



GOVERNMENT HOUSE
QUEENSLAND



A Portrait of a Governor



Foreword

It is my great pleasure to introduce 'A Portrait of a Governor' – the stories of the 26 men and women who have graciously and diligently served the people as Governor since Queensland became a colony separate from New South Wales in 1859.

Since my swearing-in as Queensland's 26th vice-regal representative in July 2014, with Kaye, I have often found myself walking in the footsteps of my distinguished predecessors, from standing beside the Eternal Flame lit by Sir John Goodwin in ANZAC Square to officially opening the 'Ekka', as did Sir William Cairns for the first time in 1876, to hearing 'Waltzing Matilda' performed live in Winton, lifting spirits, in similar drought circumstances as its first vice-regal performance in front of Lord Lamington in 1895. From the Normanby River to the Blackall Ranges to our northernmost city of Cairns, our Governors have influenced the development of modern Queensland.

This publication is very much about telling these stories, and it does so by gathering, conveniently in one place, portraits of our Governors. The portraits were completed at various stages throughout each of the Governors' careers, and the myriad styles and mediums in which they have been presented reflect the different ways Governors were understood by the people.

'A Portrait of a Governor' offers a window into Queensland's richly historic past. It also highlights how the Governor's constitutional, ceremonial and community roles have evolved over time. It pulls from history the families who made their home at Old Government House and at Fernberg, and charts a century and a half of gubernatorial travel, from north of the Tweed to the Islands of the Torres Strait and a lot further west than Winton! It shows, through the prism of the vice-regal office, how the State has struggled with natural disasters, and the challenges of war and peace. Above all, it seeks to paint for you a portrait of the Governors of this extraordinary and endlessly fascinating State, and how the great, enduring spirit of the Queensland people has wonderfully eased the fulfilment of a Governor's duties.

Kaye and I hope you will find reading 'A Portrait of a Governor' a richly rewarding experience.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Paul de Jersey".

His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC
Governor of Queensland

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Introduction

In 2015, the State Library of Queensland acquired a magnificent portrait of Queensland's eighth Governor, Lord Lamington, and later that year Government House eagerly accepted the Library's offer that it should hang, on long-term loan, at Fernberg. It has been universally admired by the thousands of visitors who have since come through Fernberg's doors.

This is further evidence that Queenslanders love exploring their history.

The portraits in this publication provide a tangible, accessible link to our State's rich past, and it has been a deliberate decision to include in 'A Portrait of a Governor' works of varying styles and mediums.

Some of the portraits are paintings, while others are the official photographic portraits circulated throughout the colony so that people would know what their new Governors looked like. Within these pages you will discover the visual works of luminaries such as Sir William Dargie, Lawrence Daws, Daphne Mayo and Paul Fitzgerald. For the first time, painted portraits of all the three Chief Justices of Queensland who subsequently served as Governor have been collated in one publication.

The styles in which these portraits have been presented chart wider developments in our society. As was common to the era, the portraits of colonial Governors the Marquess of Normanby, Sir Henry Norman and Sir Anthony Musgrave are black-and-white photographs artfully hand-coloured in the late 1800s. Well over a century later, in 2016, black-and-white photographs of Sir William Cairns, Sir Arthur Kennedy, Lord Chelmsford, Sir Hamilton Goold-Adams and Sir John Goodwin have been digitally colourised to bring to life these Governors for this publication. The Office of the Governor trusts it will be forgiven for any colourful oversights!

The search for portraits has taken the Office far and wide, from The University of Queensland to Parliament House, and as far afield as the State Library of Victoria and the National Archives. The Office owes a debt to the John Oxley Library (opened by Sir Leslie Wilson) and Old Government House, home to our first 11 Governors; both institutions are custodians of our precious vice-regal history. The book has also drawn on 'All for Queensland: The Governors and The People', by Peter and Sheila Forrest, published during the tenure of Queensland's 25th Governor, the Honourable Penelope Wensley AC, to coincide with Queensland's sesquicentenary. Wherever possible, the words of the Governors themselves have been used.

Some of the portraits in this book will be familiar, others have languished in relative obscurity. Collectively, these portraits of Governors are, in many ways, a portrait of Queensland since 1859.



Completed in 1862, Old Government House (pictured here, the front view during the 1950s) served as the private residence and official office for Queensland's first 11 Governors. In 1910, the House became the hub of Queensland's first university. It now serves as an historic house museum with a public art gallery and elegant function spaces, and sits within Queensland University of Technology's Gardens Point Campus. Image courtesy of the State Library of Queensland.



Fernberg was built in 1865 by merchant Johann Heussler as a grand hill-top villa, and it became the official vice-regal residence in 1910. Current Governor Paul de Jersey and Mrs Kaye de Jersey are the 16th vice-regal couple to have resided at the estate, which is surrounded by 14 hectares of formal gardens and native Australian bushland.



The Honourable Sir George Ferguson Bowen GCMG

Governor from 10 December 1859 – 4 January 1868



Reflecting growing interest in the State's heritage, in the late 1960s the John Oxley Library acquired this portrait of Bowen, executed around the time he was made Governor of Hong Kong. A facsimile of this portrait now hangs in the Entrance Hall of Government House as a permanent reminder of the man who set the course of the newborn colony of Queensland.

Sir George Ferguson Bowen, the first Governor of Queensland, arrived to the daunting task of establishing self-government in a colony rich in potential, but with only seven pennies in its coffers.

A son of the manse, intelligent and ambitious, Bowen was at the beginning of his imperial career, and was determined that both he and the newly separated colony would succeed.

Bowen acted swiftly to establish representative and responsible government. He designed a civil service based on merit, and encouraged the development of schooling. He famously clashed with Parliament over the response to the financial crisis of 1866, but strongly supported the economic development of Queensland, particularly its ports and railways.

By the standard of his time, Bowen was benevolent, seeking to curb the worst excesses of the Native Police Corps who terrorised Indigenous people. Nonetheless, the demographic and economic growth he fostered was disastrous for Indigenous Queenslanders, forcing them from their traditional lands.

Bowen travelled widely through regional Queensland, setting the benchmark of the travelling Governor. Modern Governors often cite Bowen's example as they traverse the State from the coast to the Cape, and inland to the Outback.

Partners in life, Sir George and Lady Bowen were also partners in the great work of establishing the new colony. A gracious entertainer, Lady Bowen endeared herself to Queenslanders by supporting the creation of the Lady Bowen Lying-In Hospital, which dramatically improved maternal care. She also served as patron for a charity that helped poor and migrant women to find shelter and decent work.

After eight years in office, Bowen left Brisbane to serve as Governor of New Zealand.

On the eve of his departure, the Mayor and Aldermen of Brisbane presented him with a heartfelt address, declaring: "during your term of office you have been so intimately associated with the onward course of the colony, that your name must ever remain inseparably connected with the early history of Queensland".

Bowen's gubernatorial career took him on to Victoria, Mauritius, and Hong Kong. But he is remembered best in Queensland, where his papers, letters and ceremonial sword are treasured parts of the State's historical record.



A Greek countess by birth and an imperial wife by marriage, Diamantina, Lady Bowen is remembered through a statue which graces the garden of the home she loved, now known as Old Government House. Before she left Brisbane, at a farewell address attended by 120 married women, it was noted: "Eight years ago you came among us as a stranger and a foreigner. You leave us having won the hearts of many and the goodwill of all." This pastel portrait was gifted by Diamantina, Lady Bowen to The Sisters of Mercy, Brisbane, and now hangs in the All Hallows' Convent. Portrait courtesy of The Sisters of Mercy Brisbane Congregation and All Hallows' School.





Colonel the Honourable Samuel Wensley Blackall

14 August 1868 – 2 January 1871



This life-size portrait of Governor Blackall was actually painted two years after his death by Joseph Backler, a former convict who became a leading portraitist of colonial Australia. After travelling from Sydney to Gympie, he painted the portrait from a large photograph given to the Gympie Dramatic Club by the Governor. The careful delineation of Blackall's face is distinctive of Backler's work. The painting was purchased by the Brisbane Municipal Council in 1871 – the Council's earliest recorded acquisition of a painting – and is now part of the Museum of Brisbane's collection. Image courtesy of the Museum of Brisbane.

Colonel the Honourable Samuel Wensley Blackall, the second Governor of Queensland, arrived in Brisbane to a popular welcome, a skeptical press, and a full-blown political crisis.

Blackall responded to the political instability by adhering to the norms of constitutional government, dissolving the Legislative Assembly, and then calling upon the Attorney-General to form a government when Premier Mackenzie could not command a majority of the new Assembly.

Despite the bitterness of the political battle, no animus attached itself to Blackall, and in 1868 the Legislative Assembly commissioned a portrait in oils by the Sydney painter Myra Felton. It hangs today in Queensland's Parliament House.

His sure handling of the crisis and his affable nature cemented his popularity and converted the doubters in the press, so that in 1870 the 'Brisbane Courier' recorded that "His Excellency Colonel Blackall is without question a model Governor and has grown more popular the longer he remains with us."

Governor Blackall followed Bowen's example by travelling widely throughout the State. He sailed to what was then known as the northern port of Rockhampton; he took a steamer to Maryborough and the mail coach to Gympie; and he journeyed west to the Darling Downs. The mountain range that dominates the Sunshine Coast hinterland still bears his name, as does the town of Blackall in Central-West Queensland.

Blackall's regional visits were not without controversy. In Mackay, he responded to entreaties from sugar growers for more "coloured labour" by stoutly affirming British opposition to anything "resembling slavery".

Blackall may have had an undistinguished career in the British Army and the House of Commons, and later as Governor-in-Chief of the Western African Settlements, but his tenure in Queensland consolidated the institution of constitutional government and the Office of Governor itself.

Aware of his deteriorating health, Blackall had pragmatically selected his burial site the year before his death on 2 January 1871. The large number who marched in the blistering heat of the Queensland summer from the funeral service at St John's Anglican Pro-Cathedral (on William Street) to his burial at Toowong Cemetery were tribute to the affection which Queenslanders felt for this unpretentious Governor, who signed himself plain "Sam Blackall".



Governor Blackall (centre) with Lieutenant Frederick Terry, Private Secretary (left), and Lieutenant George Hope Verney, Aide-de-Camp (right). The Aide-de-Camp and the Private Secretary lived at Government House. The Aide-de-Camp was the "controller of the household". He was responsible for managing all of the Governor's social duties, including arranging invitations, and being his special attendant at public functions and occasions. In more recent times, the Aide-de-Camp has worked alongside a small team of civilian Aides and Honorary Aides-de-Camp drawn from the defence and police services. They are all busy modern professionals, who assist the Governor in the fulfilment of vice-regal duties.





