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PRESS RELEASE

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Winner of Kelpies Prize 2007 Announced

Kelpies Prize 2008 Launched

Floris Books yesterday announced the winner of the 2007 Kelpies Prize at a packed award ceremony at the Edinburgh International Book Festival.

The Edinburgh-based publisher launched the Kelpies Prize in 2004, to encourage and reward new Scottish writing for children.

The winner is: *Hox*, by Annemarie Allan. Annemarie received a cheque for £2,000 on the night (see attached photograph). Her book will be published in the Kelpies series on October 11th, 2007.

Mike Nicholson, the winner of the last Kelpies Prize with his book *Catscape* presented the award. He said that it was the Kelpies Prize which had given him the inspiration and encouragement to finish his winning manuscript and spoke of how much he has enjoyed becoming part of the children's writing community in Scotland.

Pam Wardell, BBC producer and broadcaster and writer of children's dramas, also read from the three shortlisted manuscripts at the event.

Christian Maclean, Managing Director of Floris Books, commented: "The standard of all three manuscripts on the shortlist was exceptionally high, and we would have been proud for any of them to be the winner. We're delighted for Annemarie, though, and look forward to working with her to publish *Hox* this autumn. It's a really exciting adventure story which we think children will love."

Kelpies Prize 2008

At the same event, the 2008 Kelpies Prize was launched. Manuscripts are invited for submission by 29 February 2008. As usual, they must be set wholly or mainly in contemporary Scotland and be suitable for both boys and girls aged 9 to 12. They may not have been previously commercially published, although the author may have been. The judges are still looking primarily for a cracking story with strong characters, believable dialogue and a compelling atmosphere.

For full rules and guidelines, see www.florisbooks.co.uk/kelpiesprize.

More Information

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www.florisbooks.co.uk/kelpiesprize (includes press materials)

Winner of the Kelpies Prize 2007

Hox by Annemarie Allan

Faced with a cold Saturday afternoon stuck at the Institute for Animal Research, Robbie is angry and frustrated at yet another weekend ruined by his father's job. Then a disturbing encounter in the Animal House thrusts him into a perilous journey through the stunning but inhospitable landscape of a Highland winter; alone but for two enigmatic travelling companions. Robbie's world implodes as he tries to make sense of a hostile environment, his old life slowly unravels, and a shocking realization emerges.

Annemarie Allan studied at Stirling University and worked as a teacher and librarian near London. Returning to Scotland, she took up a post at the Scottish Arts Council, and started writing fantasy and science fiction for children in her spare time. She was shortlisted (for a different book) for the Saga/HarperCollins Children's book award in 2006. *Hox* is her fourth (unpublished) novel.



Annemarie Allan



Mike Nicholson and Annemarie Allan

(Photograph can be emailed on demand, in colour or b/w, up to a size of 15cm wide.
Other photographs of the award ceremony also available.)

About the Kelpies series

The Kelpies series of Scottish novels for children has gone from strength to strength since Floris Books revived the list in 2003 with the publication of Gill Arbuthnott's *The Chaos Clock*. Since then, eight brand new Kelpies have been published, of which one, *Chill* by Alex Nye, has just been shortlisted for the Scottish Arts Council/Royal Mail Book Awards 2007. The winner of the 2005 Kelpies Prize was *Catscape* by Mike Nicholson.