

# AUSTRALIA'S GOVERNOR-GENERALS ON MACQUARIENET

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In the Search box, type in *governor-general*, and start exploring this fascinating topic. And don't forget to create and build your own Learning Trail on *MacquarieNet*.

## Activities

1. Create a timeline of governor-generals. Use the following headings: year appointed, name, country of birth, picture (you will find these under 'images') if available and (two) special facts.
2. The first Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia was opened in Melbourne on 9 May 1901. The Duke of Cornwall and York represented the British royal family and Australia's first Governor-General, Lord Hopetoun, also played an important part in the ceremony. Research some the events leading to this special occasion.
3. List some the key duties that a governor-general needs to perform.
4. The sacking of the Whitlam government in 1975 by the then governor-general, Sir John Kerr, was a unique event in Australia's political history. Why did Sir John Kerr take this action?
5. Investigate the MacQuest learning trail *Gough Whitlam – A Prime Minister is Dismissed*.
6. The governor-general presides over the Executive Council. What is the Executive Council?
7. Search MacquarieNet for Sir William Deane. Under 'News', research some of positive things he did and then make a guess as why you think he was so popular with some many Australians?
8. On MacquarieNet, research the appointment of Quentin Bryce as Australia's first female governor-general. Write a profile about Ms Bryce highlighting her brilliant career and making her an ideal person to be Australia's next governor-general.
9. What do you think might happen if Australia did not have a governor-general? Who might be head of state and what powers might they hold? Might Quentin Bryce be Australia's last governor-general if Australia became a republic?
10. Did you know that women did not get the vote at the same time as men. In fact, women were not allowed to vote at Federal government elections until 1904, but not allowed to stand for Federal parliament until 1922. On *MacquarieNet*, research *women's suffrage* to read about the struggle that women had to contend with in order to achieve the right to vote.
11. Classroom debate. Who should appoint Australia's head-of-state?