



Eamon Hale

Nomination for Vice President

I am immensely proud of my time as the Vice President of the Hawthorn RSL and of the immense amount we have achieved together.

It is a privilege to support our President and to work alongside an outstanding committee who care deeply about our members, veterans, and our mission.

My commitment to Hawthorn RSL and the veteran community remains unwavering.

Through both our sub-branch and my role on the State Executive of RSL Victoria, I am dedicated to strengthening the RSL, advocating for veterans, and especially ensuring that our sub-branch remains exceptional and sets the benchmark for others across the state and country.

Hawthorn RSL has led the calls for meaningful change within the RSL. Now we are sitting at the top table and are looked at as the model sub-branch across the country. We continue to show what a modern, vibrant, veteran-centric RSL can be.

I am genuinely excited for what comes next. From the HRSL Run Club, OVA, Dungeons & Diggers, comedy nights, Dining In's, the Veterans Ball, and Friday Froffies, to the many events and activities we host each month, our sub-branch has become a home away from home for veterans and their families. In the year ahead, I want us to build on this momentum, expanding our activities as the renovation nears completion, and ensuring we remain a welcoming, supporting, and hugely energetic community where every veteran is valued, made to feel welcome, and can find events and activities suited to them that give them purpose, connection, and a sense of belonging.

I'm proud to be your Vice President and hope you allow me to continue serving you and working together to keep building a community that understands what service means.

Eamon Hale



Marianne Doyle

Nomination for Secretary

I write to formally nominate myself for appointment to the Secretary position at Hawthorn RSL Sub-Branch.

I am an experienced communications and engagement leader and a committed member of the current Hawthorn RSL Committee, bringing both professional expertise and demonstrated service to our Sub-Branch.

In my professional career, I hold a senior executive role leading communications, marketing, stakeholder engagement and partnerships for Victoria's Container Deposit Scheme. I have previously led large-scale public campaigns for major State and Federal Government initiatives, managed diverse stakeholder relationships, and ensured transparency and integrity in all communications — skills that directly support the effective and responsible operation of a member-based organisation such as the RSL.

Over the past two years, I have been proud to serve as a general committee member, taking responsibility for the planning and delivery of veteran-focused events, commemoration services and strategic planning. It is important to me that our community events are thoughtfully planned, professionally delivered and reflect the respect and recognition our veterans deserve.

I have stepped in to assist with the Secretary role and led the coordination of appeals, helping to maintain continuity in governance, compliance and administration.

I am committed to upholding the values of the RSL while contributing in a practical, strategic and collaborative way to ensure the Sub-Branch operates effectively and sustainably.

Marianne Doyle



Stewart Middleton

Nomination for Bar Member

My name is Stewart Middleton and I'm the current Bar Member at the Hawthorn RSL.

I have in my time on the Hawthorn RSL committee fulfilled my duties in a diligent and proactive manner and have always listened to the membership in which drinks they'd like to see here.

I have been professional, hardworking and my attendance at RSL events and committee meetings has been above reproach.

I build on my relationships with other RSL's / ESO's and try to be an ambassador of the Hawthorn RSL wherever I go. I believe strongly in the RSL network and leaving the RSL in a better place for future veterans and their families. I'd love to continue serving you the cheapest beers in Hawthorn, if you'll have me back in 2026.

Stewart Middleton



Celia Hale

Nomination for General Committee

Since joining the Hawthorn RSL Committee in 2020, it has been a privilege to serve both our members and the broader community.

Over the past six years, I have taken an active role in supporting and delivering many of our key events, including the RSL Veterans Ball, Behind the Lens, and our Dining-In Nights. For the past two years, I have had the honour of serving as Secretary, working diligently to ensure the organisation and continued growth of our Sub- Branch.

While I am now stepping back from the role of Secretary, I respectfully place my nomination forward for the General Committee so that I may continue contributing to the growth of our Sub-Branch and to the broader mission of better supporting veterans, not only at Hawthorn, but across the country.

