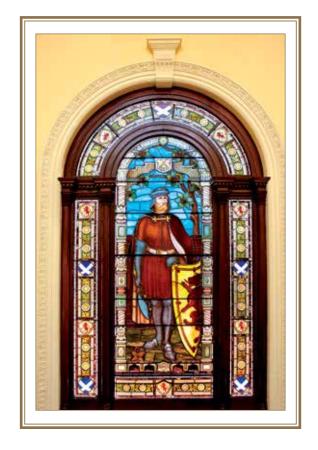


GOVERNMENT HOUSE Queensland



The Government House Collection

Items of Historical and Heritage Interest

Credits and Acknowledgements

After Franz Xaver Winterhalter, Germany 1805–1873 *Queen Victoria 1819–1901* (page 10) c. 1845-50 Oil on canvas, 139 x 109.5cm Lent by Her Majesty The Queen, through the Royal Collection Trust, to Government House Queensland in 1960.

After Franz Xaver Winterhalter, Germany 1805–1873 Prince Albert (1819–1861) (page 10) c. 1845-50 Oil on canvas, 139 x 109.5cm Lent by Her Majesty The Queen, through the Royal Collection Trust, to Government House Queensland in 1960.

William Dargie, Australia 1912–2003 Portrait of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II (page 9) c.1954, c.1964 and c.1975 Oil on canvas, 81.5 x 56cm Acc. 1989.065 Purchased 1989 from the estate of Lady Trout with a special allocation from the Queensland Government Collection: Queensland Art Gallery Reproduced courtesy of Mr Roger Dargie.

The photographs in this publication are from the Government House collection and include images by Longshots (www.longshots.com.au), and Mr Stu Riley.

The Office of the Governor thanks the staff of Government House Queensland for their help in producing this book.

First published in 2020 by the Office of the Governor, Government House, Queensland.

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Government House Queensland – www.govhouse.qld.gov.au



Foreword

As the current vice-regal residents of *Fernberg*, Kaye and I are privileged to be surrounded by the furniture, works of art and other features of this historic building which, taken together, represent the story of Queensland.

There are more than 1,500 individual items at Government House, each of them faithfully recorded in inventories since the first of my 25 predecessors took up his post more than 160 years ago.

The collection illustrates the changing role of Governors and their spouses since 1859, as well as the evolution of social mores, fashion and tastes. That once-vital item of furniture for entertaining – the billiard table – is no longer in use, and the individual silver cruet sets used at State dinners are a curiosity in an era when a waiter hovers at every diner's elbow with a pepper grinder.

The fundamental connection between Government House and successive sovereigns is also everpresent, from the Royal portraits and dinner sets bearing the cyphers of different Monarchs, to the Royal Coat of Arms.

Important visits and key events have provided an impetus for changes and acquisitions throughout the history of *Fernberg* and many items were acquired at the instigation of particular Governors. I have been very pleased to see several additions to the collection in my time, including an antique carousel bookcase in the Governor's Study and to see Indigenous works now given pride of place in the Vestibule and elsewhere in the House.

I hope you enjoy exploring the rooms and corridors of *Fernberg* with this publication as your guide to this unique and fascinating collection, and that it leads you to discover more about Queensland's rich history and heritage.

Mand de garacy

His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC Governor of Queensland



Introduction

Fernberg in Paddington has been Queensland's Government House since 1910. It is a rare combination of official vice-regal residence, private residence, busy office, heritage icon, and people's house – a public symbol of Queensland's status and prestige.

An important part of the character of Government House is its rich collection of significant furnishings, artefacts and artworks.

Over many decades, these have been acquired from an eclectic variety of sources including Old Government House, government buildings in the Brisbane CBD, the Queensland Club, the nowdemolished Bellevue Hotel, and Old Gowrie Homestead near Toowoomba.

While there was no strictly-defined policy driving acquisitions, there was a clear preference for the collection, whenever possible, of objects that were made in Queensland from materials sourced in the State. In addition, a significant number of acquisitions were selected for compatibility with the Victorian-era origins of Government House.

The objects range from the late 18th century Hope Plate to carvings of totemic animals by Indigenous artists from Aurukun on the Cape York Peninsula, purchased in 2017 but springing from the traditions of an ancient culture.

More than 70 items from the collection are featured in the following pages. They represent a wide range of origins, styles, fashions, functions, and dates of acquisition. The artwork on display at *Fernberg* includes portraits on loan from Her Majesty The Queen, through the Royal Collection Trust in London, and items acquired by Government House. These are detailed in the publication. There are many other artworks on rotational display at *Fernberg*, made available through the generous support of Queensland Art Gallery & Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA), the QAGOMA Foundation and the State Library of Queensland.

Together, all items tell the story of two Government Houses and their vice-regal residents, and link Government House with the stories of other significant people and places from Queensland's past and present.



