



Ray James OAM JP GAICD

Ray James has experience in operational environments spanning over 40 years, with service in the Royal Australian Navy and the NSW Police Force with war-like and non-warlike experience which involved him working in operationally demanding environments and leading teams. The skills and experience learned during his career gave Ray a deep understanding and appreciation of strategic planning, leadership, decision making and challenges within a changing workplace and environment.

His experience since leaving these careers have seen him undertake various roles of leadership with ex-service organisations including: RSL Australia (Director), RSL NSW (various positions including State President and Director), Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia (NSW Branch) and the Naval Association. In these roles he has made significant governance, strategic and financial decisions to lead these organisations through challenges and the need for reform. This has seen him working with all levels of government, including relevant Federal and State Ministers to shape the veteran community and improve accountability of the organisations he has been involved with.

He was admitted as a Member of the Order of Australia (OAM) in 2020. He also was awarded the Australian Active Service Medal 1945-75 with clasp Vietnam, Vietnam Logistic and Support Medal, Australian Service Medal 1945-75 with clasp Far East Strategic Reserve, National Police Service Medal, Defence Force Service Medal, National Medal, Australian Defence Medal, Returned from Active Service Badge, NSW Police Ethical Service Medal and Sydney Olympic Citation. He is a Justice of the Peace (JP) and is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (GAICD).

He is a former President of RSL NSW, and still holds various positions including Director of RSL Custodian Pty Ltd and on committees of RSL NSW. He is the son of a WW2 Army veteran who served in the infantry in the Kokoda campaign.

As a Director of the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway (since March 2020) he is passionate about keeping the community engaged with attendance at the memorial for educational purposes and also for commemoration services.