My service experience may look a little different from many on the Committee, but it has been grounded in community, discipline, and adaptability. I have served 15 years as an Army Cadet Instructor, 6 years as a volunteer firefighter, and 10 years as a Police Officer in both general duties and investigative roles. In addition, I have spent 15 years as a Defence partner, navigating postings, last-minute changes, and deployments.

Beyond this, my connection to service is multi-generational. My father served 13 years in the Royal Australian Navy, including deployment to Vietnam, my brother served as an Officer in the Army Reserve, and my great-grandparents were founding members of the Berwick RSL.

This lived experience has given me a deep understanding not only of the challenges faced by veterans, but also of the families who are integral to Defence life, and I believe this perspective places me in a strong position to support both.

In addition to my community commitments, I have recently taken on an executive role within my family's business and am a proud mother of two young children. These responsibilities continue to strengthen my organisational skills, leadership capacity, and commitment to serving both family and community with integrity and balance.

I remain committed to supporting our membership, strengthening our Sub-Branch, and supporting my husband, Eamon, in his endeavours within the RSL community. It would be an honour to continue serving on the General Committee.

Celia Hale



Matthew French

Nomination for General Committee

I write to formally nominate myself for a position on the Hawthorn RSL Sub-Branch General Committee.

I commenced my service with the Australian Army in Melbourne in 1990 at the age of 17. Since that time, I have served in a wide range of roles across the Australian Regular Army for 24 years, and following my transition from full-time service in December 2013, I have continued to serve as a member of the Army Reserve. This continuity of service has provided me with both historical perspective and contemporary insight into Defence culture, customs, and protocols.

As I remain in active service and am likely to post to Headquarters 4th Brigade on promotion to Warrant Officer Class One in 2027, I believe I am in a unique position to support the Committee and membership through informed advice and mentoring. This includes an understanding of current Defence policy, leadership expectations, and the evolving needs of serving members, veterans, and their families. I see this as an opportunity to complement the considerable experience already within the Committee, while helping ensure the Sub-Branch remains relevant, informed, and connected to today's serving community.

I am also an active and engaged member of the Hawthorn RSL Sub-Branch. Despite balancing full-time employment, ongoing service commitments, and sporting obligations—and living on the opposite side of Melbourne—I make every effort to attend events and activities whenever possible. I do so because I genuinely believe in what the Hawthorn RSL stands for and the way it embodies what an RSL should be: a place of support, advocacy, remembrance, and meaningful social connection for veterans and their families.

Like many, I recognise that we all carry our own personal challenges. Initiatives such as the monthly “Sippers” provide a valuable opportunity to step away from daily pressures, reconnect with like-minded people, and simply enjoy each other's company in a supportive environment. I strongly believe these connections are vital to veteran wellbeing, and I am keen to contribute in any way I can to strengthening and sustaining them.

Thank you for considering my nomination. Regardless of the outcome, I remain fully committed to the Hawthorn RSL Sub-Branch and to supporting the Committee and its membership in any capacity that may be of value.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew French'.

Matthew French



Returned & Services League
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www.hawthornrsl.com

Candidate Nominations for Executive Committee Positions

The following document provides the membership with an outline of the information supplied by nominees for positions on the Hawthorn RSL Committee.

Executive positions open for nomination were:

- Vice President
- Secretary

Position: Vice President

The position of Vice President has only one nomination.

- Eamon Hale

The nominated candidate will be appointed into the position unopposed.

Appointed as Vice President: Eamon Hale

Position: Secretary

The position of Secretary has only one nomination.

- Marianne Doyle

The nominated candidate will be appointed into the position unopposed.

Appointed as Secretary: Marianne Doyle



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Candidate Nominations for Non-executive Committee Positions

Position: Appeals Officer

There were no nominations for the Appeals Officer position. Any member wishing to nominate for the position should submit their nomination to secretary@hawthornrsl.com prior to the AGM.

Position: Bar Member

The position of Bar Member has only one nomination. The nominated candidate will be appointed into the position unopposed.

Appointed to Bar Member position: Stewart Middleton

Position: General Committee Member

The position of General Committee Member has two nominations:

- Celia Hale
- Matthew French

Both candidates will be appointed to the General Committee

Appointed to General Committee Member positions: Celia Hale and Matthew French