Milestone

A Centenary of Achievement
National Party of Australia 1920-2020

Paul Davey

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"Having put our hands to the wheel, we set the course of our voyage. … We have not entered upon this course without the most grave consideration."

(William McWilliams on the formation of the Australian Country Party, *Commonwealth Parliamentary Debates*, 10 March 1920, p. 250)

"We conceive our role as a dual one of being at all times the specialist party with a sharp fighting edge, the specialists for rural industries and rural communities. At the same time we are the party which has the total co-ordinated concept of what is necessary for the growth and safety of the whole Australian nation."

(John McEwen, *The New South Wales Countryman*, May 1968, p 2)

"A strong Country Party does keep the balance – the balance of stable, dependable government; the balance of development between city and country; the balance of economic activity; a balance between the rural industries and the other sectors of the community. … We keep a balance between the extremes of political thought."

(Doug Anthony, election policy speech, Lismore City Hall, 20 November 1972)

Cover photo:
Determined to make a difference: an early photograph of the Australian Country Party members of the House of Representatives, taken between April and July 1921, (left to right, standing) Alexander Hay (New England, NSW), Robert Cook (Indi, Vic), Arnold Weinholt (Moreton, Qld), Percy Stewart (Wimmera, Vic), William Hill (Echuca, Vic), John Prowse (Swan, WA), William Fleming (Robertson, NSW), Edmund Jowett (Grampians, Vic), William McWilliams (Franklin, Tas); (sitting) Henry Gregory (Dampier, WA), Deputy Leader, Earle Page (Cowper, NSW), Leader, William Gibson (Corangamite, Vic), Whip (*photo courtesy the Page family*)

Back cover photo: author and Poppy *(Lindie Davey)*

Contents

The National Party is …

- The second oldest political party in the Commonwealth Parliament, having celebrated its Centenary on 22 January 2020.

- The most democratic, non-factionalised and stable political party in Australia, proud of its independent identity and offering equal opportunity to all.

- An organisation that
    — through its affiliated and associated State and Territory parties, has the largest financial membership across regional Australia of any political party
    — since its formation, has always been represented in the Commonwealth Parliament, has been an influential partner in Coalition governments for more than 60 years, and has provided three Prime Ministers – Earle Page, Arthur Fadden and John McEwen
    — by 2019 had contested 1192 electorates for House of Representatives general elections across regional Australia, winning 617 – a success rate of nearly 52 per cent
    — has accumulated an enviable record of achievements on the statute books
    — has ensured from the first Federal Coalition agreement that its Parliamentary Leader is the Deputy Prime Minister (formally titled as such from 1968) and acts as Prime Minister when that person is absent
    — while formed to drive better political outcomes for agricultural industries, has long been more than a farmers' party, fighting for better services, facilities, and opportunities for people living and working beyond the capital cities.

- Arguably, the Party's greatest achievement is its very existence, which has forced other parties to pay greater attention to the needs of regional Australia than would otherwise have been the case. Without the National Party, Federal policy would be dominated by city interests and city-based politicians.

- A Country Party brochure, *Mileposts*, charting achievements to 1950, observed:

> *You can't afford to be without a Country Party …*
> *Thank your stars there is a Country Party*

Change Country Party to National Party and the statement remains true today.

Introduction

It is a momentous occasion for a political organisation to be marking its Centenary, and in the case of our Party especially so given that over those 100 years we have always been represented in the Commonwealth Parliament.

The National Party is the second oldest political party in the Parliament, having been formed on 22 January 1920 as the Australian Country Party.

This anniversary is testament to the determination of many thousands of members across Australia who have seen us as the best organisation to represent their interests.

While our origins were focused on improving the political consideration of primary producer interests, they have long since been expanded to the point where today we have policies that cover the whole range of government activity.

Our primary concentration is on improving the services provided to, and the lifestyles of, the nearly nine million people who live and work beyond the capital cities, as well as on increasing international trade opportunities for export industries, particularly the agricultural and resource sectors.

We are a powerful influence on policy directions, having provided many senior ministers as well as eleven Deputy Prime Ministers, three of whom also served as Prime Minister.

Our concentrated effort and determination has fundamentally and positively changed the way government delivers for the people of regional Australia. We will unashamedly maintain that emphasis into the future.

This publication briefly highlights the Party's history and documents the roll of all its senators and members, as well as ministers and organisational and parliamentary leaders. It is a record of the past and at the same time an example for future generations to follow.

Larry Anthony
Federal President

Michael McCormack
Federal Parliamentary Leader

Party origins

By the early 1900s, farm organisations across Australia were beginning to support political candidates who would promote their policies and objectives in their parliaments. They were concerned that farmers and graziers were overburdened by taxes, tariffs, inadequate transport and other infrastructure, unnecessary duplication of Federal and State administration, and the lack of local services.

To enhance the impact of their cause and harness the efforts of what were sympathetic individual and largely Independent parliamentarians into a single, unified group, the farm bodies began to form political organisations, each with their own constitutions.

The Country Party in Western Australia was the first, founded by the State's Farmers and Settlers' Association (FSA) on 12 March 1913 and winning ten seats in the Western Australian Parliament at the election the following year.

Country parties followed in Victoria in 1915, Queensland and South Australia in 1918, New South Wales in 1919 (originally named The Progressive Party of New South Wales until becoming the Country Party from August 1925), the Commonwealth Parliament in 1920, and Tasmania in 1922.

The South Australian Party merged with the then Liberal Federation to form the Liberal and Country League from 1932 until re-emerging as the Country Party in 1963. Between 1924 and 1928, the Tasmanian Party was gradually absorbed into the Nationalists. It was reformed in 1962, disbanded in 1975, revived as the National Party in 1994 and again disbanded in 1996. An Independent Tasmanian senator, Steve Martin, joined The Nationals in May 2018, reviving the Party's representation in the island State until being defeated at the May 2019 election. A Country Party was formed in the Northern Territory in 1966 and merged with the Liberal Party to become the Northern Territory Country Liberal Party (CLP) from 1974. The Queensland National and Liberal parties amalgamated into the Liberal National Party of Queensland (LNP) from 2008.

Because of their constitutional autonomy, the State and Territory parties are able to tailor their structures and operations to best meet the needs of their respective spheres of interest. In contrast, the Liberal and Labor parties work on a more centralised basis, with their State bodies being divisions and branches respectively of their Federal organisations.

Success through unity

The National Party has two great strengths that have helped it achieve many outcomes for the regions it represents, at Federal and State levels, and which have been cornerstones of its longevity: it is non-factionalised and the vast majority of its parliamentary representatives worked and were involved and known in their local communities before entering parliament, many of them having been prominent in service, community and industry clubs and organisations.

Everyone involved in the Party, from branch members to parliamentarians, has a united ambition – to improve the level of services and infrastructure in their electorates and throughout regional Australia. There is close co-operation between Federal and State MPs on achieving outcomes across all government jurisdictions.

The current Federal Parliamentary National Party is made up of people who, before entering Parliament, worked in occupations as diverse as journalism, the law, small business, agriculture, agricultural consultancy, economics, electrical engineering, accountancy, medicine, veterinary science, the police, teaching, banking, finance, and the trades.

They are people who know and understand what regional Australians expect from government and they work hard to bring those aspirations to fruition. An underlying priority across all affiliated and associated parties has been to close the gap in the quality of services, facilities and opportunities enjoyed by those in the cities and those elsewhere.

No other political party in Australia can demonstrate such unity and strength of purpose.

Arguably, the Party's greatest achievement has been to force other political parties to pay greater attention to the social and economic development of regional Australia than would otherwise have been the case. Without the Country/National Party, policy development would be dominated by city interests and city-based politicians.

The first Federal Parliamentary Country Party

The Australian Country Party (ACP) was established on 22 January 1920 by a meeting of nine members of the House of Representatives who had been elected on 13 December 1919 and who endorsed the ideals of the Australian Farmers' Federal Organisation (AFFO), which was formed in September 1916 and included delegates from State farm bodies.

The AFFO's core objectives were to prevent duplication of taxation and the overlapping of Federal/State administration; to obviate conflict between Commonwealth and State industrial laws and awards; and to encourage scientific agricultural education and co-operative trading in the interests of primary producers.

The nine members of the new ACP were joined by two more on 24 February 1920, giving a parliamentary strength of 11 on the cross benches. The governing Nationalists under Prime Minister Billy Hughes had 38 members in the House of Representatives and the Labor Party 26.

A Country Party meeting on 25 February 1920, which was chaired by William Gibson (Corangamite, Vic), agreed to elect an interim Leader, thereby providing time for the members to assess each other's strengths and weaknesses before electing a longer term Leader. The Tasmanian Member for Franklin since 1903, William McWilliams, who had been a Nationalist from 1917, was unanimously chosen for the role, with Edmund Jowett (Grampians, Vic) elected Deputy Leader and Earle Page (Cowper, NSW) Secretary and Whip.
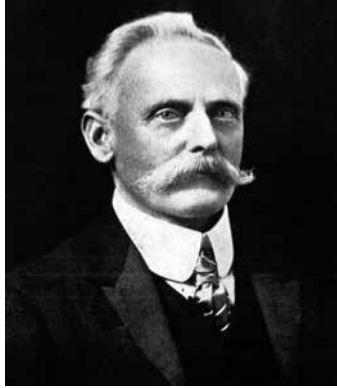
Start of a new era: the first Parliamentary Leader of the Australian Country Party,
William McWilliams, Member for Franklin, Tasmania
(courtesy National Library of Australia, NLA obj 136838486 PIC/8526)

McWilliams explained the new Party's philosophy to Parliament on 10 March 1920:

> I may say at the outset that the Country party is an independent body quite separate from the Nationalists or the Labour party. … We have appointed our own Leader and other officers. We take no part in the deliberations of Ministerialists or of the Opposition. We intend to support measures of which we approve, and hold ourselves absolutely free to criticize or reject any proposals with which we do not agree.

