



GOVERNMENT HOUSE
QUEENSLAND



The Spouses of the Governors of Queensland

Credits and Acknowledgements

Cover design – portraits of the spouses of the Governors of Queensland since 1859.

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Governor's Foreword

Early in 2014, Kaye was invited to speak at the official opening of the Annual Forum on Women and Homelessness, hosted by The Lady Musgrave Trust.

Ever the librarian, as she prepared for the forum she delved into the story of the extraordinary Lady Jeannie Lucinda Musgrave, the wife of Sir Anthony Musgrave, our sixth Governor, whose passion and compassion led to the establishment of the Lodge and of the Trust which bears her name. Like so many of the vice-regal spouses whose stories are recounted in this publication, Lady Musgrave left an indelible mark on Queensland.

Together, as we travel the State to encourage, support and inspire our fellow Queenslanders, Kaye and I frequently happen upon the traces of our predecessors. The Governor's name is often inscribed on an opening plaque, their official role solemnly recorded in the annals of local newspapers. But local historians will speak with equal authority on the presence and role of their spouse, often with a vivid anecdote handed down as part of the rich oral history of Queensland. From the Diamantina River in our West to the Laura River in our Far North, their names live on in our landscape, bearing witness to their impact on the development of modern Queensland.

The spouses' stories belong to Queensland as much as the Governors', and I am delighted to be able to bring them before you, collated in this volume. Together, they tell stories of love and companionship, personal joy and sorrows, written against the ever-changing social, political and cultural history of Queensland.

Complementing this written tribute, in August 2018 The Spouses' Gallery was officially opened at Government House. The gallery features photographs of 22 spouses from Lady Bowen to Kaye. You can view the gallery during public tours, and I trust the experience will be as enjoyable as this volume, as you learn more about the spouses of the Governors of Queensland and their service to the wonderful people of our great State.

His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC
Governor of Queensland



Introduction

Since 1859, when Queensland became independent from New South Wales, 26 Governors have been appointed as vice-regal representatives. Collectively, they have served six British monarchs from Queen Victoria to Queen Elizabeth II, and have supported Queenslanders through two world wars, political and economic crises, natural disasters and transformational social change.

All but four of the 26 had the staunch support of a spouse during their term as Governor. That support was particularly vital in the colonial era when all Governors were men and the Governor's wife was an important symbolic figure who was viewed as the leader of female society. While it was the Governors who carried their official instructions from the Queen and fulfilled the constitutional role, it was their wives who were seen to embody the sovereign's social standards and codes of conduct.

The expectation that vice-regal spouses will represent the highest standards in all aspects of life has not changed over the past century, and the support role has become even more vital as Governors travel widely to visit Queensland communities, host and attend increasing numbers of events, and accept patronage of a growing number of community organisations.

Despite this important contribution, those women and men have been largely overlooked in telling Queensland's story. In some instances, even their full names and the dates when they were born and died are hard to find. Others remain no more than a shadowy presence in the official record.

Following the successful publication in 2016 by Government House of 'A Portrait of a Governor', the decision was made to redress the balance, making full use of available research resources to bring their stories into the light. These resources included those held at the John Oxley Library; the very detailed history 'All for Queensland: The Governors and the People', written by Peter and Sheila Forrest; the Australian Dictionary of Biography and the National Library of Australia's Trove website; the genealogy website Ancestry.com and Government House's own records. The Office acknowledges with gratitude the dedication and professionalism brought to this project by Ms Judith Anderson OAM.

The stories in this collection piece together portraits of the exceptional women and men who served by standing beside our Governors, helping to shape the modern, thriving State of Queensland.



Lady Bowen



*Wife of Queensland's first Governor,
The Honourable Sir George Ferguson Bowen GCMG
(Governor from 10 December 1859 – 4 January 1868)*

Contessa Diamantina di Roma was born on the Ionian island of Zante in 1833, the 10th of 11 children in an aristocratic Greek family. At the age of 23, she married George Ferguson Bowen, then British government secretary of the Ionian Islands.

The young couple arrived in Brisbane in 1859, ready to shape the newly separated colony of Queensland. One newspaper reported that Lady Bowen was “as exotic as a bird of paradise, still a beauty, with black dazzling eyes, a flawless cream complexion and a figure that, even in the dresses of the period, was the envy of many younger matrons”. The Bowens’ daughter Nina was followed by three more children born during their time in Brisbane.

An accomplished pianist and singer, Lady Bowen established a reputation as an exemplary hostess at what is now Old Government House at Gardens Point. She was active and stylish in ceremonial duties, using a silver spade and a polished cedar wheelbarrow to turn the sod for Queensland’s first railway line.

Lady Bowen was esteemed for her charitable endeavours, especially her work to establish a lying-in hospital, which greatly improved maternal care in the colony. When Sir George’s term of office in Queensland ended in 1868, Lady Bowen accompanied him on further vice-regal postings until his retirement in 1886. Lady Bowen died of acute bronchitis in London in November 1893 at the age of 60.

Roma Street Station, the Western Downs town of Roma, and the mighty Diamantina River bear witness to the affection that Queenslanders held for their first vice-regal spouse.



The Marchioness of Normanby



*Wife of Queensland's third Governor, The Most Honourable George
Augustus Constantine Phipps, Marquess of Normanby GCB GCMG PC*

(Governor from 12 August 1871 – 12 November 1874)

The wife of Queensland's third Governor, The Most Honourable George Augustus Constantine Phipps, Marquess of Normanby, had an inauspicious start to Australian vice-regal life, being flung from her berth during a severe storm on her way from Sydney to Brisbane, sustaining injuries to her head and face.

