



Centre for Irish
and Scottish Studies



CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

- The 2023 Robert Burns Poetry Competition runs from Monday 11 September – Friday 1 December 2023 inclusive.
- Entries close 5pm Friday 1 December 2023.
- Late entries will not be entered into the competition.
- All entries must be typed.
- A strict word count of 500 words max will be imposed.
- All poems must be original to the person on the entry form and unpublished. Only one entry per person.
- Entries will be judged anonymously by the selected panel.
- The decision of the judges is final.
- Winning entrants will be selected and informed by Friday 15 December 2023.
- Entrants will be judged within one of two categories: Published Poet or Unpublished Poet. An unpublished poet is defined as someone who has not published a poem in return for monetary payment.
- Entrants are responsible for selecting their appropriate category.
- First, Second and Third Prize winners will be selected from each category.
- Winners will be publicly announced and prizes presented on Thursday 25 January 2024 between 5pm and 6pm, at the Dunedin City Library.
- First prize winners will be invited to read their poem on collection of their prize, or may choose for their poem to be read on their behalf.
- Winning entrants will not be funded to attend the official prize-giving.
- If unable to attend, arrangements will be made for winning prizes to be collected by, or delivered to, the winner.
- First prize winning poems will be published in the Otago Daily Times and published on the Dunedin Public Libraries website:
www.dunedinlibraries.govt.nz
- A copy of all entries will be retained by the Dunedin Public Libraries, unless an entrant requests otherwise.
- Please submit a copy of your original poem as entries will not be returned.

DUNEDIN UNESCO CITY OF LITERATURE ROBERT BURNS POETRY COMPETITION

WRITE A POEM IN ENGLISH OR
SCOTS, INSPIRED BY THE LIFE
OR WORKS OF ROBERT BURNS.



CASH PRIZES
FOR THE
WINNERS!

A BRIEF HISTORY

ROBERT BURNS, THE GREAT SCOTTISH BARD, WAS BORN ON 25 JANUARY 1759; AND HIS LEGEND LIVES ON THROUGH HIS POETRY AND SONGS. REGARDED AS A PIONEER OF THE ROMANTIC MOVEMENT, HIS WORKS REFLECT HIS STRENGTH OF OPINION, HIS LOVE OF WOMEN AND HIS FONDNESS (SOMETIMES TOO MUCH) OF DRINKING.

The Dunedin UNESCO City of Literature Robert Burns Poetry Competition is a collaboration between the Dunedin Public Libraries and The Dunedin Burns Club. Entries are judged by associates of the Robert Burns Fellowship and the winners are announced and presented with prizes on Robert Burns' birthday, 25 January.

Dunedin, in the South Island of New Zealand, has a familial link to Robert Burns in the form of his nephew, Dr Thomas Burns – who was one of the City's founding fathers during Scottish settlement. A statue of Robert Burns was unveiled in 1887, and stands in the Octagon at the heart of the City Centre. Today it remains a popular focal point and meeting place for both residents and visitors.

The University of Otago holds the Robert Burns Fellowship, a prestigious residency for contemporary New Zealand writers, which enables them to further explore and develop their craft.

The Dunedin Burns Club was formed in 1891. Alongside a number of Scottish clubs and societies in the City, the Dunedin Burns Club keeps the memory of our Scottish heritage alive and well.

HOW DO I ENTER?

Write a poem in English or Scots, inspired by the life or works of Robert Burns.

Fill out the entry form or visit www.dunedinlibraries.govt.nz/whats-on/competitions to enter online.

Submit a copy of your poem with your entry form by 5pm Friday 1 December 2023.

Poems must be no longer than 500 words.

A companion competition for young poets under the age of 18, the *Rap Like Robbie Poetry Competition*, is offered separately during the year, with the cash prize generously sponsored by the Dunedin-Edinburgh Sister City Society. Entry forms for this young poets competition are available from all Dunedin Public Libraries, and online at www.dunedinlibraries.govt.nz/whats-on/competitions

WHAT IF I WIN?

THE PRIZES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

PUBLISHED POET:

1ST PRIZE: William Brown and Charles Turner Medal

- \$1000 generously sponsored by the Otago Scottish Heritage Council
- Poem published in the Otago Daily Times newspaper
- Invitation to the 2024 Burns Supper at Toitū Otago Settlers Museum

2ND PRIZE: Certificate

3RD PRIZE: Certificate

UNPUBLISHED POET:

1ST PRIZE: Allan Millar Medal and Trophy

- \$500 generously sponsored by the Dunedin Public Libraries Association (Friends of the Library)
- Poem published in the Otago Daily Times newspaper
- Invitation to the 2024 Burns Supper at Toitū Otago Settlers Museum

2ND PRIZE: Certificate

3RD PRIZE: Certificate

All first prize winners will be invited to attend a ceremony on Thursday 25 January 2024 at the Dunedin City Library, and asked to read their poem on receipt of their prize, or nominate to have it read on their behalf.

If unable to attend, arrangements can be made for prizes to be collected by, or delivered to, the recipients.

ENTRY FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Daytime Phone _____

Email _____

ENTRY CATEGORY (PLEASE TICK):

- ☐ Published Poet
- ☐ Unpublished Poet

TITLE OF POEM: _____

(please include your poem with your entry form)

- ☐ I agree for a copy of my poem to be retained by the Dunedin Public Libraries, and to be published on www.dunedinlibraries.govt.nz
- ☐ I agree for my poem to be published by the Otago Daily Times should it win.

ENTRIES CLOSE: Friday 1 December 2023 | 5pm

POST: 2023 Robert Burns Poetry Competition
Dunedin Public Libraries
PO Box 5542
Moray Place
Dunedin 9054

DOWNLOAD: www.dunedinlibraries.govt.nz/whats-on/competitions