The Most Honourable George Augustus Constantine Phipps, Marquess of Normanby GCB GCMG PC

12 August 1871 – 12 November 1874



In 1866, Sir Redmond Barry, Chairman of the Trustees of the Melbourne Public Library proposed that portraits of state Governors be acquired for a collection “in humble imitation of the Hall of Marshals at Versailles”. At the time, photographs could not be produced in colour, so they had to be hand-coloured. The collection, now known as the Oval Portraits, was placed in oval gilt and gesso frames. Thomas Chuck, commissioned by the Trustees in 1872 to photograph paintings in the newly established National Gallery, also undertook many of the portrait commissions, such as this one titled ‘The Marquis of Normanby’, depicting Queensland’s third, and Victoria’s sixth, Governor. Image courtesy of the State Library of Victoria.

When it was announced that the Marquess of Normanby would serve as Queensland's third Governor, it was generally accepted that the appointment of a man of such "superior rank" reflected the importance which Britain placed on its youngest colony.

He had served in the Scots Fusilier Guards and as a Member of the House of Commons, and had also held offices in the Queen's Household.

The new Governor travelled widely in Queensland, and was duly honoured in the naming of the Normanby and Mulgrave Rivers (as the Earl of Mulgrave was his prior title). The British public had a keen interest in Normanby's observations of Queensland, and the British press regularly published summations of his dispatches. The Governor had a great deal to report – gold discoveries were expanding European settlement, coastal ports were flourishing, and record wool prices were helping to drive inward British investment. The mining royalties which flowed into the State coffers were poured into infrastructure, with new bridges, schools and civic buildings being erected across the colony.

There was a strong sense felt by the people of Queensland's North that they were not receiving their fair share of the revenue they were generating for the colony. This feeling of discontent gave rise to the separation movement. Normanby devoted considerable effort to settling the separation issue, although it was to re-emerge periodically throughout Queensland's history.

The difficult subject of the South Sea Islander labour traffic trapped Normanby between London, which preferred that the trade be regulated (if not abolished), and Queenslanders, who felt that abuses were exaggerated and that the trade was necessary for the expansion of agriculture.

During Normanby's tenure, Queensland's sovereignty over the Torres Strait was settled. While the boundaries set in 1859 had drawn the Queensland border at just three miles offshore, Normanby helped persuade Britain that the colony's boundaries should be extended to 60 miles offshore. This encompassed most of the Torres Strait, and by 1879 it was extended to all of it.

Normanby departed Queensland at the end of his term to become Governor of New Zealand. He was later Governor of Victoria, and he famously signed Ned Kelly's death warrant in 1880.



The hazards of travel in the colonial era are amply demonstrated by the unfortunate experience of the Marchioness of Normanby when travelling with her husband to their first vice-regal posting in Queensland. Several days before landing in Queensland, the ship carrying the Governor and his party from Sydney was hit by a violent gale, and the Marchioness was flung from her berth, sustaining injuries to her head and face. Suffering poor health, the Marchioness played little part in vice-regal life.





The Honourable William Wellington Cairns KCMG

23 January 1875 – 14 March 1877



This formal photograph of Sir William Cairns, dated 1875, shows the Governor in his ceremonial first class civil service uniform. The portrait has been colourised to help convey the sense of grandeur conveyed by this uniform. In his book 'Dressed to Rule: Royal and Court Costume from Louis XIV to Elizabeth II', author Philip Mansel notes that "More than most imperial powers, the British Empire, whose manpower was often overstretched, used uniforms and ceremonies to help instil confidence in its officials, respect in its subjects."

Image courtesy of the John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland.

William Cairns arrived in a colony offering abundant goodwill, but both he and Queensland were soon disappointed with each other.

Born in Ireland in 1828 with a weak constitution, he joined the Ceylon Civil Service believing that a warmer climate would be good for his health. He was appointed Governor of Queensland after serving as Governor of Trinidad.

An odd character, the new Governor got off on the wrong foot when he got rid of all visitors from Government House as soon as the swearing-in was completed. Queenslanders were not impressed when Cairns suspended normal entertaining, bar the fancy dress balls and dances that he liked to host.

More seriously, Cairns broke with tradition and did not frequently travel to country districts. When he did travel, it was by train for short distances and quick visits – a policy which caused great offence to the citizens of Ipswich when they discovered that despite enticing him out of Brisbane to open their Show, he would not attend the dinner or the ball!

Cairns also took unpopular, though principled, positions. Like Bowen, he strongly criticised the brutality of the Native Police toward Queensland's Indigenous residents. In a position also taken by his successor, he resisted legislation that discriminated against Chinese people, reserving a bill that attempted to make Chinese pay 10 times more than Europeans for a miner's right. On this matter, Cairns and Kennedy certainly represented imperial interests, but they also gave sustained voice to the British principle of equality before the law – a principle that eventually prevailed in modern Queensland.

Cairns held office for only two years before transferring to South Australia, a climate he believed to be more congenial to his health.

For all his frailties, Cairns' tenure demonstrated something important to Queenslanders – their constitutional system of government was now so firmly rooted that it could thrive despite indifferent officeholders. The continuing respect for the Office of the Governor is demonstrated by the fact that Cairns' name was given to a township at the mouth of Trinity Inlet, proclaimed in 1885. Cairns is today Queensland's northernmost city, an international gateway, and perhaps Sir William Cairns' finest legacy.



Pictured is Governor Cairns and the official party at the opening on 22 August 1876 of Brisbane's first Intercolonial Exhibition, now commonly known as the 'Ekka'. The excitement surrounding the Exhibition was described as "something unexampled in the history of Queensland". Attendance on the first day was estimated between 15,000 and 17,000 people – quite an achievement when Brisbane's population at the time was just 22,000. Visitors enjoyed exhibits of livestock, sugar making, powerful machinery demonstrations, and the "most conspicuous" exhibit – that of a 27 ton ingot of tin.





The Honourable Sir Arthur Edward Kennedy GCMG CB

20 July 1877 – 2 May 1883



This studio portrait, circa 1879, shows Sir Arthur Kennedy in his riding outfit, wearing boots with spurs and holding his pith helmet. The Governor and his daughter Georgina were both keen riders and walkers. In 1928, a W. Stone, writing in the 'Brisbane Courier' recalled: "Many of the old residents of Brisbane will remember the Governor and the picturesque figure he presented as he took his daily rides, accompanied by Miss Kennedy, through the suburbs. He rode a superb snow white charger, and, with his smart military appearance and snow-white hair, moustache, and imperial, looked every inch a soldier."

Image courtesy of the John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland.

A former soldier and an experienced Governor, having held vice-regal office in Africa, Western Australia, and Hong Kong before landing in Queensland, Sir Arthur Kennedy was variously considered a safe pair of hands. Kennedy proved to be an industrious and popular Governor, which was perhaps a relief after the discordant Cairns years.

Kennedy took up the mantle of the travelling Governor with gusto. With many country districts having not seen a Governor for four years, he was treated to a generous welcome.

Queensland was developing rapidly, and the Governor was invited to officiate. He turned the first sod of the railway at Maryborough, became patron of the newly established Show Society in Gympie, and opened the new Ipswich Woollen Mills.

Unusually, Kennedy brought with him to Queensland his household staff from Hong Kong. This move inflamed anti-Chinese opinion in the colony, though Kennedy remained steadfast in his support for his staff and his sympathy for Queensland's Chinese community. Kennedy eventually signed the Goldfields Act Amendment Bill reserved by Cairns. While it went against his personal convictions to sign a bill designed to restrict Chinese immigration by imposing heavier licence fees, he upheld the constitutional role of the Governor to act on advice.

Near the end of his tenure, Kennedy was drawn into the effort to annex New Guinea to Queensland by Premier Sir Thomas McIlwraith, in response to fears that Germany might move to annex the area. Kennedy sanctioned the move, in what was probably the first time a Queensland Governor took the side of the Colonial Government against Whitehall. While disavowed by the Colonial Office, this act set in motion a chain of events which led to the eventual annexation of Papua by Britain and helped energise the campaign for federation.

Queensland bid farewell to the genial and urbane Governor Kennedy in 1883, with the 'Brisbane Courier' noting that he "has always shown us that he has had quite as much confidence in us as we have had in him". Queenslanders were genuinely saddened to hear of his death on the steamship 'Orient' on his way home to England.



Kennedy's wife had died while he was Governor of Hong Kong. His daughter Georgina took on the social role of the Governor's consort. Georgina was a charming hostess and devoted patron of causes such as the Hospital for Sick Children, and became a popular figure in her own right.





The Honourable Sir Anthony Musgrave GCMG

6 November 1883 – 9 October 1888



This watercolour, gouache and pencil over an albumen silver photograph of Sir Anthony Musgrave forms part of the State Library of Victoria's impressive Oval Collection of vice-regal portraits. Other Queensland Governors included in the collection are Sir George Bowen, the Marquess of Normanby (whose portrait from the Oval Collection is also reproduced in this publication), and, by technicality, Sir Thomas Brisbane, who was Governor of New South Wales at a time when the lands now known as Queensland formed part of the colony of New South Wales. It is after Sir Thomas that the city of Brisbane is named. Image courtesy of the State Library of Victoria.

Able and amiable, Sir Anthony Musgrave arrived in Queensland exceptionally well credentialed as an experienced and respected former colonial Governor of British Columbia, Newfoundland, Natal, South Australia, and Jamaica.

Queensland was changing. Democracy was stable and political parties were strengthening in purpose and popularity. Politicians were ready to assert their popular mandate against the appointed Governor. Queensland was looking outward, with the position of Agent-General in London having been firmly established.

Musgrave travelled extensively throughout Queensland, visiting the foundries, sawmills, and engineering works of the industrialising colony. Travelling with Premier Sir Samuel Griffith, Musgrave made the arduous journey to the North, visiting Cooktown, Port Douglas, Cairns, Townsville, Charters Towers, Mourilyan Harbour, Cardwell, and Bowen, at all of which he was received with the greatest enthusiasm. His wife, Lady Musgrave, devoted her considerable energy to charitable works, greeting immigrant ships that berthed and taking an interest in any young woman who alighted without family, friend, or employer to meet her. She helped create Lady Musgrave Lodge to shelter these vulnerable women. It has evolved over more than a century into the The Lady Musgrave Trust, Queensland's oldest charity, supporting young homeless women in the compassionate spirit of Jeannie Lucinda Musgrave.

The Pacific Island labour trade was a continuing source of conflict between Queensland and the Colonial Office. Many in Britain regarded it as akin to the slave trade that they had fought so hard to abolish; many in Queensland maintained it was different and essential to developing the North. Conflict also arose over New Guinea, with Musgrave taking the view that its administration was his alone to exercise, while Premier McIlwraith maintained the Governor must act on the advice of Ministers. The two finally clashed over the Governor's right to unfettered exercise of the prerogative of mercy. Musgrave appealed to the Colonial Office, McIlwraith defied him, and London supported the Premier.

Lady Musgrave attributed the stress of this conflict to her husband's sudden death in Brisbane in October 1888. His funeral procession was over two miles in length and was witnessed by 40,000 people. Sir Anthony Musgrave was laid to rest in Toowong Cemetery, a faithful servant of Her Majesty in the colonies.