Born in January 1816, Laura Russell was the daughter of Royal Navy Captain Robert Russell, and married Phipps, then the Earl of Mulgrave, in August 1844. Three years older than her husband, the 28-year-old went on to bear four sons and three daughters while her husband served in the Scots Fusilier Guards and later as Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia and as a member of the House of Lords following the death of his father in 1863.

However, the five years in Canada were not to be the Marchioness's only experience as a vice-regal spouse – in 1871, by then in her mid-50s, she came to Queensland when her husband was appointed as Blackall's successor, and later accompanied him to New Zealand and Victoria when he took up postings there.

Lady Normanby was popular and very well liked during the couple's three years in Queensland, but she suffered from bronchitis and heart disease and in 1884, when Normanby resigned as Governor of Victoria, the couple returned to London, where she died on 26 January the following year.

The Laura River in Cape York was named after her and the Russell River named in honour of her family, but the Marchioness also left her mark on protocol when she accompanied the Governor to a civic reception in Ipswich – as ladies didn't generally attend civic receptions, adjustments had to be made to the seating arrangements to accommodate her.



Lady Musgrave



*Wife of Queensland's sixth Governor, Sir Anthony Musgrave GCMG
(Governor from 6 November 1883 – 9 October 1888)*

Jeannie Lucinda, second wife of Queensland's sixth Governor, Sir Anthony Musgrave, remains one of the colony's best known and respected vice-regal spouses.

One of nine children of the prominent American lawyer and law reformer David Dudley Field II and his English wife, Jeannie Lucinda was born in New York in 1833. At the age of 37, in San Francisco, she married the widowed Anthony Musgrave, a colonial administrator who had been born and educated in the West Indies and later served in various posts in the Caribbean as well as in Newfoundland. The couple had a daughter and three sons while he pursued his career in British Columbia, Natal (South Africa), South Australia, and Jamaica before his appointment as Governor of Queensland in July 1883. When her husband was knighted in 1875, Mrs Musgrave became Lady Musgrave and soon established a reputation of great charm and intelligence. The *Women's Sphere* in the 6 August edition of 'The Telegraph' in 1924 went so far as to say "never has a more attractive person performed the duties of hostess at the vice-regal residence".

Lady Musgrave's contribution to Queensland is perpetuated in the name of the Great Barrier Reef coral cay, Lady Musgrave Island, the north Queensland sugar port of Lucinda, and particularly in The Lady Musgrave Trust, Queensland's oldest trust, which continues the work she began in support of young homeless women.

The Queensland government steam yacht was named Lucinda in her honour in 1885 and the town of Lucindale in South Australia is named for her. After Sir Anthony died in office in 1888, Lady Musgrave left Queensland and died in England on 12 August 1920.



Lady Norman



*Wife of Queensland's seventh Governor,
Sir Henry Wylie Norman GCB GCMG CIE
(Governor from 1 May 1889 – 31 December 1895)*

Alice Claudine Sandys was born on 14 April 1853 in Peshawar, India, the daughter of Teignmouth Sandys of the Bengal Civil Service. She would become the third wife of Henry Wylie Norman, a career army officer who was stationed in India for 15 years and who was appointed as Queensland's seventh Governor in 1889. Following the untimely death of his first wife, Selina Eliza Davidson, in 1862 and of his second wife, Jemima Anne Temple, barely three years later, Norman married Alice on 1 March 1870 in Bhaugulpore in Bengal.

The Normans had three children, two sons and a daughter, Grace, who accompanied her parents to Australia when Norman (General the Honourable Sir Henry Wylie Norman from 1873) took up his second vice-regal post, as Governor of Queensland, in 1889.

Sir Henry and his wife soon endeared themselves to Queenslanders, hosting many balls and dinner parties, and even travelled to Barcaldine at the time of the Shearers' Strike to help bring calm to the situation. On another occasion, Lady Norman travelled to the gold-rush town of Mt Morgan with Grace.

The Normans also established a reputation for hard work and commitment to the people of Queensland. Lady Norman strongly supported the Children's Hospital and laid the foundation stone for the Albert Street Methodist Church in 1889. She is also credited with introducing fire drills at Government House.

At the end of their term in Queensland, the Normans returned to the UK where Sir Henry died in October 1904. Lady Norman survived him for eight years, dying in Gloucestershire in 1914.



Lady Lamington



Wife of Queensland's eighth Governor, the Right Honourable Charles Wallace Alexander Napier Cochrane Baillie, Lord Lamington GCMG

(Governor from 9 April 1896 – 19 December 1901)

Described as “a most loveable woman”, the charming and elegant Annabella Elizabeth Mary Houghton Hozier (known informally as May) was the youngest daughter of Sir William and Lady Mary Hozier of Lanarkshire, Scotland.

At the age of 26, she married the second Baron Lamington in June 1895, shortly before his appointment as Queensland’s eighth Governor in April 1896. The couple had a son Victor and a daughter Grissell while living in Brisbane, and the stylish Lady Lamington quickly established a reputation as congenial and hard-working – and as a very good driver four-in-hand. She took her role as patron and official hostess of the colony very seriously, defending it as “no fine lady’s craze or fashionable hobby”.

During her time in Queensland, she farewelled Boer War troops, joined the celebrations when the Commonwealth of Australia was established and the public mourning on the death of Queen Victoria, was hostess to Royal visitors, and worked with many charitable institutions. She opened a new cookery school at the Brisbane Technical College, became patron of the Braille Society, and was instrumental in establishing the Lady Lamington Hospital for the Diseases of Women, as well as the Lady Lamington Nurses’ Home at the Brisbane General Hospital. Such was her commitment that she undertook St John’s training in order to qualify as a nurse, and took her turn on volunteer rosters at the general hospital. Some years after her time in Queensland, she went on to serve in the volunteer ambulance brigade in France during World War I.