Contents

Artwork and Artefacts

Coronation Portrait
Wattle Portrait
Royal Portraits Victoria and Albert
Royal Portraits, Edward VII and Alexandra
Royal Portraits, George V and Mary
Bowen Portrait
Bowen's Sash and Medal
Governor Portraits
Irene Namok Paintings
Indigenous Art and Artefacts
Stained-Glass Window
Contract Drawings for 1890 Fernberg Extension
Kelvin Grove Government House Plans
Candelabra
Lanterns
Gong
Bilby
Centre Piece
Visitors' Book
Despatch Box
Coat of Arms
Carved Emu Egg
Government House Dinner Book
Sir Henry Abel Smith Jug
Governor's Gavel
Side Lamps
Brush-turkey Windvane
Royal Worcester Plates
Hope Plate

Furniture and Furnishings

Marble Fireplaces and Tiles	28
Chandeliers	28
Long Case Clock	29
Chaise Longue and Grandmother Chair	30
Spinning Chair	30
Walnut Veneer Credenza/Chiffonier	31
Mahogany Chair	31
Chippendale Chairs	32
Inlaid Circular Table	32
Corner Display Cabinet	33
Card Tables	33
Dining Suite	34
Governor's Desk	36
Governor's Study Mirror	36
Billiard Table	38
Mahogany Sideboard	38
Lady Chelmsford Piano Stool	39
Coleman Chairs	40
Eastern Balcony Furniture	40
Small Dining Table and Chairs	41
Clock	41
Four Poster Bed	42
Lyre-back Chairs	44
Octagonal Tables	44
Regency Style Pot Cupboard	45
Card Table	45
Carousel Book Case	46
Study Cabinet	46
Tessellated, Encaustic Tiles	47
Winged-back Chairs	47
Drawing Room Carpets and Fabrics	48



Artwork and Artefacts





Coronation Portrait

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In 1953, Sir Herbert James Gunn was commissioned to paint the formal Coronation portrait of Queen Elizabeth II. Initially a landscape artist, Gunn devoted himself exclusively to portraits after 1929. He became President of the Royal Society of Portrait Painters and was knighted for services to painting in 1964. The original of the Coronation portrait is held in the Royal Collection in London but Government House holds both a full-sized copy, displayed in the Dining Room and a smaller print displayed in the Fernberg Dining Room.



Wattle Portrait

roon

The portrait of Queen Elizabeth II by Australian artist, Sir William Dargie, was commissioned in 1975 by Sir Leon and Lady Trout. When the Trouts' collection was auctioned in 1989, the portrait was acquired for Government House through a special Queensland Government allocation. This is one of several versions of the portrait first painted by Dargie in 1954. In it, Queen Elizabeth is wearing the celebrated 'wattle dress' designed by Norman Hartnell for her first tour of Australia.





Royal Portraits Victoria and Albert

roon

The portraits of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert are on long-term loan from Her Majesty The Queen, through the Royal Collection Trust in London. They are three-quarter-size copies of 1845 originals by Franz Winterhalter, a German painter known for his portraits of royalty in the mid-19th century. Queen Victoria is depicted wearing the ribbon and star of the Order of the Garter, with the garter itself around her left arm. Albert is depicted in his Field-Marshal's uniform, wearing the Garter insignia and the badge of the Order of the Golden Fleece.



Royal Portraits Edward VII and Alexandra, George V and Mary

roon

The historical Royal portraits of King Edward VII and his Queen, Alexandra (1901 - 1910), and King George V and Queen Mary (1910 - 1936) are part of the Government House collection. All four portraits are in their original gilded wooden frames in the Maratta style, named after the 18th century painter Carlo Maratta. The frames are gilded with water-based, 23-carat gold leaf, sealed with shellac.

Bowen Portrait

The portrait of Sir George Bowen, Queensland's first Governor (1859-1868), is a watercolour facsimile of an original pastel portrait by the British artist Henry Gordon Fanner painted in 1882. In the portrait, Sir George is shown wearing the sash and medal of the Knight Grand Cross of the Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George. The original regalia are displayed nearby in the Foyer of Government House.







Bowen's Sash and Medal

Queensland's first Governor, Sir George Bowen, was admitted to the highest class of the Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George in 1860, the year after he arrived in Brisbane. The sash and medal, both originals, are the Regalia of the Knight Grand Cross of the Order. The regalia were presented to Government House in 1992 by the Queensland Women's History Association. Sir George can be seen wearing the regalia in a copy of an 1880s portrait (above) displayed in the Entrance Hall of Government House.



