



MEDIA RELEASE

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Cyclone Hero Cosgrove at Lions Convention

General Peter Cosgrove former "Interfet" Commander in East Timor, past Australian of the Year and Chairman of the Cyclone Larry Recovery Taskforce is the keynote speaker at the Lions National Conference in Darling Harbour, Sydney.

General Cosgrove is a popular figure within the Lions Service Club organisation, with its history of stepping in, boots and all, to help local Australian communities cope with bushfire, floods, droughts and other emergencies.

Lions and who were both survivors and helpers during Cyclone Larry will be taking front row seats as they honour the man who pulled the recovery effort together.

One of the first on the scene when Cyclone Larry hit was Lions Past District Governor, and Mackay local Bryce Waters:

"I remember that for a while it was utter chaos. Lions had hundreds of our people on the ground, cleaning up, delivering basic necessities and keeping spirits up – but it seemed like an impossible task. General Cosgrove brought experience, leadership and a cool head to the effort – and that's when our communities started to turn the corner."

'I'd like to think Lions did their fair share, too!' said Bryce

Fair share indeed! More than 200 Lions and Lioness, and thousands of hours of community effort that is still going on today. The deep pockets of Lions in Australia & New Zealand raised over \$750,000 for relief, within weeks of the emergency.

Reg Kuchler, a Lions member from Mission Beach whose home was completely demolished in Cyclone Larry, said that after 34 years of giving help to others that he was now on the receiving end of help from his fellow Lions and was very humbled by the support that he received.

Lions National Executive Officer, Rob Oerlemans said:

"We couldn't think of a better speaker for our Convention. We have over 27,000 practical people in Lions in Australia; we are an organisation of doers. I can't think of anyone who better reflects that ethic than General Peter Cosgrove."

General Peter Cosgrove will address the Convention at 1.45pm on Friday 18 May 2007, at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour.

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About Lions Australia

Lions Clubs International is the world's largest service organisation with 1.5 million members in 45,000 clubs in 200 countries and geographical locations. Lions Australia is one of Australia's largest service organisations with almost 28,000 members and 1,400 clubs across Australia. Lions Australia raises over \$20 million per annum to assist in community and health projects, and funding for Lions foundations and programs.