

SIR GUY GREEN AC KBE CVO

The Supreme Court of Tasmania notes with deep sadness that Sir Guy Stephen Montague Green AC KBE CVO has passed away after a short illness. He would have been 88 tomorrow and will be greatly missed. Sir Guy was the 10th Chief Justice of the Court between 1973 and 1995, the first Tasmanian born Governor of the State between 1995 and 2003 and served as Acting Administrator of the Commonwealth in 2003. He was born on 26 July 1937 and attended the Launceston Church Grammar School from 1942 to 1954. He graduated from the University of Tasmania in 1960, and practised law in Launceston until 1971 when he was appointed a magistrate. On 30 October 1973, at the age of 36, he was made Chief Justice. He served as Chancellor of the University of Tasmania between 1985 and 1995, and he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws by the University in 1996.

As Chief Justice for 22 years Sir Guy is the third longest serving leader of the Court, following Sir John Pedder and Sir Herbert Nicholls, and made a huge contribution to its evolution and development. He leaves a substantial legacy and is a notable professional example for those who follow in his footsteps. Significant events during his incumbency as Chief Justice included the move from the Campbell Street Courts to the new criminal courts in Salamanca in 1975 and the civil wing in 1980. These buildings remain the outward face of the Court in Hobart today. He was held in very high regard as a jurist and judicial administrator, which is reflected in the broad range of important public offices that he held. However, perhaps the best measure of his Honour's career is to be found in some of the reflections of current judges, including "at the risk of significant understatement, he was a very polite, patient, genial and careful judge with a great grasp of principle and a stout defender of the role of the rule of law and judicial independence."

Sir Guy chaired many bodies, ranging from St John Ambulance to Ten Days on the Island and the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery. He had an enduring and active interest in the Antarctic. He was an excellent speaker and delivered many orations and speeches. He was also a thoughtful writer and wrote many articles, chapters and forewords.

Tasmania is much the poorer for his passing.