



ARA Historical Novel Prize Rules

General

Opening date: 1 May 2020 at 9 am AEST

Closing date for entries: 30 June 2020 at 5 pm AEST

Longlist of 6 books announced: Mid-September

Shortlist of 3 books announced: Mid-October

Prize Winner announced: 18 November 2020

Definition of Historical Fiction:

The ARA Historical Novel Prize (the Prize) is only for published historical novels, that is, novels written in the Historical Fiction genre based on the following definition:

1. A novel written at least 50 years after the events described (in 2020, this means the setting should be before 1970); or
2. A novel written by someone who was not alive at the time of those events and who therefore approaches them only by research. (If the entire book is set more recently than 1970, the author's age will be relevant to determine if the book is deemed to be historical fiction.)
3. Historical sub-genres considered to be historical fiction include historical mystery, historical romance, and historical fantasy. Alternate history, pseudo histories, time-slip novels, multiple-time period novels, and parallel narrative novels are also considered historical fiction with flexibility to crossover between eras stretching from 50 years or more in the past until contemporary times.
4. For the purposes of the Prize, historical novels written for children and young adults are also deemed to be an historical sub-genre.

Entry guidelines:

Important: Please first refer to eligibility criteria to determine if a book is eligible

1. Publishers, agents or authors may enter books.
2. Books may be entered either as print copies or as digital copies.
3. A non-refundable entry fee of \$30 per entry is payable. Payment must be cleared by 30 June 2020. Nominators may pay for multiple entries in one transaction on Trybooking.
4. A nomination form (download separately) and proof of payment of entry fee (via a Trybooking ticket receipt) must accompany each entry, whether print or digital.
5. If print, four copies of each book entered must be sent to the print receiving office:

ARA Historical Novel Prize
c/o The New England Writers' Centre,
PO Box 1219, Armidale NSW 2350

6. If digital, both a MOBI *and* an EPUB or PDF file of the published book must be sent to the digital receiving email address, ARAHistNovelPrize@gmail.com. This file must be the final, published version, not a proof copy or manuscript.

7. A publisher, agent or author may submit more than one entry provided a separate entry fee is paid for each novel.
8. A longlist of 6 books will be announced in mid-September 2020. Nominators of the longlisted books will be notified after the judges' decision, and will be able to promote the book's longlisting on an agreed date. We regret we are not able to notify entrants who have not been successful.
9. A short list of 3 books will be announced on 18 November 2020. Nominators of the shortlisted books will be notified after the judges' decision, and will be able to promote the book's shortlisting on an agreed date. Unsuccessful nominators will be notified.
10. Shortlisted authors will be invited to attend the ARA Historical Novel Prize event on 18 November 2020, where the winner will be announced.
11. The judging criteria include originality, durability, depth of research, reader appeal, with excellence in writing as the deciding factor.

Eligibility criteria:

1. Books must be historical novels, whether for adults, children, or young adults as per the definition set out in the rules.
2. Books must have first been published or released in Australia or New Zealand between 1 January 2019 and 30 June 2020.
3. The books do not have to be set in either Australia and/or New Zealand, or feature the history of those countries
4. Reprints of earlier books are not eligible.
5. Self-published books are eligible.
6. Authors must be citizens or residents of Australia or New Zealand.
7. Books must have an ISBN (print) or ASIN/epub ISBN (digital).
8. Books must be produced and published in English.
9. Books must have good production values (ie format, design etc) and be professionally edited.
10. Minimum word count is 30,000 words
11. Books which do not meet the eligibility criteria will be removed from contention and not sent to the judging panel.
12. Copies of books entered for the Prize, whether print or digital, will not be returned.
13. Publishers or agents entering a work on behalf of an author are assumed to have the author's consent to do so, and it is their responsibility to ensure they do have that consent.
14. While all reasonable care will be taken, no responsibility is accepted for loss or damage to submitted print copies in postal transit or for entries that are not received by the due date.
15. The judging panel's decisions are final and no debate or correspondence will be entered into.
16. Copyright will remain with the author or publisher.

Note: Books by authors who are current members of the HNSA Management Committee and/or HNSA Award sub-committee, or are principals, board members and employees of ARA or NEWC are not eligible to be entered. Equally, books by members of the current judging panel are not eligible to be entered.

Prizes

The winner will be awarded \$30,000 AUD.

Highly commended awards will be presented to the shortlisted books.

Commended awards will be presented to the longlisted books.

Impact of COVID 19 on postal services

HNSA recognises that postal delays may occur due to the impact of COVID19 restrictions on the Australian and New Zealand postal services. Leeway for late lodgement will be allowed for entries received after the deadline provided the post office time stamp pre-dates 30 June 2020. It is recommended that nominators keep a tracking ID number as proof of postage.

After the close of submissions, HNSA will reconcile Trybooking ticket transactions against the list of titles lodged. If a title has not been received, HNSA will contact the nominator to ascertain when and from where the entry was sent. *Please do not contact HNSA to seek confirmation of receipt of an entry.*

Download a separate nomination form from the HNSA website for each book submitted. <https://hnsa.org.au/ara-historical-novel-prize/>