



# 2021 HISTORICAL NOVEL PRIZE

Historical Novel Society Australasia

## ARA Historical Novel Prize Rules – CYA Historical Fiction Category

### General

Opening date: 14 April 2021 at 9 am AEST

Closing date for entries: 14 June 2021 at 5 pm AEST

Longlist of 9 books announced: 8 September 2021

Shortlist of 3 books announced: 22 September 2021

Prize Winner announced: 22 October 2021

### 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. The definition of the genre set by the Historical Novel Society Australasia (HNSA) is a novel in which the majority of the narrative, ie more than 50% of the events described, must have taken place at least 50 years before publication.
2. Historical sub-genres considered to be historical fiction include historical mystery, historical romance, and historical fantasy and alternate history. 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 provided more than 50% of the events described take place at least 50 years before publication.

### Definition of Children and Young Adult historical fiction for the purpose of this prize:

Children and Young Adult historical fiction acceptable for the purposes of the prize include novels written for age groups stretching from middle primary to end of high school with a minimum word count of 25,000 words. Picture books, graphic novels, narrative non-fiction, and non-fiction are excluded. Novels may include illustrations.

### Entry guidelines:

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

1. Publishers, agents or authors may enter books. **If the book is being entered by a publisher or agent, the author's consent to enter the work must be obtained.** This must be confirmed on the nomination form by providing the author's personal contact details.
2. Books may be entered either as print copies or as digital copies.
3. A non-refundable entry fee per entry is payable. Payment must be cleared by 30 June 2021. Nominators may pay for multiple entries in one transaction on Trybooking. The fees are:
  - a. Early Bird 14 April to 14 May 2021 (Midnight)- \$35
  - b. General entry 15 May to 14 June 2021 (Midnight)- \$50
4. A nomination form (download separately) and proof of payment of entry fee (via a Trybooking ticket receipt) must be emailed as attachments to [ARAHistNovelPrize@gmail.com](mailto:ARAHistNovelPrize@gmail.com) in the case of both print and digital books.

5. If print, three copies of each book entered must be sent to the print receiving office. Advanced Review Copies are acceptable for books due to be released between 14 -30 June 2021. Please send entries to:

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

6. If digital, an EPUB of the published book must be sent to the digital receiving email address, [ARAHistNovelPrize@gmail.com](mailto:ARAHistNovelPrize@gmail.com) as an attachment. This file must be the final, published version, not a proof copy or manuscript. A link to a digital bookstore where the book is currently for sale (or on presale with a release date on or before 30 June) must be provided. No other digital format will be accepted eg PDF or MOBI files. No transfers via the Cloud will be accepted.
7. A publisher, agent or author may submit more than one entry provided a separate entry fee is paid for each novel. Multiple entries are payable in one transaction on Trybooking.
8. A longlist of 9 books will be announced in 8 September 2021. Nominators of the longlisted books will be notified after the judges' decision and will be required to keep this confidential until such date the HNSA advises it is acceptable to promote the book's longlisting. 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 22 September 2021. Nominators of the shortlisted books will be notified after the judges' decision and will be required to keep this confidential until such date the HNSA advises it is acceptable to promote the book's shortlisting. Unsuccessful nominators will be notified.
10. In submitting their book all longlisted, shortlisted and prize winning authors agree to make themselves available for marketing and publicity opportunities to promote the Prize.
11. Shortlisted authors will be invited to attend the ARA Historical Novel Prize cocktail event on 22 October 2021, where the winner will be announced.
12. In submitting their book, all shortlisted and prize-winning authors commit to accept the source of the funds awarded to them.
13. 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.
14. Copies of books entered for the Prize, whether print or digital, will not be returned.
15. HNSA welcomes all entries submitted in good faith and reserves the right to refuse entries submitted with malice or with the intent to mislead or deceive others, or which otherwise may harm the reputation of the ARA Historical Novel Prize, ARA Group, and/or HNSA.
16. The judging criteria include depth of research, widespread reader appeal, with excellence in writing as the deciding factor.
17. The judging panel's decisions are final and no debate or correspondence will be entered into.

#### **Eligibility criteria:**

1. Books must be historical novels as per the definition set out in the rules.
2. Books must meet the definition of Children and Young Adult historical fiction as set out in the rules.
3. All forms of non-fiction including narrative non-fiction and memoir are ineligible.
4. Picture books and graphic novels are ineligible. Novels may include illustrations.
5. Books must have first been published or released in Australia or New Zealand in English between 1 July 2020 and 30 June 2021.
6. The books do not have to be set in either Australia and/or New Zealand, or feature the history of those countries.
7. Reprints of earlier books are not eligible.
8. Self-published books are eligible.
9. Authors must be citizens or residents of Australia or New Zealand at the time of entry.
10. Books must have an ISBN (print) or EPUB ISBN (digital).

11. Books must be produced and published in English.
12. Books must have good production values (ie format, design etc) and be professionally edited.
13. Digital books must be in a valid EPUB format. It is the nominator's responsibility to ensure the file is properly formatted and renders correctly across platforms. **No other digital format will be accepted**\_eg PDF or MOBI files.
14. Minimum word count is 25,000 words.
15. Copyright will remain with the author or publisher.
16. Co-authored books are ineligible.
17. Posthumous entries will not be accepted. For legal reasons, a book will be disqualified if an author dies after their book is entered.
18. Books which do not meet the eligibility criteria will be removed from contention and not sent to the judging panel.

**Note:** Books by authors who are current members of the HNSA Management Committee and/or HNSA Prize sub-committee, or are contractors retained by HNSA for its biennial conferences or the Prize, 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.

The two shortlisted authors will each be awarded \$5,000 AUD.

### **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 5pm on 14 June 2021. It is recommended that nominators keep a tracking ID number as proof of postage. However, it is highly recommended that nominators aim to submit their entries well in advance of the closing date to avoid issues with postal delays.

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/>

Buy tickets at Trybooking <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing?eid=737675>