The wealth of Gympie's goldfields and the esteem of its people for the Office of Governor and the British Empire are both richly displayed in this bill, printed on silk and trimmed in gold braid, presented to welcome Sir Anthony Musgrave to the booming town.





General the Honourable Sir Henry Wylie Norman GCB GCMG CIE

1 May 1889 – 31 December 1895



This photograph of Sir Henry Norman over-painted with oil was photographed by Poul C. Poulsen and coloured by Carl Magnus Oscar Friström. Danish-born Poulsen ran a prominent Brisbane photographic studio from 1895 to 1915, while Swedish-born, self-taught artist Friström settled in Brisbane in the mid-1880s and became a well-known civic and Aboriginal portraitist. The State Library of Queensland included this portrait of Sir Henry Norman in their 2016 exhibition 'Queensland Faces', an inclusion which, more than 100 years after his departure, is evidence of Norman's enduring status as an adopted Queensland. Image courtesy of the State Library of Queensland.

Still bristling after the conflict of the Musgrave years, the Queensland Government wanted the right to advise their Sovereign on who should be Governor. The Colonial Office, however, refused, insisting on the status quo. Antagonised, the Queensland Government protested the first name put forward, Sir Henry Blake. Although Blake was well credentialed, Queensland was spoiling for a fight. Colonial pride was soothed when Blake's name was withdrawn and Sir Henry Wylie Norman's was put forward instead.

Norman was born in London, the son of a merchant who conducted his business chiefly in India and the Caribbean. He joined the army in 1844 while in India and was stationed there with his regiment for the next 15 years. In 1883, he became Governor of Jamaica, leaving that role in 1888 to take up the position of Governor of Queensland.

Sir Henry and his wife Alice cannily stopped off at the coastal ports of Thursday Island, Cooktown, and Townsville on the way to Brisbane. These visits helped cement their popularity ahead of their arrival in Brisbane in 1889. Norman arrived to a colony celebrating a good agricultural season, but growing unemployment heralded tougher times ahead.

Norman worked hard and travelled widely. He journeyed to Western Queensland after the tumult of the shearers strike and, after the terrible floods of 1893, Norman put his hand in his own pocket to support relief efforts. He was a strong supporter of the Queensland Branch of the Royal Geographical Society, and Governors continue to serve as patron of the Society to the present day. In 1895, Norman officially opened the Queensland National Art Gallery. An estimated 20,000 people took the opportunity to view the collected paintings, prints, decorative arts and sculptures within the first 15 months of their display, at a time when the population of Brisbane was less than 60,000.

Having earlier declined the highly prestigious post of Governor-General of India, Norman returned to London at the end of his term, where he served as Agent-General for Queensland. On 11 November 1895, the 'Brisbane Courier' wrote on his departure: "What the colony has to be thankful for today is that his presence, his character and his influence have been a power, and a power always on the side of the angels."



Probably the most extraordinary vice-regal banquet in Queensland history was held in April 1890 on the half-completed Stoney Creek Bridge on the Cairns to Kuranda railway line. It was said that only those seated well above the salt could hear a word of His Excellency's speech due to the roar of the falling waters. Today named the Kuranda Scenic Railway, it is recognised as a National Engineering Landmark. Image courtesy of The Royal Historical Society of Queensland.





The Right Honourable Charles Wallace Alexander Napier Cochrane-Baillie, Baron Lamington GCMG

9 April 1896 – 19 December 1901



The State Library of Queensland acquired this fine portrait of Lord Lamington in 2015. The magnificent oil is dated 1895, the year that Lord Lamington married and was selected to succeed Sir Henry Norman as Governor of Queensland. Today, it proudly hangs in the corridor directly off the Drawing Room at Fernberg, where it will be seen by the thousands of visitors who make their way through the doors of Government House each year.

By chronology our eighth Governor, the second Baron Lamington became the last Governor of the colony, and the first Governor of the new State, of Queensland.

Young and stylish, with Royal connections, Lord and Lady Lamington were welcomed to Queensland by a crowd of more than 50,000 people.

A staunch Conservative and a loyal imperialist, Lamington was well suited to Queensland in the fin de siècle period. Despite the turbulence of local politics, representative government was firmly entrenched, and Lamington tailored his tenure to a more constitutional and ceremonial role.

Lamington travelled widely, including a visit to the rainforests of southern Queensland, which are now inscribed on the World Heritage List and named Lamington National Park in his honour. In a break with the past, Lady Lamington often accompanied her husband on his travels, determined to meet the women of Queensland. This permanently changed the tenor of vice-regal tours, with women henceforth included at functions across the State.

Warm-hearted and kind, Lady Lamington kept a diary of her time in Queensland, which is now a treasured record of Queensland life at the turn of the century. She devoted time and energy to redecorating Government House, replacing the brown tones of the walls and furniture with varnished floors and chintzes, and supervising extensions such as the billiard room that later served as the first meeting room of The University of Queensland Senate. A devoted patron of technical education and health care, she was particularly delighted with her parting gift – the lease on a parcel of land for a hospital for women to be run by the State.

Lamington was Governor during a time when Queensland was growing in sophistication, and he was involved in the development of two of the State's great cultural institutions, the Queensland Art Gallery and the State Library.

Lord Lamington welcomed Federation, and he and his wife played a key role in planning for the Royal visit by the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York (later King George V and Queen Mary), who opened the first sitting of the new Commonwealth Parliament in Melbourne.



For most Queenslanders, Lord Lamington is best remembered as the namesake for the popular confection invented by his chef to feed unexpected visitors; they were made by dipping squares of butter cake in chocolate sauce and coating them in coconut. Despite attempts by New Zealanders to claim ownership of this invention, 'Lamingtons' are a Queensland icon that keep alive, in popular affection, the name of our eighth Governor.





Major General the Honourable Sir Herbert Charles Chermside GCMG CB

24 March 1902 – 10 October 1904



These portraits of Sir Herbert Chermside and his wife were published in the pictorial supplement to 'The Queenslander' on 15 March 1902 ahead of their arrival in Brisbane. Two weeks later, 'The Queenslander' reported on the enthusiastic "Citizens Welcome" accorded to the Chermsides: "It was not a formal affair, cut and dried for weeks before, nor was it the outcome of a sense of duty on the part of any one public body. It was a citizens' reception in the truest sense of the word – organised by the citizens, carried out by a citizens' committee, an entirely spontaneous expression of the loyalty and goodwill of the citizens of Greater Brisbane towards the new Governor and his amiable lady." Image courtesy of the John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland.

Sir Herbert Charles Chermiside arrived in the newly federated State of Queensland in 1902 in the middle of prolonged drought and economic recession.

Described by the wife of Australia's second Governor-General, Lady Tennyson, as "a very short plain little General ... with a biggish moustache", Chermiside was a soldier who had commanded the British forces on Crete before serving in the Second Boer War. His appointment as Queensland's ninth Governor was widely welcomed.

The rapid development of rail infrastructure meant that, for the first time, a Governor arrived by train from Sydney via Toowoomba, instead of arriving by boat. It was a bright note in otherwise sombre times. The State had a huge deficit and falling revenue. Soon after his arrival, Chermiside offered to accept a 15% cut in salary, a move welcomed by a population in straitened circumstances. Significantly, Chermiside's offer was contingent on the Government absolving him from the obligation to personally fund entertainment at Government House. Ever since then, the Governor's personal staff and social functions have been separately funded by the Office of the Governor.

In 1902, the Chermisides suffered personal tragedy when a son was stillborn. Afterwards, Lady Chermiside largely withdrew from her social obligations as the Governor's spouse, with her role undertaken to a great degree by her sister-in-law, Miss Ethel Webb.

Chermiside became increasingly disturbed by what he felt was public derogation of the office of State Governor. When the Legislative Assembly debated a private member's bill to reduce the salary of the next Governor in June 1904, he decided to resign, but delayed during a political crisis in June and July. He withheld the announcement of his resignation until he had opened a new Parliament and left Brisbane on 8 October on pre-retirement leave.

Though his term was only two-and-a-half years, Chermiside was a popular Governor. He lends his name to the Brisbane suburb of Chermiside, now a hub of the city's north.



Most popular in the first half-century following separation, ceremonial arches were a nod to imperial pageantry, erected to mark the arrivals and travels of Governors, occasional visits by royalty, and other milestones. As they were ephemeral by nature, all we have to remember these elaborate structures are photographs, such as this one of the ceremonial arch erected in Townsville to welcome Sir Herbert Chermiside in 1903.





*The Right Honourable Frederic John Napier Thesiger,
Viscount Chelmsford GCMG GCSI GCIE GBE*

30 November 1905 – 26 May 1909



This relaxed family portrait shows the Governor with his sons Frederic and Andrew on the verandah at Gabbinbar Homestead in Toowoomba. From 1906 to 1909, Gabbinbar was the summer residence of Lord Chelmsford and his family. Gabbinbar is an Aboriginal word meaning “peaceful place with a beautiful view”. Image courtesy of the John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland.

Queensland's 10th Governor, the third Baron Chelmsford, began his colonial career in the State.

A peer of the realm and independently wealthy, Chelmsford was amiable and athletic. A keen cricketer, he captained the Oxford XI and played for Middlesex. His wife Frances was a cousin of Winston Churchill and the daughter of a wealthy industrialist. They brought with them five children and an appetite for engaging in the cultural and social life of the State.

By the time the Chelmsfords disembarked at Petrie Bight, Queensland's drought had broken and its economy had swung into recovery. Nevertheless, politics remained turbulent, with conflict between the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly dominating Chelmsford's tenure. When the Legislative Council refused to pass Wages Board bills proposed by the newly elected Premier Kidston, the Governor refused the Premier's advice to appoint Members who would vote in support of the bills, opting instead to dissolve the Assembly. Kidston won the resulting election in 1908 – the first in which Queensland women were allowed to vote. The new Assembly passed a motion that criticised Chelmsford's action and there was widespread speculation that he would be recalled. Nothing came of it, however.

Despite the political hurly-burly, Chelmsford's popularity grew throughout his term. In 1907, Lord and Lady Chelmsford opened the grounds of Government House to a huge fête to raise funds for the Children's Hospital. The gesture was characteristic of their practical and thoughtful approach to improving health provision, especially for women and children. The following year, to widespread approval, Chelmsford became the first Governor to venture to the remote North-West, travelling to Camooweal, Cloncurry and beyond, covering over 1,400 kilometres of difficult terrain. Musical pursuits enjoyed prominence during Chelmsford's tenure at Government House, as he and his wife – both accomplished musicians – enjoyed hosting soirées and glee club gatherings. Lord Chelmsford was a strong supporter of the creation of a university for Queensland, which he viewed as one of the essential institutions of statehood.

Queenslanders were dismayed when it was announced in 1909 that their popular Governor would leave the State a year before his term expired, to become Governor of New South Wales. Chelmsford's successful career continued, eventually serving as Viceroy of India.



