

Nominee Name Steven Bennett CTM, MMgt Stud, CPPM, MAIPM
Sub-Branch Box Hill
Region 1



RSL Service History

Association Special Operations Engineer Regiment Association – Secretary
 Sub-Branch Service member

Other voluntary service history

Regular collector for ANZAC Appeal and Legacy Appeals.

Work Experience (Service and/or Civilian)

1986 to 1998 Command, management and leadership experience at Troop/Squadron/Regimental level in Construction/Combat Engineer Regiment and School of Military Engineers. International Leadership Exchange experience with the Royal Malay Engineers. Facilities Management experience a Headquarters 2nd Military District Sydney. Logistic Manager experience in a Combat Engineer Regiment. Operations Officer and Training Manager for a Reserve Combat Engineer Regiment.

1999 to 2009 Executive Officer experience Incident Response Regiment (now Special Operations Engineer Regiment) Special Operation Command. Project Manager for Minor Training Projects up to \$4,000,000 Headquarters Training Command. Student in USA and Canadian Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear and Explosives (CBRNE) Training Establishments Long term Schooling. Projects Manager Land Warfare Development Centre Force Development Group. Projects Manager and Desk Officer for International Engagement programs listed below: NATO Tactical Operations working group. Aust, UK, Canada, USA, NZ (ABCA) Quadripartite Working group Staff Procedures. Aust, UK, Canada, USA, NZ (ABCA) Quadripartite Working group NBC Defence

2010 to 2018 Project Manager Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group Victoria Barracks: Deputy Project Director Land 125 Phase 3 Soldier Combat Ensemble Body Armour project. Responsibilities included staff management, conduct training, budget management, schedules and drafting strategic documentation such as Executive briefings. Deputy Project Director \$500 Million dollar project Land 2110 Phase 1B Australian Defence Force CBRN Defence Capability. Responsibilities included staff management, inputting into cost budgets, schedules and draft strategic documentation such as executive briefs.

Project Manager Integrated Soldier Systems Development Directorate. Integration of technology on the Soldier, testing and evaluations activities, manage cost and schedule.

Student Capability and Technology Management College ADFA & University of NSW (UNSW)

2019 to Current

Project Manager for delivering Defence Capability to Special Operations Command Australia. My duties include staff management, tender documentation, contract management, budgets, schedules and drafting strategic documentation for Defence Executives / Federal Government Ministerial briefs.

Service and/or Civilian Qualification

Military

Graduate Royal Military College (RMC) Duntroon

Graduate School of Royal Australian Engineers (RAE) Officer Courses & Professional development

Graduate of the Army Officer professional qualification courses for Lieutenant to Major

Joint Warfare College courses

Canadian & USA Diploma CBRNE Capability Development and Nuclear, Biological Chemical Defence

Civilian & Other Government Institutions

UNSW Master of Management Studies (Management & Defence Capability Development and Acquisition) - Post Nominal MMgt Stud

Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA) Graduate Capability and Technology Management College (CTMC) as Capability & Technology Manager (Project Management) – Post Nominal CTM

Member in the Australian Institute of Project Management and Certified Practising Project Manager - Post Nominal MAIPM, CPPM

Graduate Executive Leadership Course Australian Institute Police Management (AIPM)

Awards and Medals

Australian Active Service Medal – with Clasps – East Timor, IRAQ and ICAT

International Forces East Timor Medal

Iraq Medal

Afghanistan Medal

Australian Service Medal with clasps, South East Asia and Middle East

Defence Long Service Medal, with First, Second & Third clasps (awaiting my 4th as of Jan 2021)

Australian Defence Medal

United Nations Medal with ribbon UNTSO numeral 2

NATO Medal – with clasp ISAF

Chief of Joint Operations Commendation

Return from Active Service Badge

Statement of Suitability for appointment

I have read the RSL Victoria Branch Strategic Plan and Annual Reports and both make me proud to see RSL Victoria adapting to contemporary challenges while keeping its heritage and traditions at the centre of who we are.

I enthusiastically support the mission and vision statement and believe the implementation strategies will provide the branch with a clear way forward. My observation would be each one requires performance/reporting metrics and an appointed person(s) for their delivery. I would support the Executive in their development as we progress towards 2023 and begin looking to our next Strategic Plan.

Upholding RSL traditions and ethos remains an enduring personal value. This is described in the strategy as making us a bedrock Australian Institution with deep roots running across diverse social and cultural sectors. I believe we should quickly reinvigorate these after the COVID-19 disruption.

Public goodwill towards the RSL is essential and must be sustained with great care. Therefore a well-managed communications plan is critical and I would like to see a more focused effort in this area. On occasion we need to explain ourselves in a well-orchestrated manner using multiple means.

I have had the experience to visit friends who have needed the support of Ward 17 Repat Hospital and an Ex-Service Organisation. The work done by these Organisations exemplifies compassionate and agile support. This leads me to conclude there is more work for the RSL to advocate through our unique relationship with Governments for more veteran mental health care and wellbeing support.

I am keen to see the RSL become more agile in our adaption to the changing Australian social and cultural circumstance because this is influencing those who would join us. It is my belief, and I write with the utmost of respect, we have less than 10 years before the RSL in its current structure and management architecture will need to receive fresh blood in order to keep moving forward consistent with our mission and vision. The achievements to date will be for naught if we cannot find and keep new members while developing leadership talent at Branch and Sub-Branch levels.

We should seek to connect with the growing diversity within the ADF before they transition and for those already in our communities. The communications strategy would be a key tool along with compassionate, flexible and resilient leadership, more members will join.