

New Zealand's Governor-General



Captain William Hobson



Sir Bernard Fergusson



Sir Arthur Porritt



Dame Catherine Tizard



Sir Anand Satyanand

New Zealand's Head of State is Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of New Zealand.

The Governor-General is the Queen's representative in the Realm of New Zealand, which includes Niue, the Cook Islands, Tokelau and the Ross Dependency.

The Governor-General is appointed by the Queen, on the recommendation of the Prime Minister, usually for a term of five years. The holder of the office has important constitutional, ceremonial and community roles.

The Office of the Governor-General is a symbol of national unity and leadership. It is apolitical – the Governor-General does not engage in debate on political matters. The Governor-General carries out formal constitutional duties in New Zealand representing the Sovereign, such as summoning and dissolving Parliament, swearing-in the Prime Minister and other Ministers of the Crown, and signing Acts of Parliament into law.

In the more than 170 years since the first Governor, William Hobson, was appointed, the role has changed as New Zealand has evolved from a colony into an independent nation.

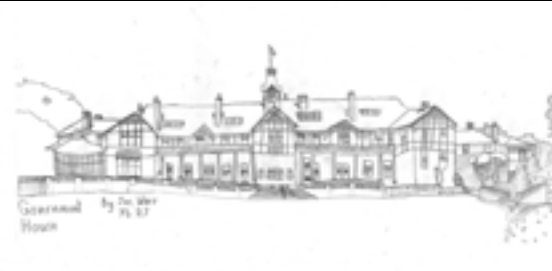
Until the late 1960s, the Governors-General came from a British military or aristocratic background. Since 1967 all Governors-General have been born in New Zealand and have come from a mix of professions.

The Governor-General travels throughout New Zealand and overseas, celebrating and supporting New Zealand and New Zealanders, and representing our country at major international events.

The Governor-General of the 21st Century is a New Zealander who represents the best of our country to New Zealand and the world.



For more information on tours,
the role of Governor-General
or the history of
Government House visit
www.gg.govt.nz



Government House The official residence of New Zealand's Governor-General

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VISITORS' GUIDE
www.gg.govt.nz



Government House Then and Now



Government House
1923



Government House
2000



2008 restoration



Government House
today

Government House was opened in 1910. It is the official residence of the Governor-General, the representative of the Queen of New Zealand.

As well as being the home and office of the Governor-General, it is also a venue for important events, including State Welcomes for visiting Heads of State, investiture and credentials ceremonies and the swearing-in of new governments.

It plays a key role as a place where Their Excellencies engage with a wide range of community organisations. Members of the Royal Family, Heads of State and other distinguished guests often stay at the House when making official visits to New Zealand.

Government House has eight guest suites, a self-contained apartment for the Governor-General and family, as well as a ballroom, conservatory, sitting rooms, service rooms, kitchens and a wing of offices.

The House has a floor area of more than 4,200m² and is located on 12ha of grounds.

Between 2008 and 2011 the House was closed for major seismic strengthening and refurbishment. Today the exterior of the house has been returned to the original roofline and colour scheme reflecting the colonial past of the building. The interior of the house reflects the nature of the New Zealand Governor-General's role and showcases New Zealand art and culture.

The rooms at a glance

The Taupaepae is the official entrance to the House. Its walls are adorned with Coats of Arms for each Governor and Governor-General who has lived in the house. Pou, presented by Sir Paul Reeves, are in the entrance.