A keen pianist, Lady Chelmsford installed a Bechstein miniature grand piano in Government House. In 1985, having languished in storage for decades, it was gifted by the then Governor Sir James Ramsay to the National Trust, which restored it to its former glory. The piano now stands proudly in the Hall at Old Government House, where it plays a starring role in musical heritage events.





The Honourable Sir William MacGregor
GCMG CB

2 December 1909 – 16 July 1914



This fine, full length portrait of MacGregor in the robes of the University Chancellor was painted by the Australian artist James Quinn. MacGregor was unanimously elected as Chancellor at one of the University Senate's first meetings in 1910. He formally opened the University on 26 February 1911. Image courtesy of The University of Queensland.

One of the most remarkable men to take the oath of Governor was also the first to reside at Fernberg – Sir William MacGregor.

Born in Scotland of humble beginnings, MacGregor had a brilliant mind which led him to undertake a medical degree at the University of Aberdeen, before taking a posting to the British colony of Seychelles in the Colonial Service. He was appointed Governor of Queensland following postings in Fiji, Lagos, and Newfoundland.

Exactly 50 years after Sir George Bowen's proclamation which cemented the establishment of the colony of Queensland, MacGregor stood before a gathering at Government House to inaugurate the new university and grant Assent to The University of Queensland Bill, and to formally dedicate Government House to its new purpose of providing a home for this centre of learning. MacGregor was appointed the University's first Chancellor, and was active in its administration. MacGregor fought for his vision of a university that conformed to the highest standards of a British institution of higher learning. Today, The University of Queensland is one of Australia's leading research and teaching institutions, and a key part of Sir William's legacy to the State.

MacGregor and his wife Mary moved to the 'temporary' Government House at Fernberg, leased while the Queensland Government searched for another grand home to serve as the vice-regal residence. The Government purchased the estate the following year, and remodelled the House in 1937, signalling the end of Fernberg's status as a temporary Government House. To this day, the grand hill-top estate continues to serve as the official residence of Queensland Governors.

A son of the Enlightenment, passionate and pragmatic, MacGregor used his influence to support the development of education, agriculture, and medicine. He secured support for the Institute of Tropical Medicine which had been established in Townsville in 1910, and chaired the meeting in 1913 that led to the formation of the Historical Society of Queensland. He was president of the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland and encouraged progress in the Queensland Museum to which he had sent many valuable artefacts while in New Guinea. As at the current Governor's official visit on 18 May 2016, many of these artefacts are on display in the Papua New Guinea National Museum & Art Gallery in Port Moresby.

According to Viscount Bryce, British Ambassador to the United States in the early 20th century, MacGregor's strength and restraint made him "a model of what a colonial governor should be". When he left Queensland at the end of his term, The University of Queensland resolved to establish a medical school to commemorate MacGregor's services to the Empire – a fitting tribute to this humanitarian and man of science.



Around 1,000 people attended a ceremony held on the Burnett Bridge where the Governor cut a ribbon and declared the bridge open and the toll removed. In this photo, MacGregor is garbed in traditional highland dress for his next appointment, attending the Caledonian Association's annual gathering.





Major the Honourable Sir Hamilton John Goold-Adams GCMG CB

15 March 1915 – 3 February 1920



This portrait of Sir Hamilton Goold-Adams was published in the pictorial supplement to 'The Queenslander' newspaper in September 1916. The page before this photograph of Goold-Adams in the regalia of an Imperial Governor was devoted to a full page of portraits of Queensland soldiers who were to serve as Infantry reinforcements. A few pages later, the paper published another page of photographs of men in uniform – the Roll of Honour – which acknowledged the most recent casualties at the front. Image courtesy of the John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland.

As flags fluttered gaily from every point of vantage, Sir Hamilton Goold-Adams arrived in Queensland just before the State – and nation – was to forever change.

Goold-Adams was a decorated soldier. He had fought in the Second Boer War in the defence of Mafeking, where he was mentioned in dispatches. While Goold-Adams understood the reality of war, nothing could prepare him, or anyone else, for the enormity of the sacrifice that Australia was to experience during the Great War. One in five of those who enlisted would perish in Gallipoli, Belgium, France, and parts of the Middle East. No Australian community remained untouched.

Just four weeks after Goold-Adams' welcome, Australian troops landed at Gallipoli. Queensland soldiers were among the first ashore, and first to die.

In January 1916, Goold-Adams supported the establishment of the ANZAC Day Commemoration Committee, becoming the first of a chain of Governors – unbroken to this day – to serve as its patron. As the death toll climbed, he and his wife Elsie officiated at the inauguration of war memorials across the State. With sombre dignity, the vice-regal couple honoured the dead and wounded, and acknowledged the sacrifice of all service personnel. They travelled extensively, attending patriotic meetings and supporting those raising funds for the war effort.

Constitutionally, Goold-Adams swore in Queensland's first elected Labor government, led by T.J. Ryan. There were strains, however, when Goold-Adams twice refused to accept advice that the Legislative Council should be enlarged by the appointment of new Members who would vote for its abolition. Confrontation was averted when the government suspended its plans until Goold-Adams' term ended.

Goold-Adams died in South Africa in April 1920 in the course of returning to England on pre-retirement leave.

More than five years earlier, upon his arrival in Brisbane, Goold-Adams said: "You have given my wife and myself a welcome as strangers in your midst, and it was your kindness of heart which prompted it. We are homely people. We have no pretensions. All we desire is to take part in your joys and your sorrows." The two took part in far more sorrow than joy. The Governor linked Queenslanders with the empire they were fighting for and, together, the Goold-Adamses helped shape Queensland's remembrance of the Great War.



The Allies' Garden City was a patriotic carnival held in the Brisbane Botanic Gardens to provide entertainment and raise funds for the war effort. Thousands of troops arrived for Repatriation Day celebrations on 15 December 1916, where Queensland Governor Sir Hamilton Goold-Adams addressed the crowd and presented selected returned soldiers with medals of good conduct and distinguished service. Image courtesy of The Royal Historical Society of Queensland.





The Right Honourable Lieutenant Colonel Sir Matthew Nathan GCMG

3 December 1920 – 17 September 1925



This bust of Sir Matthew Nathan by the celebrated artist Daphne Mayo was commissioned by The University of Queensland in 1925 when he was Chancellor. Mayo also created the City Hall tympanum, a relief of early settlement entitled 'The Progress of Civilisation in the State of Queensland', and the Queensland Women's War Memorial in ANZAC Square, Brisbane. Mayo's bronze of the artist R. Godfrey Rivers is situated in the Small Sitting Room adjacent to the Governor's Study at Government House. Image courtesy of The University of Queensland.

When Sir Matthew Nathan arrived in a war-weary State, he was ready, as the great Australian war correspondent C.E.W. Bean put it, to make “full and real use of the peace”. Sound and practical, a charming man with a keen intellect, Sir Matthew left with Queensland a lasting legacy.

Queenslanders gave their new Governor a warm reception. Two days after his arrival, Nathan was cheered by more than 10,000 people at the Brisbane Cricket Ground where Australia was playing England.

It was said of Nathan that “his practical sympathy and sound advice and encouragement, and his remarks wherever he goes, have formed a bright oasis in the life of many people who have to live in out-of-way places.” Of all the people in all the out-of-way places, none had greater regard for Nathan than the country women of Queensland. In 1922, he addressed a conference for country women which resulted in the formation of the Queensland Country Women’s Association (QCWA). Nathan became its champion. Whenever he travelled to rural districts – and he visited them all during his tenure – he made a point of meeting with local women to urge them to form a branch of the QCWA, supplying them with literature about the Association.

However, of all his achievements, perhaps the greatest was to help ground the management of the Great Barrier Reef in science. In September 1922, with Henry Richards, Professor of Geology at The University of Queensland, he formed the Great Barrier Reef Committee, and helped build a membership which included representatives of universities and museums. Nathan served as its first Chairman.

One of Nathan’s last acts as Governor was to preside over the abolition of the Legislative Council. Such a significant bill, in Nathan’s view, should be reserved for imperial Assent. The new Colonial Secretary, Winston Churchill, concluded the matter was “essentially one for determination locally” and recommended the bill for Royal Assent to King George V. Queensland has had a unicameral Parliament ever since.

The departure of Nathan – also Queensland’s first Jewish Governor – was met with genuine sadness by the people of Queensland. But with his departure, the question arose again: should the next Governor be an Australian?



Sir Matthew was an early promoter of the wonders of the Great Barrier Reef. On his return from visiting the Reef, he said: “The magnitude, the mystery, and the nature of this phenomena so well indicated by that stirring name, the ‘Great Barrier Reef’ have long been a subject of study, but the study has only to a small extent been Australian and hitherto scarcely at all Queensland. In so far as the reef is of world interest it is fitting that the study of it should claim the consideration of fine intellects in all parts of the world. But the Great Barrier Reef belongs to Australia, and especially to Queensland. We here are responsible for it ...”



Governor Portraits



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.

1. 'Sir George Ferguson Bowen CMCG', undated
Unidentified
Watercolour facsimile of an original portrait by
Henry Gordon Fanner held by the John Oxley
Library, State Library of Queensland
Government House Collection

2. 'His Excellency Colonel Samuel Wensley Blackall,
Governor of Queensland 1868–1871', 1871
By Joseph Backler (b. 1813–1895)
Oil on canvas
City of Brisbane Collection, Museum
of Brisbane

3. 'The Marquis of Normanby', 1872
By Thomas Foster Chuck (b. 1826–1898)
Watercolour and gouache over albumen
silver photograph
State Library of Victoria

4. 'Governor William Wellington Cairns', undated
Unidentified
Digital colourisation of copy print
John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland
(Image number: 3083)

5. 'Sir Arthur Edward Kennedy, Governor of
Queensland', undated
Unidentified
Digital colourisation of copy print
John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland
(Image number: 114888)

6. 'Sir Anthony Musgrave', 1876
By Thomas Foster Chuck (b. 1826–1898)
Watercolour, gouache and pencil over albumen
silver photograph
State Library of Victoria



7.



8.



9.



10.



11.



12.

7. 'Oscar Friström Sir Henry Norman Painted Photograph', undated
By Carl Magnus Oscar Friström (b. 1856–1918)
Hand coloured photograph (photograph by Poul C. Poulsen [1857–1925])
John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland

8. 'Charles Wallace Alexander Napier Cochrane-Baillie, 2nd Baron Lamington C.G.M.G.', 1895
By Robert Duddingstone Herdman (b. 1863–1922)
Oil on canvas
John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland

9. 'Major-General Sir Herbert Chermide', 1902
Unidentified
Reproductive print of an illustrated page from the supplement to 'The Queenslander', 15 March 1902
John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland (Image number: 702692-19020315-s001b)

10. 'Governor Chelmsford with his two sons at Gabbinbar', 1907
Unidentified
Digital colourisation of copy print
John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland (Image number: 31264)

11. 'Portrait of Sir William MacGregor G.C.M.G., CB, MD, Aberd., Hon.LLD Qld 1846–1919, Governor of Queensland 1909–1914; Chancellor The University of Queensland 1910–1915', c. 1916
By James Quinn (b. 1869–1951)
Oil on canvas
Collection of The University of Queensland

12. 'His Excellency Sir Hamilton J. Goold-Adams, Governor of Queensland', 1916
Fegan Photos
Digital colourisation of digitised original print from the supplement to 'The Queenslander', 23 September 1916
John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland (Image number: 702692-19160923-0024)



13.