After her sojourn in Queensland, Lady Lamington recorded what she called “a little pamphlet of memories”, which is now an important record of colonial life held by the John Oxley Library.

Intriguingly, the memoir makes no reference to the celebrated occasion on which the Government House chef Armand Galland concocted the famed lamington cake from day-old sponge, chocolate, and desiccated coconut for one of Lady Lamington’s ‘at homes’.

On 1 June 1901, Sir William and Lady Lamington left for Bombay, where he served until 1907. On their retirement, the Lamingtons returned to Lanarkshire, where Lady Lamington died in 1944 at the age of 75, four years after her husband.



Lady Chermiside



*Wife of Queensland's ninth Governor,
Major General Sir Herbert Charles Chermiside
(Governor from 24 March 1902 – 10 October 1904)*

Geraldine Katherine Webb was the second of four daughters of William Frederick Webb of Newstead, the Nottinghamshire abbey which had been the home of the celebrated poet Lord Byron.

The Webbs treasured the link with the poet and Geraldine herself created a rockery in the grounds, with its own steam and tunnel grotto. In 1899, Geraldine married Sir Herbert Charles Chermiside, and three years later travelled with him to take up his appointment as Queensland's ninth Governor.

The Chermisides were the first, and perhaps the only, vice-regal couple to be welcomed to Queensland by a citizens' reception, paid for by public subscription and organised by volunteers. Sadly, Lady Chermiside did not enjoy robust health, and when their son was stillborn, she withdrew and played a less prominent role in public life than her vice-regal predecessors. Her sister-in-law, Mrs Webb, deputised for her on a number of occasions.

There was also less entertainment at Government House than under previous Governors because the Chermisides' two-and-a-half years in Queensland coincided with an era of austerity – the Governor even took a voluntary salary cut of 15 percent.

The Chermisides remained childless and after Sir Herbert's term of office, they returned to England where he retired from the British Army in 1907. Lady Chermiside died unexpectedly in Switzerland in June 1910 at the age of 50.



Lady Chelmsford



*Wife of Queensland's 10th Governor, the Right Honourable Frederic
John Napier Thesiger, Viscount Chelmsford GCMG GCSI GCIE GBE*

(Governor from 30 November 1905 – 26 May 1909)

Frances Charlotte Guest was born on 22 March 1869 in London, the eldest daughter and first of nine children of Ivor Guest and Lady Cornelia Henrietta Maria Churchill-Spencer. She married the third Baron Chelmsford (the Right Honourable Frederic John Napier Thesinger) in July 1894 and accompanied him to Brisbane the following year when he took up his post as Queensland's 10th Governor.

The vice-regal couple were keen musicians and the Bechstein miniature grand piano Lady Chelmsford installed in Government House was used frequently for soirées. Lord and Lady Chelmsford immediately became popular at all levels of society in the newly independent State of Queensland.

Lady Chelmsford was also responsible for importing 500 rose trees from France for the grounds of Government House. The roses were transplanted from Gardens Point to the formal gardens at Fernberg estate when it became Government House in 1910.

Lady Chelmsford was a cultured and practical woman who quickly interested herself in the Children's Hospital and the Milk Institute for Babies which bore her name. She hosted a large garden party at Government House to raise funds for the Hospital, even contributing her own handiwork for sale to benefit the cause.

In June 1910, Lady Chelmsford's beloved Bechstein, with the rest of the furniture from what became known as Old Government House, was transported to Fernberg, the temporary Government House. At an unknown point in time, its services were no longer required and it was moved into the basement for storage, where it languished for many years. In 1985, Sir James Ramsay, Queensland's then Governor, gifted the piano to the National Trust, which undertook its full restoration. Today, Lady Chelmsford's piano graces the Hall at Old Government House.



Lady MacGregor



*Wife of Queensland's 11th Governor, the Honourable
Sir William MacGregor GCMG CB*

(Governor from 2 December 1909 – 16 July 1914)

Born in Devonshire, Mary Jane Cocks was the daughter of Captain Cocks, a trader and Harbour-Master in Suva, Fiji.

It was there that she met William MacGregor, who had been posted to Fiji as Chief Medical Officer in 1875 and whose first wife had died from dysentery two years later. The MacGregors married in Suva in November 1883, and had two daughters, Alfina and Mary Jane, before William was posted to New Guinea in 1888 and subsequently to Lagos and Newfoundland.

As he was knighted in 1889, it was as Sir William and Lady MacGregor that the couple arrived in Brisbane in 1909 for him to take up his position as Queensland's 11th Governor. Lady MacGregor was a devoted wife and mother with "a most retiring disposition" who "delighted in homely pursuits", but she nevertheless took a keen interest in women's organisations during her five years in Queensland.

The first vice-regal couple to live at Fernberg were proud Scots, and sprigs of heather and the MacGregor tartan often featured at events they hosted or attended. On her departure, the women of Brisbane presented her with a very handsome address and beautiful cabinet in appreciation of her service.

She later wrote to the Lady Mayoress, Mrs Jenkinson, expressing heartfelt appreciation for the many warm-hearted people of Brisbane who came to the Centennial Hall to bid her goodbye, saying "I felt their kindness more than I could express."

The MacGregors left Queensland in July 1914 and retired in Scotland, where Lady MacGregor died in October 1919, six months after her husband.



