



# Awards of Excellence 2026



[www.risknz.org.nz](http://www.risknz.org.nz)

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[Nominations open 18th February 2025 and close 3rd March 2025](#)

# NEW ZEALAND RISK & RESILIENCE SUMMIT 2026 GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

Find out more at [www.ris knz.org.nz/conference](http://www.ris knz.org.nz/conference)





# RiskNZ

RiskNZ is the leading non-profit association for risk professionals in New Zealand.

The Society brings together people and organisations managing risk under the guiding vision that New Zealand prospers when risk is well managed. Our focus is to organise regular opportunities for members to meet and experience a wide variety of professional development and networking opportunities.

The society supports special interests groups, encourages research, informs public thinking, influences government, and conducts other activities to achieve risk management best practice in the private and public sectors.

Find out more about joining RiskNZ at [www.risknz.org.nz/join-us](http://www.risknz.org.nz/join-us)

 **RiskNZ**

Individual, Corporate and Student memberships  
Subscribe to our weekly mailer and

## Join Us!

RiskNZ assists members to develop skills and capability in Risk Management, network with others, and stay ahead of current issues.

- Risk Events Calendar
- New training opportunities
- Shared articles from members
- Job vacancies

RiskNZ Membership benefits:

- Access exclusive risk resources, tools and templates through our members login area on the RiskNZ Website.
- Develop risk skills through our suite of risk training and development opportunities including Protecht, Bryan Whitefield Consulting, UC Online and RMA Certification via the RMA/RiskNZ Partnership.
- Free access to lunchtime webinars, and discounted networking sessions and workshops.
- Explore mentoring opportunities
- Join other risk practitioners at our annual RiskNZ Summit.
- Enter the RiskNZ Awards of Excellence.
- Connect with local risk practitioners through our networking engagement offerings when available.
- Find other risk practitioners.

[linkedin.com/company/risknz](https://www.linkedin.com/company/risknz)  
[www.risknz.org.nz](http://www.risknz.org.nz)

RiskNZ thanks Habit Health for coming on board  
to sponsor the 2026 Awards of Excellence

The image is a promotional poster for the RiskNZ Awards of Excellence 2026. It features a dark blue background with a starry pattern. At the top, the RiskNZ logo is displayed in white. Below it, the text 'Awards of Excellence 2026' is written in a large, white serif font. Underneath, it says 'Proudly sponsored by' in a smaller white font. The Habit Health logo, which consists of a stylized cross made of green and blue squares, is positioned above the word 'habithealth' in a green and white sans-serif font. At the bottom, there is a silver circular seal on the left that reads 'AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE 2026 RiskNZ'. To the right of the seal, the text 'RiskNZ acknowledges our Premier Sponsors for their support' is written in white. Below this text, four logos are displayed in a row: PROTECH (blue and white), LexisNexis Regulatory Compliance (red and white), riskconnect (orange and white), and Diligent (red and white). A small white number '1' is located in the bottom right corner of the poster.

If your organisation would like to sponsor RiskNZ please get in touch with  
RiskNZ CEO, David Turner [david@risknz.org.nz](mailto:david@risknz.org.nz)

We acknowledge our overall Premier Sponsors of RiskNZ for 2026  
Protecht, Lexis Nexis, Camms, and Diligent



## About RiskNZ Awards of Excellence 2026

We are proud to announce that the 2026 Awards will open for nominations on Wednesday 18th February 2026.

**This year the Awards will be held on the 22nd July in Courtyard, at Lulu Bar & Restaurant, 31 Courtenay Place, Wellington starting at 6.30pm.** The awards will be held separately from the Annual New Zealand Risk & Resilience Summit 2026. Tickets can be purchased for the event via our website and partners are welcome to attend.

RiskNZ Awards of Excellence consists of four award categories acknowledging those who are embedding risk management approaches within normal business practice and making it part of everyday thinking. Our most coveted awards are the 'Risk Professional of the Year' and 'Emerging Risk Professional of the Year', with these two award categories open to RiskNZ members only. Our two remaining categories are open to both RiskNZ members and non-members within New Zealand.

## RiskNZ Awards of Excellence 2026 Key Dates



## RiskNZ Awards of Excellence 2026 Categories and Criteria

### 1. Risk Professional of the Year

This category is open to RiskNZ members (an Individual Member or listed as part of an existing Corporate Membership). \*note this is an individual award.

Entrants should demonstrate their sustained risk leadership and their contribution in making a significant difference to their organisation, clients, or the wider risk management community/industry. Entrants will show mature practice in supporting teams to better manage risk and to achieve business goals. They will have the competence and mana to work with and influence at an executive or governance level.

The judges are looking for evidence of the individual's effective risk management leadership; strategic and operational thinking; excellent communication skills, the ability to demonstrate positive impacts, while also being respected by their peers.

Applicants should additionally submit a summary CV as supporting information, showcasing highlights from their risk management career.

## **2. Emerging Risk Professional of the Year**

This category is open to RiskNZ members (an Individual Member or listed as part of an existing Corporate Membership). \*note this is an individual award.

Entrants in this category should be relatively new to a career in organisational risk management and must have worked in a risk related role for less than five years.

The judges are looking for individuals that can demonstrate that they have contributed to the measurement, management and/or mitigation of risk within their organisation over the last 18 months. Judges will be seeking evidence of strong organisation; planning; negotiating and influencing, and communication skills which are all important attributes of an aspiring risk manager. Successful entrants will be able to provide evidence of one or more of these skills.

Applicants should additionally submit a summary CV as supporting information, illustrating progression within their risk management career.

## **3. Networking and Partnerships in Risk Management**

This category is open to RiskNZ members and non-members. Entrants in this category can be an individual, team or organisation.