17.



14.



16.



18.



15.



19.

13. 'His Excellency the Right Honourable Sir Matthew Nathan, GCMG, Hon.LLD Qld., Governor of Queensland 1920–1925, Chancellor of The University of Queensland, 1922–1926, 1925
By Daphne Mayo (b. 1895–1982)
Bronze
Collection of The University of Queensland

14. 'Sir Thomas Herbert John Chapman Goodwin', undated
Unidentified
Digital colourisation of copy print
John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland
(Image number: 3779)

15. Portrait of Sir Leslie Wilson [untitled], undated
Unidentified
Unknown
BUSHkids

16. 'Portrait of Lieutenant General Sir John Lavarack KBE, CB, CMG, DSO, Commanding 1st Australian Corps', 1942
By William Dargie (b. 1912–2003)
Brown conte crayons heightened with white over pencil on paper
Australian War Memorial

17. 'Sir Henry Abel Smith wearing dress uniform', undated
Unidentified

Digital colourisation of copy print
John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland
(Image number: 3781)

18. 'Sir Alan Mansfield (Chief Justice of Queensland 1956–1966)', 1986
By Lawrence Daws (b. 1927–)
Oil on canvas
Banco Court Portrait Gallery, Supreme Court of Queensland

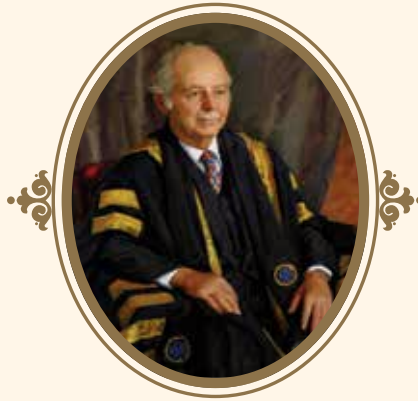
19. Portrait of Sir Colin Hannah [untitled], c. 1970s
By Paul Fitzgerald (b. 1922–)
Unknown
National Archives of Australia



20.



24.



21.



23.



25.



22.



26.

20. Sir James Ramsay [untitled], undated
Unidentified
Photograph
Government House Collection

21. 'His Excellency The Honourable Sir Walter Benjamin Campbell AC, MA Qld., LLB Qld., Hon.LLD Qld., Hon.DLitt James Cook, Hon.DUniv Qld.UT, Hon.DUniv Griff, FAIJA, Governor of Queensland 1985–1992, Chancellor of The University of Queensland 1977–1985', 1979
By Sir William Alexander Dargie CBE (b. 1912–2003)
Oil on canvas
Collection of The University of Queensland

22. 'Portrait of Leneen Forde', 2002
By Lawrence Daws (b. 1927–)
Oil on canvas
Griffith University Art Collection

23. 'Major General (Retd) Peter Arnison AC, CVO, Chancellor of QUT 2004–2012', 2009
By Paul Newton (b. 1961–)
Oil on canvas
QUT Art Collection

24. 'The country's woman: Her Excellency, Ms Quentin Bryce AC, Governor-General of Australia', 2011
By Barbara Tyson (b. 1954–)
Oil on raw French linen

25. 'Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley AO', 2008
By Stuart Riley (b. 1945–)
Photograph
Government House Collection

26. Portrait of His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC [untitled], 2015
By Robert Hannaford AM (b. 1944–)
Oil on canvas
Bar Association of Queensland



Lieutenant General the Honourable Sir Thomas Herbert John Chapman Goodwin KCB CMG DSO

13 June 1927 – 7 April 1932



As a medical doctor, Sir John Goodwin was particularly gratified to open the State's first cancer clinic at Brisbane's Mater Hospital. He was also a strong supporter of the establishment of the aerial medical service at Cloncurry – the forerunner of the Royal Flying Doctor Service. This photograph captures the man known to be quiet and unassuming but diligent in fulfilling his duty. Image courtesy of the John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland.

Two years elapsed between Sir Matthew Nathan's departure and the appointment of a new Governor. During that time, William Lennon served as Lieutenant-Governor while the states tried to reach unanimity on the appointment of Australians as Governors. Agreement was elusive, however, and in 1927, King George V announced the appointment of Sir John Goodwin, a British soldier, doctor, and colonial administrator, as the next Governor of Queensland.

Sir George Bowen had once written to the Colonial Office "you should never send a Governor here who cannot ride and shoot". Bowen would have approved of Goodwin, who told reporters on his arrival in Brisbane that "I am fond of shooting, hunting, fishing and polo." He quickly remedied his lack of first-hand knowledge of the State with an energetic program of travel, covering 3,500 kilometres through Queensland by the end of his first year in office.

It was the great age of pioneering aviation, and the Governor was present to celebrate some of its finest feats, from Bert Hinkler's landing at Eagle Farm after completing the first solo flight from England to Australia to welcoming Charles Kingsford Smith, Charles Ulm, and their crew to Brisbane at the end of the first flight across the Pacific.

The Great Depression soon sharpened its grip on the State. In 1931, Goodwin agreed to a 10% pay cut, in recognition of the State's straitened circumstances.

Though childless themselves, the Goodwins played an active role in promoting education and child welfare, campaigning for better eye health in the western parts of the State, especially among children. This campaign complemented Goodwin's support for the establishment of a medical school in Queensland. Lady Goodwin is remembered as a committed activist for women and children in need, and as a staunch patron of the Victoria League, the National Council of Women, Girl Guides, and the Country Women's Association.

Goodwin had a strong interest in nature conservation, and threw his support behind the formation of the National Parks Association of Queensland. He also sought to preserve the grounds of the Government House estate as a sanctuary for animals and birds. The grounds of the estate remain one of the most significant pockets of remnant bushland near the Brisbane CBD, and a vital habitat for many species of flora and fauna. On 10 June 2016, our current Governor launched the Government House publication, 'Birds of the Fernberg Estate'.



This photograph shows Sir John and Lady Goodwin arriving at Gordonvale in the Vice-Regal Carriage in 1928. The Vice-Regal Carriage, known as Special Car 445, was built at the Ipswich Railway Workshops in 1903 using Queensland timbers and original artworks. The Carriage includes two state rooms with a bathroom, an observation room with lounge chairs, and a dining room for six. It famously transported Edward, Prince of Wales (later King Edward VIII) on his 1920 visit to Queensland. The Carriage is still in use, and on 8 June 2016, it was connected to the 'Spirit of the Outback' service in Emerald and carried the current Governor back to his former home town of Longreach, stopping also at Barcaldine.





Colonel the Honourable Sir Leslie Orme Wilson
GCMG GCSI GCIE DSO

13 June 1932 – 23 April 1946



Sir Leslie Wilson's portrait hangs in the headquarters of BUSHkids in Brisbane, honouring his role in the foundation of the organisation. On the BUSHkids website, it proudly says of Sir Leslie: "He reasoned that future generations would suffer more complex and pressing medical conditions unless something was done immediately – 'intervention' and 'prevention' were his watchwords."

Queensland's 15th Governor was also its longest serving.

Sir Leslie Orme Wilson was no stranger to Australia. His wife, Winifred, was a Sydneysider, and Sir Leslie met the future Lady Wilson while he was serving as an Aide-de-Camp to the Governor of New South Wales, Sir Harry Rawson. Wilson had even visited Queensland at the invitation of Lord Chelmsford, and enjoyed duck shooting in the coastal country! A decorated soldier who had fought at Gallipoli and in France, he served as Governor of Bombay before being invited to take up the role of vice-regal representative in Queensland.

Soon after his arrival, Wilson began a regional tour, which became an annual event. He visited the most remote regions of the State, including a visit to the outermost islands of the Torres Strait.

Wilson was an energetic and pragmatic patron of many worthy causes, including the Queensland Society for Crippled Children (today known as Montrose Therapy & Respite Services). But he is best remembered for driving the foundation of the Royal Queensland Bush Children's Health Scheme, now known as BUSHkids, to help country children with serious medical needs. Since its creation, BUSHkids has helped more than 42,000 Queensland children and their families.

Wherever he travelled throughout the State, from large regional cities to the tiniest township, Wilson encouraged the local historical societies in their work. On opening the John Oxley Memorial Library in 1934, he reflected that the preservation of history is "... a duty which this generation owes to the past, to the present and certainly to the future".

Once war broke out, Wilson made short films to encourage Queenslanders to support the Red Cross Prisoner of War Street Adoption Scheme. He even affixed a sign to the front gate of Fernberg stating "This Street Supports a Prisoner of War". He attended patriotic meetings and Red Cross meetings and spoke with the authority of a veteran about the war to an anxious Queensland. His first term of office was extended until 1942 and his tenure extended again through the war years, until 1946. At his farewell, 2,000 Boy Scouts and Girl Guides were assembled to form an outline of the map of Queensland. Queenslanders were sad to see their affable and popular Governor and his wife leave Government House.



After Victory in the Pacific was declared, approximately 10,000 men and women of the fighting services of five nations took part in a victory march through the streets of Brisbane. Sir Leslie Wilson had seen the State through the trauma of air raids, through the excitement and challenges of serving as a base for American forces, and through the terrible grief for the service men and women who were captured, killed, or wounded in the service of their country. On 16 August 1945, he took the victory salute.





*Lieutenant General the Honourable Sir John
Dudley Lavarack KCMG KCVO KBE CB DSO*

1 October 1946 – 4 December 1957



This study of Sir John Lavarack was made by William Dargie, then the official war artist, in January 1942, when Lavarack commanded the First Australian Corps. Government House is graced by another

Dargie – the third version of the famous ‘wattle painting’ of Queen Elizabeth II, depicting the young Queen wearing the mimosa gold tulle crinoline, adorned with gold wattle motifs, which was designed by Norman Hartnell for her inaugural tour of Australia. Image courtesy of the Australian War Memorial.

Queensland's 16th Governor, Lieutenant General Sir John Lavarack arrived in a State which had just gone through the War as one of the personnel who had helped to win it.

A veteran of World War I, Lavarack rose to the rank of Lieutenant General after distinguished service in World War II in the Middle East at Tobruk and in Syria.

For Queenslanders, the greatest excitement lay in the fact that Lavarack was born in Brisbane. He was the first native-born Queenslanders to be appointed to vice-regal office and the 'Courier-Mail' ran the delighted headline "One of Us Now Our Governor" in announcing Lavarack's appointment.

