

RICHARD ARMSTRONG CROUCH

- Born 19th 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 2nd. Infantry Battalion. 1903 Captain 6th Australian Infantry Regiment. Supported National Service/compulsory military service. Warned re. Military strength of Germany. Lt Colonel 1913, 1915 commanded 22nd 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 7th April 1949 and buried there.