

CHIEF OF NAVY 2025 ESSAY COMPETITION

The Chief of Navy Essay Competition aims to promote knowledge of and interest in a thinking, fighting and Australian Navy.

The Royal Australian Navy (RAN) and Australian Naval Institute (ANI) are looking for original thinkers who, through their work, promote discussion about the future of the RAN.

TOPICS: (select one)

1. In what ways does Australia's strength at sea contribute to prosperity at home?
2. What are the essential features of Australian sea power? Do these constitute an identifiable or uniquely Australian form of sea power?
3. Australia's submarine fleet plays an important role in building a credible strategic threat and preventing others from compromising our crucial seaborne trade routes. How will the introduction of nuclear-powered submarines change the nature and character of our future submarine capability?
4. In peacetime the Royal Australian Navy performs key roles which contribute to our national interest especially in the diplomatic realm. Over the last 125 years, outline and then evaluate the RAN's diplomatic role in the Pacific.
5. How would international shipping be organised and protected in the event of a global conflict and how does this differ from the protection of shipping from the German u-boat threat in the Atlantic in WWII?

LENGTH: 2,500 Words

NAVY



FOUR DIVISIONS

1. **McKenzie Prize (Open Division).**
Named after Honorary Flight Officer Florence Violet McKenzie and open to any Australian or international entrant. **PRIZE: \$2,000AUD**
2. **Smith Prize (Australian Defence Personnel Division).** Named after ADML Sir Victor Alfred Trumper Smith and open to all members of the Australian Department of Defence, including Cadets. **PRIZE: \$2,000 AUD**
3. **MacDougall Prize (RAN Youth Division).**
Named after VADM Ian Donald George MacDougall and open to all members of the RAN aged 25 or under at the closing date for submission of entries. **PRIZE: \$2,000 AUD**
4. **Gaul Prize (Industry Division).**
Named after David Gaul and open to any employee of a company working in support of Defence in Australia. **PRIZE: \$2,000 AUD**

OUTCOME

The winners of the four Prizes may be invited to attend an announcement event at the Indo Pacific Sea Power Conference, 4-6 November 2025 in Sydney.

The winning essays and honourable mentions will be published by the ANI in the *Australian Naval Review*.

Closing Date

30 September 2025 2359 AEST

LINK TO RULES: <https://navalinstitute.com.au/home/chief-of-navy-essay-competition/>