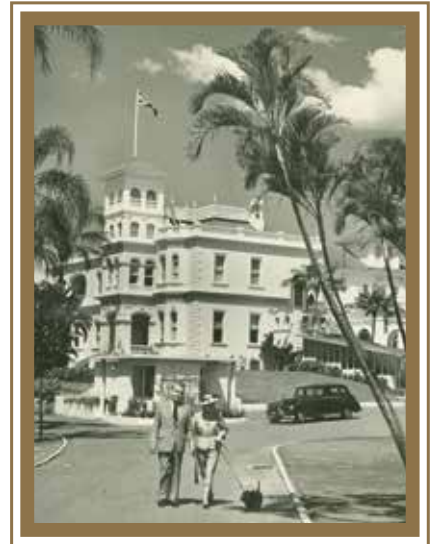
Lavarack flew into Brisbane in a Trans Australia Airlines DC3 that had been escorted from Sydney by three RAAF Liberator bombers. Five thousand people lined the processional route between Fortitude Valley and Parliament House, where Sir John was sworn in.

Sir John became the first Governor of Queensland to host a visit by a reigning monarch, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. It is hard to overstate the excitement of Queenslanders, with people travelling for hours and camping by the road in order to catch a glimpse of their new Queen. With side trips from Brisbane to Bundaberg, Toowoomba, Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, and Rockhampton, it was an enormously busy itinerary, but Lavarack and his wife Sybil managed the visit with aplomb, contributing to its tremendous success.

A veteran himself, Lavarack had a special connection with returned service men and women, the Red Cross, Legacy clubs, and the Scouts and Girl Guides. He was a prolific user of the state's rail network, preferring a program which allowed him to stay in a district for several days. Queensland's agricultural shows were often the centrepiece of these visits, with the Governor opening the show then staying on to visit schools, hospitals, and community groups. The War was still close in memory – rare was there a visit where Lavarack did not encounter returned soldiers who had served in units he had commanded.

In 1951, his term was extended for another five years, followed by a further extension of one year from 1 October 1956. In 1957, Lavarack fell ill and was ordered to rest for several months. His term ended on 30 September and he died on 4 December 1957.

Sir John Lavarack was the vice-regal representative in Queensland during our current Governor Paul de Jersey's boyhood, and he distinctly recalls Lavarack with admiration and respect.



Sir John and Lady Lavarack were dog lovers, and had two Scottish terriers called Monty and Sally during their tenure at Government House. When Monty sadly died at six years old, he was buried in a shaded spot on the estate. A plaque records that Monty went "to the Happy Hunting Grounds" on 1 November 1953.





Colonel the Honourable Sir Henry Abel Smith
KCMG KCVO DSO

18 March 1958 – 18 March 1966



This photograph has been digitally colourised and shows Sir Henry Abel Smith in his dress uniform. Sir Henry was always well turned-out, often sporting a cravat and supremely comfortable in black tie. Lady May, likewise, embraced formal attire. She frequently wore a hat at daytime engagements, and notably wore a tiara to the Beatles concert at Festival Hall in 1964. Image courtesy of the John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland.

Those who assumed that the first Australian-born Queensland Governor would naturally be followed by a second were surprised when Sir Henry Abel Smith was announced as the State's 17th Governor.

Unknown to most Queenslanders, Sir Henry was born in London and educated at the Royal Military Academy before being commissioned into the Royal Horse Guards. He served in World War II, was decorated with the Distinguished Service Order, and retired as a Colonel in 1950. In 1931, Abel Smith wed Lady May Cambridge, a great-granddaughter of Queen Victoria and niece of both King George V and Queen Mary. Her cousin – then the young Princess Elizabeth – served as bridesmaid. Not since the tenure of Lord Lamington had there been such a close connection between the monarch and Queensland.

Whatever doubts Queenslanders might have had of their new Governor were swept aside when the dapper and jovial Abel Smith arrived in Brisbane, with the charming Lady May by his side. Queensland was approaching its centenary, and the Abel Smiths embodied both the State's British heritage and its optimistic future. Queenslanders took the Abel Smiths to their hearts.

There were more Royal visits – Princess Alexandra in 1959, Her Majesty The Queen in 1963, and Lady May's mother Princess Alice in 1964. All were hugely successful. The Abel Smiths were energetic travellers, crisscrossing the State, and they took a genuine interest in everyone they met. They visited Indigenous communities and the Torres Strait, and could be relied upon to officiate at important civic events wherever they occurred, from the opening of the Royal Flying Doctor Service base at Mt Isa to the opening of a Scout Den in Kenilworth. Both were keen racegoers, and when the Far North Queensland Amateur Turf Club inaugurated the Cairns Amateurs in 1959, the Abel Smiths were there, beginning the proud succession of Governor attendance at North Queensland's premier racing carnival which continues to this day.

The Abel Smiths' energy extended to renovating Government House, ordering new furniture, and installing a swimming pool. They embraced the media, inviting the ABC into Fernberg to film 'At Home at Government House'.

Abel Smith served two terms as Governor before retiring in 1966. Thousands lined the streets to bid farewell to the popular Governor and his wife.



The Fokker Friendship P27 was an icon of Australian aviation. In March 1960, Queensland Airlines named a Fokker Friendship P27 for Sir Henry, and invited him to preside at a naming ceremony at Eagle Farm Aerodrome. Its first service was Brisbane–Maryborough–Bundaberg–Gladstone–Rockhampton.





The Honourable Sir Alan James Mansfield KCMG KCVO

21 March 1966 – 21 March 1972



This portrait was painted by the Queensland artist Lawrence Daws in 1986. It is one of a group of portraits of Queensland Chief Justices commissioned from Daws. A young Paul de Jersey clerked for Sir Charles Wanstall, later Chief Justice of Queensland, and a Daws portrait of Wanstall (the sketch for his official retirement portrait) today proudly hangs at Government House in the Governor's Study. Image courtesy of the Supreme Court Library Queensland.

Sir Alan Mansfield was the second Queensland-born Governor of Queensland and the first Chief Justice to be appointed to the position.

Mansfield was born in Brisbane, and, following his father's death, relied on scholarships for his education both at school and university. For years as a barrister, he teetered on the edge of financial disaster, more than once pawning his watch while he waited for a cheque. Success in the high-profile 'Mungana' case secured his career. In 1940, he was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland. Towards the end of World War II, he was appointed to the United Nations War Crimes Commission at London. Following this, he became the chief Australian prosecutor at the war crimes trials before the International Military Tribunal for the Far East in Tokyo.

Mansfield was appointed Chief Justice of Queensland in 1956.

Mansfield's first test of vice-regal judgement actually occurred before he was appointed Governor, when he served as Administrator during Sir John Lavarack's illness. In 1957, Vince Gair's Labor Government split over the power of the party's central executive to impose its will on the parliamentary wing. Mansfield summoned the Parliament to test the Premier's support. Gair was defeated on the floor of the Assembly on a vote to renew supply. Mansfield then asked the Leader of the Opposition, Frank Nicklin, and leader of the ALP, John Duggan, whether they could form a government. Upon being advised that they could not, Mansfield dissolved the Parliament and called an election.

Along with wife Beryl, Mansfield's courteous manner saw him welcomed as he travelled the State. A keen fisherman, holidays found him on the beaches of Moreton and Fraser Islands, reeling in the King George whiting prized by Queensland anglers.

In 1966, Mansfield was appointed Chancellor of The University of Queensland, a role he continued during his tenure as Governor and beyond, retiring in 1976. More than a figurehead, Mansfield was deeply involved with the evolution of both The University of Queensland and James Cook University.



Sir Alan accompanied Her Majesty The Queen on a visit to Townsville in April 1970, where The Queen gave Royal Assent to the James Cook University of North Queensland Bill, which granted autonomy to the institution and made it Australia's 15th university. It is believed to be the only time that the monarch has personally granted Assent to an Act of an Australian parliament while in the country. Image courtesy of James Cook University.





*Air Marshal the Honourable Sir Colin Thomas
Hannah KCMG KCVO KBE CB*

21 March 1972 – 20 March 1977



Now in the National Archives, this portrait of Sir Colin Hannah by the artist Paul Fitzgerald is believed to have once hung in the RAAF officers' mess at Point Cook. It would have represented a return to where Sir Colin's career began, since, following his enlistment on 15 January 1935, he was sent as an air cadet to No.1 Flying Training School at Point Cook. He gained his flying badge in June 1936 and was commissioned the following month. Image courtesy of the National Archives of Australia.

Queensland's 19th Governor, Sir Colin Hannah, was the third Australian and the first serving member of the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) to be appointed to the position of Governor of Queensland.

Born in Western Australia, Hannah served in the Militia before joining the RAAF in 1935. During World War II, he served as Commanding Officer of No. 6 Squadron in the South West Pacific and at the end of the war was leading Western Area Command in Perth. He served as an Aide-de-Camp to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II for the 1954 Royal tour, before returning to active service during the Malayan Emergency. In 1970, he was promoted to Air Marshal and became Chief of the Australian Air Staff. Hannah was sworn in as Governor at an impressive ceremony in the old Legislative Council chamber.

In the early months of 1974, devastating floods hit Queensland. Prolonged torrential rain had caused severe flooding in the West. Half of the State was under water. Cyclone Wanda developed off the coast and as the Australia Day holiday weekend dawned, the cyclone turned inland north of Brisbane, dumping more rain not only on the already water-logged city, but also on the headwaters of the creeks and streams which feed into the Brisbane River. Overnight, Brisbane and Ipswich found themselves battling their worst flood in the 20th century. Sir Colin and Lady Hannah felt a strong affinity for Ipswich, having lived in the region when Sir Colin had commanded Amberley Air Base, and they made a lengthy visit to support the people of Ipswich during the difficult clean up and recovery process, returning to open the 101st Ipswich Show, which went ahead in May 1974.

In a speech at a Brisbane Chamber of Commerce luncheon in October 1975, Hannah excoriated the Commonwealth Government led by Prime Minister Gough Whitlam for its "fumbling ineptitude". Convinced that Hannah lacked political impartiality, the Commonwealth Government advised The Queen to revoke his dormant commission to serve as Administrator in the event of the absence or incapacity of the Governor-General. Despite repeated requests from Queensland Premier Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen, the British Government refused to advise The Queen to extend his term. Hannah's term expired on 20 March 1977.



This image of Sir Colin in full military uniform and Lady Hannah walking out the front door of Fernberg was published in the 'Sunday Mail' in 1975. Fernberg's imposing entrance, at the base of its high tower, remains unchanged since 1890. The hexagonal porch lantern is original, as is the doorbell and the floor of the porch, laid in chequered dark and light marble, bordered in black.