Governor Portraits

roon

Portraits of all of Queensland's 26 Governors to date are displayed in the Small Sitting Room in four groups, each arranged chronologically from left to right in two rows. The portraits record the first Australian-born Governor, Sir John Lavarack, and the first of three women Governors to date, Leneen Forde. The names of a number of Governors and their spouses are reflected in a number of Queensland place names. These include Roma, Bowen and Cairns, the Lamington Plateau, Blackall Ranges, Lady Musgrave Island, and the Brisbane suburbs of Chermside, MacGregor, Nathan and Mansfield. A companion collection of portraits of the Governors' spouses - the 'Spouses Gallery' - is on display outside the Investiture Room.



Irene Namok Paintings

roon

Burn Grass Season is one of three original paintings by North Queensland artist Irene Namok purchased by Government House in 2017, and is displayed next to the State Dining Room. The other two, *Sunset Dreamtime* and *Mid-Summer*, are displayed elsewhere on the estate. Irene Namok was born on Thursday Island but is now one of a well-known group of Indigenous artists from Lockhart River, on the eastern side of Cape York. Irene explains that her paintings are about her emotions and about land, culture and ancestor stories passed from generation to generation.





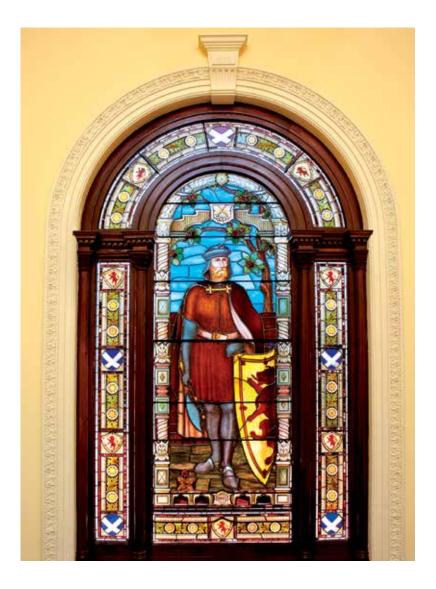
Indigenous Art and Artefacts

Artworks displayed in Government House are chosen to reflect the vibrant heritage of all Queenslanders. Recent additions include two Aurukun camp dogs (Ku'), a crocodile and an echidna (labelled 'porcupine') by Indigenous artists, Mr Leo Namponan and Mr Lex Namponan (Lucky Ku' and Bullet Ku'), Mr Kenneth Bruce Wolmby (crocodile) and Mr Steve Ngakapoorgum Yunkaporta (porcupine). These were acquired during a 2017 visit to Cape York by His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC and Mrs Kaye de Jersey. Other works by Indigenous artists include the didgeridoo presented to His Excellency by representatives of the Kalkadoon people of Mount Isa when he visited the district as Chief Justice in 2008.

To the Indigenous peoples of the Aurukun community on the west coast of Cape York in the Gulf of Carpentaria, the dog, echidna and crocodile are sacred totemic beings. Sculptures were traditionally made of clay and displayed only in mortuary ceremonies. Metal tools as well as wood-carving and carpentry techniques were introduced by missionaries in the early 20th century. By the 1980s, works were being produced for the arts and crafts market and now feature in collections and galleries worldwide. The works are carved from Northern Milkwood (*Alstonia actinophylla*) and decorated with natural ochres and charcoal.

In addition, there are several artworks from prominent Queensland Indigenous artists on display, on loan from QAGOMA.





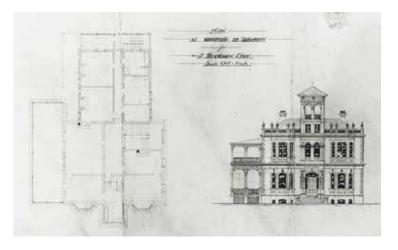
Stained-Glass Window

roon

John Stevenson (1843-1912) purchased *Fernberg* in the early 1880s. He was a proud Scot who emigrated to Australia in 1864 and made (and subsequently lost) his fortune in the pastoral industry in Queensland. As part of the 1889-90 extensions to the original house, Stevenson commissioned this life-size stained-glass image of the Scottish Warrior-King Robert the Bruce from an unknown Scottish studio, possibly in Glasgow. The window is located in the western wall of the house, at the top of the first set of stairs in the grand cedar staircase leading from the Foyer to the first floor.

Contract Drawings for 1890 Fernberg Extension

These are the original signed contract drawings prepared by Brisbane architect Richard Gailey, who designed the 1889-90 extensions of *Fernberg* commissioned by the then owner, John Stevenson. The extensions more than doubled the floor area of the original 1865 house, reoriented the edifice from west-facing to north-facing, and included the belvedere (tower) that is a defining feature of the current Government House. The Italianate design of the house has similarities with that of the Queensland Club in George Street Brisbane, which was built in the same decade.





Kelvin Grove Government House Plans

These framed architectural drawings show the proposed design of a new Queensland Government House that was never built. When acquired by the Queensland Government in 1910, *Fernberg* was intended as a temporary Government House until a new residence was built in Victoria Park. Footings for the new building were constructed but no further work was done. The site is now occupied by the QUT Kelvin Grove campus. *Fernberg* became Queensland's permanent Government House in 1937.

