and Young Adult Book Awards. Two years as a weekend children's librarian fanned the fire and she began to build What Book Next.com – an online tool for young book lovers, parents, teachers and librarians. Adele has been a children's bookseller for ten years, now with Wardini Books in Napier.

**Kyle Mewburn** is one of New Zealand's most eclectic and prolific writers. From multi-layered picture books like *Old-Hu-hu* and *Hill & Hole* to laugh-out-loud junior fiction series *Dinosaur Rescue* and *Dragon Knight*, her titles have been translated into eighteen languages and won numerous awards including New Zealand Post Children's Book of the Year in 2009. She was Children's Writer-in-Residence at Otago University in 2011 and President of the New Zealand Society of Authors from 2013-2017. Her memoir, *Faking it: My life in Transition*, was published by Penguin in 2021. A regular and popular speaker at schools and literary festivals, Kyle lives in a house with a grass roof she built herself near Millers Flat in Central Otago.

**Laura Caygill** is an experienced public librarian, based in Ōtautahi. She loved finding new books in her school library from an early age, and at university her small collection became a lending library for fellow students. No surprises that, despite a small sojourn as a journalist, she ended up working in public libraries, where stories are part of her work every day. After 10 years with Auckland Libraries Laura returned to the mainland and now works as the Community Experiences and Diversity Team Leader for Waimakariri Libraries. In her spare time Laura sings with Atlas Voices and the CSO Chorus, and she recently began learning te reo Māori. She can be heard reviewing books on RNZ's Nine to Noon.

Ko te tuanui o tōku whare, ko te Ranginui e tū nei!  
Ko te paparahi ko Papatūānuku e takoto nei!  
Ko ngā maunga whakahī, ngā poutapu rau!  
Ko Rahiri kei te kōruru!  
Ko Ruki Tobin tēnei e kōki nei!  
Tēnā koutou!

**Ruki Tobin** is the Poutiaki Rauemi National Manager Māori for Services to Schools at Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa, National Library of New Zealand, based in Tāmaki Makaurau. Ruki is a raukura of Te Aho Mātua and graduated with his Masters in Tikanga from the University of Waikato. He is also a graduate of Te Panekiretanga o te reo Māori, the former institute of te reo Māori excellence. As Poutiaki Rauemi, Ruki is embedding te reo Māori, tikanga Māori and mātauranga Māori into Services to Schools to support kura, Māori medium schools and English medium schools. Ruki was a judge for Te Kura

Pounamu in 2021, and for the 2022 awards he will be bringing his deep knowledge of te ao Māori and te reo Māori to both the English language and Te Kura Pounamu judging panels.

Ko Ranginui te tuanui, ko Papatuānuku te paparahi Ko ngā maunga, ngā poupu, e kore e nekeneke He uri ahau o te Whare tapu o Ngāpuhi, arā, ko Te Rarawa i te uru, ko Te Aupōuri i te raki, ko Ngāti Kahu i te whiti, ko Ngāti Whātua i te tonga.

**Anahera Morehu** returns for the second year as convenor of Te Kura Pounamu Award panel, appointed by Te Rōpū Whakahaui and Te Rau Herenga o Aotearoa (LIANZA). She is the Kaiārahi at He Manga Tauhokohoko/Faculty of Business and Economics at the University of Auckland. Anahera is the current Tumuaki Tuākana (Immediate Past President) of LIANZA, and Executive member of Ngā Kaiwhakahaui, the National Council of Te Rōpū Whakahaui. Reading books to her son when he was a baby reignited her passion for te reo Māori, and now she reads to her mokopuna. She believes that the Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022-2032) will encourage many more children's books in te reo Māori to be published.

Ka hura ka hura te moana uha, ka hura te moana kore, ko tō manawa, ko tōku manawa. Ko Hautina, ko Hautaiki ki te ripia rei ana. Whakahotunuku, whakahoturangi, he roki, he roki hau, he taketake he hurumanu, te moana i rohia. Ko Paikea Arikini e whanake nei! Ko Horowaitai Roberts-Tuahine e mihi atu nei! Tēnā koutou!

**Horowaitai Roberts-Tuahine** is an Online Content Service and Rauemi Developer – Te Ao Māori at Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa, National Library of New Zealand. Horowaitai is a graduate of Kohanga Reo and graduated with her Bachelor of Education (Huarahi Māori) from the University of Auckland. She is a former teacher in Kura Kaupapa Māori, Māori medium and English medium schools, and her current role supports the implementation and embedding of te reo Māori, tikanga Māori and te ao Māori in Services to Schools, as well as across the wider National Library network.

Hua ki uta, hua ki tai, hua nei ko te ora.

Tēnei ahau he uri nō Te Tai Rāwhiti, nō Te Tai Tokerau me Tūwharetoa anō hoki, e mihi kau atu ana, tēnā koutou.

**Te Amohaere Morehu** is a communications specialist, with a background in copywriting, brand management, marketing, and digital and social media strategy. Based in Tāmaki Makaurau, she has been involved in developing the communications functions of Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Trust, and before that worked for Māori Television, as well as in the United Kingdom. Te Amohaere is a mother of five young tamariki, all of whom speak te reo Māori as their first language, and she values the time she spends reading books to and with them. He mana nui tō te kupu, he akoranga nui kei roto.