Commodore the Honourable Sir James Ramsay
KCMG KCVO CBE DSC

22 April 1977 – 21 July 1985



Sir James Ramsay's official portrait in his dress uniform reflects how deeply his naval experience influenced his character. He was just 13 years old when he joined the Royal Australian Navy as a Cadet Midshipman. Among his medals is the Distinguished Service Cross, awarded for his conduct in the Korean War as Commanding Officer of the Australian destroyer 'Warramunga', which rescued two American minesweepers that were under heavy enemy fire.

Queensland's 20th Governor, Sir James Ramsay, won the affection of the State for his affable manner and diligent attention to duty.

Born in Tasmania, he graduated from the Royal Australian Naval College at Jervis Bay and pursued a distinguished naval career. Sir James served on British and Australian ships in the Indian, Atlantic, and Pacific Oceans during World War II, retiring from the Navy in 1972. He served as Lieutenant-Governor of Western Australia from 1974 until 1977, before his appointment as Governor of Queensland.

Sir James and Lady Ramsay set themselves a goal of visiting every one of the State's local government areas – a goal they achieved in the first three years. The naval man's respect for those who shouldered the lonely job of lighthouse-keeper was reflected in the fact that he visited every one of Queensland's lighthouses during his term.

The most significant civic and ceremonial event of Ramsay's tenure was the successful staging of the Commonwealth Games in Brisbane in 1982. The Games were opened by Her Majesty The Queen. From both a sporting and organisational perspective, the Games were a triumph. Queenslanders were proud of their State's achievements on the world stage, and many of them saw Ramsay as the public face of Queensland's successes. The State was growing demographically and economically, but it was also growing in self-confidence, as the Southbank Cultural Centre and Art Gallery opened to great popular approval. The visit of Their Royal Highnesses The Prince and Princess of Wales in 1983 added glamour to Government House.

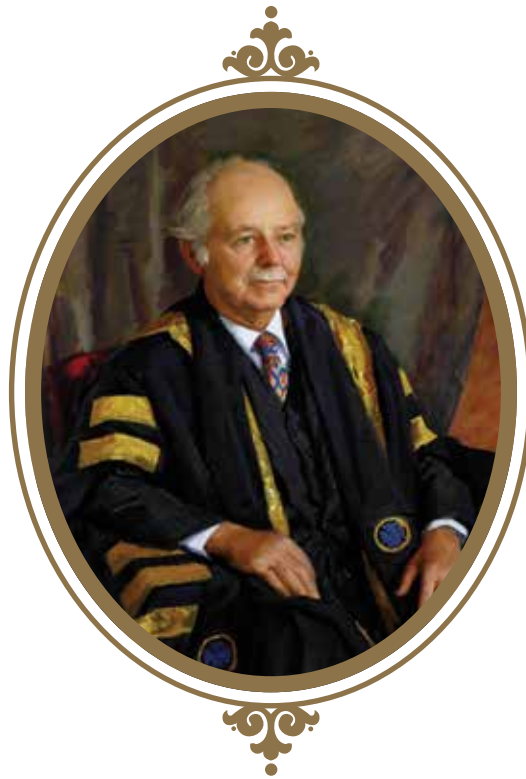
A practical man, Ramsay went about looking for information on Government House upon learning he was to be appointed as Governor. Finding only fragments of material, he decided to bridge the gap in the historical record himself, delivering the Clem Lack Oration to the Royal Historical Society of Queensland, outlining a comprehensive history of Government House. Ramsay's paper remains a seminal work on the history of Fernberg.

Despite his determination to keep politics out of his tenure, Sir James was pulled into the disintegration of the Liberal-National Coalition government, when the Premier advised the Governor not to accept the resignation of certain Ministers. It presaged the political turmoil that was to face his successor.



In the vice-regal tradition, Sir James and Lady Ramsay were strong supporters of Scouting and Guiding in Queensland. Sir James served as Chief Scout and Lady Ramsay as State President of the Girl Guides Association of Queensland. Here Sir James is shown inspecting the Kiwi Woggle camp in Landsborough in 1978.





The Honourable Sir Walter Benjamin Campbell
AC QC

22 July 1985 – 29 July 1992



This portrait of Sir Walter Campbell dressed in his Chancellor's robes by Sir William Dargie was commissioned in 1979 by The University of Queensland. Sir Walter was The University of Queensland's 10th Chancellor and only the second one to also be an alumnus. Image courtesy of The University of Queensland.

Queensland's 21st Governor, Sir Walter Campbell, was described by one of his successors as Chief Justice and Governor, Paul de Jersey, as "admirably equipped for life by remarkable personal qualities, especially intellect, courage and urbanity".

At Downlands College, Toowoomba, Campbell was known as a gifted sportsman, a powerful debater, and as possessing an intellect that qualified him as Dux of the school – twice. He enrolled for an Arts/Law degree at The University of Queensland, but his studies were interrupted in 1941 when he joined the Royal Australian Air Force. Injured in a plane crash in 1941, he returned to his studies and later married Georgina Pearce of Toowoomba. Campbell was admitted to the Bar in 1948, appointed Queen's Counsel in 1960, and was later appointed a judge of the Queensland Supreme Court in 1967. In 1982, he was made Chief Justice, before accepting the role of Governor in 1985.

As Chief Justice, he made it a practice to visit "all the circuit towns – Rockhampton, Cairns, Townsville... I tried to find out what was going on and how the profession was going, were they happy or not in these smaller towns." As Governor, he, along with Georgina, followed the same practice, travelling widely and taking a close interest in country towns.

In 1987, a political crisis knocked on the Governor's door. Premier Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen delivered a letter proposing that he would resign as Premier and that all Members of the existing ministry should be dismissed. In the same letter, Bjelke-Petersen sought a further commission from the Governor to form a new administration.

That course of action did not eventuate. The Governor acceded to Bjelke-Petersen's next request, that he dismiss three Ministers who had refused to resign. When Bjelke-Petersen then formally lost the confidence of the parliamentary party and refused to resign his commission, Queensland was in the position of having a Premier who was not a leader, and a leader who was not a Premier. Campbell deferred the resolution of the issue to the Parliament, but Bjelke-Petersen resigned before his leadership could be tested on the floor.

Sir Walter Campbell was the last Queensland Governor to be appointed on the advice of the British Government. Following the passage of the Australia Acts in 1986, his successor became the first Governor to be appointed by The Queen on the direct advice of the Premier.



Sir Walter Campbell had served as a flying instructor in World War II, and was clearly thrilled to take a ride in an F-111 fighter plane during a visit to Amberley Air Base in 1985. Squadron Leader Geoff Shepherd confirmed that Campbell had taken the controls of the plane at supersonic speed during the 90-minute flight, which had taken them to Toowoomba and over Somerset Dam and Double Island Point. "Once you learn, you never forget", was the Governor's jaunty response as he emerged from the fighter's cockpit.





The Honourable Mary Marguerite Leneen Forde AC

29 July 1992 – 29 July 1997



In June 2000, Leneen Forde was elected Chancellor of Griffith University. It was a fitting appointment for a university which prides itself on its progressive tradition and for a woman whose life work has been devoted to justice, fairness, and equality. This is her official portrait as Chancellor by the artist Lawrence Daws. All Chancellors of Griffith have had their portraits painted by Daws, and they hang in the boardroom at the Nathan campus.

The passage of the Australia Acts in 1986 shifted the relationship between the states and the monarch. Henceforth, Governors could only be appointed on the advice of the Queensland Government, rather than the British Government. The first test of the new arrangements came in 1992, and Premier Goss decided the time was ripe for another first – a woman Governor.

Then Queenslander of the Year, Leneen Forde was an outstanding candidate. When asked by Premier Wayne Goss if she would be interested in becoming Governor, Forde replied that she would have to ask her husband Angus first. Goss replied, “That’s all right, I have got to ask The Queen.” Forde was duly appointed as the 22nd Governor of Queensland.

Born in Canada, Leneen Kavanagh was drawn to Queensland by her love for the young Gerry Forde. The two married while Gerry was at law school. Gerry’s sudden death from cancer in 1966 left Forde in need of a career to support her family, and she began studying law. Despite the challenges of studying with five young children, she graduated and fought her way up to become partner at her law firm. Motivated by a strong sense of justice, Forde became immersed in a wide range of community groups, including the Queensland Women Lawyers Association and Zonta. She accepted the role of Governor with a commitment to service and to nourishing the causes she cared deeply about.

Her successor, Major General Peter Arnison, spoke admiringly of the dignity, style, and sense of humour that Forde brought to the vice-regal office. She widened the circle of people who were invited to Government House, relaxed the menus, and modernised the social calendar. She held Open Days, so that Queenslanders could come and see their Government House. With her second husband Angus, she travelled to remote Outback stations and Indigenous communities, and frankly acknowledged the problems they faced.

At the end of her term, she was immediately invited to head a major inquiry into the abuse and neglect of children in Queensland institutions, and was subsequently Chancellor of Griffith University for 15 years. After retiring from her position of Chancellor in 2015, she was appointed Chair of the Queensland Catholic Education Commission.



The Australia Acts changed the nature of the relationship between the State and the Sovereign, but they did not alter the strong and enduring relationship between the Sovereign and vice-regal representatives. Forde welcomed the heir to the throne, His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, to Queensland in 1994. She later spoke about his affection for Queensland, and the easy way he had with people – even stopping to discuss with the children of the estate the best way to tie a water balloon!





*Major General the Honourable
Peter Maurice Arnison AC CVO*

29 July 1997 – 29 July 2003



This portrait of Major General Arnison by the artist Paul Newton was commissioned by the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) in 2009. Arnison served as Chancellor from 2004 until 2012. On his retirement, QUT's Deputy Chancellor Ms Helen Gluer said: "Peter Arnison will be remembered with gratitude and affection for his great service to and support of QUT. For the last eight years, he has ably and effectively chaired the QUT Council, our governing body. He has also presided with grace and natural ease at some 91 graduation ceremonies over that period, both in Brisbane and overseas."

Queensland's 23rd Governor, Major General Peter Arnison, was a career military officer who had a clear sense of the Governor's role as one of service to the Crown and State.

Born in Lismore and the son of a tailor, Arnison joined the army and attended the Royal Military College Duntroon. Two tours of duty in Vietnam led to a variety of command postings at Canungra, Brisbane, Townsville, and Sydney. On his retirement, Arnison was Land Commander for Australia.

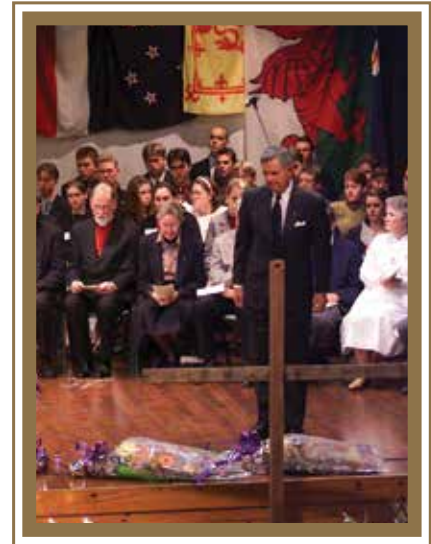
Scrupulously non-partisan, Arnison was a steady hand when the 1998 state elections resulted in a hung Parliament. "My own instinct was to allow the political process to work itself out", Arnison said. Even so, he put the constitutional duty to ensure stable government ahead of the personal preferences of politicians, insisting on swearing-in Peter Beattie and his Deputy, Jim Elder, as Ministers for the 18 portfolio positions so that the State would not be without a government even over the short space of a weekend.

