

Candidate Profiles – National President



Barry John (BJ) Clark QSM JP

Service History

I joined the Army as a Regular Force Cadet in January 1970, Ngarimu VC Class serving for twenty-one years in the Corps of Royal New Zealand Engineers attaining the rank of Warrant Officer Class One and retiring in December 1991.

During my career I served in Moscow, Singapore, Fiji, Antarctica, and the Sinai

RNZRSA Involvement

I joined the RNZRSA in 1973 and have held the following appointments.

- Papanui RSA: Executive committee member March 1992-1993; Vice President 1993 – 1998; President 1998 – 2014
- Canterbury District: Vice President 2000 – 2004; President 2004 - 2008.

- RNZRSA: National Vice President 2008 -2014; National President 2014.

Honours and Awards

- Queens Service Medal in January 2003
- Appointed a Justice of the Peace in June 2004
- Christchurch City Council Civic Award for services to veterans Dec 2010
- RNZRSA Merit Badge and Certificate of Merit in May 2005.
- RNZRSA Gold Star and Certificate of Merit in July 2010
- RNZRSA Gold Star and Bar 2019

Community Service

- I serve on a community justice initiative called the Community Justice Panel which works with offenders to curb future offending.
- I became a Marriage Celebrant in 2013.
- I was elected Vice President of the NZ Justice of the Peace Association in 2015 and President in 2017, serving until 2019.

Personal Statement

I am committed and passionate to ensure that those who have served this country receive the support they are entitled to expect as a result of that service.

We can only be successful if we work together as one team, sharing our experience, abilities, networks and resources.



Sir Wayne (Buck) Shelford
KNZM, MBE

Served in the Royal New Zealand Navy 1975–86

- Basic Training then specialist course in Gunnery
- Served in the Far East (HMNZS Otago) - 1976
- Completed the Gunnery Fire Control Course and Seacat Missile Aimers Course HMAS Cerebus (Australia)
- Petty Officers Command Course - 1978/79
- Promoted to Temp Petty Officer - 1980
- Completed the Joint Service PTI Course (Level 2) Wigram - 1981
- Remainder of service at HMNZS Philomel PTI Training School

RSA Involvement

- Member of the Auckland RSA Executive - 2017 – 2021
- Actively involved in the RSA organisation for a number of years, member of Auckland RSA and Hibiscus Coast RSA.
- Actively involved in commemoration/ANZAC events in the Auckland District.

Honours and Awards Received

- Knight New Zealand Order of Merit (KNZM) - 2021
- Member of the British Empire (MBE) – 1990
- Life Member of the North Shore Rugby Club
- Life Member of The Barbarian Rugby Club
- Inducted into the Maori Sports Hall of Fame - 2007
- Inducted into the New Zealand Sports Hall of Fame - 1991

Achievements

Sport

- Captain All Blacks
- NZ All Blacks – 1'
- NZ Maori All Blac
- Captain North Ha
- Captain NZ Coml
- NZ Sevens – 198

Employment

- NZCM (Community Service) - 1991
- Rugby World Cup Gold Medal Winner - 1987
- NZDF – 1975-86
- Rugby Coaching
- Publican/Hotelier

Community Service

- Patron New Zealand Defence Force Rugby
- Patron New Zealand Navy Rugby
- Patron for the Passchendaele Society
- Patron of 'Waimarie – Whatever It Takes Community Housing for Disabled
- Patron for Te Reo Tuatahi Education Programme
- Patron of the North Shore Rugby Football Club
- Ambassador for 'Blue September' Prostate Cancer Foundation
- Ambassador for The Life Keeper Suicide Prevention Programme. Le Va. Manukau
- Ambassador for Te Kiwi Maia – First Responders

Vision for RSA Going Forward

From my time in the Navy and playing for the All Blacks I have learned a great deal about high-performing teams. Critical to both the Navy and the All Blacks high performance was the application of leadership and empowerment of everyone in those organisations to achieve the mission. My strength is in leading high-performing teams to achieve success.

What I intend to bring to the RSA is leadership and will apply this to:

- Improving our governance from the current confused Forum and Board construct.
- Connect with all RSA in a comprehensive and collaborative manner so we can define the type of organisation we want to be in the future.
- Create thriving and vibrant RSAs that are linked to our communities and provide support to all their members.