Lady Goold-Adams



*Wife of Queensland's 12th Governor, Major the Honourable
Sir Hamilton John Goold-Adams GCMG CB*

(Governor from 15 March 1915 – 3 February 1920)

Elsie Riordan was born in 1882 in Montreal (Canada), the youngest daughter of Charles Riordan. She became Lady Goold-Adams in 1911 when she married soldier and colonial administrator Sir Hamilton John Goold-Adams in London.

Sir Hamilton was yet another Irish-born Governor (three of the first four had been Irishmen!). He had been knighted in 1907 after serving for many years with distinction as a soldier and colonial administrator. In March 1915, he took up his post as Queensland's 12th Governor.

During their five years at Fernberg, Lady Goold-Adams gave birth to a son, Richard, and a daughter, Elizabeth, but as vice-regal spouse during one of the most challenging periods in Australia's history, she gave her whole-hearted support to the many women's organisations that emerged during and after World War I, taking a particularly active role in the Queensland Red Cross Society and the League of Women's Relatives of Sailors and Soldiers.

Newspapers of the day reported that Lady Goold-Adams would often visit the League, unannounced, to spend time chatting with members and giving cheer to those who had lost relatives in the war.

She also took a keen interest in the Girl Guides, convening a meeting at Government House in 1919 to establish the movement in Queensland.

At the end of the Queensland posting, the Goold-Adams family retired to England but Sir Hamilton contracted pleurisy en route and died in Cape Town on 12 April 1920. Lady Goold-Adams survived her husband for 32 years, dying in England in 1952 at the age of 70.



Lady Goodwin



*Wife of Queensland's 14th Governor, Lieutenant General the Honourable
Sir Thomas Herbert John Chapman Goodwin KCB CMG DSO*

(Governor from 13 June 1927 – 7 April 1932)

Sir Thomas Herbert John Chapman Goodwin was born to a British father and Australian mother in May 1871 in Kandy, Ceylon (now Sri Lanka).

While posted in India, the medical practitioner and career soldier met and married Lilian Isabel Ronaldson at Simla on 29 December 1897. The couple had no children, and Lady Goodwin accompanied her husband on his various postings until June 1927 when Sir Thomas (he had been knighted KCB in 1919) took up his appointment as the State's 14th Governor.

En route to Brisbane, Lady Goodwin was interviewed by the 'Sydney Morning Herald', which reported that she was "tall and slender" and wore her hair "knotted simply at the back of her head".

Lady Goodwin shared many of her husband's interests. She was a good horsewoman, had a great love of animals, enjoyed race meetings and agricultural shows, and was especially keen on hunting. The Goodwins were also great lovers of the outdoors and supported nature conservation, with Sir Thomas being instrumental in having the grounds of Government House declared a sanctuary for animals and birds, a legacy that continues today.

Lady Goodwin also became a committed activist for women and children, and patron of the Victoria League, the National Council of Women, Girl Guides, the Country Women's Association, and the crèche and kindergarten movement.

When Sir Thomas's term of office ended on 7 April 1932, the Goodwins returned to England, where they lived quietly in retirement until his death in September 1960. Lady Goodwin had been in poor health for some years and survived him by less than a year, dying in July 1961. The maternity hospital in Rockhampton was named the Lady Goodwin Hospital when it was opened in 1931, but the building was demolished in 1986.



Lady Wilson



*Wife of Queensland's 15th Governor, Colonel the Honourable
Sir Leslie Orme Wilson GCMG GCSI GCIE DSO*

(Governor from 13 June 1932 – 23 April 1946)

Winifred Smith, the wife of Queensland's 15th Governor, Sir Leslie Orme Wilson, was the eldest daughter of a wealthy Sydney merchant, Captain Charles Smith of Goderich Lodge, one of the grand villas that once stood along Sydney's Darlinghurst Road.

Born in 1882, Winifred met her future husband while he was serving as Aide-de-Camp to the Governor of New South Wales, Sir Harry Rawson, for six years in the early 1900s. She travelled to London and the couple married there in June 1909, soon after his return to the UK from Australia. They had three children — a son (Peter) who went on to work as a jackaroo of Toganmayne Station in the Riverina, a younger son (David) who remained in the UK when Sir Leslie took up his post in Queensland in June 1932, and a daughter (Marjorie) who travelled with the Wilsons to Queensland.

Winifred supported her husband's flourishing career in the military and as a Member of the House of Commons, and in 1923 he was knighted and appointed Governor of Bombay. During their five years in India, Lady Wilson became a keen supporter of infant welfare and the Governor's Hospital Fund.

Revisiting Australia for him to take up his post in 1932 was the first time either Sir Leslie or Lady Wilson had returned to Australia in more than two decades, and his term was to become the longest of any Governor in Queensland's history.

During those 14 years, Lady Wilson lent her patronage to some 60 organisations. When World War II broke out in 1939, the Wilsons became involved in the war effort, lending active support to the Red Cross Prisoner of War Street adoption scheme, even affixing a sign to Fernberg's gate to support the cause.

Like so many Queensland families during the war, the Wilsons suffered tragedy when their son David was killed in action in the Middle East in November 1941. The couple returned to England in April 1946 and lived quietly in retirement until September 1955 when, at the age of 79, Sir Leslie was struck and killed by a truck while walking. Lady Winifred returned to Australia and died in Caloundra in 1959 at the age of 77.



