



# Canberra Services Club

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## **NEW PATRON FOR THE CANBERRA SERVICES CLUB**

The Canberra Services Club is delighted to announce that Lieutenant General Peter Leahy, AC (Ret'd) has accepted an invitation to become Patron of the club.

Lieutenant General Peter Leahy, AC retired from the Army, as Chief of Army, in July 2008. During his 37 year career he served in a wide variety of command, training, research and strategic appointments in Australia and overseas.

A Duntroon graduate, LT GEN Leahy joined the Royal Australian Infantry Corps. Senior positions later in his career were command of the 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment, and of the Defence Force's Ready Deployment Force, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade.

During his 6 year appointment as Chief of Army, the Army had its busiest operational period since the Vietnam War with multiple, concurrent, large scale, war fighting deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq and complex stabilization deployments to East Timor and The Solomon Islands.

Apart from a range of ongoing commitments on Boards of defence related industry organisations, LT GEN Leahy is the Foundation Director of the National Security Institute at the University of Canberra, which will focus on the way the elements of power of the nation can contribute in a comprehensive and coordinated manner as part of a whole of government approach to national security.

In welcoming their new Patron, Club President Vince Pannell said, *'We are absolutely delighted to announce such a distinguished Patron. The club has a very long and proud history and while we are looking to our future, which is underscored by continued growth, we are equally cognisant of our heritage, traditions and values, their importance and why the club was established. The appointment of General Leahy confirms that'*.

LT GEN Leahy said upon accepting the patronage *'I am honoured to be asked to be the Patron of the Club and I look forward to being able to assist the Board, Management and Club members'*.

*'The Club has a proud history and I was especially taken by the vision statement of "serving those who serve and who have served". It will be a privilege to be associated with the Club'*.

LT GEN Leahy will officially be welcomed to the club, when he officiates at the dedication of the Lady Gowrie Hall, named in recognition of the club's founder, Lady Zara Gowrie, which will take place at 11am on Thursday 16 April 2009.