

**The following is an extract from the book
9th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment "Proud to Serve"**

"General Peter J. Cosgrove, AC, MC

Peter Cosgrove is 9 RAR's favourite son. Peter was honoured by the award of a Military Cross as a Platoon Commander in B Company in Vietnam. He then returned home to command an element of the Army and later the Defence Force, at every level of command. He commanded 1 RAR, the 6th Brigade and the 1st Division. He was the Commandant of the School of Infantry and the Regimental Colonel of the Corps of Infantry. He was the Commandant of the Australian Defence Warfare Centre at RAAF Williamstown and also the Royal Military College at Duntroon. He has attended the US Marine Corps Staff College at Quantico, the British Army Staff College (as an instructor), the Australian Joint Services Staff College and the Indian National Defence College.

Peter and his wife Lynne have three sons. Despite his busy career schedule, Peter and Lynne attended 9 RAR functions whenever they were available and in the country. Peter made the resources of his unit available when he was working at Williamstown to assist 9 RAR NSW have a thoroughly enjoyable and entertaining weekend at Port Stephens even achieving the impossible by coercing an FA18 pilot to give a superb briefing and static demonstration of the capabilities of the aircraft — on a Sunday.

Earlier he had provided similar access and cooperation from the School of Infantry enabling NSW members and their wives to compare modern Army techniques and living conditions with those experienced in the 1960s.

Peter's career did not finish there, however but 1999 was the time when 9 RAR had to learn to share its favourite son with the rest of Australia and in some cases, the world. Peter became an international figure when he was appointed to command the International Forces East Timor (INTERFET). Peter's strength of character, leadership and diplomacy made him a popular figure amongst the international community and served to defuse a difficult and tense situation in the province of East Timor. Every time he was publicly praised for his efforts he was emphatic that the credit for the success of the venture should be shared with his troops who he continually stated discharged their tasks with distinction.

After Timor Peter was promoted and made Chief of Army — additionally he was named as Australian of the Year in 2001 — a choice that was extremely popular. In 2002 he was promoted to General and appointed as Chief of the Defence Force. He stepped down from that position in 2005 and positioned himself to write his autobiography and perhaps take a little to time to relax. Sadly, Cyclone "Larry" destroyed the North Queensland town of Innisfail early in 2006 and Peter agreed to assist in the reconstruction — again a job he performed with diplomacy and strength yet great warmth. Despite this enormous demand, Peter still took the time to honour a commitment he had made to the NSW Branch of the 9 RAR Association to dedicate a 9RAR plaque in Regimental Square on Anzac Day 2006. His dedication and commitment know no bounds.

We are indeed fortunate to know a family with such qualities."

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