Candidate Profiles National Vice President



JANET CASTELL MNZM

Kia ora Koutou, my name is Janet Castell MNZM, and I am asking for you to support me as National Vice President.

Through my association with, and the many years I have served in various appointments in the RSA, I have developed critical insights into how we can improve this great organisation and return it to its core purpose of supporting veterans and their families.

I make no secret about my passion to ensure that all service personnel, whether retired or serving, receive the support that they are entitled to whether it be from Veterans Affairs, NZDF, other government agencies or their local RSA. My passion comes partly from my firm belief that “service” is still my duty and responsibility to ones’ troops goes beyond retirement from the NZDF. Being keenly aware of the weaknesses of the Veterans Support Act 2014 and the inability of Veterans Affairs to consistently deliver high-quality support to those who have served, I am dedicated to ensuring that all veterans and their families get improved services from the Government. I am also an avid supporter of the concept of RSA’s without borders which allows for the expenditure of individual RSA Poppy Funds to support eligible individuals or their families in need regardless of location.

My vision for the RSA, is that it works cohesively on getting our support services right, positions itself as an organisation able to support the next generation of veterans, and is reflective of the organisation that inspired the returning men in 1916 to set up the RSA.

My skills are directly related to ensuring that we have support services that are able to be accessed by those that still serve, those veterans that are transitioning out of the military, the large cohort of veterans that we have created since 1990, and those veterans that are in their retirement years. My experience is in ensuring that support advisors are trained and skilled in accessing services, which entails me travelling up and down the country training and mentoring support staff.

I have a significant background in governance and strategy enabling me to be able to work collaboratively with the Board and the President's forum in ensuring our strategy sets a vision that enables us to be there for the oncoming generation of veterans.

I have significant experience in the Government sector working as a Senior Manager in Corrections and prior to that was a Senior Officer in the NZDF

I served as an officer in the Army for 28 eight years. I started my career as a Territorial soldier in 1975, joined the Regular Force in 1977 and was commissioned into RNZSigs in December 1977. I served in numerous command and staff appointments, highlights being Commandant Officer Cadet School (NZ) and Commandant Cadet Forces, retiring in 2005 from the role of Deputy Chief Defence Intelligence in the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

My RSA experience is as District Vice President and District Support Manager of Wairarapa, Hawkes Bay, and East Coast District. I am currently President of the Waipukurau and Districts RSA.



Graham Gibson

Details of Service History

- Enlisted in the New Zealand Army in Jan 1968, as a Regular Force Cadet (Waiouru).
- On graduating in December 1968, I was posted as an infantry Instructor (RNZIR) to NSTU Burnham.
- Posted to Singapore in May 1970.
- In May 1971 posted on Active Service to Vietnam with 4RAR/NZ ANZAC Battalion (Victor 6).
- PMC (External) INL/US DOS Security Contractor Afghanistan November 2005/06 and Iraq 2006/07.

RNZRSA Involvement

- Member of the Auckland RSA for over 23 years
- Executive Committee for the past 20 years. Have held the position of Vice President for 3 years and President for the past 11 years.
- Currently Auckland District RSAs President for 3 years and member of the RNZRSA Forum.
- A supporter/fundraiser for the Auckland District Women's Sections.
- Strong advocate for Veterans support and Veterans issues.
- As Rodney Hide's special advisor I was instrumental in advocating with the then Prime Minister Helen Clark to ensure that veterans

service since WW2 was recognised by the NZ Operational Service Medal (NZOSM).

Community Service

- Vice Chairman - Fields of Remembrance Trust WW1 (2014-2018) Commemoration/(White Crosses Project)
- National Vice President of the New Zealand Vietnam Veterans Assn.
- Trustee – New Zealand Vietnam Veterans and Families Trust.

Vision for RSA Going Forward

- Strong Welfare/Support and Advocacy for our veterans, their families and dependents.
- Transparency - openness and honesty with our membership organisations.
- Strong representation to Government, VANZ, and other Government agencies to improve benefits to veterans and their families.
- Focusing on fixing issues with National Office, Board, and Presidents Forum to ensure these groups are working in collaboration for the benefit of all members of the RSA community.



Stan Hansen

Personal

I was born last century, in Temuka and current reside in Belfast, Christchurch. I am married to Sue and have two adult children and 5 grandchildren.

