

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:

The son of a soldier, General 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, General Cosgrove was an instructor at the Infantry Centre, was promoted and commanded 1RAR. He undertook staff work and spent time in the United States, Britain and India. In 1990 General Cosgrove became the Director of Infantry, and Commandant of the Infantry Centre. In 1997 he completed the circle by becoming Commandant at Duntroon.

In 1999, General Cosgrove became a national figure after being appointed commander of the International Forces East Timor (Interfet), responsible for overseeing East Timor's transition to independence. Heading up the large deployment of Australian troops, General Cosgrove combined the roles of soldier and diplomat.

Following on from Timor, where he won the respect of fellow Australians, the East Timorese and the international community, General Cosgrove was made Chief of the Australian Army. This was followed in 2002 by a promotion to general and appointment to the position of Chief of the Australian Defence Force (CDF). General Cosgrove's own soldier son was slightly wounded in Iraq in 2005.

Since retiring from the Defence Force in 2005, General Cosgrove has continued to balance positions on several corporate boards with community and charity work across Australia.

Dr Elizabeth Ann Churcher AO



Since 1997, 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.

Dr Churcher holds honorary doctorates in Literature, Arts and Law, from Curtin University, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) and the Australian National University respectively.

A painter in her own right earlier in life, Dr Churcher's vision was to make people see art as accessible and relevant.

Dr Churcher has contributed immensely to the fields of 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). She has also worked as a writer and presenter for ABC from 1997 to 2000.

Since 1983, she has headed and participated in numerous national advisory boards and committees. As an academic, humanist and artist, Dr Churcher has been decorated with many awards including Officer of the Order of Australia (1996) and Australian of the Year (1997).

Mr Andrew Gaze AM



Mr Andrew Gaze is arguably Australia's greatest ever male basketballer and one of Australia's finest sportspeople.

The former Olympian retired from professional basketball in 2005, after a stellar 20-year career that included 612 games in the National Basketball League (NBL), 307 international games and representation at five Olympic Games.

Mr Gaze holds a number of impressive sporting records, including being awarded the NBL's Most Valuable Player Award a staggering 7 times; the award has since been named in his honour. Mr Gaze was also recognised as the League's top scorer for a total of 14 seasons. In 1993, Mr Gaze realised a long life dream, captaining the Melbourne Tigers to two NBL titles.

Mr Gaze has represented Australia in five Olympic Games over three decades (1984, 1988, 1992, 1996, 2000), culminating in the role of Team Captain and Flag Bearer for the Australian team at the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games. He also represented Australia in four World Championships.

Mr Gaze joined the Board of Basketball Australia in July 2008 and is also Chair of Basketball Australia's Honours and Awards Commission. He has served on various charitable boards and is a member of the Victorian Human Rights Committee. In 2002, Mr Gaze was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for his contribution to Australian sport.

Andrew is married with three daughters and a son.

Professor Kwong Lee Dow AM



An eminent scholar and leading educationalist, Professor 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 in 2004, having earlier reached the respective positions of Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Dean of Education.

Beginning his career as a science and mathematics teacher, Professor Lee Dow became a College Lecturer in Chemistry before becoming Senior Lecturer in Education at the University of Melbourne. In 1973, he was appointed Professor.

Over the years Professor Lee Dow has held Victorian and Commonwealth government appointments. From 1997 to 2003, he chaired the Victorian Board of Studies, now known as the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority. In 2002-03, Professor Lee Dow chaired a Commonwealth Review of Teaching and Teacher Education and was appointed Deputy Chair of the National Institute for Quality Teaching and School Leadership.

From 1992-2003 Professor Lee Dow was a member of the Hong Kong Council for Academic Accreditation, where he helped found the Hong Kong Institute of Education and served on its Council. Professor Lee Dow has participated in numerous educational reviews and audits for a number of institutions, including the National Institute of Education in Singapore and the Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand.

More recently, Professor Lee Dow has led a panel of independent education and academic experts on the development of Victoria's Tertiary Education Plan, due for release in mid-2010.

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

Professor Lee Dow's educational legacy continues today, through the University of Melbourne's Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars Program, an academic enrichment program designed to support high-achieving border school students from Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia.