Government House
and Western Australian Society 1829-2010
By Jeremy C. Martens

This book will be released prior to CHOGM and the arrival of Queen Elizabeth II in Perth.

With a lineage stretching back to 1829, Government House and its grounds are among Perth’s most important and iconic historic monuments. It is, therefore, well-deserving of this first, full-length historical study.

This social history of Government House uncovers life stories of the scores of people who have lived and worked in this grand Victorian mansion and who played a crucial role in the creation and maintenance of Western Australia’s social order in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Intriguing stories, such as the ‘murder in the ballroom’ and a young royal’s impressions of the sandy colonial town, are woven into this thoroughly researched account.

It also describes the design, construction and furnishing of the residence, and the cultivation and landscaping of the surrounding domain.

The book’s handsome design showcases images from the earliest days of the Swan River settlement, royal visits, and the evolving appearance of Government House over two centuries.

Government House makes an important contribution to colonial history as well as our understanding of the fabric of Western Australian society.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jeremy Martens is currently Chair of the History Discipline at the University of Western Australia. He completed his BA (Hons) at the University of Natal, South Africa and his MA and PhD at Queen’s University at Kingston, Canada. He has published widely on South African and British imperial history, as well as teaching global history and the history of race and racism.