Arnison has given a unique insight into the Governor's role to be consulted, to encourage, and to warn. Of his work with the Executive Council, he said: "... I was not hesitant in asking for clarification of matters we were dealing with which were unclear to me, or for suggesting that further consideration might be given to the occasional submission. I did this whenever I thought it necessary and I think Queensland got better government as a result."

Together with wife Barbara, Arnison visited almost all of Queensland's local government areas and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities during his term.

The Arnisons secured significant upgrades to the Government House estate, including the construction of a pavilion on the grounds and upgrading the 19th century water and sewage reticulation systems.

Arnison went on to serve as Chancellor of the Queensland University of Technology. His wife Barbara continued her involvement with the Scribblers Club and the Lady Musgrave Trust, both organisations encouraged and founded by vice-regal wives who had – like herself – contributed so much to Queensland.



The Governor is the representative of all Queenslanders and attends major events of State and national significance, including, during times of profound community hardship, memorial services, where the Governor leads periods of mourning and channels the sympathies of the wider community. Governor Arnison is pictured here attending the Community Memorial Service at Childers in June 2000, extending condolences on behalf of the people for the victims of the devastating Palace Backpackers Hostel fire which claimed the lives of 15 people.





*The Honourable Dame Quentin
Alice Louise Bryce AD CVO*

29 July 2003 – 29 July 2008



In 2011, artist Barbara Tyson entered this portrait of then Governor-General Quentin Bryce in the Archibald Prize, using three layers of linen to capture the essence of the girl from the Outback, the strength of the woman juggling her career and family, and the polished and professional vice-regal representative. Image courtesy of Barbara Tyson.

Quentin Bryce entered Government House with a record of advancing human rights and a heartfelt commitment to serving the State she loved.

Quentin Bryce, née Strachan, was born in Brisbane and spent her early years in Ilfracombe, a small town in Central Western Queensland. In 1965, she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Laws from The University of Queensland and, in the same year, was admitted to the Queensland Bar. She enjoyed a rich and distinguished career as an academic, lawyer, community and human-rights advocate, senior public officer, and university college principal.

In 2003, she was appointed Governor of Queensland. The girl from Ilfracombe knew how important it was to people living in rural and remote parts of the State to meet their Governor, and she and husband Michael undertook an arduous schedule of travel. After a long career breaking down barriers, it was natural that she would seek to make Government House more inclusive, opening the doors to new groups in the community. Women from the Lockhart River Aboriginal community were invited to stay, and Book Week saw schoolchildren gathered around the Governor for story time.

Bryce was a diligent Governor who took her constitutional role seriously. The ceremonial role of the vice-regal office was undertaken with due respect for the formalities coupled with a natural friendliness and warmth. People with disabilities found a Governor with a special empathy for the challenges they faced.

In 2008, Governor Bryce was appointed as Australia's 25th Governor-General and the first woman to hold the position. Queenslanders were proud that one of their own had become Governor-General, and she was warmly welcomed each time she came home, especially when she visited communities devastated by the floods of 2010–11 to lend her sympathy and support.

Quentin Bryce was made a Dame of the Order of Australia in 2014.

Later that year, she chaired the Queensland Government's Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland. She continues to work at keeping the scourge of domestic violence on the national agenda, and is patron and ambassador of a number of charities.



Bryce's travel as Governor took in remote Indigenous communities, such as Bamaga. She later reflected "Queensland is a big and far flung place and it takes all of a Governor's time to get around it. You have really got to take your hat off to those early Governors who did so much travelling despite the difficulties of their times."





The Honourable Penelope Anne Wensley AC

29 July 2008 – 29 July 2014



This portrait from the Government House collection was often requested by Governor Wensley's patron organisations to accompany her written messages of support and encouragement. Wensley was a knowledgeable advocate for the more than 200 organisations of which she was patron, including charities, the arts, history and heritage groups, and scientific organisations.

The 25th Governor of Queensland, Penelope Wensley brought to the vice-regal office a global outlook and a personal commitment to grassroots organisations.

Born in Toowoomba, she attended The University of Queensland and became the sole woman in the 1968 intake of recruits to the Department of External Affairs. In her 40-year diplomatic career, Wensley served as Australia's Ambassador to the United Nations, as Ambassador for the Environment, as High Commissioner to India, and as Ambassador to France.

A committed internationalist, Wensley used the Governor's profile to engage and encourage the organisations which forge and maintain Queensland's international links.

In 2009, Queensland celebrated its sesquicentenary, an anniversary that resonated with Wensley's passion for history. She also officiated at the sesquicentenaries of Cardwell, Hervey Bay, Harrisville, Mackay, and Tambo, and in 2010, celebrated the centenary of Fernberg as the official residence of Queensland's Governors.

Wensley's tenure was marked by a series of severe natural disasters. In January 2011, much of the State flooded and, a month later, Cyclone Yasi wreaked havoc on the North. Floods in subsequent years compounded the misfortune. In an awful reversal of fate, in 2014 about as much of the State became drought-declared as was under water only three years earlier.

During the Brisbane floods of 2011, Wensley and her husband Stuart joined the "mud army", lining up with thousands of other volunteers at the Mt Coot-tha assembly point to clean up the reeking mud that the flood had left behind. She returned a number of times to the worst-affected communities, such as those in Ipswich, Goodna, Gympie, Toowoomba, the Lockyer Valley, Tully, Cardwell, Bundaberg, and the Burnett, to lend her support to the recovery effort.

On Australia Day 2011, she was appointed a Companion in the General Division of the Order of Australia, for her "eminent contribution to the people of Queensland, and to Australia's international relations through senior diplomatic representational roles and as a key contributor to initiatives of the United Nations". It was appropriate recognition for a Queenslander who had travelled far and returned home to serve the people of her State.



Like all Governors of Queensland, Governor Wensley swore to be faithful and bear true allegiance to the lawful Sovereign of Australia and to Her (or His) heirs and successors. Unusually, Governor Wensley also hosted visits to Queensland by the Sovereign, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and two generations of The Queen's heirs – by His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales and on two occasions, by His Royal Highness The Duke of Cambridge.





*His Excellency the Honourable
Paul de Jersey AC*

29 July 2014 –



This portrait, commissioned by the Bar Association of Queensland, depicts de Jersey in day clothes and hangs in the de Jersey Room at the Association's headquarters at the Inns of Court. It is one of two portraits by artist Robert Hannaford AM painted over a six-day sitting in 2015 in The Cottage at Fernberg. The second painting, of de Jersey dressed in the full regalia of the Chief Justice, hangs in the Banco Court Portrait Gallery at the Queen Elizabeth II Courts of Law, Brisbane.

The Honourable Paul de Jersey AC was proudly sworn in as the 26th Governor of multicultural, modern and prosperous Queensland after serving as the State's Chief Justice for more than 16 years.

Having travelled extensively throughout Queensland as Chief Justice, de Jersey embarked upon the vice-regal office, with Kaye, determined to engage with Queenslanders from all corners of the State and from all walks of life.

The third son of school-teacher parents, de Jersey won a Commonwealth Scholarship to The University of Queensland, and graduated with degrees in Arts in 1969 and Laws (with Honours) in 1971.

Also in December 1971, de Jersey married Kaye Brown, a librarian by profession, and together they have three children, and now three grandchildren.

Called to the Bar, de Jersey was appointed as Her Majesty's Counsel (QC) in 1981, as a Judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland in 1985, and became Chief Justice in 1998.

At his swearing-in as Governor, de Jersey, who spent many happy childhood years in regional Queensland, pledged to visit the people of all communities within the State over his term. He has honoured his pledge, and he and Kaye travel vast distances to befriend, support, and recognise the achievements of their fellow Queenslanders. Together they have visited numerous Indigenous communities, especially in regional and remote Queensland, and in October 2015, in a vice-regal first, they took Government House operations to the people of a regional area, basing themselves for a week in Cairns.

De Jersey has faithfully upheld the constitutional mandate to ensure stable government, and gives unstinting support to Queenslanders who serve their State and their country, especially through the police and emergency services, and through the Australian Defence Force.

Unique among his predecessors, de Jersey has embraced the use of social media as a way of enhancing the community's awareness of the Governor's duties, and to promote the historic Fernberg estate. The vice-regal couple have also welcomed the people of Brisbane to the estate at Open Days, and instituted a Christmas Lights display cherished by local families.

Partners in life, our current Governor and Kaye are dedicated, longstanding Queenslanders who approach the constitutional, ceremonial, and community activities and responsibilities of Governor with a sense of humility and in a spirit of service.



Unassuming and effortlessly graceful, Kaye de Jersey has imbued the 26th Governorship with dignified geniality. Mrs de Jersey has accompanied the Governor on occasions of national and State significance (including, as pictured, at Remembrance Day 2014), and on every visit outside South East Queensland, the people of regional Queensland have been especially enamoured by her warm and inclusive nature. Drawing on her abiding love of the arts, the voraciously well-read librarian by profession is an unstinting supporter in her own right of charitable and creative endeavour, including as patron of a number of organisations. A consummate host to Government House's many State guests and visitors, Mrs de Jersey enjoys sharing her intimate knowledge of Fernberg's grounds – including with Government House horticulturalists – acquired on her daily perambulations around the estate.





Acknowledgements

Many people helped make this publication possible, and the Office of the Governor thanks them all.

Particular gratitude must go to Ms Louise Ahern. Miss Dianne Byrne from the State Library of Queensland, and Dr Katie McConnel from Old Government House, too, must be thanked for their generous insights and assistance.

The search for portraits was not exhaustive, but it was extensive. A number of organisations either graciously provided permission to use portraits in their possession or provided assistance in obtaining photographs of portraits. Other organisations assisted greatly through the provision of accompanying historical photographs (all black-and-white photographs, unless otherwise captioned, are courtesy of the State Library of Queensland, as is the colour photograph on page 15). The Office of the Governor thanks:

The Sisters of Mercy Brisbane Congregation and All Hallows' School; State Library of Queensland; Queensland Parliamentary Service; State Library of Victoria; The University of Queensland; UQ Art Museum (photographs on pages 24, 28 and 48 by Mr Carl Warner); Royal Historical Society of Queensland; Old Government House, Queensland; Queensland University of Technology; QUT Art Museum; BUSHkids; Australian War Memorial; Supreme Court Library Queensland; James Cook University; National Archives of Australia; Griffith University; Ms Barbara Tyson; Newspix (photograph on page 53 by Mr Anthony Weate); and Bar Association of Queensland.