Lady Lavarack



*Wife of Queensland's 16th Governor, Lieutenant General the
Honourable Sir John Dudley Lavarack KCMG KCVO KBE CB DSO*

(Governor from 1 October 1946 – 4 December 1957)

Sybil Nevett Ochiltree was born in Ballarat in 1889, the third and youngest child of Edward Graham Ochiltree and Laura Josephine Mitchell. She met Brisbane-born Captain John Dudley Lavarack in Queenscliff, Victoria, in 1909, when she was 19 and he 22, and within three weeks they were engaged.

A lengthy separation ensued while Captain Lavarack was posted to Thursday Island, but the couple would finally marry three years later, on 10 October 1912, in St George's Anglican Church, Queenscliff.

After they were wed, the two travelled to England and it was during their time there that their first two sons were born, John Ochiltree in 1914 and Peter in 1915. Their third son, James Wallace, was born in Ballarat, Victoria, in 1922.

In the course of his long career as an army officer in two world wars, Captain Lavarack rose to the rank of Lieutenant General and was recognised by a knighthood in 1942 and by other awards later in life. Sybil also played her part during World War II as president of the AIF Women's Association and President of the Staff Corps Auxiliary. She accompanied her husband when he took up a position in Washington in February 1944, and the couple travelled through Canada and to San Francisco before returning to Australia in July 1946.

When Sir John retired from the military two months later, he was appointed as Queensland's 16th Governor and served a total of 11 years before his death in December 1957 at their home in Buderim on Queensland's Sunshine Coast. Lady Lavarack continued to live in Buderim until her death on Christmas Eve 1974.



Lady Abel Smith



*Wife of Queensland's 17th Governor, Colonel the Honourable
Sir Henry Abel Smith KCMG KCVO DSO*

(Governor from 18 March 1958 – 18 March 1966)

Lady May Helen Emma Cambridge, a great-granddaughter of Queen Victoria, was born Princess May of Teck on 23 January 1906 in Surrey, the eldest of three children. In 1917, during World War 1, the Tecks relinquished their German titles at the request of King George V and assumed the family name 'Cambridge'.

In 1928 in South Africa, where her father, the Earl of Athlone, was serving as Governor-General, she met a young British cavalry captain named Henry Smith who had been appointed as an Aide-de-Camp to the Earl. Romance blossomed, and their engagement was officially announced in August 1931.

At the time of the marriage, which was two months later, Captain Smith became Captain Abel Smith, and Lady May broke a centuries-old royal tradition when she omitted the word 'obey' from her marriage vows. The Abel Smiths went on to have three children, a son Richard and two daughters Ann and Elizabeth.

By the time of his retirement in 1950, Captain Abel Smith had risen to the rank of Major and was knighted in the same year. In November 1967 his appointment as Queensland's 17th Governor was announced and he took up his position on 18 March 1958.

Lady May's closeness to the Royal family created a great deal of public and media interest, particularly when her mother, Princess Alice, visited Brisbane in 1964. In the same year, the newspapers breathlessly reported that Lady May had worn a tiara to the Beatles concert at Festival Hall!

The Abel Smiths travelled extensively throughout the State; invited the Australian Broadcasting Commission to Fernberg to film 'At Home at Government House'; and in addition to the visit by Princess Alice, hosted Royal visits by Princess Alexandra in 1959 and Her Majesty The Queen in 1963.

Lady May died in London on 29 May 1994 at the age of 88. She is buried in the Royal Burial Ground at Windsor.



Lady Mansfield



*Wife of Queensland's 18th Governor, the Honourable
Sir Alan James Mansfield KCMG KCVO*

(Governor from 21 March 1966 – 21 March 1972)

Beryl Susan Barnes was born in February 1904 into a prominent Queensland pastoral family, and became Beryl Susan Pain when she married Harold Pain in Sydney on 4 October 1920 at the age of just 16.

After living in Sydney for a year, the couple went to Scotland for Harold to study medicine. A son, John, was born there. Beryl returned to Australia with her son, and some time later, Harold also came back to Australia.

However, Harold returned to Scotland and, in 1924, wrote to her advising that he did not intend to return to her or to Australia. Within a few years, Beryl moved to Stanthorpe and petitioned for divorce on the grounds of desertion.

The Supreme Court of Queensland granted the divorce in September 1930 and two years later, in October 1932, Beryl's engagement to Alan James Mansfield was announced. The couple were married on 16 December 1933 in Stanthorpe. Brisbane-born Mansfield was a rising 31-year-old barrister at the time. The Mansfields went on to have a daughter (Rachel Margaret) and a son (Charles James, known as 'Jim') while Alan's reputation continued to grow, with appointment as a Supreme Court judge in 1940 and Chief Justice from February 1956.

As Chief Justice of Queensland, Mansfield acted as administrator for more than a year when Sir John Lavarack fell ill, and in 1958 Mansfield was knighted for his service. Beryl, known as Lady Mansfield from that date, would go on to serve Queensland with her husband when he was sworn in as Queensland's 18th Governor in March 1966.

His appointment ended in 1972 and he died in Surfers Paradise in July 1980. Lady Mansfield survived him for only two months, dying on 12 September of the same year.



Lady Hannah



*Wife of Queensland's 19th Governor, Air Marshal the Honourable
Sir Colin Thomas Hannah KCMG KCVO KBE CB*

(Governor from 21 March 1972 – 20 March 1977)

Born on 28 September 1917 in the Perth suburb of Claremont, the youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs H. R. Gordon, Patricia Treacey Gwenyth Gordon married then Flying Officer Colin Hannah on 5 January 1939.

The 25-year-old groom was also a Western Australian, born in the goldfields town of Menzies, and the local press made much of the fact that ‘Pat’, as she was called, was the first Western Australian girl to marry an officer from the local RAAF station at Bullsbrook (now the RAAF’s Pearce airbase).

