

New Zealand Post
BOOK AWARDS 

New Zealand Post Book Awards Judges 2014



Miriama Kamo (Chief Judge)

Award winning journalist, Miriama Kamo is the presenter of TV ONE's flagship current affairs programme, Sunday. Miriama worked as a reporter on Sunday between 2002-2005. During that time she won the prestigious Best Current Affairs Reporter gong at the Qantas Media Awards in 2005 for her investigation into alleged abuses at Porirua Hospital in the 1960s and 70s. She then spent six years fronting TV2 current affairs show 20/20. Miriama also presents Tonight, TVNZ's late news bulletin, and co-presents Marae Investigates Now.



Elizabeth Smither

Elizabeth Smither has published 17 collections of poetry, as well as novels and short stories. She was New Zealand's first woman poet laureate and in 2008 received the Prime Minister's award for Literary Achievement in Poetry and an Hon D. Litt from Auckland University. She was a member of the Literature Committee of Creative New Zealand, has served on selection panels, and continues to mentor students. Her work is widely published in New Zealand and overseas and she has appeared at many festivals.



Dick Frizzell

Dick Frizzell is an acclaimed New Zealand painter who has worked as an animator, commercial artist and illustrator and has no qualms about blurring the categories between his commercial work and art.

His work has always been characterised by a highly skilled handling of paint and an endlessly inventive range of subject matter and styles: faux-naive New Zealand landscapes, figurative still-life, comic book characters and witty parodies of modernist abstraction. Although primarily a painter, Frizzell also produces an extensive range of works on paper including lithographs and screen prints.



Peter Simpson

Peter Simpson is director of the Holloway Press at the University of Auckland where formerly he was associate professor and a head of English. He specialises in writing about New Zealand art, literature and culture, and has written and/or edited around twenty titles including books on Ronald Hugh Morrieson, Allen Curnow, Kendrick Smithyman, Colin McCahon, Leo Bensemann, Charles Spear, Peter Peryer and others.

He has curated touring exhibitions on McCahon and Bensemann. In 2012 he was awarded the Creative New Zealand/ Michael King Fellowship to write a book on the arts in Christchurch 1933-1953 entitled 'Bloomsbury South'.



Kim Hill

Kim Hill is one of New Zealand's foremost broadcasters, currently delivering the Saturday Morning show on Radio New Zealand. Originally from England, Kim has a BA in French and German at university (Massey and Otago) and completed Canterbury University's Postgraduate School of Journalism before joining Radio New Zealand.

In the nine years she was host (since 2002) she interviewed thousands of people, and probably read as many books. Among her guests were; the Dalai Lama and Nelson Mandela and the infamous Jeffrey Archer and Monica Lewinsky. In 2012 Kim Hill won the International Radio Personality of the Year (Association for International Broadcasting).



New Zealand Post Children's Book Awards Judges



Barbara Else (Chief Judge)

Barbara Else has written four novels for children and six for adults starting with her best-selling adult novel *The Warrior Queen*. Her latest children's novels, *The Travelling Restaurant* and *The Queen* and the *Nobody Boy* in the *Tales of Fontania* sequence, have won several awards including the coveted Esther Glen Medal (LIANZA) and the prestigious

IBBY and White Raven Awards.

She has also edited several well-received anthologies for children. She is co-director of a small Wellington literary agency and manuscript assessment service. She was a judge the 2004 NZ Children's and Young Adult Book Awards. In 1999 she was the Victoria University of Wellington Writer in Residence and has been awarded a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for Services to Literature.

Judges Note: *Barbara Else has no clients from her literary agency involved in the 2014 New Zealand Post Children's Book Awards nor will she be releasing any new books in 2014.*



Ant Sang

Ant Sang is one of New Zealand's most acclaimed cartoonists and graphic novelists. He is the author of the graphic novels *Shaolin Burning* and *The Dharma Punks*. He has illustrated numerous children's books and also worked in television, achieving awards for his designs on the hit animated television show *bro'Town*. He is currently working on his first feature film script and an animated short, *Wing Chun*, a contemporary retelling of the young woman who made the kung fu style famous.



Zac Harding

Zac is a Community Learning Librarian at Christchurch City Libraries, an avid blogger, and a passionate advocate for New Zealand children's literature. He has been blogging for Christchurch City Libraries (CCL) since 2009, highlighting children and young adult's literature on the CCL blog and running the Christchurch Kids Blog. In late 2011, Zac also started his book blog, *My Best Friends Are Books*, where he shares and promotes quality children's literature with both children and peers. As a bookseller and now as a librarian Zac has gained an understanding of the elements that make a good story and what appeals to particular age groups.

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For further information about the judges, or to request an interview, please contact the awards media liaison:

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