



Australian Naval Institute McNeil Prize

Call for Nominations for 2026 McNeil Prize

In 2016, the Australian Naval Institute (ANI) created an award to honour an individual or individuals from Australian defence industry who have made an outstanding contribution to the capabilities and sustainment of the Royal Australian Navy. This award was named the “McNeil Prize” in honour of Rear Admiral Percival McNeil CB RAN, one of the founding fathers of Australian shipbuilding.

The previous winners of the McNeil Prize are:

- 2016: Ian Croser AM, the co-founder of CEA Technologies.
- 2017: Peter Evans from Saab Australia Pty Ltd.
- 2018: Andrew Whittaker, Director of Shipbuilding at Raytheon Australia.
- 2019: Peter Jenkins, Founder and Managing Director of Jenkins Engineering Defence Systems (JEDS).
- 2020: Professor Jason Scholz, CEO, Defence Cooperative Research Centre – Trusted Autonomous Systems.
- 2021: Ted Huber, Founder and Chairman of Acacia Systems
- 2022: Jim Cuthill, BAE Systems Maritime Australia
- 2023: Brad Flemming, Raytheon Australia
- 2024: Craig Lockhart, BAE Systems Maritime Australia
- 2025: Robert Dane, Ocius Technologies

Eligibility: To be eligible for the McNeil Prize, the nominee:

- is an individual or individuals from the Australian defence industry;
- has made a significant contribution to the capabilities of the RAN.

The Prize is awarded annually and presented at the ANI’s Vernon Parker Oration and Annual Dinner which will be held in Canberra on Tuesday 19 May 2026.

Nominations are to be made in the form of a submission of no more than 500 words forwarded to the ANI Business Manager, Sue Hart at admin@navalinstitute.com.au. For further information contact the ANI Secretariat on 02 6290 1505.

The closing date for nominations for the 2026 McNeil Prize is 24 April 2026.

The **criteria** against which the prize is judged and a **nomination form** are attached.



2026 ANI McNeil Prize – Judging Criteria

The judges are asked to assess nominations against the following criteria.

The size of the contribution

An assessment of the nominee's contribution to the capability that they are currently supporting. For example, what is their level of contribution or influence in relation to the overall delivery of the capability? The significance of the capability itself does not factor in this criteria.

The significance of the capability being contributed to

An assessment of the capability that the nominee is contributing to. What is this particular capability's significance in relation to the whole of Navy's capability as required by Australian Naval Doctrine and Defence policy? The size of the nominee's contribution does not factor in this criteria.

The temporal nature of the contribution

How enduring has the contribution been? Is it recent or over many years? Will the contribution continue to be enduring?

The sovereign nature of the contribution

All nominees are from Australian Industry, however, some may have more indigenous foundations or are more reliant on an Australian supply or manufacturing base.

The reputational impact on Australian Industry

How has this contribution impacted on the overall reputation of Australian industry and the Navy, both domestically and internationally?

The potential for export

What is the potential of the contribution being used for export or expanding Australian Industry?

The innovative nature of the contribution

Has the contribution displayed a high level of innovation – either technical or managerial?



2026 ANI McNeil Prize Nomination Form

Nominee

Name:

Organisation:

Statement in support of the nomination: *(Maximum 500 words.)*

Nominator

Name:

Organisation:

Phone:

Email:

Date: