



Former Governors-General

37 people - 33 men and 4 women- have held the Vice-regal office in New Zealand since Captain William Hobson became Lieutenant-Governor in 1840. This timeline tells the story of each of them.

The title of Governor-General has only been used since 1917, making Dame Cindy Kiro the 22nd Governor-General of New Zealand.

Timeline

1840



Captain William Hobson, RN
(/biographies/captain-william-hobson-rn)

Role: Lieutenant-Governor

Term: 1840 - 1842

(/biographies/captain-

william-
hobson-rn).

Lieutenant-Governor (1840 - 1841) and Governor (1841 - 1842). William Hobson was born in Ireland in 1793 and went to sea at the age of nine. In 1836, he commanded the frigate 'Rattlesnake' in Port Phillip (Melbourne). He surveyed the harbour and was then sent to the Bay of Islands to report on New Zealand.

1843



Captain Robert FitzRoy, RN
 (/biographies/captain-robert-fitzroy-rn)

Role: Governor

Term: 1843 - 1845

(/biographies/captain-robert-fitzroy-rn)

Robert FitzRoy was born in Suffolk in 1805. He entered the navy in 1819 and commanded HMS Beagle on Darwin's

famous voyage. He visited the Bay of Islands in the ship in 1835 and reported favourably to a House of Lords committee on the work of the missionaries. He took up his appointment as Governor in 1843 but was recalled after agitation led by the New Zealand Company.

1845



Sir George Grey
 (/biographies/sir-george-grey)

Role: Governor of New Zealand

Term: 1845 - 1868

(/biographies/sir-george-grey)

Sir George is the only man to have served serve two terms as Vice-regal representative: 1845-1853 and 1861-1868.

1855



Colonel Thomas Gore Browne, CB
 (/biographies/colonel-thomas-gore-browne-cb)

Role: Governor of New Zealand

Term: 1855 - 1861

(/biographies/colonel-thomas-gore-browne-cb)

Sir Thomas was born in 1807 and entered the army as ensign in 1824. He rose to

Captain in 1829 and then to Major in 1834. He served in the 1st Afghan War as a Major in the 41st Regiment, covering the retreat of Sir John England's force. He was made Lt-Colonel of the 41st on his return to England.

1868

P



Sir George Ferguson Bowen, GCMG (/biographies/sir-george-ferguson-bowen-gcmg)

Role: Governor of New Zealand

Term: 1868 - 1873

(/biographies/sir-george-ferguson-bowen-gcmg)

Born in 1821, Sir George graduated with an MA from Oxford in 1847. He became President of the University of Corfu in 1847, a position he held for four years. He was appointed as Governor of New Zealand having served as the first Governor of Queensland.

1873



The Rt Hon Sir James Fergusson, Bt. (/biographies/rt-hon-sir-james-fergusson-bt)

Role: Governor of New Zealand

Term: 1873 - 1874

(/biographies/rt-hon-sir-james-fergusson-bt)

Sir James was under-secretary at the India Office in 1866 and held the same position at the Home office in 1867. He was

Governor of South Australia in 1869-73 before becoming Governor of New Zealand in 1873.

1875



Marquess of Normanby, GCB, GCMG, PC (/biographies/marquess-normanby-gcb-gcmg-pc)

Role: Governor of New Zealand

Term: 1875 - 1879

(/biographies/marquess-normanby-gcb-gcmg-pc)

Sir George Augustus Constantine Phipps, 2nd Marquess of Normanby, was born in

1819, and was Lt Governor of Nova Scotia 1858-63. He was Governor of Queensland before taking up office in New Zealand.

1879



Sir Hercules George Robert Robinson, GCMG
 (/biographies/sir-hercules-george-robert-robinson-gcmg)

(/biographies/sir-hercules-george-robert-robinson-gcmg)

Role: Governor of New Zealand

Term: 1879 - 1880

Born in 1824, Sir Hercules was a Sandhurst graduate. He became 1st Lt of the 87th Regiment in 1844 but resigned his commission in 1846. He became President of Montserrat in 1854 and subsequently

held several governorships before taking up the position in New Zealand in 1879.

1880



The Hon. Sir Arthur Hamilton Gordon, GCMG
 (/biographies/hon-sir-arthur-hamilton-gordon-gcmg)

(/biographies/hon-sir-arthur-hamilton-gordon-gcmg)

Role: Governor of New Zealand

Term: 1880 - 1882

Sir Arthur was born in 1829 and graduated with an MA from Cambridge in 1851. A year later he became secretary to his father

who was Prime Minister (1852-55). Sir Arthur was a Liberal MP from 1854 to 1857. His governorships, apart from New Zealand, included New Brunswick, Trinidad, Mauritius and Ceylon. He was the first High Commissioner to the Western Pacific 1877-82.

1883



Lt. General Sir William Francis Drummond Jervois, GCMG, CB
 (/biographies/lt-general-sir-william-francis-drummond-jervois-gcmg-cb)

(/biographies/lt-general-sir-william-francis-drummond-)

Role: Governor of New Zealand

Term: 1883 - 1889

jervois-gcmg-cb) Sir William became Governor of Straits Settlements (1875-77) and South Australia (1877-82) before taking up office in New Zealand. He was instrumental in planning and setting up coastal defences during his term as Governor.

1889



Earl of Onslow, GCMG
(/biographies/earl-onslow-gcmg)

Role: Governor of New Zealand

Term: 1889 - 1892

(/biographies/earl-onslow-gcmg). Born in 1853, Sir William Hillier Onslow was appointed Governor of New Zealand in 1889 but resigned in 1892 to return to England.

1892



Earl of Glasgow, GCMG
(/biographies/earl-glasgow-gcmg)

Role: Governor of New Zealand

Term: 1892 - 1897

(/biographies/earl-glasgow-gcmg). Sir David Boyle Glasgow was born in 1833 and received a Barony for his services as Governor of New Zealand. He was the cousin of another Governor of New Zealand, Sir James Fergusson.

1897



Earl of Ranfurly, GCMG
(/biographies/earl-ranfurly-gcmg)

Role: Governor of New Zealand

Term: 1897 - 1904

(/biographies/earl-ranfurly-gcmg)

[ranfurly-gcmg](#)

Sir Uchter John Mark Knox Ranfurly was Lord-in-Waiting to Queen Victoria from 1895-97 before taking up office in New Zealand. He threatened to resign because of salary reductions and had to subsidise his pay from private sources.

1904

P



Lord Plunket, GCMG, KCVO
([/biographies/lord-plunket-gcmg-kcvo](#))

([/biographies/lord-plunket-gcmg-kcvo](#))

Role: Governor of New Zealand
Term: 1904 - 1910

Sir William Lee Plunket became Governor of New Zealand in 1904, is best remembered for his support of Truby-King's early work and for giving his name to the Plunket Society. He also donated cricket's Plunket Shield.

1910



Lord Islington, KCMG, DSO, PC
([/biographies/lord-islington-kcmg-dso-pc](#))

([/biographies/lord-islington-kcmg-dso-pc](#))

Role: Governor of New Zealand
Term: 1910 - 1912

Sir John Poynder Dickson-Poynder Islington served in the Boer War. When he became Governor of New Zealand in 1910, he was the first Governor to reside in the current Government House in Wellington.

1912



Earl of Liverpool, GCB, GCMG, GBE, MVO, PC
 (/biographies/earl-liverpool-gcb-gcmg-gbe-mvo-pc)

(/biographies/earl-liverpool-gcb-gcmg-gbe-mvo-pc)

Role: Governor-General of New Zealand

Term: 1912 - 1920

Sir Arthur William de Brito Savile Foljambe Liverpool, 2nd Earl, had the distinction of being New Zealand's last Governor and first Governor-General.

1920



Viscount Jellicoe, GCB, OM, GCVO
 (/biographies/viscount-jellicoe-gcb-om-gcvo)

(/biographies/viscount-jellicoe-gcb-om-gcvo)

Role: Governor-General of New Zealand

Term: 1920 - 1924

A noted naval figure, Sir John Rushworth Jellicoe entered the Royal Navy as cadet in 1872 and eventually rose to command

Britain's Grand Fleet from 1914 to 1916. He was appointed First Sea Lord, Chief of Naval Staff and Viscount after the Battle of Jutland in 1916.

1924



General Sir Charles Fergusson, Bt., GCMG, KCB, DSO, MVO
 (/biographies/general-sir-charles-fergusson-bt-gcmg-kcb-dso-mvo)

(/biographies/general-sir-charles-fergusson-bt-gcmg-kcb-dso-mvo)

Role: Governor-General of New Zealand

Term: 1924 - 1930

Sir Charles was the son of Sir James Fergusson, former Governor of New Zealand. He was born in 1865. Sir Charles was educated at Eton and Sandhurst before joining the Grenadier Guards and saw service in Africa at

1930



Viscount Bledisloe, GCMG, KBE, PC
 (/biographies/viscount-bledisloe-gcmg-kbe-pc)

(/biographies/viscount-

bledisloe-

gcmg-kbe-pc).

Role: Governor-General of New Zealand

Term: 1930 - 1935

Sir Charles Bathurst Bledisloe was a

lawyer and MP before becoming

Governor-General. He donated the Waitangi Estate to the nation and contributed funds for the restoration of the Treaty House. He donated the Bledisloe Cup for New Zealand-Australia rugby matches.

1935



Viscount Galway, GCMG, DSO, OBE, PC
 (/biographies/viscount-galway-gcmg-dso-obe-pc)

(/biographies/viscount-

galway-gcmg-

dso-obe-pc).

Role: Governor-General of New Zealand

Term: 1935 - 1941

Sir George Vere Arundell Monckton-

Arundell Galway joined the Life Guards,

and in the First World War he became

Adjutant-General and Quartermaster-General. He was Colonel-Commandant of the Life Guards and Royal Artillery Company between the wars. His term as Governor-General of New Zealand was extended because of World War II.

1941



Marshal of the RAF Sir Cyril Louis Norton Newall, GCB, OM, GCMG, CBE, AM
 (/biographies/marshal-raf-sir-cyril-louis-norton-newall-gcb-om-gcmg-cbe-am)

(/biographies/marshal-

raf-sir-cyril-

louis-norton-

newall-gcb-

om-gcmg-

cbe-am).

Role: Governor-General of New Zealand

Term: 1941 - 1946

Sir Cyril Louis Norton Newall was Chief of Air Staff (1937-40) and Marshal of the

Royal Air Force in 1940, before being appointed Governor-General of New Zealand in 1941.

1946



Lt. General the Lord Freyberg, VC, GCMG, KCB, KBE, DSO
(/biographies/lt-general-lord-freyberg-vc-gcmg-kcb-kbe-dso)

(/biographies/lt-general-lord-freyberg-vc-gcmg-kcb-kbe-dso)

Role: Governor-General of New Zealand

Term: 1946 - 1952

Lieutenant-General Sir Bernard Cyril

Freyberg won the Victoria Cross during his service in the First World War and

commanded the New Zealand Division in Greece, Africa and Italy during the Second World War.

1952



Lt. General the Lord Norrie, GCMG, GCVO, CB, DSO, MC
(/biographies/lt-general-lord-norrie-gcmg-gcvo-cb-dso-mc)

(/biographies/lt-general-lord-norrie-gcmg-gcvo-cb-dso-mc)

Role: Governor-General of New Zealand

Term: 1952 - 1957

Sir Charles Willoughby Moke Norrie was Governor of South Australia for seven years before taking up office in New Zealand.

1957



Viscount Cobham, GCMG, TD
(/biographies/viscount-cobham-gcmg-td)

(/biographies/viscount-cobham-gcmg-td)

Role: Governor-General of New Zealand

Term: 1957 - 1962

cobham- As Governor-General of New Zealand, Sir
gcmg-td) Charles John Lyttelton, 10th Viscount
Cobham, became deeply involved in the
establishment of New Zealand's Outward Bound movement.

1962



Brigadier Sir Bernard Fergusson, GCMG, GCVO, DSO, OBE

(/biographies/brigadier-sir-bernard-fergusson-gcmg-gcvo-dso-obe)

(/biographies/brigadier-sir-bernard-fergusson-gcmg-gcvo-dso-obe)

Role: Governor-General of New Zealand

Term: 1962 - 1967

Sir Bernard served with distinction in the Second World War, and when he became Governor-General in 1962, he was following in the footsteps of both his grandfathers, Sir James Fergusson and the Earl of Glasgow, who were Governors of New Zealand; and his father, Sir Charles Fergusson, who was Governor-General (1924-30).

1967



Sir Arthur Espie Porritt, Bt., GCMG, GCVO, CBE
(/biographies/sir-arthur-espie-porritt-bt-gcmg-gcvo-cbe)

(/biographies/sir-arthur-espie-porritt-bt-gcmg-gcvo-cbe)

Role: Governor-General of New Zealand

Term: 1967 - 1972

Sir Arthur was the first New Zealand-born Governor-General and Captain of New Zealand's Olympic team in 1924 and 1928. He was also a distinguished surgeon, serving as Surgeon to King George VI and Sergeant-Surgeon to Queen Elizabeth II.

1972



Sir (Edward) Denis Blundell, GCMG, GCVO, KBE, QSO
 (/biographies/sir-edward-denis-blundell-gcmg-gcvo-kbe-qso)

edward-
denis-
blundell-
gcmg-gcvo-
kbe-qso)

Role: Governor-General of New Zealand

Term: 1972 - 1977

Sir Denis served as High Commissioner for New Zealand in Britain and Ambassador to Ireland, from 1968 until his appointment as Governor-General in 1972.

1977



The Rt Hon Sir Keith Jacka Holyoake, KG, GCMG, CH, QSO
 (/biographies/rt-hon-sir-keith-jacka-holyoake-kg-gcmg-ch-qso)

(/biographies/rt-
hon-sir-
keith-jacka-
holyoake-kg-
gcmg-ch-qso)

Role: Governor-General of New Zealand

Term: 1977 - 1980

Sir Keith was born in 1904 and after serving as Prime Minister in 1957 and again from 1960 to 1972, was the first politician to be appointed Governor-General.

1980



The Hon Sir David Stuart Beattie, GCMG, GCVO, QSO, QC
 (/biographies/hon-sir-david-stuart-beattie-gcmg-gcvo-qso-qc)

(/biographies/hon-
sir-david-
stuart-
beattie-gcmg-
gcvo-qso-qc)

Role: Governor-General of New Zealand

Term: 1980 - 1985

Sir David served in the army and navy reserve during the Second World War before entering the Law and service as a Supreme Court judge.

1985



The Hon and the Rt Rev Sir Paul Alfred Reeves, GCMG, GCVO, QSO (/biographies/hon-and-rt-rev-sir-paul-reeves-gcmg-gcvo-qso)

(/biographies/hon-and-rt-rev-sir-paul-reeves-gcmg-gcvo-qso)

Role: Governor-General of New Zealand

Term: 1985 - 1990

Sir Paul was New Zealand's first Governor-General of Māori descent and served a significant career in the Anglican

Church, becoming Primate and Archbishop of New Zealand in 1980.

1990



The Hon Dame Catherine Anne Tizard, GCMG, GCVO, DBE, QSO (/biographies/hon-dame-catherine-tizard-gcmg-gcvo-dbe-qso)

(/biographies/hon-dame-catherine-tizard-gcmg-gcvo-dbe-qso)

Role: Governor-General of New Zealand

Term: 1990 - 1996

Dame Catherine Tizard was New Zealand's first female Governor-General, a role to which she came after being the first

woman to be elected Mayor of Auckland.

1996



The Rt Hon Sir Michael Hardie Boys, GNZM, GCMG, QSO (/biographies/rt-hon-sir-michael-hardie-boys-gnzm-gcmg-qso)

(/biographies/rt-hon-sir-michael-hardie-boys-gnzm-gcmg-qso)

Role: Governor-General of New Zealand

Term: 1996 - 2001

Sir Michael was born in Wellington and had a distinguished career in law and practised in Wellington, before being appointed Court Judge in 1980.

2001



**The Hon Dame Silvia
Cartwright, PCNZM, DBE, QSO**
(/biographies/hon-dame-silvia-cartwright-pcnzm-dbe-qso)

(/biographies/hon-dame-silvia-cartwright-pcnzm-dbe-qso)

Role: Governor-General of New Zealand

Term: 2001 - 2006

Dame Silvia was born in Dunedin, studied Law at Otago University and after several years in private practice, embarked on a judicial career that culminated in her

becoming the first woman to be appointed to the High Court.

2006



**Rt Hon Sir Anand Satyanand,
GNZM, QSO** (/biographies/rt-hon-sir-anand-satyanand-gnzm-qso)

(/biographies/rt-hon-sir-anand-satyanand-gnzm-qso)

Role: Governor-General of New Zealand

Term: 2006 - 2011

The Rt Hon Sir Anand Satyanand was born in Auckland and served as a District Court Judge from 1982 and two terms as a Parliamentary Ombudsman from 1995

2011



**Lt Gen The Rt Hon Sir Jerry
Mateparae, GNZM, QSO**
(/biographies/lt-gen-rt-hon-sir-jerry-mateparae-gnzm-qso)

(/biographies/lt-gen-rt-hon-sir-jerry-mateparae-gnzm-qso)

Role: Governor-General of New Zealand

Term: 2011 - 2016

Lieutenant General The Right Honourable Sir Jerry Mateparae was sworn in as New Zealand's 20th Governor-General for a five year term on 31 August 2011.

2016



The Rt Hon Dame Patsy Reddy, GNZM, CVO, QSO
 (/biographies/rt-hon-dame-patsy-reddy-gnzm-cvo-qso)

(/biographies/rt-hon-dame-patsy-reddy-gnzm-cvo-qso).

Role: Governor-General of New Zealand

Term: 2016 - 2021

Dame Patsy Reddy was born in Matamata and studied law at Victoria University of Wellington before working for law firm Watts and Patterson (now Minter Ellison Rudd Watts), and co-founding Active Equities Limited, a private investment company.

2021



The Rt Hon Dame Cindy Kiro, GNZM, QSO
 (/biographies/rt-hon-dame-cindy-kiro-gnzm-qso)

(/biographies/rt-hon-dame-cindy-kiro-gnzm-qso).

Role: Governor-General of New Zealand

Term: 2021 - 2026

Dame Alcyion Cynthia (Cindy) Kiro was born in Whangārei, Northland, in 1958, the eldest of six children. She is of Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Hine, Ngāti Kahu and British descent.