The couple left Perth immediately after their wedding, travelling by train to Melbourne where they were to make their home. Married just eight months before Australia entered World War II, the couple’s early years of marriage were punctuated by training for him in the UK and by active service. After the war, Colin’s career progressed rapidly, ultimately reaching the position of Air Marshal.

In 1971 Mrs Hannah became a Commander in the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem. She took up residence at Government House in March 1972 as Lady Hannah, when Sir Colin became the first member of the RAAF to be appointed as a State Governor.

Just before the end of Sir Colin’s term in March 1977, the vice-regal couple hosted a formal dinner at Government House for Her Majesty The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh during their Silver Jubilee visit. Temporary carpet was laid on the wooden parquet floor of Fernberg to dampen the sound of footsteps of serving staff. In preparation for the visit, Lady Hannah also selected 14 figurines, bowls and vases from the prestige jewellers, Hardy Brothers, to complement the décor.

When Sir Colin’s term ended, the Hannahs went to live at the Gold Coast, where he died of a heart attack the following year. Lady Hannah survived him by 34 years, dying after a brief illness at the age of 94 on 24 August 2012. She was survived by their only child Beverley, as well as grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and her ashes interred with those of her husband at Brisbane’s Mt Thompson Memorial Gardens.



Lady Ramsay



*Wife of Queensland's 20th Governor, Commodore the
Honourable Sir James Ramsay KCMG KCVO CBE DSC*

(Governor from 22 April 1977 – 21 July 1985)

Born in Sydney on 3 February 1919, Janet Burley was the youngest of four children of Frederick Richard Burley, founder of the corsetry firm Berlei Ltd.

Educated first at the Gordon Public School and later at Abbotsleigh, at the age of 13, Janet joined her parents in London, where she attended St Paul's School for Girls before spending six months in a Swiss finishing school.

During World War II, she became a member of the Voluntary Aid Division and of the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry. In 1945, while working with the Australian Red Cross at Plymouth, she was invited to lunch on board HMAS Australia. There, she met Lieutenant Commander James Ramsay, who was attending the Royal Naval Staff College. They were married in November the same year at her family's country house in Berkshire.

Over the next 30 years, Janet Ramsay lived in many different homes as she followed her husband in his naval career, settling eventually in Perth in 1968 where he retired in 1972 with the rank of Commodore.

In 1986, he was appointed Lieutenant Governor of Western Australia and was knighted in January 1977 for his service in that role. It was as Sir James and Lady Ramsay that the couple took up residence in Fernberg when he was appointed as Queensland's 20th Governor in April 1977.

In her role as vice-regal spouse, Lady Ramsay spoke at functions, assumed many patronages, and was renowned for her dignity but also for her charm, easy manner and ready smile. On the Fernberg estate, she instigated the planting of an informal avenue of palms on the eastern ridge which now leads to the swimming pool and Pavilion. She also shared her husband's goal of visiting every municipality and local government area in the State – an objective achieved within three years.

The daughter of a prominent Rotarian, she was recognised for her community service by being made a Paul Harris Fellow by Rotary International in 1980 on the 75th anniversary of Rotary's founding. When Sir James stepped down as Governor in 1985 after a term of eight years, the couple chose to live on the Gold Coast. When he died suddenly the following year, Lady Ramsay continued to live there, but in 1993, she returned to Perth where two of the couple's four children lived. She died there on Boxing Day 2003 at the age of 84.



Lady Campbell



*Wife of Queensland's 21st Governor, the Honourable
Sir Walter Benjamin Campbell AC QC*

(Governor from 22 July 1985 – 29 July 1992)

Georgina Pearce was born 6 February 1922 into a farming family in the Crow's Nest district on Queensland's Darling Downs and, as a girl, would ride three miles on horseback to and from school.

Following her secondary schooling at Glennie Memorial School in Toowoomba, she studied teaching and specialised in speech training, visiting students in schools around Brisbane. It was as a second-year student that a friend introduced Georgina to Walter Campbell, then an RAAF flying instructor. Known to his university colleagues as 'Casanova Campbell', the handsome and dashing Pilot Officer Campbell courted Georgina and they married on 18 June 1942, at All Saints Church, and relocated to Tasmania where Walter was stationed.

Having survived a plane crash during a training flight, Walter resumed his legal studies in Brisbane at the end of the war. The couple had three children – Deborah, Peter and Wallace. Walter went on to practise as a barrister and Queen's Counsel before being appointed as a Judge of the Queensland Supreme Court in 1967 and being knighted in 1978. In 1982, he was appointed as Chief Justice of Queensland, and began his seven-year term as Queensland's 21st Governor on 22 July 1985.

During her time at Fernberg, Lady Campbell was associated with more than 50 organisations, including the Queensland division of the Australian Red Cross, of which she was President, and the Country Women's Association, and Girl Guides Association of which she was the patron. In 1986, Lady Campbell was made a Commander of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem.

Throughout her time in the vice-regal role, Lady Campbell maintained her interest in reading, patchwork, embroidery, and the arts and crafts. Her time in Government House is perpetuated in the camellia garden which was established at her instigation near the eastern entrance to the estate. On 29 July 1992, Sir Walter took the final royal salute from the 6th Brigade Administrative Support Group and he and Lady Campbell retired to the Brisbane suburb of Ascot. He died there on 4 September 2004 at the age of 83 after a short illness. Lady Campbell survived him, dying on 23 October 2006.



Mr Angus McDonald



*Husband of Queensland's 22nd Governor, the
Honourable Mary Marguerite Leneen Forde AC*

(Governor from 29 July 1992 – 29 July 1997)

In 1992, Queensland's first woman Governor was appointed and her husband, Angus McDonald, became the first man to serve Queensland as vice-regal spouse.

