

Nomination *Guidelines* 2026

The Mark & Evette Moran Nib Literary Award is administered and presented annually by Waverley Council with the support of principal sponsors Mark and Evette Moran and the generous assistance of community partner Gertrude and Alice Bookstore Cafe.

The award acknowledges works demonstrating excellence in research, literary merit, readability and value to the community.

In 2026, eight prizes totalling \$53,000 in prize money are offered:

- 1 x Mark & Evette Moran Nib Literary Award - \$40,000
- 6 x Alex Buzo Shortlist Prize - \$1,500 each
- 1 x People's Choice Prize - \$4,000

For more information or to submit a nomination refer to: www.waverley.nsw.gov.au/nib

Enquires should be directed to: nibaward@waverley.nsw.gov.au

These guidelines set out the rules of the Nib Literary Award and the terms and conditions on which all nominations are made.

You are deemed to have read and agreed to these guidelines by making a nomination.

**Nominations open Wednesday 1 April 2026 at 10am
and close Monday 15 June 2026 at 23.59pm**

(Please see section 1. of the Award Guidelines for eligible publication dates)

1. Eligible works

- a. All genres of fiction and non-fiction are eligible.
- b. All works submitted must be in English.
- c. Books that are the collaborative effort of not more than two authors, jointly responsible for the entire text, may be nominated. Works of multiple authorship will not be considered.
- d. The nominated work must be the original work of the author/s. Only new work may be nominated, and a book will not be eligible if a significant proportion has previously been published.
- e. Works published in digital format are eligible, provided three copies are submitted in hard (printed) copy to facilitate the judging process, and they satisfy all other requirements.
- f. Works published between 1 July 2025 and 30 June 2026 are eligible for entry in the 2026 award.

2. Eligible authors

- a. Authors whose works are nominated must be Australian Citizens or legal Permanent Residents of Australia.
- b. Authors must be living at the time of nomination.
- c. If an author dies or ceases to hold Australian Citizenship or Permanent Resident status after their work has been nominated, the judges will not consider that work for the Award.
- d. Authors who are current employees of Waverley Council, a sponsor or partner organisation, or members of the Nib Advisory Group* are not eligible to be nominated.

*The Nib Advisory Group (NAG) is a consultative panel of representatives from the publishing and literary fields and includes key program stakeholders including Waverley Council staff, Award Judges, sponsors and community representatives.

3. Nominations

- a. In all matters relating to conditions of nomination, the decision of the Award Judges is final.
- b. Any breach of these guidelines may render a nomination invalid.
- c. Nominations must be received by Monday 15 June 2026. Nominations received after that date may not be considered. It is the responsibility of the nominator to confirm their completed nomination (including books) has been received by the submission deadline. Books published between 15 June 2026 and 30 June 2026 are eligible for submission after 15 June by special arrangement with award administrators.
- d. Anyone nominating works on behalf of an author is deemed to be doing so with the author's consent and agreement to the Award Guidelines. It is the responsibility of the nominator to obtain and to be able to demonstrate the author's consent before nominating the work.

- e. Australian residential details must be supplied for each nominated author.
- f. All nominations must be made through the official online nomination form available at waverley.nsw.gov.au/nib. Nominators unable to access this form online should email nibaward@waverley.nsw.gov.au for a hard copy.
- g. For a nomination to be considered, the following items must be received in full by 15 June 2026:
- h. A fully completed online entry form (or via hard copy by arrangement) per nomination.
- i. Paid entry fee (plus transaction fee as applicable) per nomination.
- j. Five copies of each nominated work (or three printed copies in the case of electronic/digital only format)
- k. Works must be nominated by a person and may not be submitted in the name of a committee or organisation.
- l. There is no limit to the number of works that may be entered by a nominator, or that may be the work of the same author, provided that all other requirements are met.
- m. Confirmation of submission will be provided via email once nomination/nomination online has been completed.
- n. All copies of books submitted become the property of Waverley Council on submission. At least one copy of each submitted book will be entered into the Waverley Library collection and made publicly available. Other copies will be distributed between judges. Following the judging process, surplus books may be retained by Waverley Council, donated to other libraries or charities, or otherwise divested in any way it may determine.
- o. Entry fees will be applied towards offsetting the associated costs of award administration and judges' honoraria.