Candelabra

These two beautiful hand-painted Majolica candelabra were made by Minton in Stoke-on-Trent in the 19th century. Majolica involves painting with glaze materials over an opaque, tin-based white glaze. It became very popular in the 19th century and Minton employed many skilled artists to produce images such as the accurate depictions of English birds on these candelabra.



NOON



Lanterns

Several brass-framed lanterns in the entry hall and foyer feature diamond-cut, acid-etched glass panels and were installed by John Stevenson as part of the extensions he added to *Fernberg* in 1890. They were originally powered by gas but were later converted to electricity.



Bilby

The life-size brass bilby by Don Vernon was purchased for the Government House collection in September 2007 during the term of Dame Quentin Bryce. As with all of Vernon's work, the piece is notable for its fine and accurate detail, attributable to the sculptor's career as a world-class museum preparator and taxidermist. He worked for the Queensland Museum for 36 years, earning the Museum Medal for his contribution.

CO

Gong

The dinner gong was made by Brisbane company John Hicks and Co. in 1896 for Old Government House and brought to the current Government House in 1910. The embossed bronze gong is supported by an elaborate oak frame with turned legs on bracket feet. The gong is still rung at official events, announcing the Governor's arrival. The current mallet was donated by the Queensland Symphony Orchestra in 2016.



Centre Piece

This impressive silver-plated centre piece is in the form of an open-weave basket with twined handles, raised on scrolled feet and decorated on each side by a pair of caryatids (sculpted female figures). While it is not known who the 'W' on the monogrammed shield refers to, the piece is known to be of late 19th century French origin as it bears the stamp of Henri Picard, a prestigious Parisian craftsman who was celebrated for casting and gilding high quality decorative objects for many important patrons, including the Emperor Napoleon III. The piece was acquired by Government House in May 1998 from Isles Love Auction Centre in Brisbane.



<u>noon</u>



Visitors' Book

Most official visitors to Government House are formally greeted in the Small Sitting Room and invited to sign the Visitors' Book kept there. This has created an historical record of important visitors calling on Governors of Queensland since at least the 1950s.

20



Coat of Arms

The Coat of Arms of the British Royal family is a symbol that the Governor is The Queen's representative in this State. In addition to the central shield supported by a lion (England) and a chained unicorn (Scotland), the Arms include the sovereign's motto, 'Dieu et mon droit' ('God and my right'), the Arms of England, Scotland, and Ireland and their respective plant emblems (rose, thistle and shamrock) as well as the motto of the Order of the Garter, 'Honi soit qui mal y pense' ('Evil be to him who thinks evil'). The Royal Arms have evolved over nine centuries but have not changed since Victoria became Queen in 1837.

NOON

Despatch Box

A symbol of democracy and of the Governor's constitutional duties, the despatch box was handcrafted in Brisbane in 2014 and is modelled on an historic red leather despatch box used by the Clerk of Queensland's Parliament to bring bills to Government House for the Governor's Assent.



Carved Emu Egg

This late 19th century carved emu egg is one of a pair, mounted on silver stands and featuring Australian birds. The practice of carving emu eggs became popular in the midto late nineteenth century, and both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal artists practised the art. Carvers take advantage of the colour tones in the shells. The practice is referred to in Indigenous art as 'Kalti Paarti'.





Government House Dinner Book

The Dinner Books record seating plans for all formal luncheons and dinners held at Government House since at least the 1950s. They are silent witness to the many distinguished guests who have been hosted by Queensland's Governors. Among the most notable examples are seating plans for formal luncheons and dinners held during the first visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II to Queensland in 1954. Dinner and luncheon guests are now recorded electronically.



Governor's Gavel

This gavel is one of two in Government House. It was made from Queensland Maple by the RM School of Woodworking in Brisbane and presented to the 26th Governor of Queensland, His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, in 2015. The gavel is used to attract the attention of guests at official luncheons and dinners when the Governor wishes to make formal remarks.

roor

Sir Henry Abel Smith Jug

The elegant EPNS silver water jug is one of a substantial number of mementos presented by communities to visiting Queensland Governors. The jug was presented to Queensland's 17th Governor, Sir Henry Abel Smith, when he visited Gatton in March 1959. As the engraved details record, the jug was presented by the Gatton Shire Council and the architect of the new Civic Centre, which the Governor opened during his visit.



Side Lamps

These two large side lamps were originally hand-painted vases. Although the origin and provenance of the vases is unknown, they date from c. 1880 and are probably French. They feature gilded snakes and plump, winged putti (cherubs), and are on display in the Drawing Room.



noon



Brush-turkey Windvane

The Ponds area of the *Fernberg* estate was designed by landscape architect Kevin Beattie and includes a shelter topped by an Australian Brush-turkey wind vane as a nod to the estate's large resident population of *Alectura lathami*.



