



FINANCIAL PLANNING  
ASSOCIATION of AUSTRALIA

Your INAUGURAL  
*professionals*  
CONGRESS  
SYDNEY 17-18 OCTOBER 2013

## *Benjamin Roberts-Smith*

---

Benjamin Roberts-Smith was born in Perth, Western Australia, in 1978. He joined the Australian Regular Army in 1996 and was posted to the 3rd Parachute Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment.

In 2003 Ben attempted and passed the legendary Australian SAS selection course.

Ben's impressive list of combat operations include two tours of East Timor including INTERFET in 1999, Fiji, Iraq and six tours of Afghanistan.

Ben was on his second operational tour of Afghanistan in 2006 when he was awarded the Medal for Gallantry for his actions as a patrol sniper in the Chora Valley. It was on June 11, 2010, on his fifth tour of Afghanistan, that he was involved in his Victoria Cross action.

During an operation to hunt for a senior Taliban commander in the Kandahar province, Ben took part in an assault against an enemy fortification, exposing his own position in order to draw fire away from members of his patrol who were pinned down. Fighting at close range, he stormed two enemy machine-gun posts and silenced them. His citation in the Commonwealth of Australia Gazette notes that his 'selfless actions in circumstances of great peril served to enable his patrol to break into the enemy's defences and to regain the initiative... resulting in a tactical victory.'

The Victoria Cross together with the Medal for Gallantry makes Ben the most decorated serving soldier in the Commonwealth.

Ben's tenure with the SAS saw him deploy around the world in roles that covered the full spectrum of special operations. He has a proven ability to engage and form strong alliances with stakeholders including national and international counterparts and enhance the planning and achievement of strategic and operational objectives, an ability which stems from his years of operational experience through out the Middle East and South East Asia.

As a commander and key planner for special operations missions, Ben has fascinating insight into the processes and protocols that are critical in producing success in competitive environments. Ben will not only drive your team to succeed but will provide the vision of a leader who has been charged with providing the Australian Government with positive strategic outcomes in some of the world's most dynamic environments for over 17 years.

Using real life examples from the frontline, Ben provides an insight into leadership and success that will strengthen your team's procedures and give them the focus to excel. Ben is a gifted and inspirational speaker who engages audiences with his vivid depictions of modern warfare while always maintaining focus on the topic. Ben is now one of only nine living recipients of the Victoria Cross worldwide. He is a rare and motivational individual who has the ability to talk at all levels as one of this nation's proven leaders.