Page was perhaps more pragmatic in his recollection of the Party's role, writing in his 1963 memoirs, *Truant Surgeon*:

> Though we lacked parliamentary experience, our aim was clear. The socialist policies of the Labour Party were anathema to us. While dissatisfaction existed among some members with the Hughes [Nationalist] regime, we were in agreement that it would be better to keep the Government on the rails than assist a Labour Government into office. We determined, therefore, to use our authority, not to bring the Nationalist Government down, but to influence it in every possible way to carry out the constructive policies of our platform. *(Truant Surgeon, p. 84)*

As the 'third party' in Parliament, the Country Party asked the Speaker to provide it with a separate Party Room – a request that was eventually granted after the 12 October 1929 election, when Parliament House office accommodation was rearranged. The Party has had its own Party Room ever since in both the Old and New Parliament buildings, whereas the Liberal and Labor parties have always

alternated their Party Room depending on whether they are in Government or Opposition.

The Country Party's numbers increased by one from 1 July 1920, when Reginald Wilson, elected as a South Australian FSA candidate on an agreed Senate ticket with the Nationalists in December 1919, took up his seat and joined the Country Party. Being in the Senate, however, he did not attend Party meetings.

A further boost in numbers came in March 1921, when the Member for Robertson, NSW, since 1913, William Fleming, left the Nationalists and joined the Country Party, taking its House numbers to 12.
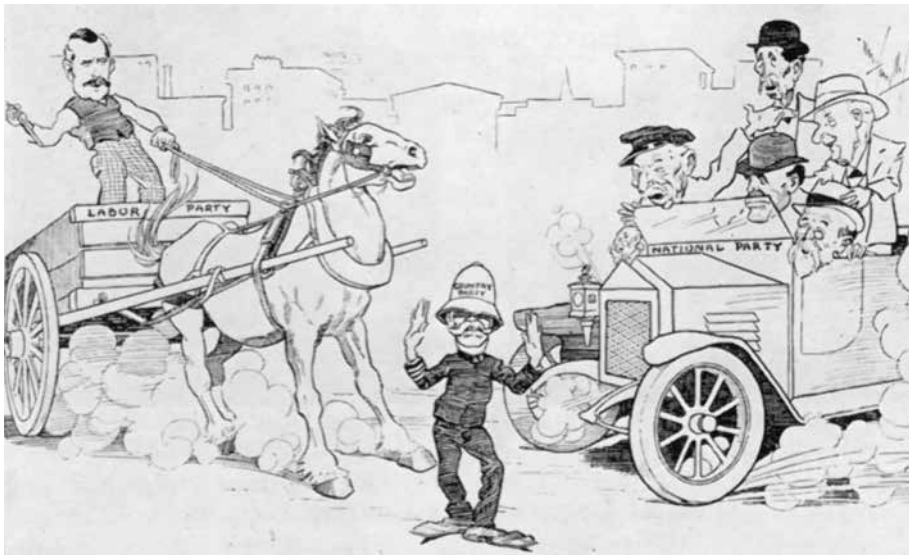
Controlling the traffic: when it came to which of the two major parties had precedence, the new Country Party, headed by 'policeman' William McWilliams, would decide *(Bulletin, 4 March 1920)*

Also in March 1921, a conference in Sydney of AFFO delegates and parliamentary representatives adopted the first formal Federal political platform of the Party. Under the slogan *Production and a Fair Deal*, it promoted, among other initiatives, reform to eliminate overlapping between Federal and State jurisdictions; a Federal convention to remodel the Australian Constitution and facilitate the subdivision of existing States; encouragement of industries essential to national development; the full encouragement of private enterprise in production and all forms of co-operative enterprise; a vigorous immigration policy; extension and cheapening of postal and telephonic communication in country areas; a resolute policy to develop the north of Australia; and a comprehensive system of water conservation and power production.

The Party reviewed its leadership positions at a meeting on 5 April 1921. McWilliams and Jowett did not recontest the leadership roles. Page was elected Leader, a position he held until September 1939, Henry Gregory (Dampier, WA) Deputy Leader, and Gibson, Secretary and Whip.

The Country Party's representation increased to 14 at the election on 16 December 1922. Nationalist numbers fell from 38 to 26. Labor was returned with 29 members and there were five Liberals and one Independent. The Country Party was essential to the continuation of a non-Labor administration. But Page refused to join a Coalition as long as Hughes was the Nationalist Leader. Ultimately, Hughes stood aside on 2 February 1923 in favour of Stanley Bruce.

Into Government

Page and Bruce forged the first Nationalist/Country Party Coalition Government, holding office until defeated by Labor under Jim Scullin in October 1929.

Page was Treasurer and effectively Deputy Prime Minister, being acknowledged as taking precedence in the Ministry after the Prime Minister and being Acting Prime Minister during Bruce's absences. The position of Deputy Prime Minister was not included in parliamentary records until it was formally established by John Gorton, at the behest of then Country Party Leader, John McEwen, on the day Gorton was first sworn in as Prime Minister, 10 January 1968.

However, Country/National Party leaders have always been, and continue to be, Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Prime Minister in Coalition governments. To this point, since the first Bruce/Page Coalition, the Party has provided eleven Deputy Prime Ministers, three of whom were also commissioned as Prime Minister.

The Bruce/Page agreement, which maintained the separate identities of the two parties, gave the Country Party five portfolios and the Nationalists six, and became the foundation Coalition agreement upon which ones of today are based.

Page and the Country Party were soon delivering impressive achievements as participants in the Government – introduction of the first radio broadcasting licences (1923), establishment of the Loan Council (1924), restructuring the Commonwealth Bank as a central bank (1924), establishing a rural credits department within the bank (1925), and establishing a Department of Markets (1925), the forerunner of today's Department of Agriculture.

Budgeting details: Earle Page (centre) puts the finishing touches to his 1924 budget, flanked by the Secretary to the Treasury, ASR Collins (left) and Treasury adviser, J Marshall *(photo courtesy the Page family)*

The Scullin Government was defeated at the December 1931 election and the Nationalist Party under Joe Lyons, by then named the United Australia Party (UAP), governed in its own right until the election in September 1934, after which it briefly formed a minority government before establishing a Coalition with the Country Party from 9 November 1934. There was a further period when the UAP governed in its own right from 26 April 1939 to 14 March 1940, when the Coalition was reformed. All non-Labor governments since then have been Coalitions between the Country/National Party and the UAP/Liberal Party.

Over its 100 year history, the Country/National Party has been a partner in non-Labor governments for more than 60 years.

The first Coalition Opposition was established for the duration of the first Curtin Labor Government from October 1941 to September 1943. It was led by Arthur Fadden (Darling Downs, Qld), who, having been Prime Minister from August to October 1941, was elected unopposed to the role by a joint meeting of the UAP/Country parties. On the return of the Curtin Government at the August 1943 election, the UAP and Country parties agreed to co-operate but not continue a formal Coalition Opposition.

After the Whitlam Labor Government's election in December 1972, Doug Anthony (Richmond, NSW) and Liberal Leader, Billy Snedden, agreed to

co-operate but not form a Coalition Opposition. However, they did so after the Whitlam Government was re-elected in June 1974, largely because in the non-Coalition period Labor had been able to exploit policy differences between the conservative parties.

Election policies: Earle Page, 1928; Arthur Fadden, 1946; Doug Anthony, 1972
(NSW Nationals)

The non-Labor parties have formed Coalitions in Opposition ever since. The arrangements were briefly interrupted by the Joh for Canberra campaign in 1987, which broke the Coalition for 100 days between 28 April and 6 August.

Changing times: (left to right) John McEwen, Prime Minister Robert Menzies, and Arthur Fadden on the day Fadden retired as Country Party Leader, to be succeeded by McEwen, 26 March 1958 *(Australian News and Information Bureau/Page Library PG2717/87)*

The Country Party Prime Ministers

Three Federal Leaders have been Prime Minister, each taking on the role in difficult circumstances:

- Earle Page (Cowper, NSW) – 7-26 April 1939, following the death of Prime Minister Joe Lyons

- Arthur Fadden (Darling Downs, Qld) – 29 August-7 October 1941, following the resignation of Prime Minister Robert Menzies

- John McEwen (Murray, Vic) – 19 December 1967-10 January 1968, following the disappearance of Prime Minister Harold Holt.

Country Party Prime Ministers: (left to right) Earle Page, Arthur Fadden, John McEwen
(images courtesy National Archives of Australia. NAA: A1200, L42124; NAA: A6180, 4/2/77/30; NAA: A1200, L36581)

Because each served for a brief time, they are often disparagingly referred to as 'caretaker' or 'stop gap' prime ministers. Yet each was sworn in as Prime Minister with full authority and each made decisions and took actions that went far beyond the conventions of a caretaker government. They were very much prime ministers in their own right.

