

## RICHARD ARMSTRONG CROUCH

- Born 19<sup>th</sup> June 1868. Ballarat East. Father George Crouch, miner, store keeper and later wealthy boot retailer. Originally from London. Mother from Aberdeen.
- Attended Mt Pleasant State School. (headmaster, described as "brilliant" – W.H.Nichols )
- Family moves to Melbourne 1885, > Melbourne University for Articled Clerks course 1887.
- Supreme Judges Prize 1891 for essay on "Economic Co-operation."
- 1892 Admitted as Barrister and Solicitor and commenced practice.
- Member of Australian Natives Association and Imperial Federation League.
- 1901 as a Protectionist won Federal seat of Corio. Friend of Alfred Deakin. Defeated 1910.
- 1892 Commissioned 2<sup>nd</sup>.Infantry Battalion. 1903 Captain 6<sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Regiment. Supported National Service/compulsory military service. Warned re. Military strength of Germany. Lt Colonel 1913, 1915 commanded 22<sup>nd</sup> Battalion. Australian Imperial Force and landed at Gallipoli. Became ill in 1916 and returned to Australia and appointment terminated.
- Victorian branch president of Returned Soldiers' No-Conscription League. Opposed Hughes' referenda campaigns 1916 & 17.
- Joined Scullin in Labor Party. Won Corangamite in 1929, lost it in 1931.
- Forsakes politics for history, philanthropy, travel and writing.
- Ballarat Fine Art Gallery Bequest, George Crouch Prize for oils and sculpture 1926 and Minnie Crouch Prize 1944 for watercolours. Also collection of medieval and renaissance manuscripts.
- Initiated Avenue of Sculptures of Australian Prime ministers.
- Moved to Point Lonsdale to live with his sister. Died 7<sup>th</sup> April 1949 and buried there.