A retired detective superintendent from the New South Wales Police, Mr McDonald had met the future Governor in extraordinary circumstances in 1975. At that time, she was a partner in a Brisbane law firm and he was investigating the murder of Leneen's niece. Leneen was among the family members interviewed and from that first meeting, an enduring friendship developed and the couple married in 1983.

For the nine years until Mrs Forde took up her position as Governor, they had what she described as 'a commuting marriage' while he continued to work in Sydney and she in Brisbane.

Once installed in Fernberg, the couple enthusiastically set about changing the traditional concept of the Governor's role. Together, they democratised invitation lists for receptions and made Fernberg the 'people's house' by opening the estate to the public on Open Days.

As McDonald was a fiercely proud Scot, the program of annual events at Government House was expanded to include the McDonalds' Scottish Games, complete with haggis and tossing the caber (with Mr McDonald as an accomplished caber-tosser!). Mr McDonald also accompanied his wife as she travelled the State extensively to meet Queenslanders. Mr McDonald died in 1999, two years after the end of Mrs Forde's term as Queensland's 22nd Governor.



Mrs Barbara Arnison



*Wife of Queensland's 23rd Governor, Major General
the Honourable Peter Maurice Arnison AC CVO*

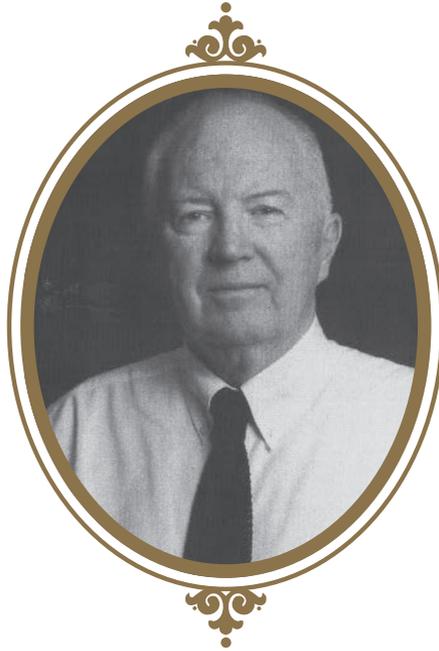
(Governor from 29 July 1997 – 29 July 2003)

Born in Lismore in country New South Wales, Barbara Smith attended schools at Queanbeyan and West Wyalong before completing her secondary education at Broken Hill High School. She graduated from the University of Sydney in 1962 with a Bachelor of Arts and a Diploma in Education.

The following year, she began her teaching career at Sydney's Cumberland High School, teaching English and History. In the same year, she met the then Lieutenant Peter Arnison and they were married in 1964. The couple went on to have two children, Tracy and Andrew. While the children were young, Barbara continued her teaching career as the family moved to take up Peter's various postings, teaching in primary and secondary schools in the Australian Capital Territory, Victoria, and again in NSW. During this time, she also completed a Graduate Diploma in Teacher Librarianship at the Kuring-gai College of Advanced Education and subsequently worked as a teacher librarian at St Thomas More School, Campbelltown, NSW.

Mrs Arnison was employed as curriculum librarian at the Brisbane College of Advanced Education (now QUT) in January 1984, prior to her appointment as teacher librarian at Kelvin Grove State High School from May 1984 to December 1986. From 1987 to 1994, she served as teacher librarian at schools in Townsville and Brisbane. Mrs Arnison served as President of the Brisbane Army Wives Club from 1991 to 1994, helping to provide friendship and support to army wives and to organise fundraising activities for the benefit of community charities.

In 1997, Mrs Arnison was invested as a Dame of Grace in the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem. During her husband's term as Governor, Mrs Arnison was patron of more than 20 community and charitable organisations, including the National Council of Women of Queensland, the Queensland Country Women's Association, Guides Queensland, Meals on Wheels, Queensland Council of Garden Clubs, and the Royal Women's Hospital Research and Development Foundation. She served as President of Australian Red Cross, Queensland, and of the Victoria League for Commonwealth Friendship in Queensland.



Mr Michael Bryce AM AE



*Husband of Queensland's 24th Governor, the Honourable
Dame Quentin Alice Louise Bryce AD CVO*

(Governor from 29 July 2003 – 29 July 2008)

Born in Brisbane, Michael Bryce completed his first year of schooling at Gordonvale State School in Far North Queensland and undertook his secondary education at Brisbane State High School.

Service in the Air Training Corps as a high school student fostered his interest in the RAAF, which led to a long association with the RAAF Reserve, first as a member of the Queensland University Squadron while a Bachelor of Architecture student and later as Intelligence Officer with the No. 23 (City of Brisbane) Squadron. His association with the RAAF also led to his appointment as an honorary Aide-de-Camp to the Governor of Queensland and to the award of the National Service Medal for his 15 years' service.

Mr Bryce graduated in 1962 and married Quentin Strachan in 1964 and the couple went on to have two sons and three daughters. The family lived in London until 1968, when Michael returned to Brisbane and established a successful architectural and design practice, achieving national prominence through work for a range of Australian institutions, including the National Trust and the Australian War Memorial, and being an advisor for Australian-hosted Commonwealth and Olympic Games.

Mr Bryce has served as a trustee and board member for a number of Queensland's premier cultural institutions and community organisations.

In 2003, Michael Bryce was conferred with the degree of Doctor of the University *honoris causa* by the University of Canberra, ACT, and in the same year was invested as a Knight of Grace of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem. In 2006, he was inducted into the Australian Design Hall of Fame and was honoured as a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) on 12 June 2006.