Employment History

I have been employed principally as a fire fighter, both permanent and volunteer, a soldier, a storeman, administrator, and more recent property and grounds admin. There have been other employments during this time, between desired employment opportunities.

Employment Achievements

- **NZ Fire & Emergency** - Station Officer, all aspects of fire & rescue
- **NZDF** - Staff Sergeant, Senior Rural Fire Officer NZDF Southern Region, Deputy Firemaster, Burnham Camp
- **Steel & Tube** - Branch Manager, Fastenings Importation & Distribution
- **He Waka Tapu** - Property & grounds maintenance & mentoring support

Employment qualification

- **NZ Fire & Emergency** - AMNZFBI Fire Engineering Diploma, Station Officer qualification, search & rescue, MVA extrication, building construction, crash rescue, rural & urban fire fighting
- **NZDF** - SNCO, (SSGT), Moral Leadership, Advanced medical, Snr All Arms Instructor, Defence Snr Rural Fire Officer, and so much more
- **Steel & Tube** - Branch Manager, Business Accounting, Staff Recruitment Retention & Admin, Health & Safety Unit Standards, (L4), Logistics & Movements, and again, more
- **He Waka Tapu** – continued learning Te Reo, cultural understanding & application

Military history

My family has a long military connection. A Great Uncle was KIA at Gallipoli on day one of the landings, grandfather gave Army service in WW1, father and his two brothers gave both Army and Air Force service in WW2, my uncle gave Navy service in Korea, my Army service was from 1974 until 1988, my brother served in the Navy, my son served in both the Navy & Army.

RSA

My grandfather, father, and mother were involved with RSA in Temuka becoming life members and an RNZRSA Gold Star recipient. Our family was raised with absolute RSA awareness and respect.

I have experienced the duties of Welfare/Support Officer, Secretary, Vice President, President, District Vice President and am currently, the Canterbury District President. I am very humbled and a proud Life member of the Rangiora RSA.

**Records of membership lost*

RSA highlights

- Restoration of vandalised & decimated graves at Springston cemetery
- Development of simple effective sensible District rules
- Creation of RSAs without borders' concept
- Enrichment of positive communications with NZDF & other partners
- Assisting Local Governments with ANZAC preparation & application
- Working to create better relationships with like-minded organisations
- Being an honoured, involved & trusted representative for the District Associations

What's my agenda?

~ The drums of change have always been, but now resonate quietly louder ~

My moving ahead, key achievement targets:

Engage, enhance, & embrace the inclusion of new veterans' organisations as equal partners, on equal terms, supporting & incorporating the activities and visions they aspire and conduct, with conviction & enthusiastic acceptance.

Become an effective, respected, and influential advocate for service-related concerns, a prominent lobbying voice, that creates and achieves results for the benefit of serving & non-serving persons and their families, regardless.

Promote and introduce acceptable recognition of Aotearoa New Zealand's military history into the education curriculum with a view to informing and respecting our military history, since our beginning, giving understanding & value to remembrance and ANZAC.

As an organisation, we must create an open, cooperative, approach to each other. An approach that is and will be greeted with value and become appealing to the public. An organisation without borders that

will be the envy of critics. An organisation that will effortlessly attract membership, regardless.'

Today and tomorrow

I certainly look forward to and appreciate your support. I have confidence our organisation can and will endure the challenges & difficulties we as a Nation experience and have become accustomed to. Together, we will become stronger, healthier, a good partner to veteran organisations and groups who share the same values, a respected voice, an organisation worthy of those who created and developed the RSA, but never forgetting those, who's dignity, we grieve and always remember.

└─'Lest we forget'



Dennis Mardle

Military Service

I joined the NZ Army as a Regular Force Cadet in 1970 and graduated to the infantry at 1Bn Depot Burnham in December 1971. On completion of my corps training, I was posted to National Service Training Unit Waiouru instructing on the last of the National Service intakes.

Between 1973 and 1975 I served with 1 BN Depot, which became 2/1 RNZIR, as an instructor on several corps' trainings. The lengthy period was due to my getting married, which interrupted the posting cycle. In 1975 I was posted to 1 RNZIR in Singapore, leaving there in 1977 and coming back to NZ to be discharged from the Army.

In 1978 I joined the NZ Police and served for 8 years in Western Auckland as a frontline police officer.