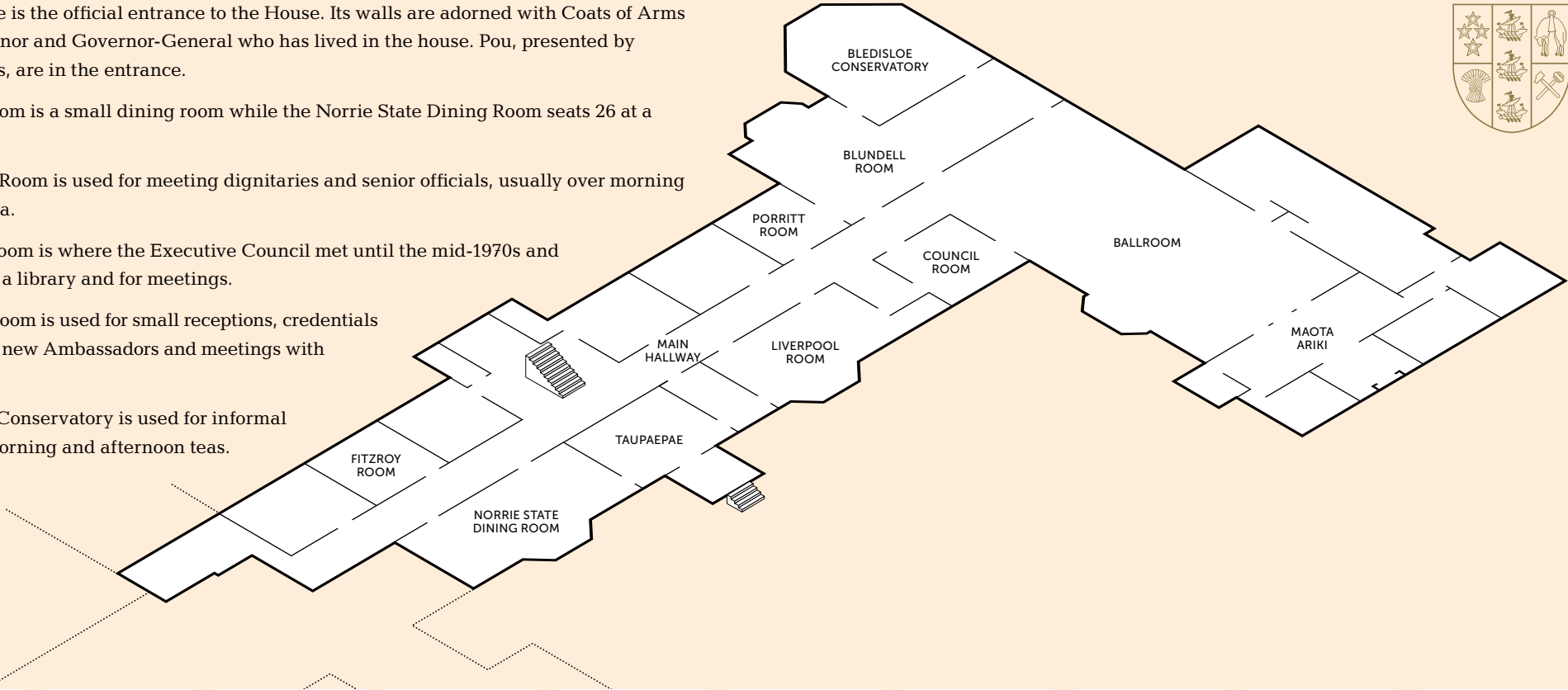
The Fitzroy Room is a small dining room while the Norrie State Dining Room seats 26 at a formal dinner.

The Liverpool Room is used for meeting dignitaries and senior officials, usually over morning or afternoon tea.

The Council Room is where the Executive Council met until the mid-1970s and is now used as a library and for meetings.

The Blundell Room is used for small receptions, credentials ceremonies for new Ambassadors and meetings with Heads of State.

The Bledisloe Conservatory is used for informal lunches and morning and afternoon teas.



Queen Elizabeth II
painting



King George V
painting



Czech crystal
chandeliers



Blüthner grand piano



Nathaniel Dance
Holland painting 1776



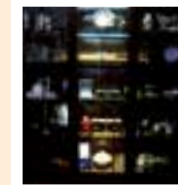
Day and Night screen
by Peter McIntyre



King George VI chairs



Sir Peter Siddell's
painting of Wellington



Display cabinets
of official gifts



New Zealand art
collection



Stained glass windows
with Royal Coat of Arms



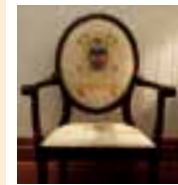
Governor-General
portraits



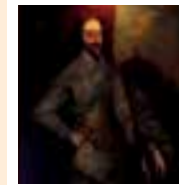
Circular dining table
by David Kirkland



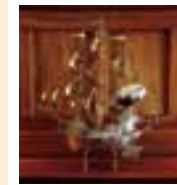
Japanned cabinet



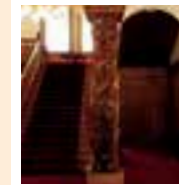
Royal Visit tapestry
chairs



Portraits donated
by Lord Norrie



Silverware: Galleon
from King of Spain



Carved pillar
facings (pou)



Coats of Arms



Marquetry table by
Anton Seuffert (attr.)