

PRESS RELEASE

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Eggstraordinary tale rules the roost at Kelpies Prize 2013

Youngest-ever winner Alex McCall takes home children's fiction prize
for *Attack of the Giant Robot Chickens*

Scottish publisher Floris Books, fresh from their domination of this year's Scottish Children's Book Awards, yesterday revealed first-time children's author Alex McCall as the winner of their annual Scottish children's fiction prize, the Kelpies Prize.

The announcement was made at an exclusive ceremony at the Edinburgh International Book Festival attended by award-winning authors, agents, booksellers and bloggers. Celebrated children's author Vivian French, best known for *The Tales from the Five Kingdoms* and the *Tiara Club*, presented the award. Vivian's speech praised the Kelpies Prize for its commitment to younger readers, inspiring a new generation of "readers for life".

At 19 years old, Alex McCall is the youngest-ever winner of the Kelpies Prize. His name was announced to a giant cheer from the crowd. Taking to the stage to thank his friends and family for their support, he also congratulated his two fellow shortlisted authors. McCall received a cheque for £2,000 on the evening (see overleaf) and his winning entry, *Attack of the Giant Robot Chickens*, will be published in the Kelpies range in spring 2014.

Also shortlisted were Barbara Henderson from Inverness, author of *Never Back*, which tells the story of TJ and Levi's escape from the mysterious New Dawn institute in remote Scotland and their quest to make sense of both their past and present; and Shona McQuilken from Cambuslang, author of *The Great Moon Mission*, which follows Jimmy and his friends in their attempts to win a competition to travel to the moon – and save the world.

Eleanor Collins, Senior Commissioning Editor for Floris Books, said: "The shortlisted authors all came up with original and exciting ideas – we were extremely impressed. However, *Attack of the Giant Robot Chickens* stood out for the way it blended humour, a real sense of adventure and an extraordinary plot. The image of giant robot chickens causing mayhem on the streets of Aberdeen had us completely absorbed. Congratulations to Alex McCall for writing such an imaginative and funny novel for children."

About the Kelpies Prize

Floris Books launched the Kelpies Prize in 2004 with support from the Scottish Arts Council, now Creative Scotland, to encourage and reward Scottish writing for children. Submissions must be set wholly, or mainly, in Scotland and be suitable for children aged 8 to 12. The Kelpies Prize winner receives £2,000 and is published by Floris Books under the Kelpies imprint.

Notes for Editors

To arrange an interview or for more information, please contact Nuria Ruiz, Marketing Executive on 0131 337 2372 or nuria@florisbooks.co.uk.



Alex McCall
Kelpies Prize 2013 Winner

The Kelpies Prize is
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Further Information

More about *Attack of the Giant Robot Chickens*

Why did the chicken cross the road? To start the giant robot chicken apocalypse, of course.

There's something fowl going on in Aberdeen. The town is being terrorised by giant robotic chickens determined to peck out the last sign of human resistance. It's been eight months since the chickens stole everyone over 15 and left the remaining children to band together into factions.

Now Jesse and his friends are determined not to let the chickens rule the roost any longer so they set about hatching a plan to stop the feathered fiends.

But what eggsactly do the chickens want and how will the gang stop them?

Meet the Author

Alex McCall grew up in Aberdeen, where *Attack of the Giant Robot Chickens* is set. He is currently studying Filmmaking and Screenwriting at the University of the West of Scotland. Alex has published several poetry and short story anthologies, and runs Skald's Tavern, a blog dedicated to creative writing and reviewing.



Vivian French handing Alex McCall his cheque for £2,000
(Photograph can be emailed on demand. Other photographs of the award ceremony are also available.)

About Floris Books and Discover Kelpies

Recently shortlisted for Saltire Society Scottish Publisher of the Year 2013, Floris Books is an independent publisher based in Edinburgh and the largest children's publisher in Scotland.

Now celebrating its 10th anniversary, the Kelpies range has been published by Floris since 2002 and features quality novels for 8-12 year olds set in Scotland or with strong Scottish themes. In July 2013, the Scottish Book Trust announced an all-Kelpies shortlist for the Scottish Children's Book Awards (8-11 years).

Kelpies Prize 2014

Manuscripts are now invited for submission to the **Kelpies Prize 2014**. They must be set wholly, or mainly, in Scotland and be suitable for children aged 8 to 12. They may not have been previously commercially published, although the author may have been. The judges are looking primarily for a cracking story with strong characters, believable dialogue and a compelling atmosphere. The deadline is 28 February 2014. For full rules and guidelines, visit www.florisbooks.co.uk/kelpiesprize