Hope Plate

The Hope Plate was acquired for Government House in 1998. It takes its name from the symbolic figure of Hope depicted at the water's edge and is one of the two largest dishes from the Hope Service commissioned from the Royal Worcester factory by the Duke of Clarence in January 1790. The service is now dispersed. In the 18th century the factory was owned by three generations of the Flight family and, as a consequence, the plate is often referred to as the 'Flight plate'.

noor

Royal Worcester Plates

Royal Worcester plates displayed in the State Dining Room feature the cyphers of three Monarchs. The Queen Victoria plate dates from 1896 and was a gift to the Queensland Art Gallery from former Queensland Governor, Sir Henry Abel Smith. The plates bearing the cypher of George V and of Queen Elizabeth II are part of the Government House collection. At the beginning of each reign a new Royal Cypher is designed. Cyphers were topped by the Tudor or Imperial crown from the reign of King Edward VII until Queen Elizabeth asked that it be replaced by the St Edward's Crown worn at her coronation.





Furniture and Furnishings



Marble Fireplaces and Tiles

There are two handsome cast iron fireplaces with tiled surrounds and marble mantels in the State Dining Room. The room once served as both Dining Room and Drawing Room of the original 1865 house, each with its own fireplace. The fireplaces are no longer in use.







Chandeliers

The two ornate chandeliers in the State Dining Room and the three in the Drawing Room were manufactured by Waterford Crystal. Four of the existing chandeliers were imported from Ireland and hung in 1988. One of the original chandeliers in the State Dining Room was damaged in 1997 and replaced. The new chandelier has a similar but not identical design to the original.

28

Long Case Clock

This English clock (c. 1900) was previously housed in the original Queensland Government Executive Building (later the Lands Administration Building) in the Brisbane CBD, location of the Premier's Office and the Executive Council Chamber from 1905 to 1971. It is made from solid mahogany and veneers and features decorative rosettes, glazed doors, an enamelled face dial, a 1,200 mm drop pendulum, and adjustable pedestal feet.



Chaise Longue and Grandmother Chair

These items comprise two-thirds of a three-piece furniture suite dating from around 1875 and purchased from Myer in Melbourne in 1948 on the recommendation of the then Queensland Government Architect, EJA Weller. The chaise longue – French for 'long chair' – has a rosewood frame and features a deep buttoned upholstered back and arms, cabriole front legs, sabre (inwardly curved) back legs, decorative carving including on the 'knees' and a cresting rail. The seat rail features a paterae medallion. The spoon-back grandmother chair has similar features and upholstery, as well as brass and porcelain castors on the legs.







Spinning Chair

This stained beechwood chair was made in 1965 by Charles Peterson to a design by Elvin Harvey. Harvey and his father taught carving and modelling at the Central Technical College in Brisbane for many years. Charles Peterson was a student of the younger Harvey and the chair's elaborate detail is typical of Harvey's designs. In 1993 the chair was gifted to the Queensland Art Gallery by Mr Lawrence King and is on loan to Government House from the Gallery.



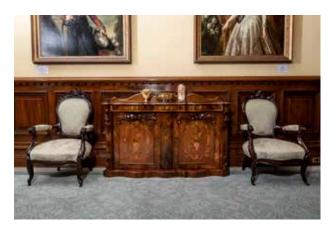
Mahogany Chair

This rare needlepoint chair was transferred to *Fernberg* in 1910 from Old Government House. It was made by Andrew Lenehan of Sydney and is constructed of mahogany, with angled tapered and fluted strut/front leg combinations, a shield-shaped back, and turned and tapered stretchers reinforcing the front and back legs. The chair is upholstered in green velvet with a band of gold needlepoint trim.

roor

Walnut Veneer Credenza/Chiffonier

This impressive piece of furniture sits against the eastern wall of the Foyer. It is of burr walnut and features a serpentine front, a convex centre mullion, elaborate carving, fine marquetry including motifs of vases of flowers on the doors and an inlaid frieze of leaves and flowers above them. The body of the piece dates from the period 1840-1880 but the top is more recent. The credenza is currently used to display photographs of Queensland's Speaker of Parliament and Executive Council, and other items of significance.





Inlaid Circular Table

This circular pedestal table from the period 1860-1875 sits in the centre of the Foyer of Government House. The walnut table features three elaborately carved cabriole legs supporting a walnut table top decorated with ebony inlays and floral designs picked out in intricate marquetry. The table is used to display floral arrangements.

roon

Chippendale Chairs

These two Chippendale reproduction chairs were purchased by Government House from Sir Henry Abel-Smith, Governor of Queensland from 1958-1966. The faded and worn original tapestry covers were replaced in 2018. The new fabric covers are hand-embroidered with botanically precise images of Queensland's State Flower, the Cooktown Orchid. The exacting work required more than 1,000 hours to complete and was carried out by two members of the Queensland Embroiderers' Guild.







