

Richard Armstrong Crouch (1868-1949)

In 1901 Richard Crouch was 33 years old and was the youngest member in the new Federal Parliament. He was the elected representative for the electorate of Corio from 1901 to 1910. After service in World War 1 and commanding the 22nd Battalion AIF at Gallipoli, he returned to Parliament for a two year period as a Labour member for Corangamite 1929-1931. During his two parliamentary terms Crouch served under two Ballarat Prime Ministers, Alfred Deakin and James Scullin, and was full of admiration of our earlier leaders. Using his parliamentary experiences he wrote "The Prime Minister", a novel published in 1937 under the pseudonym of Richard Greenhill. He was very keen for Australians to take a greater interest in their history. At the Ballarat Botanical Gardens he initiated the avenue of sculptures of Australian Prime Ministers. The Governor of Victoria, Sir Winston Dugan, unveiled the first 6 bronze busts mounted on polished granite pedestals on Saturday, March 2, 1940. Crouch donated the first 12 busts and made a bequest for maintaining the project. The Ballarat City council now takes financial responsibility for these commissions. The Crouch bequest continued a tradition that had developed as citizens desired to provide for their community a tangible expression of the good fortune they had enjoyed and experienced in their home city. It is these generous bequests over time by Stoddart, Thomson, Ham, Crouch, Clark and others that have added to the value, beauty and grandeur of these gardens.

Federation

The avenue of the busts of our Prime Ministers starts at 1901 with the bust of our first Prime Minister, Edmund Barton. 1901 is the year of the birth of Federation.

In 1901 the six separate British colonies became the new nation of Australia which became a Federation. The colonies, now States, retained their own Governments with the central Federal Parliament, known as the Commonwealth Government, governing the whole of Australia.

THE SCULPTORS

Wallace Anderson born at Dean near Ballarat, created the busts of the first 12 Prime Ministers. He used photos for the early ones but Fadden onwards busts were done from life. Another of Anderson's sculptures is the bust of Adam Lindsay Gordon outside Gordon's cottage in the gardens. Wallace Anderson's most renowned work is "Simpson and His Donkey" displayed at the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance. He worked for the Australian War Memorial and produced a large number of commemorative sculptures.

Ken Palmer was born and educated in Ballarat sculpted the bust of Chifley. Crouch chose Palmer for this commission. Palmer worked from photos for the sculpture and used Chifley's visit to Ballarat during the 1946 election campaign for a brief 45 minute sitting for further detail.

Victor Greenhalgh was born and educated in Ballarat and in 1955 became head of Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT)'s Art School. He created the busts from Holt to Fraser. His bust of Fraser went missing and it was later replaced. Greenhalgh and others were critical of the final casting. Following Greenhalgh's death in 1983, Peter Nicholson was asked to create a new bust for Fraser. Greenhalgh's statue of King George V sits on the corner of Drummond and Sturt Street, Ballarat.

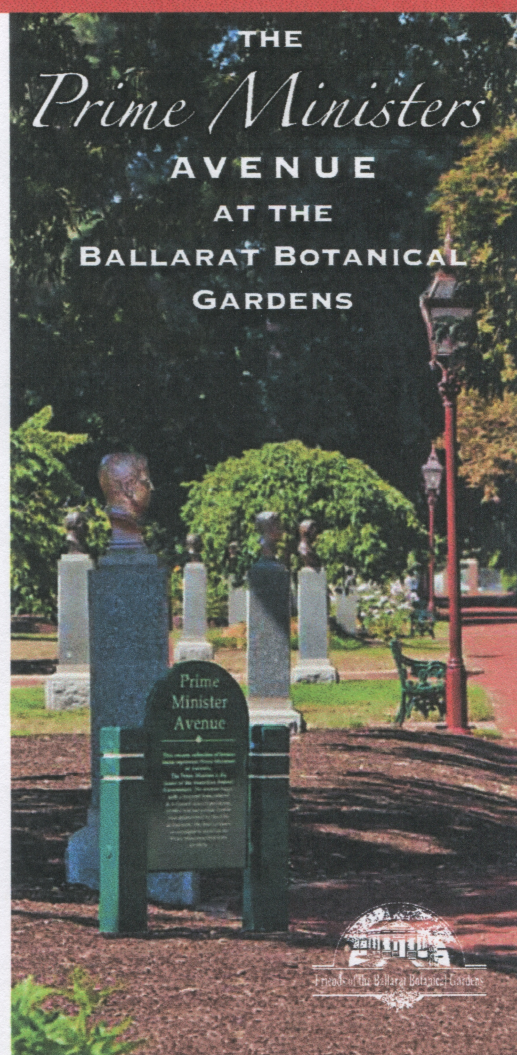
Peter Nicholson was born in Melbourne in 1946 and became renowned for his cartoons and in 1985 the "Rubbery Figures" TV puppets. When sculpting the busts he has imparted an expression of the character of the individual. Nicholson was also commissioned to produce the bust of Robert Clarke, founder of the Ballarat Courier, and this is mounted in the Robert Clarke Centre forecourt.



CITY OF
BALLARAT

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THE *Prime Ministers* AVENUE AT THE BALLARAT BOTANICAL GARDENS



The Prime Ministers OF THE BALLARAT BOTANICAL GARDENS

1901-14 Establishing Federation and building a nation

Different political groupings of similar strength and none able to attain dominance in Parliament led to instability. There were several changes of coalitions of these groups and this made the task of making federation a practical and enduring reality difficult. In spite of this national institutions and new Commonwealth policies (High Court, Arbitration system, White Australia Policy) were introduced.

Edmund Barton

1901 - 1903

Protectionist Party
Glebe, NSW

A strong advocate of the country becoming a federation and became Australia's first PM. Nicknamed Tossy or Tossy because of his love of good food and wine.



Alfred Deakin

1903 - 1904, 1905 - 1908
1909 - 1910

Protectionist Party,
Commonwealth Liberal Party
Fitzroy, Victoria

Outstanding politician for these difficult political times and his natural talents of compromise and persuasion were well used.



John Christian Watson

1904

Australian Labour Party
Valparaiso, Chile

Formed 1st National Labour Govt. in Australia and the world. Did not have a majority and had to negotiate with non-Labor to pursue his program. At 37 youngest person to become PM.

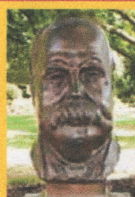


George Houston Reid

1904 - 1905

Free Trade Party
Johnstone, Renfrewshire, Scotland

Witty and earthy. His figure and appearance made him a cartoonist's delight.



Andrew Fisher

1908 - 1909 1910 - 1913
1914 - 1915

Australian Labour Party
Crosshouse, Ayrshire, Scotland

Was the first PM to hold a majority in both the Senate and House of Representatives and able to achieve many national development reforms.

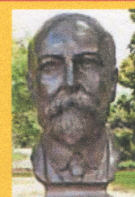


Joseph Cook

1913 - 1914

Commonwealth Liberal Party
Silverdale, Staffordshire, England

ALP controlled the Senate and Cook could only control the House of Representatives with the casting vote of the speaker and he was unable to implement new legislation.



1914-18 World War I

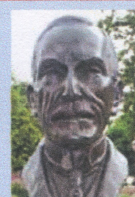
The outbreak of war was greeted with enthusiasm to support Britain. Australian soldiers fought at Gallipoli and on the Western Front and in the Middle East. The conscription referenda of 1916 and 1917 were both unsuccessful but were bitter and divisive contests.

William Morris Hughes

1915 - 1923

Australian Labor Party, National Labor Party,
Nationalist Party of Australia
Pimlico, England

A controversial and larger than life political character in his many years of parliamentary service. Contributed to the early Labor movement and was a tireless national wartime leader. Expelled from 3 different political parties he helped to form. Known as the "Little Digger".



