



## **Colonel Jason Leonard Maxwell Cooke**

Colonel Cooke was born in Melbourne and schooled at Mentone Boys Grammar School. Is a qualified Music Teacher through the Australian Music Education Board, studied at Monash University for an Arts/Music degree and joined the Army Reserve in 1982.

He graduated Dux in 1987 into the Intelligence Corps and posted to 2nd/15th Field Regiment before transferring to Artillery. Has held all key positions within Artillery and was the Commanding Officer of 2/10 Fd Regt at the time 2<sup>nd</sup> Division artillery units were converting to mortars.

Colonel Cooke has served overseas on exercises, held key appointments as Chief Instructor, Chief of Staff 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade, SO1 Reform, Assistant Commander 4<sup>th</sup> BDE. In 2009, he was awarded a Silver Commendation for his work as the Chief of Staff of the Joint Task Force during the Victorian Bushfires. Colonel Cooke is currently commanding the Australian Army Cadets Victorian Brigade.

In his civilian career has spent 15 years in supply chain and project management assisting in the construction of many Melbourne icons such as the Melbourne Cricket Ground and Etihad Stadium. In 2006 he joined the Public Service and commenced his career as a Project Manager within DMO. He has held key appointments as a Project Manager within the Minors Projects program, provided strategic advice for significant Reform Programs and Program Director for several projects including a multi-billion-dollar communications project transforming ADF communications. He is currently within the commercial cell for LAND – CASG.

Colonel Cooke is happily married to Ailsa with two children, Kate (17) and Thomas (13). He is a committee member for the Royal Australian Artillery Association of Victoria, the previous Victorian Director for the Royal Artillery Association Historical Company and is the Chief Marshall for the ANZAC Day Commemorative Parade in Melbourne.