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Prime Minister's Avenue

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The **Prime Minister's Avenue** is a collection of busts of the **Prime Ministers** of Australia, located at the **Ballarat** Botanical Gardens in **Ballarat**, Victoria. The busts are displayed as bronze portraits mounted on polished granite pedestals. The latest **Prime Minister** to be added is John Howard. Current **Prime Minister** Kevin Rudd had photos and measurements taken in October 2008, with the bust currently being created and due for addition to the **Avenue** in early 2009.^{[1][2][3]} As of November 2009, the council was unable to say when the unveiling might be or what the delay is.^[4]



Statuary pavilion at the **Ballarat** Botanical Gardens

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History

Richard Crouch, the original donor of the first six busts, was born in **Ballarat** in 1868. He was MP for Corio representing the Protectionist Party 1901-1909 and the Commonwealth Liberal Party 1909-1910, and was at the time the youngest member of the House of Representatives. He also served as MP for Corangamite under the Labor Party 1929-1931.

The first six busts were unveiled on 2 March, 1940 by Governor of Victoria Sir Winston Dugan. Crouch also bequeathed funds for maintaining the project. It is claimed that Crouch's motivation for the collection was "his patronage and love of fine arts which he supported and endowed in many other ways and the influence of two parliamentary terms under the statesmen Barton, Deakin, Watson, Fisher and Scullin prompted him to return to **Ballarat** something of what it had given him".

Sculptors

Wallace Anderson (1888-1975 ^[5]): born at Dean near **Ballarat**, and is best known for his work "Simpson and His Donkey" located at the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance. Anderson created the busts of Barton, Deakin, Watson, Reid, Fisher, Cook, Hughes, Bruce, Scullin, Lyons, Page, Menzies, Fadden and Curtin.

Ken Palmer: born in 1925 at **Ballarat**, created the bust of Chifley during his election campaign in 1946.

Victor Greenhalgh (1900-1983): born at **Ballarat**, and is best known for his large statue of King George V which dominates the Sturt Street plantation. Greenhalgh created the busts of Holt, McEwen, Gorton, McMahon and Whitlam.

Peter Nicholson: born in 1946 in Melbourne; best known for his cartoons in the *Nation Review*, *Financial Review* and *The Age*. Nicholson's works are (in chronological order) Hawke, Fraser, Keating, and Howard. Nicholson's works have followed his philosophy that the busts should impart an expression of the character of the individual.

The creator of Forde's bust is unknown, and no free content photo has been taken of it.

Criticisms

Fraser's bust was originally created by Victor Greenhalgh, however others and even Greenhalgh himself were critical of the final casting. Following Greenhalgh's death in 1983, Peter Nicholson was asked to create a new bust for Fraser, which was completed after the bust of Fraser's successor Hawke had been installed.

Nicholson believes that John Howard was dissatisfied with the size of his lower lip.^[6]

Paul Keating was reported to be generally unhappy with his bust.^[citation needed]

Busts