They were eminently qualified for their appointments, each having accumulated significant experience, not only as Deputy Prime Minister, but also as Acting Prime Minister before being called on to formally fill the Government's top position.

Before being appointed Prime Minister, Page had been Acting Prime Minister for 540 days, Fadden for 137 days, and McEwen for 463 days. There was no-one in any of the governments concerned who was more qualified then these three to be the Prime Minister during the periods in question.

Page and McEwen each became Prime Minister after the death of Lyons and disappearance of Holt because they were the second most senior ministers in the respective governments. It was broadly accepted that they would hold the position until the UAP/Liberal Party elected a new leader. There was speculation during McEwen's term of considerable support for him to continue in the role, but McEwen would not countenance the prospect:

> I think it is true that many people regarded me as the best man for the job. … The great difficulty, though, was that I belonged to the smaller party in the coalition. To become the permanent Prime Minister I should have to had to leave the Country Party and join the Liberals. That was unthinkable. *(John McEwen, recorded for the National Library of Australia, October/ November 1974, printed as His Story 1983 p. 75; reprinted by Page Research Centre 2014, p. 68)*

Fadden's situation was different from that of Page and McEwen. He was unanimously elected to take over as Prime Minister by a meeting of the joint UAP/Country parties on 29 August 1941, after Menzies resigned the prime ministership but remained UAP Leader. This was thus far the only time the joint parties have chosen the Prime Minister; normally, the UAP/Liberal Party alone elects its Leader, who then becomes Prime Minister in Coalition governments. Fadden's subsequent unopposed election by the joint parties as Opposition Leader of the first UAP/Country Party Coalition Opposition, a position he held from 7 October 1941 to 16 September 1943, was similarly unique.

Fadden's tenure as Prime Minister could have been longer had his budget not failed to pass the House of Representatives on a Labor motion supported by two Victorian Independents, one of them being the Independent Country Party Member for Wimmera, Alexander Wilson, who joined the Federal Country Party from 1943.

As part of its Centenary celebrations, the Federal organisation commissioned a statue in Canberra's parliamentary triangle to commemorate one of its Prime Ministers. The decision as to who should be cast in bronze was determined by a ballot of delegates to the annual meeting of Federal Council on 14 September 2019. The clear choice was John McEwen.

The Federal Organisation

Earle Page was keen to establish a Federal Party organisational structure that could develop a closer relationship with the State parties and help broaden electoral appeal to a wider section of the community than farmers and graziers.

The AFFO convened a conference in Melbourne on 23 and 24 March 1926. It was attended by 60 Country Party delegates from Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australia, including six women representatives – one from each State.

The result was the adoption of a Federal Party Constitution which established the Australian Country Party Association to be managed by a Central Council of 23, made up of the Federal Leader and two other representatives elected by the Federal Parliamentary Country Party; three delegates each from the Country Party organisations of New South Wales and Victoria; two delegates each from the organisations in Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania, and one woman representative appointed by the women's organisations in each State.

The State parties became affiliated with the Association and the first meeting of its Central Council was held in Sydney on 30 September 1926, at which Page was appointed Chairman – a position he held until his death in 1961. Affiliation fees for the State parties for the first year were set at £50 ($100) each for New South Wales and Victoria and £25 ($50) each for the other States.

The Association's first conference, held in Sydney from 1 to 3 June 1927, streamlined the Constitution by changing the name of Central Council to Federal Council, thereby avoiding confusion with State organisations, which were each governed by a Central Council. Federal Council continues to this day and is the governing body of the Federal Party.

Managing the administration of the Federal organisation fell, in an honorary capacity, to the General Secretary of the NSW Party, initially EJ Munro. The arrangement continued until the Party opened a Federal Secretariat in Canberra in 1968 and appointed its own Federal Director.

The June 1927 conference also broadened the Party's platform to include support for such objectives as uniform divorce laws; one authority for the assessment and collection of Federal and State land and income tax; Federal and State co-ordination in the provision of health services, notably the establishment of

obstetric nursing and bush nursing centres in country districts; and increased development of country towns and secondary industries – decentralisation.

A conference in Melbourne in July 1937 further amended the Constitution to provide for the establishment of an executive, known today as the Federal Management Committee, to manage the affairs of the Party between meetings of Federal Council. It also changed the title Chairman of Federal Council to President.

In December 1943, it was agreed to drop the word 'Association' from the organisation's name, so it became simply the Australian Country Party, and to recommend that the affiliated State parties adopt the same name (where necessary) with the addition of their State. For instance, the NSW Party had been named The United Country Party of New South Wales since September 1931, to harness electoral support from the New States Movement. All State parties accepted the recommendation.

Federal Council continued to progressively expand the Party's platform and policy – as it does today. On 15 November 1957, it produced a document declaring that the Party was 'truly National in character, embracing ALL sections of the community'. Policies covered areas including external affairs, trade, national development, closer settlement, repatriation, transport, finance and taxation, industrial relations, communism and socialisation, communications, population and migration, education, housing, health and social services.

Indeed, the Party's policies and achievements over the past 100 years, while still strongly supporting sustainable agricultural and mineral production and exports, have significantly benefited broader regional community interests.

Originally written off by its detractors as unnecessary, the Party has proved its ability to overcome internal and external difficulties and challenges and to adapt to changing political, demographic and economic circumstances. It remains essential to the framework of rural and regional Australia.

Further recognising the need to remain electorally relevant, the Federal Party changed its name from Australian Country Party to National Country Party of Australia on 2 May 1975 and to National Party of Australia from 16 October 1982.

Hard to shed the image: the Party's name changed from National Country Party to National Party from 16 October 1982, but cartoonist Geoff Pryor, in this depiction of Peter Nixon (left), Doug Anthony and Ian Sinclair, was not going to let the 'cocky' image die easily, *The Canberra Times*, 19 October 1982
(Geoff Pryor, NLA Pic Drawer 9171#Pic/3697/195/nla)

Today, Federal Council convenes an annual meeting, usually held in Canberra, and may convene additional special meetings if necessary. The annual meeting considers, among other issues, policy motions submitted by the Federal Parliamentary Party and from affiliated State Party conferences, women's sections and the Young Nationals, and also elects its office bearers and its Federal Management Committee.

The Party convenes a Federal Conference once in the life of each Commonwealth Parliament, or once every three years. Conference includes delegates from all the affiliated State Party Federal electorate councils throughout Australia and specifically considers Party policy.

After its establishment in 2008, the Queensland LNP continued the previous Queensland National Party's affiliated status with the Federal Party. The Northern Territory CLP is an associated organisation. Its delegates to Federal Council and Conference may vote on policy issues, but not participate in office bearer elections, or motions which seek to amend the Party's Federal Constitution, or relate to the administration of the Party.

Only Federal Council has the power to amend the Party Constitution. Constitutional motions require a two-thirds majority vote to be carried.

Communicating

Getting the message out on policy positions is a key objective of any political party. From its earliest years, the Country Party was adept at this. Its first Federal Leader, William McWilliams, was a journalist and newspaper proprietor. The second Leader, Earle Page, while primarily a doctor and surgeon, was also involved in the country press. Other early Country Party parliamentarians with journalistic or proprietorial newspaper interests included Percy Stewart (Wimmera, Vic), Henry Gregory (Dampier, WA), Victor Thompson (New England, NSW) and Robert Elliott (Senate, Vic) – and more would follow in the years to come.
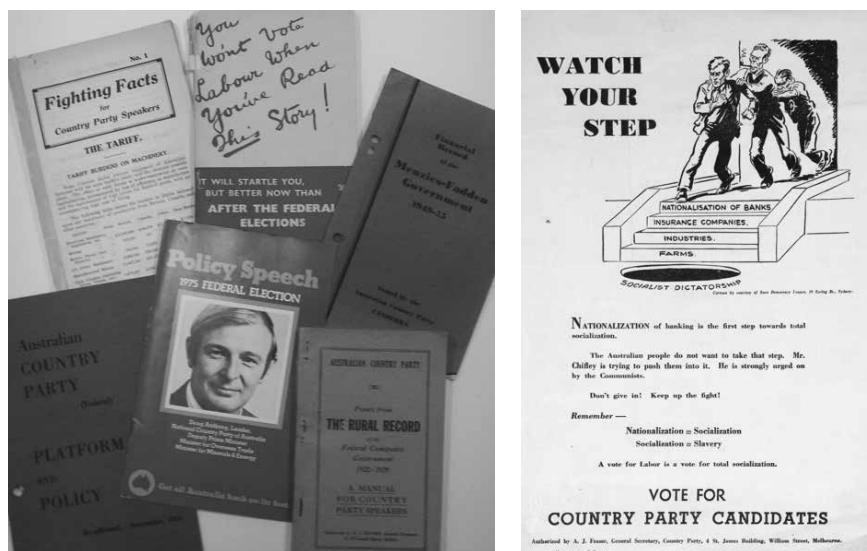
Publications over the years: (left, clockwise from top left) Fighting Facts – The Tariff, 1931; You won't vote Labour, 1931; Menzies-Fadden Government financial record, 1949-1955; The Rural Record, 1922-1929; Election Policy Speech, 1975; Platform and Policy, 1953; (right) anti-bank nationalisation poster for the 10 December 1949 Federal election *(NSW Nationals)*

When journalist Ulrich Ellis became Page's political secretary early in 1928, he began writing publicity for distribution to the press and State Country parties. He was a prodigious writer and researcher. He took over producing the *Country Party Weekly Bulletin*, which contained comments on current political issues and was sent to most newspapers.

In 1932 he formed the grandly titled Federal Country Party Bureau of Publicity, Research and Information. Working from Page's office in Parliament House, Canberra, he produced the *Weekly Bulletin*, pamphlets, and speakers' notes for use by parliamentarians and candidates. In 1936 he turned the *Weekly Bulletin* into a more substantial *Country Party Bulletin*, circulated to 750 newspapers throughout Australia. He opened an independent Office of Rural Research, located in the Canberra suburb of Manuka, in July 1948, and continued producing political material until closing the office when he retired from Page's staff early in 1960.

Ellis wrote books on the history of the Federal and NSW Country parties and the NSW New States Movement, and was central to helping compile Page's biography, *Truant Surgeon*, published in 1963.

Since those days there have been many Federal Party publications, including *Balance* magazine, produced on the initiative of Doug Anthony in the early 1970s. All these supplemented publications produced by State parties. Today's communications are largely circulated as newsletters and roundups to Party members and the media via the Internet, although some States still circulate printed magazines. The Party's parliamentary and secretariat staff, at Federal and State levels, continue to be heavily involved in documenting its achievements and objectives.

Helping to spread the Party's message: *Balance* magazines produced in October, November 1973 and May 1974 *(Federal Secretariat)*

Federal Parliamentary Party

The Federal Parliamentary National Party is made up of those people who have been preselected by their affiliated or associated State or Territory organisation and have won election to the Senate or House of Representatives, and sit as Nationals in Canberra.

The Parliamentary Party operates under its own rules, providing they are not inconsistent with the Party's Federal Constitution. It has the right to adopt policy positions that are different from those of Federal Council or Conference, providing the Federal Leader explains the reasons to the Federal Management Committee. It also has the right to decide whether or not to enter into, or terminate, a Coalition agreement, after consultation with the Federal Management Committee.

The entire Parliamentary Party (senators and members) elects its Federal Leader, Deputy Leader and Parliamentary Whips for the House of Representatives. The Party's senators alone elect their Senate Leader, Deputy and Whip.
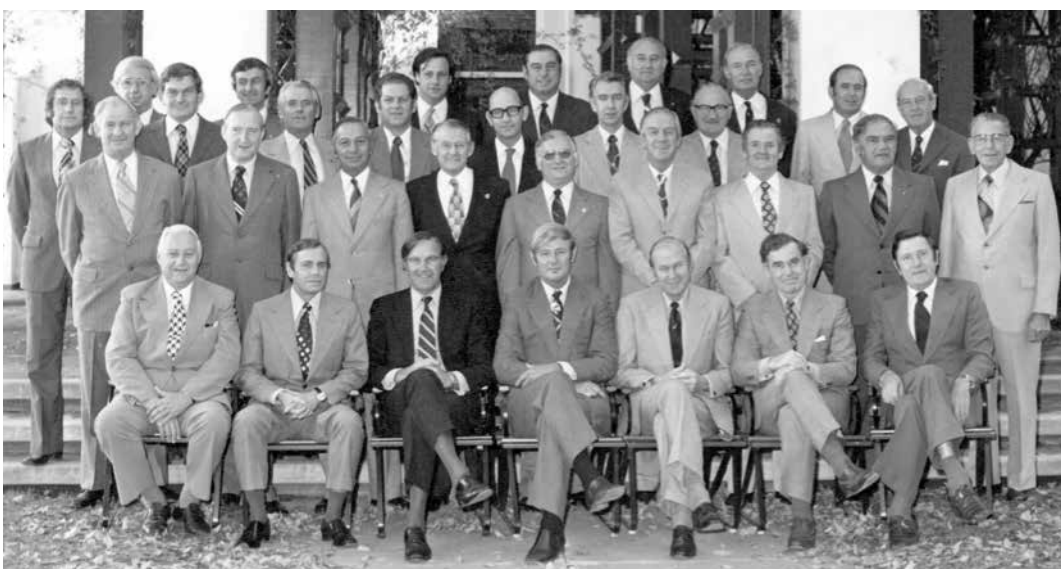
The largest parliamentary representation in the Party's history to date: twenty-three members and eight senators, making a total of 31, achieved at the December 1975 election, (left to right, back row) Tom McVeigh, John Sullivan, Sandy MacKenzie, Peter Fisher, Bob King, Col Carige, Stephen Lusher, Ray Braithwaite, Glen Sheil, Stan Collard, Frank O'Keefe, Tom Tehan, Doug Scott, Bruce Lloyd, Sam Calder; (middle row) Ron Maunsell, Ian Robinson, Clarrie Millar, David Thomson, Tom Drake-Brockman, Mac Holten, Bern Kilgariff, Bob Katter (snr), Jim Corbett; (sitting) Phil Lucock, Jim Webster, Ian Sinclair, Doug Anthony, Federal Leader, Peter Nixon, Ralph Hunt, Evan Adermann
(Australian Information Service/Federal Secretariat)

The first woman member of the Federal Parliamentary Party was Agnes Robertson from Western Australia. Originally elected to the Senate for the Liberal Party at the December 1949 election – becoming the fifth woman to enter the Commonwealth Parliament – she switched to the Country Party from 1955 until her retirement in June 1962.

The fifth woman elected to the Commonwealth Parliament: Agnes Robertson sat with the Country Party from 1955 until retiring in 1962
(Australian News and Information Bureau/Federal Secretariat)

Other Party women elected to the Commonwealth Parliament have been Flo Bjelke-Petersen (Senate, Qld), De-Anne Kelly (Dawson, Qld), Kay Hull (Riverina, NSW), Fiona Nash (Senate, NSW), Bridget McKenzie (Senate, Vic), Michelle Landry (Capricornia, Qld), Susan McDonald (Senate, Qld), Perin Davey (Senate, NSW) and Sam McMahon (Senate, NT).

Hull became the Parliamentary Party's first female Whip in the House of Representatives, while Nash and McKenzie became Deputy Federal Leaders, Nash being the first woman to hold the position. Kelly, Nash, McKenzie and Landry were appointed to ministries. Bjelke-Petersen was the Party's Senate Whip in 1993 and its Deputy Senate Leader from 1985 to 1990. After the 2019 election, McKenzie was elected as the Party's first female Senate Leader (as well as being Deputy Federal Leader), while Davey was elected as its Senate Whip.

Six, or more than 28 per cent, of the 21-member Parliamentary Party after the May 2019 election were women, and of the Party's five senators, four were women.

Women have also risen to prominent positions in affiliated or associated parliamentary parties. For instance, at the beginning of 2020, two were State Parliamentary Leaders – Mia Davies (WA) and Deb Frecklington (Qld), both

having previously been Deputy Leaders, and three were current Deputy Leaders – Steph Ryan (Vic), Jacqui Boydell (WA), and Lia Finocchiaro (NT). Others have been appointed ministers or shadow ministers and many more have won preselection from their respective parties to contest Federal, State or Territory elections.

Reflections: some of the then current and former Federal and State MPs attending the Party's 80th anniversary Federal Convention, Tweed Heads, NSW, 17-18 June 2000, (left to right, back row) Ray Chappell (NSW), Don Beck (NSW), Hendy Cowan (WA), Duncan Gay (NSW), Dexter Davies (WA), Max Trenorden (Vic), Andrew Fraser (NSW), Paul Neville (Qld), Peter Webb (NSW), Ian Slack-Smith (NSW), Hugh Delahunty (Vic), Murray Montgomery (WA), David Brownhill (NSW), Tony Elliott (Qld); (standing) Ron Brewer (NSW), Peter Blacker (SA), Ralph Hunt (NSW), Wal Murray (NSW), Peter Nixon (Vic), Doug Anthony (NSW), Bruce Scott (Qld), Ross Ainsworth (WA), Bob Wiese (WA), John Elferink (NT), Ian Armstrong (NSW), Barry Steggall (Vic), Garry Nehl (NSW), Grant Tambling (NT), Larry Anthony (NSW), Thomas George (NSW), Stuart St Clair (NSW), Ron Boswell (Qld), Noel Maughan (Vic), Ted Malone (Qld), Bruce Lloyd (Vic), Stan Collard (Qld); (sitting) Russell Turner (NSW), Jenny Gardiner (NSW), Jeanette Powell (Vic), Judy Gamin (Qld), Peter Ryan (Vic), Rob Borbidge (Qld), George Souris (NSW), Mark Vaile (NSW), John Anderson (NSW), Kay Hull (NSW), Warren Truss (Qld), De-Anne Kelly (Qld), George Freudenstien (NSW); (front) Richard Bull (NSW), Michael Cobb (NSW), Graham Healy (Qld), Lawrence Springborg (Qld), Don Page (NSW), Wendy Machin (NSW), Howard Hobbs (Qld), Tony Lawler (NSW), Adrian Piccoli (NSW), Sandy McKenzie (NSW), Rob Oakeshott (NSW), Andrew Stoner (NSW) *(NSW Nationals)*

Holding firm

The Country/National Party has generally been adept at holding its House of Representatives numbers.

There have been exceptions. Between 1937 and 1943, its Lower House numbers fell from 15 to nine, and between 1987 and 2007 it was gradually reduced from 19 to 10.

On the other side of the coin, despite the Coalition losing government to Labor at the 1972 election, the Country Party retained all of its 20 seats in the House of Representatives. In the October 1980 election, at which the Fraser-Anthony Coalition Government was returned, the Liberals suffered a loss of 13 Lower House seats, while the National Country Party gained one, up from 19 to 20. Similarly, while the Liberals lost 14 seats at the 2016 Federal election, the Nationals won an additional one, Murray in Victoria, providing the Coalition with a one seat majority in the House of Representatives and giving it a further term in office.

In 2019, contrary to most opinion polls and predictions, the Party held all its Lower House seats, most notably Capricornia, Dawson, Flynn, Hinkler, Maranoa and Wide Bay in Queensland, where all incumbent members substantially increased their majorities, ranging from a two-party preferred increase of almost five per cent in Wide Bay to an impressive 11.72 per cent in Capricornia. Another seat to comprehensively defy the odds was Page in New South Wales, where the two-party preferred vote increased by more than seven per cent.

Overall, the Party recorded positive two-party preferred swings in 13 of its 16 House of Representatives seats – all against the background of predictions that Labor was heading for certain victory. The Coalition Government was returned.

The Party has long proved its significance as an essential partner in Coalition. For instance, after the 1975 and 1977 elections, Malcolm Fraser's Liberals could have governed in their own right. So too could John Howard's Liberals after the 1996 election. Both leaders appreciated the additional strength the Party could bring to their administrations and negotiated Coalition governments – doubtless mindful of the fact that future elections could make National Party numbers essential to continuing in office.

A solid group: the Federal Parliamentary National Party after the May 2019 election, (left to right, back row) Ken O'Dowd (Flynn), Barnaby Joyce (New England), Pat Conaghan (Cowper), George Christensen (Dawson), Keith Pitt (Hinkler), Llew O'Brien (Wide Bay); (middle row) Anne Webster (Mallee), Damian Drum (Nicholls), Perin Davey (Senate, NSW), Susan McDonald (Senate, Qld), David Gillespie (Lyne), Kevin Hogan (Page), Sam McMahon (Senate, NT); (front row) Michelle Landry (Capricornia), Matt Canavan (Senate, Qld), Darren Chester (Gippsland), Michael McCormack, Leader, (Riverina), Bridget McKenzie (Senate, Vic), David Littleproud (Maranoa), Mark Coulton (Parkes), Andrew Gee (Calare) *(Auspic Collection. Copyright © Commonwealth of Australia)*

Moments in history

The Party has been to the fore in momentous historical events – for instance:

Negotiating in critical times: Earle Page and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill photographed at the first meeting of the Pacific War Council, London, 10 February 1942
(photo courtesy the Page family)

The Curtin Government confirmed the Fadden Government's appointment of Page as Australia's ministerial envoy to the British War Cabinet from September 1941 and appointed him to the Pacific War Council. Page was central to pressing Australia's interests on many critical issues, including having Australian divisions in the Mediterranean and North Africa reassembled as a complete corps under the command of Australian General Thomas Blamey, the need to strengthen the defences of Malaya and Singapore, Japan's bombing of Pearl Harbour on 7 December 1941 and almost simultaneous occupation of Thailand and Malaya, its invasion of Burma and the Dutch East Indies (Indonesia), the fall of Singapore on 15 February 1942, and the first bombing attack on Darwin four days later. Page did not return to Australia until 15 August 1942.
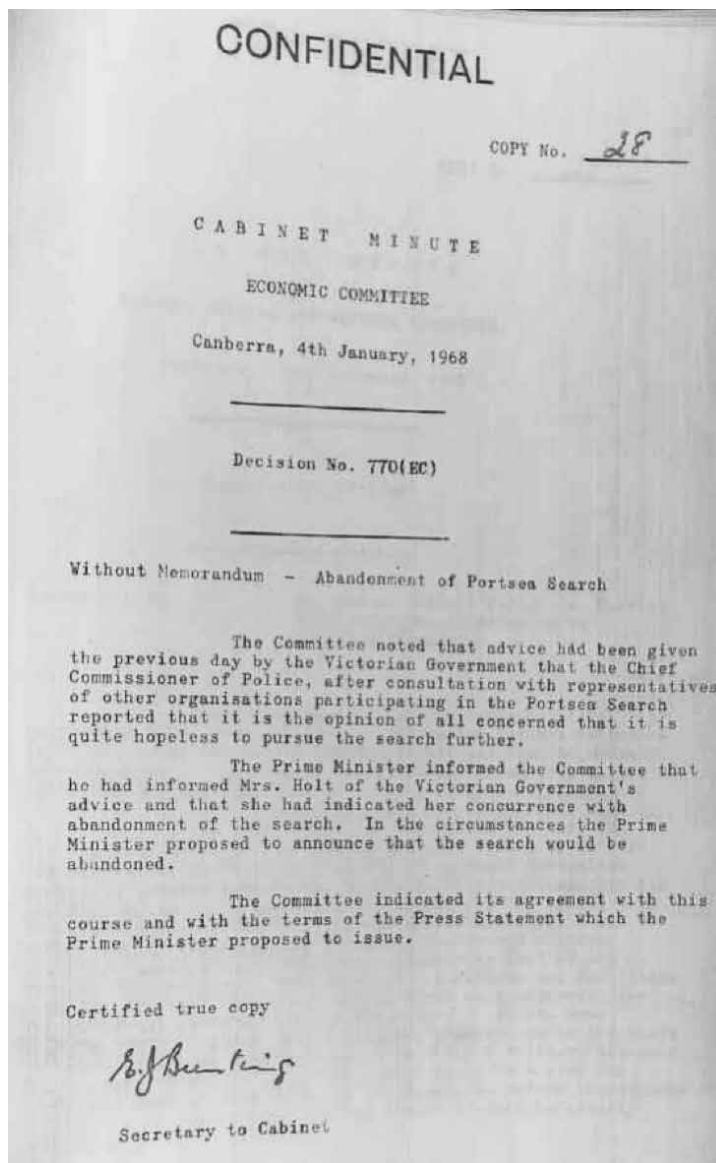
All hope gone: the Cabinet minute of 4 January 1968 noting the agreement to abandon the search for the body of Harold Holt, who went missing in the surf off Cheviot Beach, near Portsea, Victoria, on 17 December 1967, and concurring with Prime Minister John McEwen's proposed announcement to that effect, issued the same day
(image courtesy National Archives of Australia. NAA: A5842, vol 18)

McEwen told a press conference in Canberra on 20 December 1967 – the day after being commissioned as Prime Minister: 'It's only in rare circumstances that a man could become Prime Minister and not be warmed and elated by the fact, but I am neither warmed nor elated by the circumstances that have unexpectedly precipitated me into this position.'

Dismissal: Malcolm Fraser (left) and Doug Anthony emerge from Government House after being commissioned to form a caretaker Coalition administration by the Governor-General, Sir John Kerr (centre), following the dismissal of the Whitlam Labor Government on 11 November 1975. Anthony's Deputy, Ian Sinclair, is behind his Leader and partially obscured. Fraser said the National Country Party's unwavering support for blocking budget Supply bills in the lead up to the dismissal was 'critically important'.
(NSW Nationals)

Lighter moments

During the Fraser/Anthony Coalition Government (1975-1983), Deputy Prime Minister, Doug Anthony, became renowned for working as Acting Prime Minister from a caravan on his holiday property at New Brighton, on the NSW far north coast, over Christmas/New Year while the Prime Minister was on leave.

Initially, Anthony had no telephone contact to the caravan and had to keep in touch with Canberra from a public phone box in the township. Communications were subsequently improved so that he had direct telephone, telex and Vocadex contact from the caravan. Anthony acknowledged that the caravan office became iconic:

I'll probably be remembered for the caravan more than anything else in my political career. When the nation heard I was running the show from my caravan it sent a message that it was Christmas, time to relax, everything was on hold, but also everything was being looked after.
(Doug Anthony, Politics in the Blood – The Anthonys of Richmond, p218)

Running the show: a seemingly relaxed Acting Prime Minister Doug Anthony studies the latest government briefing papers in front of his New Brighton caravan office, January 1982 *(photo courtesy the Anthony family)* … and …

Getting through: even though officially on holiday, Malcolm Fraser liked to contact Doug Anthony to canvass issues. Cartoonist Geoff Pryor had his own take on such occasions, *The Canberra Times*, 12 January 1982 *(Geoff Pryor, nla PIC Drawer 9161#PIC/3697/7/ nla.obj-156383532)*

The Wombat Trail

Journalists accompanying the National Party Leader on election campaigns began in the early 1970s to dub it the Wombat Trail, because of the way it crisscrossed regional Australia in the comfortable, yet somewhat ponderous, Hawker Siddeley HS748 of the RAAF's VIP fleet. The aircraft was particularly suited to Country Party campaigns because of its ability to handle short country airstrips, enabling the Leader to visit towns and communities across the outback.

Doug Anthony introduced a wombat tie that was presented to accompanying journalists and news crews after the 1983 Federal election, and Ian Sinclair followed suit for the 1984 and 1987 elections. On a plain background, the tie featured a large gold wombat lying on its back clutching what most presumed to be a can of beer.

After the 1996 election, which installed the Howard/Fischer Coalition Government, the Party's Federal Director, Cecile Ferguson, presented Tim Fischer with a carved wooden wombat, which resulted in the birth of a tradition whereby it is handed on from Leader to Leader. Michael McCormack took the wombat on his 'trail' during the 2019 election campaign.

Wombat memorabilia: (left) collectors' items – the three wombat ties produced after the 1983, 1984 and 1987 Federal elections *(Liam Bathgate)*, and (right) John Anderson presents the wombat symbol of leadership to his successor, Mark Vaile, 23 June 2005 *(Federal Secretariat)*

Flexing muscles

The Party has always been forthright in representing not only constituent, but also national, interests. When necessary, it has supported positions that many of its own members initially opposed. By way of examples:

- Largely because of differences on tariff policy, Earle Page would not accept Joe Lyons' conditions for a Coalition after the 15 September 1934 election, at which the UAP lost several seats. When Lyons, leading a minority government, moved for a special adjournment of the House for the Melbourne Cup, Page advised that the Country Party was opposed to the recess and all Labor members indicated they would support him. Lyons withdrew the motion and negotiated a new Coalition government that held office from 9 November 1934 to 26 April 1939.

- In the lead up to the 1949 Federal election, which installed 23 years of continuous Coalition Government, the Country Party Leader, Arthur Fadden, was unconvinced by Liberal Party Leader Robert Menzies' position that petrol rationing, which had been in place throughout World War II, could not be lifted immediately. He persuaded Menzies to his view and declared in his election policy speech at Boonah, Queensland, on 17 November 1949: 'We pledge ourselves to free Australia from petrol restrictions as early as possible in the New Year. … Our slogan brings hope to a browbeaten people – Empty out the Chifley Socialists and fill the bowsers.' The announcement ending petrol rationing was made on 8 February 1950.

- John McEwen, as Minister for Trade, took on the responsibility of negotiating the first Australia-Japan Trade Treaty. He understood the importance of such an agreement to Australia's trading interests, but also recognised that, barely a decade after the end of the World War II, in which so many Australians suffered at the hands of the Japanese, the concept could be highly unpopular. As he recalled in his memoirs: 'At all times I was careful to describe the treaty as my policy, not the government's policy. … I was prepared to carry the political responsibility for this on my own.'

- When McEwen was Prime Minister, from 19 December 1967 to 10 January 1968, he made it clear the Country Party would not work with the Liberal Party if it elected its Deputy Leader, Bill McMahon, to succeed Harold Holt, because he did not trust McMahon. The Liberals elected John Gorton instead.

Squashed: cartoonist Jeff identifies that Bill McMahon's chances of becoming Liberal
leader and Prime Minister have been thwarted by McEwen,
The Sun News Pictorial, Melbourne
(www.geoffhook.com used with permission)

- The Country Party argued tenaciously to successfully protect the competitiveness of commodity exports affected by Australian dollar revaluations in November 1967 and December 1971.

- During the Fraser/Anthony Coalition Government from 1975 to 1983, the team of Doug Anthony, Ian Sinclair (New England, NSW) and Peter Nixon (Gippsland, Vic) was often seen as having undue influence on Cabinet decisions.

'The Mulga Mafia': emphasising the influence in Cabinet
of (left to right) Peter Nixon, Ian Sinclair and
Doug Anthony, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 12 September 1981
(Chris Henning <henning.christopher@gmail.com>)

- In December 1983, Doug Anthony encouraged his National Party senators to cross the floor and support a Hawke Labor Government proposal to increase the size of the Commonwealth Parliament from 125 to 148 members and 64 to 76 senators. The Liberals under Andrew Peacock opposed the enlargement, but Anthony justified his position on the grounds that there had been no significant increase in the number of members or senators since 1949, yet over the intervening years the number of eligible voters had almost doubled. The size of the Parliament was increased.

- Deputy Prime Minister Tim Fischer (Farrer, NSW) firmly supported tougher gun laws in the wake of the Port Arthur shooting massacre on 28 April 1996, despite strong opposition from many across the National Party.

A bold move: Tim Fischer faced hostile meetings of National Party members across Australia. He stood his ground, warning that if gun laws were not tightened, a total ban could be the end result.
(Auspic Collection. Copyright © Commonwealth of Australia)

- During the sale of the second and third tranches of Telstra between 1999 and 2005, the Nationals secured more than $4.6 billion for programs to improve and secure regional telecommunications services, despite Treasurer Peter Costello's wish that all sale revenues be directed towards reducing Commonwealth debt.

- Mainly through its backbenchers, the Party led the debate resulting in the establishment in 2017 of the Royal Commission into Misconduct in the Banking, Superannuation and Financial Services industry.

Powerful arguments: the National Party exerting influence during the Telstra sale negotiations *(cartoon by Peter Nicholson from* The Australian *newspaper, 21 March 2000, <www.peternicholsoncartoons.com.au>)*

Longest Serving Senators and Members

Five party senators and members are among the roll of parliamentarians who served more than 30 years in the Commonwealth Parliament:

•   Earle Christmas Grafton Page (Cowper, NSW), 42 years

•   Walter Jackson Cooper (Senate, Qld), 36 years 7 months

•   John McEwen (Echuca, Indi, Murray, Vic) 36 years 5 months

•   Ian McCahon Sinclair (New England, NSW) 34 years 9 months

•   Ronald Leslie Doyle Boswell (Senate, Qld) 31 years 3 months.

Cooper's term was served over two periods – as a Nationalist from 17 November 1928 to 30 June1932, and with the Country Party from 1 July 1935 to 30 June 1968.

Women's Federal Council

At each annual meeting of their governing bodies, the affiliated parties elect women delegates to represent their State on the Women's Federal Council (WFC), which was largely initiated by John McEwen and held its inaugural meeting on 24 November 1960 as the Conference of Country Party Women's Representatives. The Conference agreed on 7 December 1962 that it should be known as the WFC. This does not mean women were previously ignored in Party affairs; far from it. The inaugural Federal Party Constitution of 1926 provided for a woman delegate from each State to be on the Australian Country Party Association, and the State parties involved women on their Central Councils from an early time. Today, the Federal and State Party organisations are strongly represented by women, including at executive level.

The WFC considers resolutions from State women's organisations or delegates and undertakes research to help in the development of Federal Party policy on a wide range of issues affecting women and families, notably in regional Australia, including health services, education, drug and alcohol abuse, transport, domestic violence, and communications. The WFC President is a member of the Federal Management Committee. She and additional women delegates are accredited to Federal Council and Conference.

Ensuring women's interests are included in policy: Women's Federal Council executive members, October 2019, (left to right), Policy Chair, Brooke De Jong (NSW), President, Theresa Craig (Qld), Secretary, Penny Williams (Qld), Treasurer, Christine Ferguson (NSW). Absent, Vice-President, Julie Kirby (WA) *(Federal Secretariat)*

As WFC President, Helen Dickie, from NSW, pioneered the Party's first policy on women, adopted unanimously by Federal Council in 1992. Up to that time, the Party's philosophy was that its policies applied equally to men and women.

The WFC also administers the biennial Shirley McKerrow Scholarship aimed at helping female members of parties affiliated or associated with the National Party of Australia to become strong political and community leaders.

The scholarship helps to cover travel and accommodation costs, enabling the winner to undertake a period of voluntary work experience in the office of a Federal or State parliamentarian.

Leading the way at organisational level

At organisational level, the Federal Party has led the way with the election or appointment of women to senior positions.

In June 1973, Doug Anthony appointed Stella Swinney, a foundation member of and former major in the Australian Women's Army Services and retired principal of Duval College at the University of New England, NSW, as a special advisor on women's issues, attached to the Federal Secretariat. It was the first such appointment by a political organisation.

Shirley McKerrow was the first woman to head a State political organisation as President of the Victorian Party from 1976 to 1981. She then became the first woman to be Federal President of a political party, holding the position in the National Party's organisation from 1981 to 1987. In 1997, she was elected the first female Chairman of John McEwen House Pty Ltd, the company that manages the Federal Secretariat and its property, holding the position until retiring in 2016.

Helen Dickie became the NSW Party's and the State's first woman to lead a political party organisation in 1997 and went on to be elected the second female Federal President from 1999 to 2005. Christine Ferguson followed Dickie's footsteps, being NSW State Chairman from 2007 to 2012 and Federal President from 2012 to 2015.

Other women to have been senior office bearers of Federal Council have included Pam Stallman (Qld) Federal Secretary 2003-2014; Ann McKenzie (Qld) Federal Secretary 2014-2018; Emma Watts (NSW) Chair, Policy Standing Committee 2014-2018 and Federal Secretary since 2018; Katrina Hodgkinson (NSW) Vice-President 2018-2019; and Susan McDonald (Qld) Federal Treasurer since 2019.

Cecile Ferguson became the first woman Federal Director of a political organisation when she took over the National Party's Federal Secretariat from 1992 to 1997. Another female Federal Director was Gaye White in 2000-2001. While not formally appointed Federal Director, Jenny Bailey managed the Secretariat from 1977 to 1979.

Influential women: (left to right) Shirley McKerrow, Federal President 1981-1987; Cecile Ferguson, Federal Director 1992-1997; Helen Dickie, Federal President 1999-2005; Christine Ferguson, Federal President 2012-2015
(Federal Secretariat/NSW Nationals)

There are many more women who have given, and continue to give, outstanding service to the parties across Australia at branch, electorate council, executive and parliamentary levels, and as organisational or parliamentary staff.

Young Nationals

The Young Australian Country Party Federal Council was formed in 1967, with Mike Ahern, who would become a Premier of Queensland, elected its first President, from 1967-1969.

Known today as the Young National Party of Australia, it is governed by a Federal Council made up of delegates elected by the young Party organisations of affiliated States and associated organisations. The Young Nationals Federal Council meets annually immediately prior to the Annual Meeting of Federal Council. It may convene meetings at other times, as well as a Young Nationals Federal Conference once in the life of each Commonwealth Parliament or once every three years.

The Young Nationals President is a member of the Federal Management Committee and a delegate to Federal Council and Federal Conference. Each affiliated State Party, either through its Young Nationals organisation, or through

its conference or executive, nominates further delegates to Federal Council and Federal Conference, so the younger Party members are represented at all levels of the organisation. Many have subsequently sought preselection and several have been elected to parliament. The current young members are the core to ensuring the Party continues to grow into its next century.

Thus far, five women have been elected as President of the Federal Young Nationals, the first being Judy Brewer (Vic) in 1987, who later married Federal Leader and Deputy Prime Minister, Tim Fischer – himself a product of the NSW Young Country Party.

The future lies ahead: executive members of the Young Nationals Federal Council, Canberra, September 2019, (left to right, back row) Nat Openshaw, Secretary (NSW), Jock Sowter (NSW), Kurt Tucker (Qld), Matthew Gadsden (SA), William Rollo (Qld), Brendan Tam, Policy Officer (Vic), (middle row) Nelson Savanh (Qld), Addison Ridge, (NSW), Jeff McCormack, Vice-President (NSW), Rebecca Treloar (Vic), (front) Alessia Maruca, President (Qld). Absent Alysia Smith, Treasurer (NSW), Siobhan Blake (WA) *(Federal Secretariat)*

Federal Secretariat

The Party has a Federal Secretariat in Canberra, John McEwen House, named after the former Leader and the man who drove its establishment and opening by the Prime Minister, John Gorton, on 4 November 1968.

As McEwen said at the time:

> This provides for the first time a physical home for the Country Party in the Nation's capital. Our party is a federation of State parties, as indeed our country is a federation of States. Each of our State parties has its own home in the capital cities and its own secretariat there. But we have worked in a fairly disorganised manner at the Federal level. And this [the Secretariat], thanks to the work of a multitude of people, provides us with a home, a work centre, an ideas centre and I am sure that the value of this will be revealed as the years go on.

Since the early 1960s, McEwen had been determined that the Party should have an independent research and support facility for the Parliamentary Party, especially during times of Opposition when it would be denied much access to advice from the public service. Such support role had been substantially provided by Ulrich Ellis up to the time of his retirement from Earle Page's staff in 1960.

McEwen was concerned that, without its own secretariat, the Parliamentary Party would be heavily reliant on material generated by the Liberal Federal Secretariat, including in election campaigns, with its obvious emphasis on Liberal Party priorities. He won support for the Country Party secretariat project at a meeting of the Federal Executive (Federal Management Committee) in June 1965, and a company to oversee the building development and future secretariat and property management, John McEwen House Pty Ltd, was established in 1966.

The original single storey building on National Circuit, Barton, near Parliament House, was redeveloped into a three storey building between 1994 and 1996. Still bearing the John McEwen House name, it was opened by his widow, Lady Mary McEwen, on 8 November 1996, with John Gorton among the guests.

Today, as well as providing research and background briefing for the Federal Parliamentary Party, the Federal Secretariat co-ordinates and organises meetings of Federal Council and its committees, Federal Conference, Federal Management Committee, Women's Federal Council, and the Young Nationals. During Federal election and referendum campaigns, it helps to co-ordinate the Federal Leader's

campaign and provide campaign material to State secretariats and candidates throughout Australia.

Redevelopment: the original John McEwen House in Barton, Canberra (left) and after redevelopment into a three storey building, opened on 8 November 1996 by Lady Mary McEwen *(Federal Secretariat/author)*

Supporting the pollies: Federal Parliamentary and Federal Secretariat staff outside Old Parliament House on its final sitting day, 3 June 1988, prior to moving to New Parliament House, where the opening session took place on 22 August 1988 *(Federal Secretariat)*

The Nixon Report

After the 1987 election, Federal Council established a committee under the chairmanship of the former Minister for Primary Industry, Peter Nixon, to comprehensively review the Party's structures and Constitution – the first such inquiry in the Party's history. Other Committee members were former Party Federal President and Fraser Government minister, Ralph Hunt, from NSW; the Western Australian Party President, John Paterson; and Queensland Party Executive member and Queen's Counsel, David Russell.

What became known as the Nixon Report was handed down on 6 May 1988 – a document spanning 86 pages and containing 68 recommendations and conclusions. It also recommended a substantial re-write of the Federal Constitution, as well as changes to Party structures to ensure better co-ordination and co-operation between the State and Federal parties.

Streamlining the organisation: Chairman of the Committee of Review into the Future Direction of the National Party of Australia, Peter Nixon
(Australian Information Service/Federal Secretariat)

The report was adopted by Federal Council in July 1988, as was the revised Constitution, with minor amendments. The State parties progressively implemented necessary consequential amendments to their constitutions, leading to greatly improved levels of co-operation, information sharing and strategic planning. The report was a landmark in the Party's history.

The Nationals brand

In a further move to increase uniformity in Party presentation across Australia, a Federal Conference in Canberra on 11 October 2003 endorsed the use of The Nationals as the Party's uniform shortened name and logo for all promotional material and Federal election campaigns. It also recommended that the State parties do likewise, which they did.

Changing logos: (left to right, top) emerging Federal logo 1972; logo in green and white adopted with the name change to National Country Party, May 1975; modified to green and gold; (bottom) including the National Flag from 11 August 1984; the current logo, adopted on 11 October 2003. Prior to the early 1970s, the Party generally used red, white and blue as its colours, accompanied by the name Country Party *(Federal Secretariat)*

Mergers

By the mid-2000s, the Queensland National and Liberal parties were coming to the view that their future electoral prospects would be served best by amalgamating into one party. They became the Liberal National Party of Queensland (LNP) from 26 July 2008. The Party is affiliated with the National Party and a Division of the Liberal Party. This was not the first time the non-Labor parties in Queensland had worked as one. The Nationalist and Country parties merged to become the Country and Progressive National Party for 12 years from 1925.

Under the current arrangements, Queensland House of Representatives electorates and Senate positions are designated as being National Party or Liberal Party, and

the members and senators sit accordingly with those parties in the Commonwealth Parliament.

The arrangements have worked well for more than ten years. The Federal National Party Leader from December 2007 to October 2016, Warren Truss, held the Queensland seat of Wide Bay and was technically a member of the LNP from July 2008. But his commitment to the Federal National Party never diminished and was never questioned. The same has applied to LNP ministers, members and senators sitting with the Nationals.

A similar situation applies with regard to the associated Northern Territory CLP. Grant Tambling, the Member for Northern Territory from 1980 to 1983, sitting with the National Country/National Party, returned as a senator from 1987 to 2001, during which time he was the National Party's Deputy Senate Leader on two occasions, from 1990 to 1993 and 2000 to 2001.

Another Territory senator, Nigel Scullion, sat with the National Party until his retirement in May 2019. He was the Party's Senate Leader from 2007 to 2008, its Deputy Parliamentary Leader from 2007 to 2013 (the first Deputy Leader to come from the Senate) and its Senate Leader again from 2013 to 2019, as well as on occasions acting as Federal Leader.

State National Party organisations elsewhere have maintained their independence, as has the Federal Party.

Landmark achievements in Government

The Country/National Party has been responsible for many landmarks in the development of Australia, too numerous to quantify. A sample of Federal achievements in Government includes:

1920 to 1960

- the nation's first radio broadcasting licences (1923)

- tax averaging for primary producers (1924)

- restructured the Commonwealth Bank as a central bank (1924)

- Department of Markets, forerunner of the contemporary Department of Agriculture (1925)

- Rural Credits Department within the Commonwealth Bank (1925) and the Commonwealth Savings Bank (1927)

- Council for Scientific and Industrial Research – today's CSIRO (1926)

- Commonwealth funding for roads through the Main Roads Development Act 1923 and the first Federal Aid Roads Agreement (1926)

- development of rural automatic telephone exchanges (1928)

- the first Commonwealth-State Transport Advisory Council (1929)

- Australian Agricultural Council (1935)

- Australian Trade Commissioner Service – now Austrade (1934)

- National Health and Medical Research Council (1936)

- development of beef roads across northern and central Australia (1949-1971)

- abolition of petrol rationing (1950)

- free milk in schools for children under 13 (1950)

- free medical treatment for pensioners (1951) and free medicine for pensioners (1951-1952)

- abolition of Commonwealth land tax (1952)

- expanded hospital benefits scheme (1952) and introduction of first medical benefits scheme (1953) leading to comprehensive national health service (1955-1956)

- Australia's first regional university, the University of New England, with Earle Page its first chancellor (1954-1955)

- introduction of television (1956)

- Australia-Japan Agreement on Commerce (1957)

- Reserve Bank of Australia and Commonwealth Banking Corporation (1958)

- live sheep export trade (1960)

