



His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd)  
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

***Foreword to 'Indebted'***  
***by Colin Moyle***

---

In my present job, there is a strict policy constraining me from contributing forewords to publications, for all kinds of good reasons. But there must be exceptions for folks like Colin Moyle!

Colin and I went to war together, many years ago. We were both new boys in among much more experienced soldiers, both infantrymen in that infantry war, in South Vietnam 1969-70.

I'd had six months commanding a platoon (and even for a period a company!) in Australia and Malaysia. He'd come straight from the training pipeline as a reinforcement. My first battle was also his. From my initial reservations about his physical robustness (thoroughly debunked by his performance by the way), I was immediately and profoundly impressed by his coolness and skill under fire – he was a natural. I came to rely strongly on his remarkable aptitude for the war we were fighting. We served together throughout my time in Vietnam and he stayed on for another six months of most dangerous duty. It didn't surprise me in the slightest to learn that he'd graduated to that elite unit, the Special Air Service Regiment, in which he spent the rest of his long and illustrious Army career.

I remarked that he was a 'natural'. If you could bottle 'essence of Moyle', I would inoculate every Army recruit with it on Day 1. They'd get courage in abundance, wisdom and shrewdness, toughness leavened by compassion and endless good humour.

I loved this book. It is pithy and pungent, always insightful, often hilarious. Col's love of family, the Army and Australia calls from its pages. It is a fascinating and compelling yarn.

Well done Col – you stand in the front rank of the soldiers with whom I have had the honour to serve.

Peter Cosgrove  
One-time Platoon Commander of extraordinary diggers