



## Smart Alex 2022: Secondary schools creative-writing competition

### Background

The Friends of the Turnbull Library *Ngā Hoa o te Whare Pukapuka Turnbull* announce the fourth year of our creative writing competition **Smart Alex**. The competition was created during the ATL100 celebrations to inspire and encourage students to enter the world of the Alexander Turnbull Library and discover its many treasures. This year the competition coincides with the release of **Te Kupenga**, and students are encouraged to use this taonga to become familiar with the work and collections of the Library.

The Friends have generously sponsored the competition for this further year, offering \$3,100 in prize money. The competition is open to all secondary school students in New Zealand and the South Pacific Islands.

### Who was ‘Smart Alex’?

One thousand years after Kupe arrived in Aotearoa and around 100 years after James Cook first navigated his way to Aotearoa New Zealand, **Alexander Turnbull** was born in Wellington, growing up to become not only a successful businessman but an amazing collector – of art, artefacts, clothes, coins, maps, photographs and books – especially books about New Zealand and the Pacific. He bought his first book at 17 and didn’t stop. He wasn’t a hoarder, he was a book hunter, and his passion for collecting books about us turned into something quite extraordinary. When he died, Alexander Turnbull gifted his collection (including 55,000 books!) to New Zealand. That gift became the basis for New Zealand’s largest documentary heritage library, the Alexander Turnbull Library (ATL) and was seen as “the most generous bequest to the people of New Zealand ever made by a New Zealander”.

### Entry criteria

You will personally respond to, or interpret, an item in the collections of the Alexander Turnbull Library to produce **a piece of creative writing, or an illustrated graphic story, or a written song/waiata**.

Submissions can be prose, poetry, **or** a combination of text and illustrations such as a cartoon strip or graphic story, **or** written lyrics for a song/waiata.

To fire your imagination visit your school library and look through **Te Kupenga** or browse the Te Kupenga content on the National Library website: [Te Kupenga](#) . Or you could also [search on-line](#) to discover an item in the Turnbull collections that inspires you.

For further information about Alexander Turnbull himself, see his biography in [Te Ara – The Encyclopedia of NZ](#), the [FoTL website](#), or the [Alexander Turnbull Library website](#).

### Competition dates and entry form

- 1 The competition commences on **7 June 2022**, and entries must be received no later than 5pm on **Sunday 28 August 2022**.
- 2 Winners and highly commended entries will be announced in September 2022.
- 3 As noted in the Terms and Conditions, all entries must be accompanied by the official entry form, which can be completed on the FoTL website –or downloaded and emailed (as a pdf or Word attachment) to: [SmartAlexATL22@gmail.com](mailto:SmartAlexATL22@gmail.com)

## Prizes

The Friends of Turnbull Library (FoTL) is offering a total of **\$3,100** in prizes across two age groups.

### Years 9-10

Winner receives \$600 cash

Runner-up receives \$300 cash

The winner's school library receives a \$150 book token.

### Years 11-13

Winner receives \$800 cash

Runner-up receives \$400 cash

The winner's school library receives a \$150 book token.

Up to 12 students with highly commended entries will receive a certificate and a \$50 book token.

The school with the greatest number of entries will receive a \$100 book token.

## Terms and Conditions

- 1 The competition is open to anyone currently attending a secondary school in New Zealand or in the Pacific Islands and includes secondary home-educated students.
- 2 For **Years 9-10**, the word limit **guideline** is 250 words, or up to 3 A4 pages if including illustrations.
- 3 For **Years 11-13**, the word limit **guideline** is 500 words, or up to 6 A4 pages if including illustrations.
- 4 Entries will feature creative writing/art **or** a written song/waiata in English **or** te reo Māori.
- 5 Entries must be entirely the work of the entrant and must never have been previously published, in print or online (including self-published, magazines, journals, websites, blogs, social network sites), or broadcast. Any entry found to have been plagiarised will be disqualified. Entries must not infringe the rights of any other party.
- 6 There is a limit of one entry per student.
- 7 All entries must be accompanied by the official entry form, which can be downloaded from the FoTL website – and emailed (as a pdf or Word attachment) to the following address: [SmartAlexATL22@gmail.com](mailto:SmartAlexATL22@gmail.com)
- 8 The competition will be judged by members of FoTL and National Library staff. The judges' decisions are final and no individual correspondence will be entered into. Judges will not comment or give feedback on individual stories.
- 9 All competition entries will be acknowledged but not returned. Some entries may be taken into the permanent collections of the Alexander Turnbull Library as a record of Library activities.
- 10 By submitting an entry, entrants agree that if their entry is a winner or highly commended, it may be edited and published in the publications of the Friends of Turnbull Library, in both print and online formats; and that all entries (excerpts or in full) may be used by FoTL and the Alexander Turnbull Library for publicity purposes. Prize-winners may be asked to send us a photo and some information about themselves.
- 11 All entrants are advised that their personal data will be used for the purposes of administering the competition. Also, FoTL will publish the names of winners and highly commended entrants on our website when we announce the winning results.
- 12 Copyright of each entry will remain with the individual writers.

Note: Entry implies an acceptance of these Terms and Conditions. Entries that fail to comply with the Terms and Conditions may be disqualified.