

Governor of Victoria



Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC was sworn in as Victoria's 30th Governor in August 2023.

The Governor undertakes a program that fulfils her four areas of responsibility:

1. Constitutional Responsibilities

The Governor oversees the workings of the government of the day to ensure it acts within the boundaries of the Victorian Constitution and the rule of law.

The Governor's main constitutional responsibilities in relation to the Government are to:

- call an election
- chair the Executive Council
- give Royal Assent to Bills passed by both Houses of Parliament
- dissolve the Legislative Assembly in exceptional circumstances
- appoint and dismiss Ministers.

2. Community Engagement

The Governor seeks to represent and understand the whole Victorian community and encourages unity, mutual respect and confidence among its members.

The Governor is patron of many not-for-profit organisations and encourages people in a range of fields including voluntary service, innovation, education, artistic endeavours and sporting achievement.

3. Ceremonial Duties

The Governor's ceremonial duties include the Opening of Parliament; attending the Dawn Service and march past on ANZAC Day; swearing in Ministers and Supreme Court judges; presiding at investitures for the Order of Australia and other awards; and fulfilling the ceremonial role of 'University Visitor' of each Victorian university.

4. International Engagement

The Governor promotes Victoria's international economic, social and cultural interests, both at home and abroad.

To learn more about the history of Government House and the contemporary role of the Governor of Victoria, please visit www.governor.vic.gov.au

Social media

Please share your photos on Instagram and Facebook and don't forget to tag
@VicGovernor @GovernorofVictoria

#GHOpenDay26 #AustraliaDay
#ReflectRespectCelebrate

Photography

Photography and filming will take place today. By attending this event you are consenting to the use of your image, in full or in part, for any Government House related purposes, including social media.

Please inform Government House staff if you do not wish to be photographed or filmed.

Feedback

You can email us at info@govhouse.vic.gov.au



Government
House Victoria
Open Day 2026

Government House Victoria Open Day 2026

10.30am–3.30pm

1. General Information

- Complimentary sunscreen, First Aid and Lost Child Point
- Get a free skin check with the Australian Skin Cancer Foundation
- Accessibility information for House, Grounds and activities
- Children's scavenger hunt starting point

2. Tour

- Self-guided House tours start at the Fountain Court entrance
Last entry is at 3.30pm

3. Ballroom

- Take a closer look at the uniforms once worn by our team and the Oath Book that began it all
- View historic pieces from The Johnston Collection

4. Food and Beverage Precinct

- A variety of food vans
- Lions Club community BBQ
- Rotary Club sausage sizzle
- Ice cream and coffee carts
- 3MBS Melbourne 103.5FM – immerse yourself in the all-day live broadcast

5. Activities

- St John Mobile CPR Lab – learn CPR in 10 minutes!
- CFA display vehicle and demonstrations
- Royal Flying Doctor Service flight simulator

6. Western Lawn

- Picnic area – enjoy your picnic with views of the city skyline and Government House



- Ceremonial Trees – discover trees planted by members of the Royal Family, and former Governors and their spouses

7. Sporting Precinct

- Blind Tennis – test your skills and learn about the benefits of playing a sport
- Practise Tai Chi in the garden
- Swing into fun – try your hand at croquet!
- All-day tennis fun – come and have a shot!

8. Kitchen Garden and Children's Zone

- See what's growing in the Kitchen Garden
- Create your own Australian animal bag with Fizz Kidz
- Learn about the Government House beehive and the importance of sustainable living
- Roving entertainment & free face painting
- Picnic area in the Orchard

9. Displays

- Visit the Victoria SES display
- Learn about water safety with Life Saving Victoria
- Living Legends – pat former champion racehorses in the historic Hopetoun Stables

