



## Lieutenant The Honourable PAUL DE JERSEY AC, CVO, QC



### Lieutenant De Jersey was appointed Patron of the Club in 2008

His Excellency was born in Brisbane in 1948, the third son of schoolteacher parents Ronald and Moya (both now deceased).

As a child he lived variously at Patrick Estate (outside Lowood in the Lockyer Valley), Coolabunia (outside Kingaroy), Maryborough and Longreach. He attended the Albert State School in Maryborough, the Longreach State School, then the Ipswich Central Boys School as the family transitioned to Brisbane in 1959.

In 1960 and 1961 (his Scholarship examination year) he attended Ithaca Creek State School, then the Church of England Grammar School (Churchie) from 1962 to 1965 – when he was awarded a Commonwealth Scholarship to The University of Queensland, where he graduated in Arts (1969) and Laws (with Honours) (1971).

During his secondary school years, he qualified with a Licentiate in Speech and Drama Australia (LSDA) through the Australian Music Examinations Board.

*We thank the History Interest Group and other volunteers who have researched and prepared these Notes. The series will be progressively expanded and developed. They are intended as casual reading for the benefit of Members, who are encouraged to advise of any inaccuracies in the material.*

*Please do not reproduce them or distribute them outside of the Club membership.*

In the last year of his law studies, he was Associate to Sir Charles Wanstall, a Supreme Court Judge who went on to become the thirteenth Chief Justice of Queensland (1977-1982).

In December 1971, he married Kaye Brown, a qualified librarian whom he met while she was working in the Law School library at St Lucia. She had worked at various branch libraries at the University in the 1970s - including as Librarian in charge of the Architecture Library.

The de Jerseys have three children, Carolyn (a secondary school teacher and psychologist), Alison (a solicitor), and David (a barrister), who all reside in Brisbane with their families.

While at university, he served for five years part-time in the Citizens Military Force, in the Queensland University Regiment, and was commissioned as a Lieutenant in 1969.

He was called to the bar at the end of 1971, where he developed a broad common law practice with emphasis on commercial and constitutional law. He appeared in all Queensland courts, many times in the High Court of Australia, and twice in London before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. He was appointed as Her Majesty's Counsel (QC) in 1981.

He was appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland in 1985. His subsequent 29-year judicial career included many circuit sittings throughout the state. He served as Chair of the Queensland Law Reform Commission (1996-1997) and President of the Industrial Court of Queensland (1996-1997).

On 17 February 1998, he was appointed as the 17<sup>th</sup> Chief Justice of Queensland and served in that role for more than 16 years until 8 July 2014. This period saw the court go through a time of rapid technological change. He sat at both trial level and on appeal, and regularly in regional courts; exercised the criminal jurisdiction of the District Court on Thursday Island; and was the first State Chief Justice to conduct a murder trial in Longreach (where he had lived as a child). In 2012, he led the metropolitan courts' move from the courthouse at 304 George Street to the Queen Elizabeth II Courts of Law at 415 George Street. He was instrumental at all stages of that new courthouse development.

Beyond the court, he was extensively involved in community and charitable endeavour, especially in Queensland. He served as Chairman of the Queensland Cancer Fund (1994-2001), President of the Australian Cancer Society (1998-2001), and a Trustee of the National Breast Cancer Foundation (1994-1999). He also chaired the Council of QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute - Queensland's leading medical research institute - from June 2013 until his appointment as Governor.

His Excellency was a member of the Council of his old school "Churchie" (1990-1997), and Chancellor of the Anglican Diocese of Brisbane (honorary legal adviser to the Archbishop) (1991-2014). In 2014 he was named Chancellor Emeritus of the Anglican Diocese of Brisbane.

His Excellency served on the Centenary of Federation Committee (Queensland) (1998-2002) and chaired the Queensland Constitutional Convention which met at Gladstone in June 1999.

Overseas, he was Visitor to the University of the South Pacific (2006-2009), and an Honorary Consultant to the Independent Commission on the Future of Policing (UK) (2012-2014) - established after a succession of devastating riots ravaged Great Britain.

Also, from 2006, as Chair of the Judicial Section of Lawasia (the Law Association for Asia and the Pacific), he chaired a biennial Conference of Chief Justices of Asia and the Pacific held, over his term in that role, in Hong Kong, Ho Chi Minh City, Seoul and Singapore.

As Chief Justice of Queensland, he was Patron of many charitable organizations, including Art from the Margins, the BBC Indigenous Fund and the UQ Pro Bono Law Centre – as well as others associated more directly with the legal profession and the delivery of legal services.

In recognition of his contribution to the Australian community, he was appointed a Companion of the Order of Australia in 2000 and was awarded a Centenary Medal in 2003.

He holds honorary doctorates from The University of Queensland (2000), the University of Southern Queensland (2008), and Griffith University (2014).

Throughout his adult life – in the family, in the community and in his profession – he has been strongly supported by his wife Kaye, who has an abiding interest in her family, literature, art, ballet and the theatre, and travel. Mrs de Jersey also is a graduate in Arts from The University of Queensland. She regularly accompanied him on his visits to regional centres throughout his judicial career and continues to do so.

His Excellency was appointed the 26<sup>th</sup> Governor of Queensland on 29 July 2014.

In November 2018, the Premier of Queensland announced The Queen had agreed to extend the appointment through to 29 July 2021.

Lieutenant De Jersey joined the Club in 1971. He and Mrs De Jersey have enjoyed a long association with the Club, and he continues to be an active Patron – including maintaining the annual Patron's Dinner on the Club's calendar.



Sources included:

- Various web pages
- *United Service Club, Queensland: The First Century, 1892-1992* by Flight Lieutenant Murray Adams and Lieutenant Colonel Peter Charlton
- Club Meeting Minutes, Annual Reports, and sundry documents
- Government House website <https://www.govhouse.qld.gov.au/> accessed 19 February 2021