During their time at Fernberg, the Bryces made the estate accessible to a wide range of Queenslanders, especially those who may not have visited before, hosting, for example, guide dog graduations and wheelchair dances.



Mr Stuart McCosker



*Husband of Queensland's 25th Governor, the
Honourable Penelope Anne Wensley AC*

(Governor from 29 July 2008 – 29 July 2014)

Thomas Stuart McCosker was born in Nambour on 11 July 1943, and attended state primary schools at Beerwah and Mapleton, followed by two years at Nambour State High School and three years at the Queensland Agricultural College (Gatton College) where he obtained a Diploma of Animal Husbandry.

He graduated from The University of Queensland (UQ) in 1967 with a Bachelor of Veterinary Science and, in 1988, a Bachelor of Economics. In June 1974, he became engaged to Penelope Wensley. The couple went on to have two daughters, Sarah (born 1977 in Mexico City) and Jane (born 1979 in Canberra).

During Ms Wensley's term as Queensland's 25th Governor, Mr McCosker accompanied her on official visits throughout Queensland and provided support to her in fulfilling her community duties. In July 2011, Mr McCosker accepted a three-year voluntary appointment as Adjunct Professor with the School of Veterinary Science at his alma mater, enabling him to contribute his extensive experience gained as a veterinary surgeon in Australia, the United Kingdom, Mexico, New Zealand and Hong Kong, as well as from his work for the Commonwealth Government in the regulation of agricultural and veterinary chemicals.

In addition to working internationally as a veterinarian while accompanying his wife on overseas postings, Mr McCosker also worked with pharmaceutical companies in the United States, was a visa officer in the Australian High Commission in India and a consultant to a United Nations agency in Geneva.

At Gatton College, Mr McCosker played rugby, continuing with rugby and rowing in Emmanuel College teams during his years at UQ. Mr McCosker also enjoys skiing, which he took up during a posting in New Zealand, plays an occasional game of tennis, and continues his interest in rugby as a spectator.



Bachelors and Widowers

Queensland's 26 Governors to date have included only four who were unmarried or widowed. Vice-regal protocol in the 19th and early 20th century demanded that when a Governor was a widower or bachelor, the wife of the Chief Justice should be the hostess on social occasions. However, practical considerations in the early days of the young colony meant that it was another family member or the spouse of a senior staff member who took on the role. Many of those who 'stood in' for the Governor's spouse became popular figures in their own right, as they applied their energy and enthusiasm for the betterment of the Queensland community. Their stories are recorded here with admiration for their service to Queensland.

Queensland's second Governor, Colonel Samuel Wensley Blackall, was widowed twice and had lost two children before he took up his post in Queensland – he had married Catherine Bowles in 1833 and, after her death, married Catherine Bond in 1848. The latter died in 1864, predeceased by their two children. Blackall had been appointed in August 1868 but served for only two-and-a-half years until he died in office in January 1871. During his brief term, the role of hostess at Government House was filled first by the popular wife of his private secretary, Lieutenant Terry, and later by the wife of his son Major Blackall.

Sir William Wellington Cairns was 49 when he took up his brief posting as Queensland's fourth Governor (January 1875–March 1877). He was reserved, had never married, and had suffered poor health for many years, exacerbated by postings in a range of tropical colonies before arriving in Queensland. Once here, he seldom left Brisbane, made few friends, received few visitors, and rarely extended hospitality except for occasional fancy dress balls and dances, which he enjoyed. His bachelor status could only have added to his unpopularity as the Governor's wife filled a very important role in colonial society.

The wife of Queensland's fifth Governor, Sir Arthur Edward Kennedy, had died in Hong Kong before he took up his position in Queensland in July 1877, but vice-regal life during his six-year term of office was enlivened by his younger daughter, Georgina Grace Maria. 'Miss Georgie', as she was affectionately known, was born in 1844 and had observed her charming mother in the role of hostess as she accompanied her husband in his colonial service career for some 35 years until her death in 1874. In addition, Georgina was already familiar with Australia from her father's time as Governor of Western Australia (1855–1862) when she was in her teens. In Brisbane, she immediately became a cultivated, amiable and popular hostess. The Kennedys had brought Chinese servants with them from Hong Kong and, according to a report in 'The Telegraph' in 1924, Government House menus became famous for their *bêche-de-mer* soup! In Brisbane, Georgina and her father were often seen on their daily horse rides and she gave her support to causes such as the Hospital for Sick Children. Sir Arthur died in the Gulf of Aden while travelling back to England with Georgina in 1883 at the end of his term. Georgina remained in England but never married. She travelled often to France and it was there that she died in 1929 at the age of 85. Her contribution to Queensland was commemorated during her father's term of office when the Georgina River in the Channel Country was named after her in 1880.

Matthew Nathan's 40-year career in the military and in colonial administration in Africa and Asia earned him the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and a knighthood in 1908, so it was as The Right Honourable Lieutenant Colonel Sir Matthew Nathan that the 58-year-old arrived in Brisbane in December 1920 to begin his term as Queensland's 13th Governor. Sir Matthew was a confirmed bachelor whose focus had always been on his studies and his career, with the result that one obituarist expressed the view that Nathan had never married because "he had no time". Queensland society had grown in sophistication since the colonial era, and so the lack of a spouse was felt less keenly. Nathan lent the support of the vice-regal office to the development of community-based women's organisations, including the Girl Guides movement. He particularly championed the Country Women's Association.



GOVERNMENT HOUSE
QUEENSLAND