1920's and 30's

After the Wall Street crash in 1929 unemployment in Australia more than doubled to 21% in mid 1930 and the following year was 32%. Federal and state governments wrangled over whether to adopt deflationary or inflationary measures.

Stanley Melbourne Bruce

1923 - 1929

Nationalist Party of Australia
Toorak, Victoria

First PM to lose his seat (Flinders) while in office.

Led the first all Australian-born cabinet.



James Henry Scullin

1929 - 1932

Australian Labor Party
Trawalla, Victoria

Developed his oratory skills at Ballarat South Street competitions. Unlucky to become PM a week before the Great Depression and had a hostile Senate with non-Labor control. He appointed the first Australian born Governor General, Sir Isaac Isaacs.



James Aloysius Lyons

1932 - 1939

Australian Labor Party,
United Australia Party
Stanley, Tasmania

Premier of Tasmania
1923 - 28

"Honest Joe" was a consensus politician and a popular public figure - won 3 terms. His wife, Dame Enid, was Australia's first woman parliamentarian and first female minister.



Earle Christmas Grafton Page

1939

Australian Country
Party
Grafton, NSW

Appointed as caretaker
PM for 20 days.



1939-45 World War II

Australia fought two wars - one against Germany and Italy and the other against Japan. Australia came under direct attack for the first time in its history in 1942 when the Japanese bombed Darwin and Japanese midget submarines entered Sydney Harbour. The Americans set up Pacific Headquarters in Australia for the command of the Allied forces and laid the basis for the shifting the focus of our foreign policy from Britain to USA.

Robert Gordon Menzies

1939 - 1941, 1949 - 1966

United Australia Party,
Liberal Party of Australia
Jeparit, Victoria

Some of his schooling was in Ballarat. He described himself as being "British to the bootstraps". Also known as "Pig Iron Bob" for selling scrap iron to Japan in his first term. He played a decisive role in 1944 in the formation of the Liberal Party. Australia's longest serving PM (18 years, 5 months, 10 days in total).



Arthur William Fadden

1941

Australian Country Party
Ingham, Queensland

When Menzies resigned as leader of UAP, Artie Fadden, Leader of the Australian Country Party, became PM for the days the Coalition government had the support of the Independents.



John Joseph Curtin

1941 - 1945

Australian Labor Party
Creswick, Victoria

He held country together in time of crisis. The war put Curtin's health under enormous strain and he died in office. He is regarded by some as Australia's greatest PM.



Francis Michael Forde

1945

Australian Labor Party
Mitchell, Queensland

Short tenure
caretaker PM of 8
days, 6 - 13 August,
1945.



Post war and 50's and 60's

Australia was facing the challenge of strengthening and managing a diversifying economy as well as managing a prolonged period of economic growth. 1948 was the year of the first Holden. In the late 60's we have the great mining boom. Australia was being transformed under a mass immigration policy and we became a multicultural nation. "Populate or perish" was the popular slogan. There was fear of communism and its spread and we supported the policy of containment by joining UN forces in Korea in 1950 and in 1962 Australia began its involvement in Vietnam. 18 years of Menzies government dominated this era.

Joseph Benedict Chifley

1945 - 1949

Australian Labor Party
Bathurst, NSW

He was responsible for the post-war development of Australia and took on the dual roles of both Treasurer and PM. He remains one of Labor's most revered leaders.

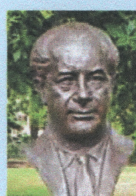


Harold Edward Holt

1966 - 1967

Liberal Party of Australia
Sydney, NSW

Died while PM from drowning. Conspiracy theories were constructed around his death.



John McEwan

1967 - 1968

Australian Country
Party
Chiltern, Victoria

As leader of the Country Party and Deputy Prime Minister he took on caretaker role of 23 days as PM until new leader elected by the Liberal Party.



John Grey Gorton

1968 - 1971

Liberal Party of Australia
Melbourne, Victoria

John Gorton did it his way and alienated many with his unorthodox and unpredictable style of leadership. In 1971 a party vote on a motion of confidence in his leadership was evenly split and Gorton resigned.



The Prime Ministers OF THE BALLARAT BOTANICAL GARDENS

1970's

The 1973 "oil price shock" and the dramatic inflation experienced during this period challenged governments. Times were changing as groups challenged and voiced their concerns about their role and status in society and fought for justice. Australian women won the right to maternity leave (1979), the White Australia policy was officially dismantled (1973) and Federal voting age dropped from 21 to 18 (1973)

William McMahon

1971 - 1972
Liberal Party of Australia
Sydney, NSW

His loss of government in 1972 ended 22 years of Liberal-CP coalition governments started by Menzies. McMahon was unable to renew its direction, discipline and energy and it was time for a change.



Edward Gough Whitlam

1972 - 1975
Australian Labor Party
Kew, Victoria

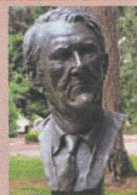
First Labor PM in 23 years. Audacious visionary and made many and daring reforms but not matched with political leadership of economic management. It was a tumultuous time. The Governor-General dismissed the government.



John Malcolm Fraser

1975 - 1983
Liberal Party of Australia
Toorak, Victoria

Prominent figure in international affairs, particularly in support of black African movement. Conservative on economic issues but continued process of reform in areas of human rights and in judicial matters.



1980's and 1990's

Australia adapts to the era of globalisation of the international economy and adapts economic rationalism policies. Mabo High Court decision in 1992 ruling that native title does exist was a milestone in indigenous affairs.

Robert James Lee Hawke

1983 - 1991
Australian Labor Party
Bordertown, SA

With a strong Trade Union leadership background, Hawke became PM after only two years in Parliament. He established an "Accord" between Government, business and unions. After 4 election wins he lost a caucus ballot in favour of his treasurer, Keating.



Paul John Keating

1991 - 1996
Australian Labor Party
Bankstown, NSW
Built strong bilateral links with Australia's Asia-Pacific neighbours. Introduced radical changes to meet the new economic challenges.



Mid 1990's and into the new 21st century

Australia responds to international crises of terrorism and climate change by working with like minded states, deploying troops to Iraq and Afghanistan and ratifying the Kyoto protocol. The Global Financial Crisis of 2008 affected Australia less than other countries. Increased numbers of asylum seekers continues to create difficulties for successive governments.

John Winston Howard

1996 - 2007
Liberal Party of Australia
Earlwood, NSW

Australia's 25th prime minister spent 22 years in parliament before gaining office. Howard was in Washington at the time of the 9/11 bombings. He was the 2nd longest-serving PM behind Menzies. Became only the second PM to lose his seat at an election.



Kevin Rudd

2007 - 2010, 2013
Australian Labor Party
Nambour, Queensland

Brought Labor back into power after 11 years in opposition. Rudd resigned in June 2010 when caucus withdrew support for his leadership but regained the leadership again in June 2013. He was PM for 11 weeks before the defeat of the Labor government in the 2013 election.



Julia Gillard

2010 - 2013
Australian Labor Party
Barry, Glamorgan, Wales

Australia's first female PM. Replaced Rudd as leader. Gillard called an early election that resulted in minority government. Gillard negotiated the support of the 4 independents to secure government. On June 2013 Gillard was defeated in a leadership ballot by Rudd.



Tony Abbott

2013 -
Liberal Party of Australia
London, United Kingdom

The Liberal/National Coalition achieved victory at the 2013 election and on Sept 18th Tony Abbott became Australia's 28th Prime Minister.



Bust for Julia Gillard and Tony Abbott not installed at time of printing.