

General Peter John Cosgrove, AC, MC



General Peter Cosgrove retired from the army in 2005. Four years earlier, he had been Australian of the Year: "In every respect Peter Cosgrove demonstrated that he is a role model. The man at the top displayed many highly valued characteristics – strength, determination, intelligence, compassion and humour."

The son of a soldier, Cosgrove graduated from the Royal Military College, Duntroon, in 1968. He was sent to Malaysia as a lieutenant in the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (RAR). Soon afterwards, his next posting was to Vietnam with 9RAR. There he commanded an infantry platoon and was awarded the Military Cross for his work during an assault on enemy positions.

In the following years Cosgrove was an instructor at the Infantry Centre, was promoted, commanded 1RAR, undertook staff work, and spent periods in the United States, Britain, and India. In 1990 he was the Director of Infantry, and Commandant of the Infantry Centre. In 1997 he completed a circle when he became Commandant at Duntroon.

In 1999 the general became a national figure on being appointed commander of the International Forces East Timor (Interfet), responsible for overseeing East Timor's transition to independence. With the large deployment of Australian troops, and considerable uncertainty about the outcome, it was a tense period. Cosgrove combined the roles of soldier and diplomat. A strong and reassuring figure, always in his familiar slouch hat, he appeared regularly on television throughout Australian homes.

After Timor, where he had won the respect of fellow Australians, East Timorese and the international community, Cosgrove was promoted and made Chief of the Army. This was followed in 2002 by promotion to general and appointment to Chief of the Defence Force. His own soldier son was slightly wounded in Iraq in 2005.

Dr Elizabeth Ann Churcher AO



Dr Betty Churcher has held a joint appointment with the Australian National Universities Humanities Research Centre / Centre for Cross Cultural Research as an adjunct professor since 1997. She holds honorary doctorates in Literature, Arts and Law, from Curtin University, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology and the Australian National University respectively.

Betty has contributed immensely to the fields to Art and Humanities and has held several prestigious positions including Director of National Gallery of Australia (1990-1997), Director of Art Gallery of Western Australia (1987-1990), Dean of School of Art and Design, Phillip Institute of Technology, Victoria (1982-1990).

Betty also worked as a writer and presenter for ABC from 1997 to 2000. From 1983 to the present, she has headed and participated in numerous national advisory boards and committees. As academician, humanist and artist, she has been decorated with many awards including Officer of the Order of Australia (1996) and Australian of the Year (1997).

Mr Andrew Gaze AM



Andrew Gaze is Australia's greatest ever basketballer and one of the countries finest ever sportspeople, having retired from basketball in 2005. He has won the National Basketball League (NBL) scoring title a record 10 times as well as being awarded the NBL's Most Valuable Player Award a staggering 7 times. Andrew represented Australia in five Olympic Games (1984, 1988, 1992, 1996, 2000) culminating with the role of Flag Bearer and Team Captain for the Australian team at the Sydney Olympics.

Andrew is one of this country's true icons and undoubtedly one of Australia's most recognisable and popular sporting identities.

Andrew has served on various charitable boards, been awarded Victorian Father of the Year, is a member of the Victorian Human Rights Committee and in 2002 was recognised with a AM for his contribution to sport.

Andrew is married with three daughters and a son.

Prof Kwong Lee Dow AM



Kwong Lee Dow is presently Deputy Chair of Teaching Australia – the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership. He retired from the University of Melbourne as Vice-Chancellor (2004, having earlier being Deputy Vice-Chancellor, and before that, Dean of Education for twenty years.

Beginning working life as a science and mathematics teacher, Kwong moved to becoming a College Lecturer in Chemistry, and then Senior Lecturer in Education at Melbourne University. He was appointed Professor in 1973.

Over the years he has held Victorian and Commonwealth government appointments. From 1997 to 2003, he chaired the Victorian Board of Studies, later the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority. In 2002-03 he chaired a Commonwealth Review of Teaching and Teacher Education, and science its establishment, was Deputy Chair of the National Institute for Quality Teaching and School Leadership.

From 1992-2003 he was a member of the Hong Kong Council for Academic Accreditation and he helped found the Hong Kong Institute of Education and served on its Council. He has participated in Reviews of the National Institute of Education in Singapore, and of universities in New Zealand, most recently in an audit of Victoria University of Wellington in 2005.

He was appointed Member of Order of Australia in 1984, received the Sir James Darling Medal of the Australian College of Education in 1994 and in 2005 was awarded the Gold Medal of the Australian Council for Educational Leaders.

Mr Arthur Jacobus



Arthur Jacobus most recently served as president of COPIA: The American Center for Wine, Food and the Arts from 2005 through 2008. For the previous two years, he served as president of The Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts in Louisville, KY. For the ten years preceding that, he served as executive director of the San Francisco Ballet. He served as president and chief executive officer of Pacific Northwest Ballet for the previous nine years. Prior to his position at Pacific Northwest Ballet, Jacobus served as president and general manager of the Oakland Symphony for five years. He also served for 22 years as bandmaster for the United States Navy. During his tenure in the Navy Music Program, he led bands in San Francisco; Gaeta, Italy; and Ville Franche, France. He founded the NATO International Band in Naples, Italy, and toured Europe extensively with this ensemble.

Jacobus has served as a board member for Dance/USA and as co-chair of its managers' council. He also co-chaired Dance/USA's National Task Force on Dance Audiences in spring 1997. He is past president of the Washington State Arts Alliance and of the Northwest Development Officers' Association (NDOA), was co-chair of Washington Gives, an organization dedicated to the advancement of philanthropy in Washington State, and was co-chair of California Arts Advocates. Through the National Society of Fundraising Executives (NSFRE), Jacobus was a Certified Fundraising Executive (CFRE) from 1990-93 and during that time, also served as a faculty member of the Fundraising School. He has served as a panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts Challenge Program and has chaired the NEA's Dance Grants Panel. In summer 2000, Jacobus served on a steering committee for the Salzburg Seminar to establish a series of international seminars in arts management.

Jacobus holds masters degrees in Business Administration, Arts Administration, and Human Resources Management, and has completed the University of Washington's Executive Management Program, as well as the Harvard Business School's Strategic Perspectives for Non-Profit Management Program and their program on non-profit governance. In Louisville, he served as a board member of Greater Louisville, Inc., and Arts and Cultural Attractions, and was a member of the Strategic Planning Committee for the Louisville Orchestra, the Marketing Committee, and of the Greater Louisville Convention and Visitors Bureau, and was a member of the Operating Committee of the Cultural Blueprint Partnership.