



# BIOGRAPHY OF THE GOVERNOR

Kevin John Scarce was born in Adelaide in 1952 and spent his early childhood in Woomera. He was educated at Elizabeth East Primary School and then at Elizabeth High School, from where he joined the Royal Australian Navy in 1968.

After graduating from the Naval College, Kevin served in HMAS Sydney in Vietnam and then undertook courses in the United Kingdom in 1973. On return to Australia he completed professional supply courses and then served at sea in HMA Ships Vendetta, Yarra, and Duchess. In 1975 Kevin posted ashore to HMAS Watson where he married Elizabeth Anne Taylor.

In 1977 he participated in the Queen's Silver Jubilee celebrations in the United Kingdom at Spithead whilst serving in HMAS Melbourne. On completion of the cruise Kevin was posted to the RAN Staff College Project to establish the first Naval staff course in Australia which commenced in 1979.

The family moved again later in 1979 to Washington DC to serve at the Australian Embassy. On return to Australia in 1982 Kevin completed further supply specialist training before posting to sea in HMAS Perth as the Supply Offer. Promoted to Commander in 1985, Kevin undertook one of his many postings to the Canberra region where he undertook a variety of specialist logistic roles until 1987. In that year the family moved again, this time to the Nowra area in New South Wales where Kevin was appointed as the Supply Officer, Naval Air Station HMAS Albatross.

Following a year's study at the University of NSW, ADFA campus, where Kevin completed a Master of Management Economics degree, he was promoted to Captain and posted to Fleet Headquarters as the Fleet Supply Officer. He remained in this role until a further posting to Canberra in 1993.

In 1994 the family moved back to Washington DC where Kevin completed a Master's Degree in National Security Strategy at the War College, US National Defense University. Kevin took command of HMAS Cerberus in 1995 where he remained until promoted to Commodore in 1997. Later in that year Kevin was appointed as Flag Officer Naval Training Command. The family moved twice in 1999: to Sydney early in the year where Kevin was posted as Commodore Logistics, responsible for supporting the Fleet at sea, and then back to Melbourne in December after being promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral where he assumed the duties of Support Commander - Navy.

From 2000 until 2003, as Head Maritime Systems in the Defence Materiel Organisation, Kevin was responsible for the acquisition of all Australian Defence Force ships and submarines and the support of these vessels and their equipment through life.

Immediately prior to retiring from the Royal Australian Navy in 2004 in the rank of Rear Admiral, he briefly led the Defence Materiel Organisation. This organisation, widely dispersed throughout Australia and overseas, had 8000 staff spending more than \$6B annually in acquiring and supporting the entire Australian Defence Force's military platforms and equipment.

Following retirement, Kevin formed and led the South Australian Government team charged with expanding the State's defence business opportunities. One of the team's first initiatives, to build Air Warfare Destroyers in Adelaide, was successfully achieved in May 2005 when the Federal Government awarded the contract to the locally based ASC. The State's \$250 m package of infrastructure, skills development and attraction was integral to the success of the ASC bid.

In 2006 Kevin became an advisor to the corporation formed to deliver the State's shipbuilding infrastructure and skills commitments, and was a member of the Port Adelaide Maritime Corporation Board. He was also Chairman of the Board of Foundation Daw Park, a volunteer organisation that generates funding for medical research for veterans and older Australians.

Kevin and Liz have two children, a daughter, Kasha (1978), who works as a youth counsellor with Boys Town in Sydney, and a son, Kingsley (1980), who is a Lieutenant in the Royal Australian Navy.

Kevin is a keen golfer, with aspirations well beyond his ability, likes to keep fit, collects fine red wines and enjoys reading. He was appointed as a Companion of the Order of Australia in the 2008 Australia Day Honours Awards for distinguished contributions to Australia's defence industry and to the people of South Australia, and was awarded the Conspicuous Service Cross in 1994.