On leaving the Police I established the Anne Audain Charitable Trust of which I eventually became the CEO. The Trust's core role was to help rehabilitate, through non mainstream alternative education, young people who had dropped out of, or been removed from, the education system. To help fund this operation, the Anne Audain Trust advised and helped corporate organisations that were dysfunctional in their management systems. The Trust had a total of 35 part-time staff to whom I was line manager. I spent approximately 12 years in this role.

As a result of being exposed, through the Anne Audain Charitable Trust, to the system of government funding and the inherent inequities, I chose to study law to provide me with a better understanding of how the government and the law operated, eventually leaving Canterbury University with a BA in Education, an LLB and a Master's degree in Law.

South East Asian Veterans Association President

In this role, I managed the transformation of SEAVA to be an organisation that has become a worthy successor to the other South East Asian Veterans associations, namely the New Zealand Malayan Veterans Association and the New Zealand Vietnam Veterans Association. During the course of the transformation, we doubled our membership and created a much stronger financial base for the future. The organisation also widened the membership base to become more inclusive of all three services that had served in the South East Asian region. Part of this role required advocating for our membership with RNZRSA, VANZ (CEO), The Paterson Report, and the then Minister of Veterans Affairs and increasing the ability of the association to provide support to its members.

New Zealand Malayan Veterans DBP Trust Chairman

The NZMV DBP Trust is an offshoot of the NZMVA and is focussed on the health issues associated with exposure of veterans to DBP whilst on service in the Malayan Emergency, Indonesian Konfrontation, and the Borneo campaign. The originators of the research needed a vehicle to advance their cause and to act as a repository of amassed literature and potential funding.

RSA involvement

I have had involvement with the RSA movement over several years including some time spent on the Presidents Forum of the RNZRSA as

the Affiliates Representative. I have also held the position of the Canterbury District Vice President. I have been a member of Christchurch Memorial RSA since 2015 and currently hold the role of President, at a time when it needs to transform itself from a business model that has failed to a new, or perhaps old, direction that respects the founding principles of the organisation and the wider RSA movement.

Contribution to RNZRSA

As an elected RSA National Vice President I will bring the ability to think strategically, to manage risk effectively through research and understanding of the consequences of the risk, to assess organisational structures to discern where there are failings, and to provide structured and measured responses as a result of in-depth research and consultation with a wide range of professional advisers.



John Vincent Smith QSM

Service

Joined the RNZN 1966, still serving with the NZDF in the RNZNR based HMNZS Ngapona Auckland.

RSA

Elected RNZRSA National Vice President 2014

- Elected Member RNZRSA National Executive 2009-2014
- Have served on the Waikato-King Country-Bay of Plenty Standing Committee since 2001
- Member of the Tokaanu-Turangi & Districts Memorial RSA since 1977
- Patron of the club
- 9 terms as President
- 7 terms Vice President
- Member of the Taupo RSA
- May 2014 attended the 70th anniversary of the Monte Cassino battles in Italy with 38 veterans as the RNZRSA representative.
- Sept 2015 attended the RSL conference in Brisbane

Other Service

Served on the Executive of the Taupo Officers Club 1999 – 2010 until disbanded

Member of the Taupo branch of the Ex Naval Men's Association until it disbanded.

RNZN representative for the NZ Antarctic Veterans Assn since 2002

Honours & Awards

- 2003 QSM [public service]
- 2005 awarded life membership of the Tokaanu-Turangi & Districts Memorial RSA
- 2007 awarded RNZRSA Merit Badge & Certificate
- 2012 awarded RNZRSA Gold Star & Certificate
- 2017 awarded RNZRSA Gold star & Bar

Community Service

- Retired from Corrections in 2016
- Married to Kit with a grownup family. Involved in local community interests in the Taupo/Turangi area.
- Still serving in the RNZNR until Oct 2022

Focus

My focus is to see that we adapt to the future, that service membership is maintained & healthy within the RNZRSA. That we retain our identity and don't become just another social club, and that the spirit of people helping people remains with our association.

Support of the service community past, present & future is our role and must be maintained

There is much work that needs to be carried out with regards to our younger membership & the present members of NZDF if we are to be of

value to them and have their membership, if not we will not survive into the future. I believe that the next few years will be a very interesting period in RNZRSA history and I would like to be a part of it.