4. The judging process

- a. Nominated works will be judged by an independent panel of three or more judges. The judges are selected by Waverley Council officers with guidance from the Nib Advisory Group.
- b. All nominations are assessed against the criteria of:
 - i. excellence in literary research
 - ii. readability
 - iii. literary merit and
 - iv. value to the community.
- c. In all matters relating to judging, the judges' decision is final, and no correspondence or discussion will be entered into.
- d. The judges may determine that a prize is not awarded if the nominated works are considered of insufficient merit, and the judges may divide any of the prizes between a number of nominations if they believe this is warranted.

- e. Nominations may be eligible for the following awards/prizes as determined by the judges:
- i. **Alex Buzo Nib Shortlist Prize**
The judges will award this prize to no more than six nominated works which they deem the most outstanding of all nominations, with reference to the judging criteria. Recipients of this prize will form the Nib Literary Award Shortlist, and each finalist will be eligible to win the Mark & Evette Moran Nib Literary Award and the Nib People's Choice Prize. A summary of all research undertaken by the relevant author(s) in relation to short-listed works may be requested by judges. If requested, this statement must be submitted within 10 days of request. Each recipient of the Alex Buzo Nib Shortlist Prize will receive \$1,500 (+ GST if applicable).
 - ii. **Mark & Evette Moran Nib Literary Award**
The winner of this award will be determined by the judges from the announced finalists (the recipients of the Alex Buzo Shortlist Prize). The winner of the award will receive \$40,000 (+ GST if applicable) and a Nib Literary Award statuette.
 - iii. **Nib People's Choice Prize**
This prize will be given to the finalist who is selected as most deserving by a public vote. Full terms and conditions for the public voting process will be available at www.waverley.nsw.gov.au/nib no later than 8 September 2026. The winner of the People's Choice Prize will receive \$4,000 (+ GST if applicable).

5. General

- a. The winners across all award categories will be publicly acknowledged and prizes awarded at a function to be held in Sydney on Thursday 19 November 2026.
- b. Due to the volume of nominations received it is not possible to personally notify unsuccessful nominations or provide personalised feedback or comments from judges.
- c. The Nib Advisory Group or Waverley Council representatives may invite any shortlisted or winning author to participate in literary discussions and events, and sign copies of their books.
- d. Nominators of shortlisted titles will be contacted by phone or email by 8 September 2026.
- e. In all cases not covered by these guidelines, or where there may be scope for interpretation, advice should be sought from the Nib Advisory Group with requests made via the award administration team at Waverley Council.
- f. A list of all eligible works nominated for the award may be made available publicly in support of the Mark & Evette Moran Nib Award by Waverley Council, Waverley Library or Nib Literary Award associated partner.

6. Promotion of the award

- a. The publisher and author of any nominated title agrees to work in collaboration with Waverley Council to undertake a mutually acceptable program of activities to promote the award program including:
 - i. Supplying biographical and bibliographical information including text extracts of up to 200 words, hi-res jacket and cover images, author photographs and any additional material (trailers, audio extracts, etc) that will help promote the award program.
 - ii. Using best endeavours to facilitate recorded interviews and other public activities with authors to be used by the award administration team across multimedia platforms to promote the Mark & Evette Moran Nib Literary Award.
 - iii. Publishers and authors are also requested to use all available means, including stickers and social media posts to promote the shortlisted and winning works. Design work for a sticker can be provided by Waverley Council after the announcement of the winners.
- b. Nominated authors agree to their photograph being taken on behalf of Waverley Council and authorise use of such photos or that of any alternate supplied image of themselves in Waverley Council publications, on its website waverley.nsw.gov.au, social media platforms, in advertising and other promotional material (i.e. brochures and annual reporting documents). Nominated authors also authorise Waverley Council to share these images with relevant third party Award sponsors, partners and the media, as they see fit; for use in general promotion of the award and publication by these third parties.

Nominated books should be forwarded to:

Mark & Evette Moran Nib Literary Award
C/- Waverley Library
Adult Library, Ground Floor
32 - 48 Denison St
Bondi Junction NSW 2022

Books can be submitted via post and courier. Clearly labelled and packaged books can also be submitted in person at Waverley Library. Please check waverley.nsw.gov.au/library for opening hours.

Enquires should be directed to the award administration team via email at nibaward@waverley.nsw.gov.au