Card Tables

In the Victorian era (c. 1850 - 1880), the emergence of an urban middle class with increased leisure led to more entertainment in the home. The consequent popularity of parlour games and card games such as Whist, led to increased production of the card or 'gaming' tables first used by the upper classes in the previous century. The card tables in the Drawing Room all date from the Victorian era.

Two of the demi-lune (half-moon) fold-over tables are made from cedar and mahogany in the late Regency style and feature a stone top (serpentine) and a carved pedestal base with four legs and brass and porcelain castors. These two tables are significant and rare as they were acquired in 1862 and 1864, respectively, as part of the original consignments of furniture for Old Government House and were brought to *Fernberg* in 1910. They carry the mark of Andrew Lenehan, the prominent Sydney furniture manufacturer of the day.

A third demi-lune card table was acquired in 1948 through the Myer Emporium in Melbourne. It is made of burr walnut and has a hinged, revolving top and a storage compartment. While the maker is unknown, it dates from c. 1890.

The fourth card table is made from rosewood and mahogany and dates from 1895. Its maker is unknown but it is known to have been selected for Government House by AB Brady, the government architect from 1892 to 1922. It has porcelain castors, a storage compartment, and is opened by rotating the top and folding it out.



Corner Display Cabinet

The two cedar corner display units were selected by Lady Hannah, wife of Queensland's 19th Governor, Sir Colin Hannah, in 1973. They were made in Brisbane by T Early & Sons Pty Ltd, a leading manufacturer of quality furniture since its establishment by Theophilus Early in 1912.



33

Dining Suite

This 34-piece suite made from yellowwood milled near Killarney in Queensland was manufactured by Brisbane firm John Hicks and Co. in 1896, specifically for Old Government House. The furniture was moved to Government House in 1910.

The magnificent pair of tables (originally one table) features canted corners and carved, tapered, fluted and reeded legs. A rachet mechanism allows extra leaves to be inserted into the table. When extended, each table is supported by a centrally-placed fifth table leg.

The 26 dining chairs, including two carvers (with armrests) have yellowwood frames, fully upholstered seats and backs, tapered front legs with brass castors and sabre back legs. The rails at the top of the seat back feature carvings of leaf and fruit motifs including pineapples, which are symbols of hospitality.

A pair of yellowwood, two-tiered tables features reeded finials at the top and rest on tapered, fluted and reeded legs with brass castors for easier movement. The two-drawer servery table with tapered and reeded legs in the nearby corridor is also part of the suite.

The yellowwood display cases were originally a large bookcase which was converted in 1988 into two different-sized display cases, respectively one-third and two-thirds of the original size. They are used to display significant items relating to Queensland's Governors.











Governor's Desk

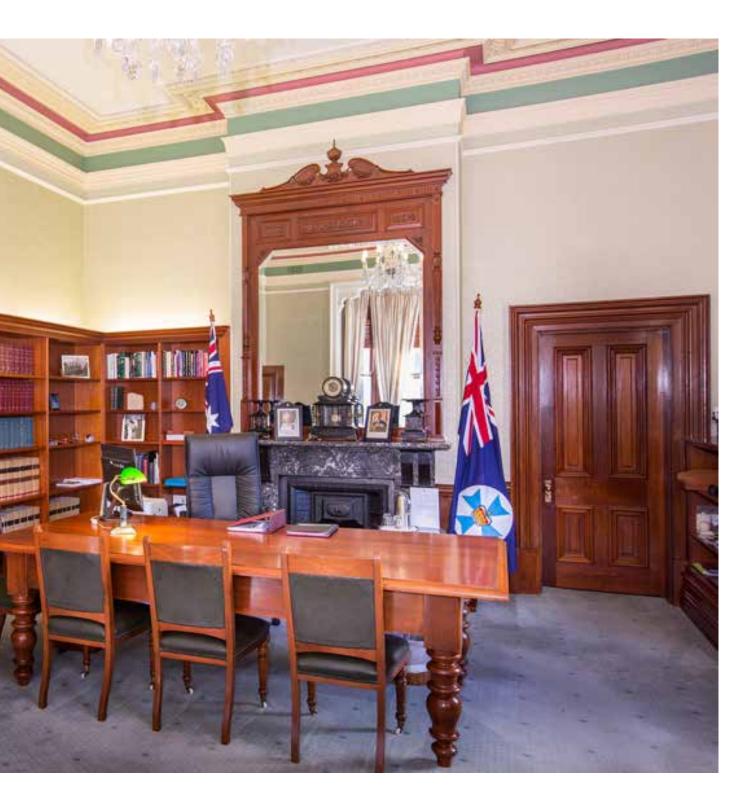
This is the Governor's working desk, over 2.6 metres long, with a solid cedar top over a moulded edge with deep rails, and turned and tapered legs. There are two drawers on each side of the central well. The desk dates from about 1880 and was transferred to Government House from the Toowoomba District Court in 1985.



