



## Rules and Guidelines for the Prize and Administration of The Australian Naval Institute Commodore Sam Bateman Book Prize

1. The Commodore **Sam Bateman Book Prize** (the 'Prize') is awarded annually by the Australian Naval Institute (ANI) to recognise excellence in published books significantly contributing to studying and understanding naval and maritime matters.
2. Inaugurated in 2021, the Commodore Sam Bateman Book Prize is awarded annually by the ANI to recognise excellence in books making a major contribution to the study and understanding of naval and maritime matters. Previous winners of the Prize are listed at <https://navalinstitute.com.au/events/ani-sam-bateman-book-prize/>
3. The Prize is named after Commodore Sam Bateman AM RAN (1938-2020), a former ANI Councillor and strategic thinker in recognition of his efforts to raise greater awareness of naval and/or maritime matters and progressing the understanding and value of navies in society. The aim of the Prize is to encourage and recognise excellence in books on naval and maritime affairs. Team Downer is the sponsor of the Prize as part of their sponsorship with the ANI.
4. The Prize is judged each year (annually) by a panel of judges nominated by the ANI. It will be awarded to the book judged to make naval and maritime matters more accessible to an audience through engaging content.
5. The judging panel comprises three to five people. The ANI selects the judging panel to include a current and serving Council member of the ANI and judges drawn from academia, the RAN and independent high-profile people with strong backgrounds in both the naval, maritime cultural or literary world.
6. Pivotal in promoting a more comprehensive understanding of the Navy and maritime environment and its role in societies, the Prize advocates books that challenge the public perception that writing on naval and maritime matters can be too difficult or uninteresting to engage readers.
7. **Entry process**
  - a. Each book entered can be either submitted by the book's publisher or referred to the Judging Panel by the ANI book reviewers.
  - b. Each book entered in competition must:
    - i. Complete the entry form.
    - ii. Provide a soft copy (PDF or EBook) to [admin@navalinstitute.com.au](mailto:admin@navalinstitute.com.au). The soft copy of the book allows it to be distributed more efficiently to aid in judging.
    - iii. Provide a hard copy book of the book to the Australian Naval Institute, PO Box 9141, Deakin, ACT, 2600.
    - iv. Books can be sent at any time from the opening of the 2026 Prize but must arrive by close of business on Monday 19 October annually to be eligible for review for the Prize.

**8. Eligibility criteria**

- a. The subject matter of the books entered may include any aspect of naval and maritime matters or interest, including strategy, ship-building and histories of naval matters. The focus will be on Australian or the Indo-Pacific naval and maritime matters.
- b. The Prize rewards books that best contribute to making naval and maritime matters more accessible to public adult audiences. Judges will look for books they deem stimulating, engaging, transparent, accessible, and high-quality. These books might challenge people's views that naval matters are too difficult to comprehend, tedious, of little value to contemporary society or inaccessible to the general populous.
- c. Books in the same series may be judged together or separately at the judges' discretion.
- d. Books received after the nomination date will be reviewed for the following year's Prize.
- e. Books entered must be in the English language.
- f. Books entered must be available to purchase in hardcopy, in Australia, through an Australian bookstore or online retailer at the time of entry.
- g. Employees and Councillors of the ANI and their immediate families, persons connected with the Prize and their immediate families will not be eligible to submit books for this Prize.
- h. There is no restriction on the geographical location of the publisher of any entry. There are no restrictions on the nationality, age or any other characteristic of any entry's author(s) or illustrator(s).
- i. The copies entered must be paper-based and bound. For printed books, the latest edition of the paperback or hardback is expected to be provided. For eBooks, it is expected that the current edition of the eBook will be provided, printed and bound.
- j. There is no charge to enter.

**9. Award of the Prize**

- a. The Prize will be announced in the first week of December. The publisher will be advised prior to the announcement to allow preparation of any media release. The ANI will also provide the Prize logo for promotional use.
- b. The Prize is a glass inscribed trophy.
- c. The winning author will be invited to record a dedicated Commodore Sam Bateman Book Prize podcast episode as part of the ANI's *Saltwater Strategists* podcast program.
- d. The podcast will be made available for wider dissemination on the *Australian Naval Institute Website*.

10. **Enquiries.** Any enquiries about the Prize should be directed to the ANI Secretariat: [admin@navalinstitute.com.au](mailto:admin@navalinstitute.com.au)