10. Courtyard

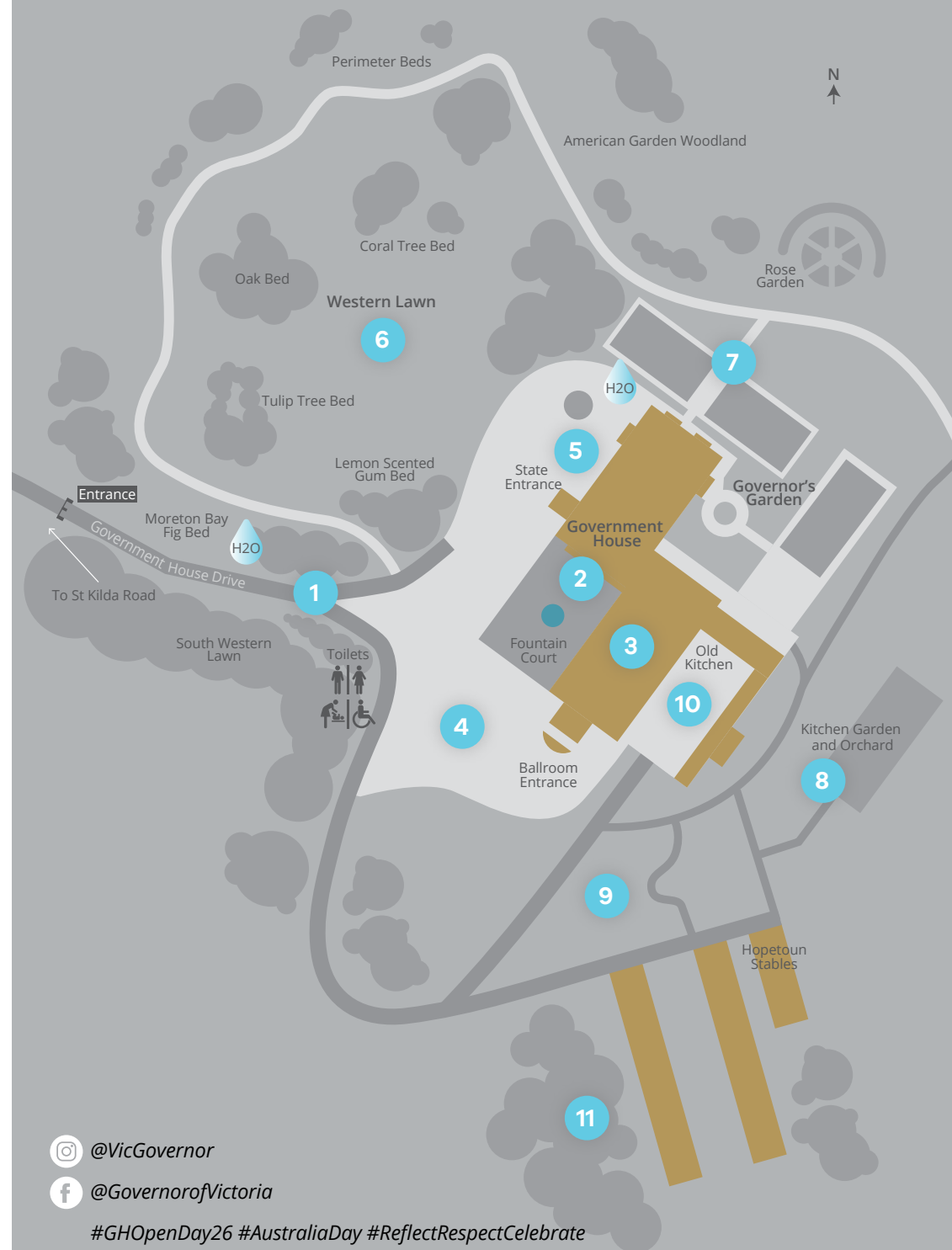
- Scones and tea by the Country Women's Association served in the Old Kitchen
- Enjoy the smooth sounds of the Alice Jazz Trio

II. Quiet Zone

A designated quiet space to rest and relax in a sensory-friendly environment

Around the Gardens

Enjoy live performances and roving entertainment throughout the day



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Please note: The 21 Gun Salute will take place at noon at the Shrine of Remembrance.