Governor's Study Mirror

This yellowwood timber frame mirror is part of the 34-piece suite made in 1896 for Old Government House and brought to Government House in 1910.

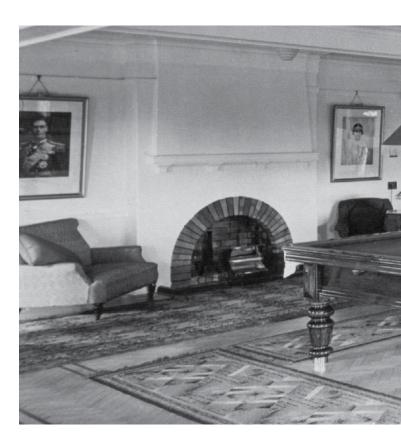




37

Billiard Table

A billiard table was a 'must-have' in distinguished houses well into the 20th century and *Fernberg* has long featured one. This full-sized billiard table, dating from about 1938, is made of Queensland Maple. Its playing surface is super fine English billiard cloth over a slate base, with a padded cushion rail, brass pockets and string pouches. The massive table legs are turned and fluted, with brass ferrule caps at the base. The table is currently in storage.



roon



Mahogany Sideboard

This George III bowed breakfront mahogany sideboard features flame mahogany stringing bands, a full-length brass gallery and six turned legs with splayed feet. It was purchased from Sir Henry Abel Smith following his tenure as Queensland's 17th Governor (1958-1966) and is used to display objects of interest including the Minton candelabra referenced on page 18.



76



Lady Chelmsford Piano Stool

A Bechstein piano and this piano stool were selected by Lady Chelmsford, spouse of the then Governor, in 1906 for Old Government House and moved to *Fernberg* in 1910. In 1985 the piano was returned to Old Government House, then under the care of the National Trust of Queensland. The original piano stool, however, remains at *Fernberg*.



Eastern Balcony Furniture

The first house built on the Paddington site had verandahs on three sides, but subsequent extensions and alterations removed or closed-in a number of the outdoor living spaces. The east-facing balcony was roofed in 1987, having been added in the 1950s in preparation for a visit by Her Majesty The Queen. It is now furnished in a casual style suited to outdoor living in Brisbane's sub-tropical climate.

noor

Coleman Chairs

The collection includes nine cedar-framed armchairs which were selected by Lady Lavarack in 1948 during the term of office of Sir John Lavarack. Made by the Melbourne firm GI Woodhouse, they have been re-covered on three occasions since their acquisition, and three of the six had grooving and shell carving added in 1987 during the tenure of Sir Walter Campbell. While traditionally always referred to as 'Coleman chairs', the origin of this descriptor is unknown.





Clock

There are several clocks of heritage and historical interest on display at *Fernberg*. A French three-piece 'garniture' (a set of decorative objects) dates from the 1890s and was acquired by the House in 1998. It takes pride of place on the mantle in the Governor's Study. The clock is flanked by two 'tazze' – urns topped by a shallow, dish-shape. The set is made of slate and marble and decorated with gilt classical figures.

voor

Small Dining Table and Chairs

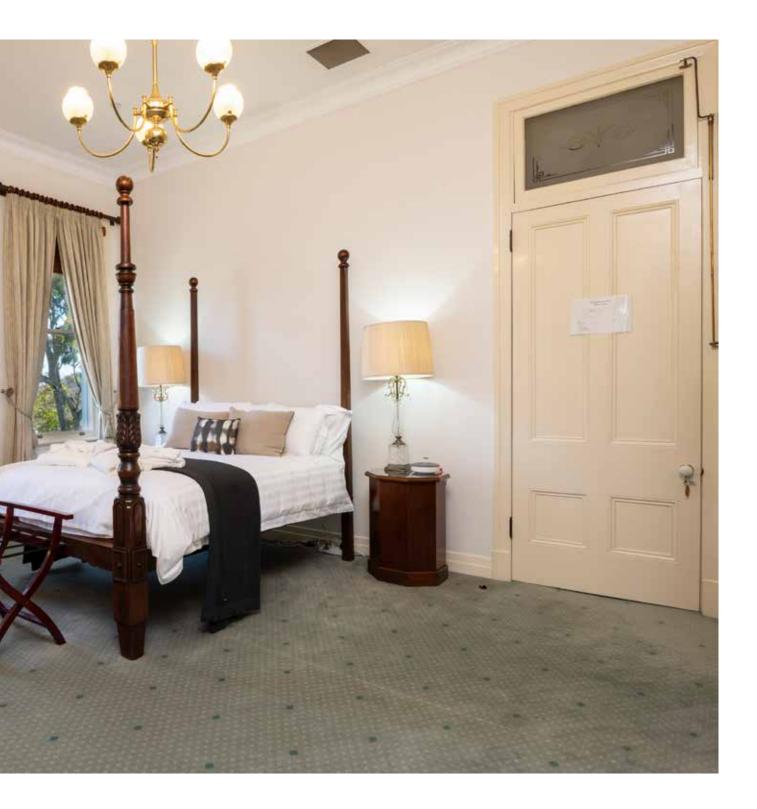
The mahogany dining table has canted corners and turned, fluted and reeded legs on brass castors. Two loose-leaf sections are inserted to extend the solid mahogany top of the table. A set of 22 reproduction Chippendale chairs (some of which are pictured), made from Queensland maple, was purchased from Toowoomba cabinetmaker, W Rooke and son Alan, in 1960. The provenance of the table is not recorded. The Fernberg Room is used for meetings, including Executive Council meetings, and less formal lunches and dinners.



