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STONEHAVEN'S RAY of LIGHT

Tingira President, Brad Murphy OAM, announced former Royal Australian Navy Junior Recruit, Ray James, as the winner of the 2023 Tingira Stonehaven Medal.

"Again for the seventh year of the award, we had several very genuine nominations, all with high quality with glowing achievements that all met the Tingira requirement to be named the Tingira Stonehaven Medal winner, said Brad Murphy. Looking for a member that goes above and beyond his expected call of duty in the navy or community duties is the qualification for nomination.

This year's presentation was slightly different as it was delivered in very different circumstances to the past award presentations.

Ray was a special guest at an official RSL NSW Cumberland sub-Branch annual dinner to receive a donation cheque for the RSL NSW Headquarters.

Ray wasn't sure what was happening when the program presented a single line of 'Navy Award Presentation'.

When Tingira President Brad Murphy took the microphone and made the Stonehaven introduction, it was looking like anyone of the three other Tingira Boys in the room might be up for this award when the 'surprise' announcement was made, Ray James the Stonehaven winner for 2023 by President Brad Murphy, Ray's face told the story.

"Nothing like a good surprise for my boy Ray, it's usually the other way around," said a very excited and jubilant wife Pauline James.

Ray was visibly stunned and very honoured to be named the 2023 Stonehaven recipient. Surrounded by a few Tingira navy mates in the room, Ray said "This wonderful trophy will take a high pride of place on my office wall Monday morning, I'm stunned, I just can't believe it".

Over the past decade, Ray has been the 'face of the RSL' in NSW. After some turbulent times for the League, the challenging task to grow the membership and promote the brand to the new generation of veterans coming into the RSL ranks was the big challenge. Success to date in growing numbers and visibly improving the brand is evident, Ray has certainly attributed many of his ideas and contributions to this result to date.

The years between leaving the Navy and Ray's RSL duties that also bring great merit to his career. A successful period in the NSW Police Force and continuing his contact with past and present navy mates, has kept Ray in focus with his defence family and our ever-changing navy today.

The Stonehaven's origins trek back in history to 1926. Governor-General of Australia, Lord Stonehaven, presented the 'Stonehaven Shield' to the best divisional intake as an annual award to the 15-year-old navy 'Tingira Boys' on board the training ship HMAS Tingira in Rose Bay, Sydney.

This is the seventh year the medal has been presented by the Tingira Australia Association. The Stonehaven Medal is donated and sponsored by the RSL NSW Cumberland sub-Branch, Sydney, for which the Association is most grateful of their continued support.

ENDS RELEASE



Celebrating the 2023 Tingira Stonehaven Medal - L-R Tingira President, Brad Murphy, Tingira Stonehaven medal winner Ray James, former Tingira President, Greg Read, and National Secretary, Mark Lee.

2023 TINGIRA STONEHAVEN MEDAL

Former RAN Junior Recruit Ray James



RAY JAMES - NSW
FOUNDATION LIFE MEMBER - 2011
HMAS LEEUWIN JR - 10th INTAKE 1965

Nominated by

Bill Stokes
Life Member
Tingira Australia Association
Canberra, ACT

Ray (Jesse) James, joined HMAS Leeuwin as a Junior Recruit in January 1965, served in the RAN for 20 years rising to the Rank of CPO Marine Technical Population.

I served with Jesse at HMAS Nirimba in 1979, he was an Outstanding Divisional Chief, highly and well respected by the Apprentices, Ship's Staff and the Command.

During this time Jesse coached the App's First XV to an Outstanding Win in the 1979 App's I/S at Nirimba. He also played with Nirimba First and 2nd XV, where he was an excellent Team Member. In his time at Nirimba Jesse by his excellent example of a Senior Sailor, Counselling and Trained many App's s in preparation for their long Service on their RAN Career Path.

On leaving the RAN in 1985, Jesse i joined the NSW Transit Police.

This was eventually incorporated into the NSW Police Service. Jesse took on many roles in the NSW Police where he frequently bought a Squad down to Albatross for TSG Training and it was again a pleasure to catch up with him again and learn of the same outstanding commitment he had to the NSW Police as he had in the RAN.

During his time and many roles in the NSW Police rising to the rank of SGT after over 30 yrs Service in the Campbelltown Command. During this time Jesse was also President of the Ingleburn RSL Sub Branch, a Director of the RSL Club and a NSW RSL State Counsellor (Board member).

During the recent upheaval of the RSL NSW, Jesse stepped up to the mark and took the reins as the NSW RSL as Acting State President.

Facing many Challenges in front of him as the NSW RSL was near bough to its knees by the fault past of Management with serious allegations of corruption. Jesse tackled this NSW RSL with his normal zealous approach to get the RSL back on track to its original proud core function.

Jesse through his demonstrated hardworking efforts well supported by his board of Directors and the membership. Jesse has strived to get the NSW RSL back to a high profile position.

Improving fallen membership and encouraging younger veteran's to take on the role as office bearers. In lifting the profile of the RSL NSW, Jesse has had many meeting with high profile people as in all levels of government in reggraded to promoting the RSL ANZAC Day and other commemorative veteran events, which has restrictions over the past two years..

Jesse was recently elected to the permanent role RSL NSW President, he now travels extensively to the many NSW State RSL Sub Branches across the state promoting and acting in an official capacity in presenting various awards and meeting local government representatives for the RSL NSW. To which this in itself has been so well received by RSL Sub Branch Members and a main stay in bringing and improving the executive office levels of the RSL NSW lines of communications to a consistent high level with the RSL Sub Branches.

Not only had Jesse strived to improve the RSL overall performance levels. He has been instrumental in the involving the NSW Schools and students in RSL Commemorative Activities.

This endeavour has demonstrated Jesse excellent commitment to follow on from his RAN and NSW Police Service with the same tenacity and outstanding service to his now elected civillian roles and functions in getting the RSL NSW back to its once high functioning role of veteran's matters.

Jesse has not forgotten his many years of RAN Service where he is also involved in participating in the RAN 'Old Salts Rugby' which has again reinvigorated his past service mate ship and made many new friends, along with age has not stopped him from taking to the Rugby paddock in purple rugby attire for over 70's

I am proud that I have the honour, privilege and opportunity to know and serve with Jesse James.

He has always demonstrated a high order of professionalism for all work he has undertaken, by setting a high bench mark of example for others to aspire to. This is why by Jesse long service to the RAN, NSW Police Service and RSL NSW at all Levels.

I have no hesitation in nominating and believe he is a most worthy recipient for the award of the prestigious 'Tingara Stonehaven Medal' for the 2023 nomination.