The judges are looking for entrants that can demonstrate how collaboration across teams or organisations can effectively manage risk, strengthen strategic delivery and deliver results. This award will be shared across those teams or organisations and provides an excellent opportunity to demonstrate strategic advantage in partnerships.

## **4. “Innovation” – Managing risk during times of significant change**

This award is open to RiskNZ members and non-members. Entrants in this category can be an individual, team or organisation.

This award recognises and celebrates innovative practices or approaches. It's likely this innovation has translated into ongoing business practice for your organisation or your client, and is continuing to demonstrate value, adaptability and business stability. Whilst benefits may not be fully realised yet, the promise is there and you're excited to share what this could become for your organisation.

## Guide to entering the RiskNZ Awards of Excellence 2026

- RiskNZ awards are free to enter, although some categories are restricted to RiskNZ members only.
- Each submission should be 1,500 words or less and should meet the award criteria outlined. You can submit using the online form.
- We have weighted the criteria so you can see what we're looking for. Judges are looking for examples from your recent work.
- If you decide to enter into more than one award category, please submit a separate entry for each category but each one should be specifically tailored to the relevant Award category.
- We will be looking for evidence that your achievements are sustainable over time, support better decision making and have added real value to your organisation (i.e. your references should reflect this).
- You are welcome to include supporting materials. You can include supplementary information (up to four-pages) with your entry which can include photos, diagrams or charts. You will need to provide one written reference and one additional reference which we may contact for further information.
- Nominations open Wednesday 18th February 2026 and close on Sunday 26th April 2026.
- Judging will take place during April and May 2026.
- Finalists will be announced in the first week of July 2026 ahead of the RiskNZ Awards of Excellence presentation and Gala dinner on Wednesday 22nd July 2026, 6.30pm at The Wellington Club, Wellington CBD, NZ

## Terms and Conditions - RiskNZ Awards of Excellence 2026

1. Applicants should make sure they have the necessary authority from their organisation to enter the awards.
2. Applications should specifically reflect the criteria of the Award Category. Multiple applications using identical content will be withdrawn.
3. RiskNZ will ensure information contained within applications remains confidential to RiskNZ and the judging panel. However, applicants should ensure that they do not include information that might be considered confidential or sensitive by their company. We recommend that entrants protect any intangible assets (IP etc.) or aspects of their business that may be patentable.
4. Applications are limited to 1,500 words. Supplementary information (maximum four pages) of supporting material such as diagrams and illustrations may accompany the entry. Applications must be submitted online.
5. The judges may move applicants from one category to another if they believe that it is appropriate. We'll contact you if this is likely to happen.
6. RiskNZ may withdraw an award application should it be discovered that it includes false information. RiskNZ may audit information supplied in your entry.
7. The judges may highly commend awards in any category.
8. The judges may also choose not to issue a shortlist, or make an award if in their view, the applications submitted do not meet the required standard. Our judge's decisions are final. Interviews with shortlisted applicants may be required (by phone or video conferencing).
9. RiskNZ would like award winners to participate in post-awards publicity, including photographs. RiskNZ will publicise the results of our awards via mechanisms such as press releases, social media and case study coverage in RiskNZ's publications and online.
10. We'd love to celebrate with you, and encourage award winners or those shortlisted, to promote their achievements through their own press releases and social media.
11. By entering the RiskNZ Awards of Excellence, you agree to the above

## RiskNZ Awards of Excellence Gala Dinner Tickets



The banner features the RiskNZ logo on the left and the habithealth logo on the right. The central text reads: "AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE 2026", "AN EVENING TO RECOGNISE & CONNECT", "22<sup>ND</sup> JULY 2026 FROM 6.30PM", "THE COURTYARD AT LULU BAR & RESTAURANT", and "31 COURTENAY PLACE, WELLINGTON, NZ". Below this, a silver award medal is shown on the left. To the right are logos for PROTECH, LexisNexis Regulatory Compliance, riskconnect, and Diligent. At the bottom right, ticket prices are listed: "INDIVIDUAL TICKET: DRINKS & PLATTER MENU \$20.00", "INDIVIDUAL TICKET: DRINKS + 3 COURSE DINNER MENU \$80.00", and "LIMITED NUMBER OF TICKETS - FIRST IN FIRST SERVED".

### RiskNZ AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE 2026

#### An Evening to Recognise & Connect

22nd July 2026 from 6.30pm at

The Courtyard at Lulu Bar & Restaurant, 31 Courtenay Place, Wellington CBD, New Zealand

OPTION 1: Individual Ticket – Drinks & Platter Menu \$20.00

OPTION 2: Individual Ticket – drinks + 3 Course Dinner Menu \$80.00

(We will send you the menu to select your meal, vegetarian and GF options available)

Limited number of tickets – First in First Served

### [Purchase Tickets here or](#)

Order tickets by invoice from [adminofficer@risknz.org.nz](mailto:adminofficer@risknz.org.nz)

# Winners RiskNZ Awards of Excellence 2025



## Risk Professional of the Year

Winner: Rodney Young

## Networking and Partnerships in Risk Management

Winner: Vaibhav Bhatnagar

## Emerging Risk Professional of the Year

Winner: Elke Louw

## “Innovation” – Managing Risk during times of significant change

Winners: Jennie Vickers

## Winners RiskNZ Awards of Excellence 2024



Risk Professional of the Year  
Winner: Rodney Young

Networking and Partnerships in Risk Management  
Winners: Charlotte Brown and Helen Ferner

Emerging Risk Professional of the Year  
Winner: Tom Logan

“Innovation” – Managing Risk during times of significant change  
Winners: Charlotte Brown and Helen Ferner