

# Peter's on a mission Gentlemen, mind your manners!

This Queensland dad is asking for a return to good old-fashioned courtesy, writes SHARI NEMENTZIK

**P**eter Ryan is every woman's dream. He holds doors open for strangers, pulls chairs out for ladies and helps the elderly carry their bags. This knight in shining armour believes that men today need to relearn how to be gentlemen.

"Chivalry is not dead, but it needs a defibrillator to shock it back into life!" explains Peter, 41, a human resources specialist who lives in Brisbane with wife Terri, 46, and sons Aidan, 10, and Josh, 8.

Determined to re-establish good old-fashioned manners, he set up a club, Today's Gentleman, on social networking site LinkedIn. After three weeks, 200 people from 20 countries had joined him in voicing similar concerns.

Inspired by Terri, who observed how rude her fellow commuters had become, Peter says, "Being a gentleman boils down to empathy and compassion. It means taking the blinkers off and considering others, whether that's letting someone into traffic or holding the door open. It's understanding there are others who might need the seat more than yourself."

Peter has always been the epitome of a gentleman.

"I was raised in a single-parent home with my mum and sister, and was taught to consider how I treat ladies and ensure I say 'please' and 'thank you'."

It's easy to see why Terri fell for Peter. "We were working at a hotel," she recalls, smiling. "He walked past me... and I looked at him and thought, 'Oh, wow!'"

And it wasn't just Terri who fell head-over-heels that day.

"I was transfixed by her eyes, she's like a ray of sunshine," says Peter. "I rang Mum and said, 'I've met the girl I am going to marry'."

And after 12 years of marriage, Peter still spoils his wife every day.

"He always tells me he loves me and makes lovely comments," says Terri. "He is supportive as a father, and because our boys see how he behaves, they can only emulate him."

Terri points out, however, that manners are gender-neutral.

"It's not just about men. We all need to look out for each other."

Visit [todays-gentleman.com](http://todays-gentleman.com)



Pictures: David Hahn.



Opening doors and helping Terri is all part of the service!



Aidan and Josh are keen to be like Dad.

- Aidan and Josh's top tips for being a gentleman
- ✓ Be polite.
  - ✓ Don't think that you're better than someone else.
  - ✓ Stop thinking about yourself.
  - ✓ Do nice things for other people.
  - ✓ Don't judge people.