Four Poster Bed

The Wilson Suite became famous in 1954 when Queen Elizabeth stayed at *Fernberg* with her cousin, Lady May Cambridge, the wife of the then governor, Sir Henry Abel-Smith. In 1982, the Suite became the home of an antique four-poster bed, made from native Rosewood or Australian Rose Mahogany (*Dysoxylum fraserianum*). The bed was purchased when the Makin family auctioned the homestead and contents of the historic Old Gowrie Station near Charleville.





43



The six lyre-back chairs were acquired by Sir Henry Abel Smith, Governor from 1958 to 1966. Manufactured by CH Major, 154 Kensington St, London in c. 1963, the chairs are made from mahogany and, in addition to the distinctive lyreshaped splats, feature brass inlay in the top rails and sabre legs. They were purchased on Sir Henry's behalf in London by Queensland's Agent General.







Octagonal Tables

The two octagonal tables were made from mahogany by Finney Isles & Co. in 1895 for Old Government House and were brought to *Fernberg* in 1910.



Card Table

The Regency style pedestal card table dates from c. 1870 and has a bulbous column and so-called 'bun' feet. It was purchased from Collectors Corner Antiques, Brisbane.

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Regency Style Pot Cupboard

Before indoor flushing toilets became commonplace, a 'pot cupboard' was often located in bedrooms. This cupboard is English and dates from 1820–1840. It is made from satinwood with a marble inset on the top and came into the Queensland Art Gallery collection from the estate of Dr Ernest Singer, a medical researcher who died in Brisbane in 1975.



Carousel Book Case

Acquired in 2017, this restored antique carousel bookcase dates from c. 1900 and is used in the Governor's Study to hold books and display items of interest. Revolving bookcases were recorded in China as early as the year 500.



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Study Cabinet

The framed-glass doors of this yellow-wood cabinet in the Spouse's Study enable visitors to see the display of programs and other memorabilia from the many events attended by the Governor and Mrs Kaye de Jersey. The date of acquisition is not known but the cabinet, with its carved barley-twist highlights, dates from c.1900.

Tessellated, Encaustic Tiles

Geometric or tessellated tiles became fashionable throughout the British Empire in the late 19th century when Queen Victoria commissioned them for Osborne House on the Isle of Wight. The Minton factory in Stoke-on-Trent led the way in producing so-called 'encaustic' tiles in which the colour is created by inlaying clay in different colours before glazing and firing so that the design never wears out. There are an estimated twenty thousand individual tiles in the *Fernberg* entry hall.







Winged-back Chairs

These five French Provincial style chairs with Louis XV cabriole front legs and carved 'knees' have been part of Government House since 1973 when they were selected by Lady Hannah, wife of Queensland's 19th Governor, Sir Colin Hannah, and acquired from the Brisbane firm, T Early and Sons, of Colmslie. The stylized pineapple in the upholstery fabric has led to the chairs being referred to affectionately as the 'pineapple chairs' in reference to the fruit's long history as a symbol of generous hospitality – and more recently as the fruit most closely associated with Queensland.



Drawing Room Carpets and Fabrics

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The fabrics and furnishings at Government House are carefully selected to reflect different perspectives of Queensland and the rich heritage of its people and places. In 2016, curtains, carpets and furniture coverings in *Fernberg's* public rooms were refurbished. The colour palette of sage green, gold, ivory and cream was inspired by the restorations done for Lady Wilson, wife of then governor Sir Leslie Wilson, in the 1930s. The rich textures, patterns and motifs of the fabrics reflect Australian themes while showcasing Queensland skills and materials.

Notes

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50



GOVERNMENT HOUSE Queensland

ISBN xxx-x-xxxx-xxxxx-x