1961 to 1990

- Ord River Irrigation Scheme (1963-1972)

- State Aid to Independent schools (1964)

- devaluation compensation for export industries (1967)

- Australian Design Rules for motor vehicle safety, quality and emission controls (1969)

- Australian Wool Commission and flexible wool reserve price scheme (1970)

- standard gauge Indian Pacific railway, Sydney to Perth (1970)

- national campaign to eradicate brucellosis and tuberculosis from cattle herds (1970)

- National Agricultural Outlook Conference, now the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences Outlook Conference (1971)

- Australian Industry Development Corporation – nicknamed the McEwen Bank (1971)

- expansion of Australian Trade Commissioner Service (1972)

- diversification of Australia's international trade following Britain's entry into the European Economic Community (EEC) from January 1973

- National Marine Science Research Centre, Hobart (1976)

- Rural Adjustment Scheme (1976)

- abolition of Commonwealth estate and gift [death] duties (1977)

- expansion of uranium mining and export and peaceful use of nuclear energy agreements signed with Finland, Sweden, the Philippines, South Korea, USA, UK, France, Canada, Japan and European Atomic Energy Community (1977-1982)

- National Water Resources Program (1977) and Bicentennial Water Resources Program (1983)

- Australian National Animal Health Laboratory, Geelong, Victoria (1978)

- establishment of the 200-mile Australian Fishing Zone (AFZ) (1979)

- Burdekin River dam, creating Queensland's largest lake, Lake Dalrymple (1980)

- ban on all whaling activities within the 200-mile AFZ (1980)

- Closer Economic Relations with New Zealand (1982)

- Australian Bicentennial Road Development Program (1982)

- $356 million in Federal fodder and interest rate subsidies for drought hit farmers, over and above existing joint Federal/State drought programs (1982/83)

1991 to 2015

- National Rural Finance Summit and subsequent $525 million Agriculture – Advancing Australia package (1997)

- increased child care places from 306,000 to nearly 562,000 between 1996/97 and 2004/05

- Rural Transaction Centres for smaller communities (1999)

- $4.69 billion from the Telstra sales to improve country and regional telecommunications' services (1999-2005)

- Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (2000)

- $1.78 billion for dairy deregulation adjustment (2000)

- Australia-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (2001)

- Stronger Families and Communities Strategy, including $8.8 million for National Agenda for Early Childhood (2003)

- completion of The Ghan railway upgrade from Alice Springs to Darwin (2004)

- National Water Initiative, supported by $2 billion Australian Government Water Fund (2003)

- $1.1 billion Connect Australia package (2005)

- Free Trade Agreements with Thailand and the USA (2005)

- $2 billion for a perpetual Communications Fund for regional telecommunications (2005)

- drought assistance funding of $1.25 billion over five years to 2005/06

- $15 billion Auslink national land transport program (2005) and $22 billion Auslink 2 program (2007)

- $100 billion Infrastructure Development program – largest in Australia's history – delivering 22 major works in 2014 and 47 in 2015

- reduced the threshold for Foreign Investment Review Board reviews of purchases of agricultural land from $252 million to $15 million (2015)

- White Paper on Agricultural Competitiveness – a $4 billion investment in farmers (2015)

- additional $2.6 billion for Roads to Recovery and Black Spots programs (2015)

2016 to 2020

- $5 billion Northern Australia Infrastructure Fund (2016)

- $9.3 billion for the Melbourne-Brisbane inland rail project (2017)

- $4.4 billion to continue Roads to Recovery and $685 million more for Black Spots (2017)

- largely through its backbenchers, led the debate leading to the establishment of the Royal Commission into Misconduct in the Banking, Superannuation and Financial Services Industry (2017)

- $3.9 billion for farmers and communities hit by drought and establishment of a Future Drought Fund to support drought resilience projects, estimated to grow to $5 billion by 2028-29 (2018)

- establishment of the Regional Investment Corporation (2018)

- $54 million boost to Youth Allowance scheme to give an extra 2300 country students access to tertiary education (2018)

- $1.2 billion in new funding for regional, rural and remote area non-government schools between 2020 and 2029 (2018)

- further boost to Black Spots funding taking total commitment to $1 billion from 2013/14 to 2022/23 (2019)

- $2.2 billion Local and State Government Road Safety Package (2019)

- $100 million boost to regional airport upgrades (2019)

- $1 billion to continue Roads of Strategic Importance (2019)

- $135 million to strengthen higher education in regional Australia (2019)

- nearly $450 million for the Better Regions, Stronger Communities, Mobile Black Spots and regional mobile and broadband services programs (2019)

- nearly $44 million for ABC regional services and programs (2019)

- $6.3 billion for farm, community and small business drought assistance, including increased access to Farm Household Allowance, concessional loans and incentives to increase on-farm water storage (2019)

- $32.4 million over four years for new initiatives to support exporters and modernise export systems (2019)

- $2 billion for fast train between Melbourne and Geelong and funding to investigate strategic fast rail corridors in NSW and Queensland (2019)

- $3.5 billion for new water infrastructure development (2019)

- establishment of the $100 million National Water Grid Authority to evaluate and recommend potential new water infrastructure projects (2019)

- $567 million to jointly fund with NSW a new Dungowan Dam and raise the wall of Wyangala Dam (2019)

- expanded access to the Farm Household Allowance (2019)

- redirected 100 gigalitres of Murray River water at discounted price for production of 120,000 tonnes of fodder to help maintain breeding flocks and herds (2019)

- provision of $1 billion new concessional loan program for farmers and small businesses dependent on agriculture, with no repayments for two years and interest only repayments for following three years (2019)

- jointly fund with NSW nearly $50 million for bushfire recovery.

Key dates in Party development

22 January 1920	The Australian Country Party is formed in the Commonwealth Parliament
24 March 1926	A conference convened by the Australian Farmers' Federal Organisation, including Country Party representatives and parliamentarians, adopts the first Federal Constitution, establishing The Australian Country Party Association – today's Federal Council
24 November 1960	The inaugural Conference of the Country Party Women's Representatives, largely initiated by John McEwen, is held in Canberra
7 December 1962	The Country Party women's conference becomes the Women's Federal Council
11 December 1967	Federal Council establishes the Young Australian Country Party, comprising delegates from all affiliated State parties
2 May 1975	A Federal Convention in Canberra agrees to change the Party name to National Country Party of Australia
16 October 1982	Federal Conference in Canberra votes to change the Party name to National Party of Australia
28-31 July 1988	A special Federal Council in Canberra accepts the report of an internal Party review, chaired by former minister, Peter Nixon, and its substantially re-written Federal Constitution, bringing greater unity and co-operation between the Federal and State National parties
5 September 1992	Federal Council adopts the National Party Policy for Women, developed by the Women's Federal Council
11 October 2003	Federal Conference in Canberra endorses use of The Nationals as the Party's uniform shortened name and logo for all Federal and State elections
14 October 2006	Federal Conference in Canberra agrees the Federal Party's constitutional name should be changed to The Nationals. Federal Council endorses the change
1 June 2013	Federal Council in Canberra agrees that, while retaining The Nationals as the Federal Party's abbreviated name and for use on promotional and election campaign material, the constitutional name should revert back to National Party of Australia
22 January 2020	The Party celebrates 100 years of continuous representation in the Commonwealth Parliament.

Electoral performance

Number of seats contested and seats won by the Party at general elections for the House of Representatives

Election year	Seats in Reps	Seats contested	Seats won
1922#	75	32	14
1925	75	18	14
1928	75	14	13
1929	75	18	10
1931	75	27	16
1934	74	29	15
1937	74	24	15
1940	74	27	13
1943	74	29	9
1946	74	25	12
1949	121	37	19
1951	121	22	17
1954	121	22	17
1955	122	18	18
1958	122	24	19
1961	122	25	17
1963	122	24	20
1966	124	27	21
1969	125	26	20
1972	125	36	20
1974	127	49	21
1975##	127	45	23
1977	124	30	19
1980	125	31	20
1983###	125	32	17
1984	148	72*	21
1987	148	83**	19
1990	148	47	14
1993	147	46	16
1996	148	31	18
1998	148	32	16
2001	150	33	13

Election year	Seats in Reps	Seats contested	Seats won
2004	150	24	12
2007	150	24	10
2010####	150	23	12***
2013	150	27	15
2016	150	29	16
2019	151	30	16
Total contested and won		**1192**	**617**
Percentage of successful contests		**51.76%**	

Notes:

First election contested as The Australian Country Party (ACP). The ACP was formed on 22 January 1920 by a meeting of nine members of the House of Representatives who had been elected on 13 December 1919. They were joined by two more on 24 February 1920, so that when Parliament opened on 26 February 1920, the ACP had a parliamentary strength of 11.

From now on includes candidates elected for the Northern Territory Country Liberal Party (CLP) who sat in Canberra with the Country/National Party. The CLP was formed by a merger of Country and Liberal Party interests in July 1974. The Country Party in the Northern Territory was formed in 1966. This was also the first election contested by the Federal Party as the National Country Party of Australia, and the election which returned more Party members, 23, than at any other time in its history thus far.

First election contested as the National Party of Australia. The Party's constitutional name was changed to The Nationals from 14 October 2006 and reverted back to National Party of Australia from 1 June 2013.

* The increased number of candidates was due to the increase in the number of House of Representatives seats from 125 to 148 and the resultant substantial changes to many electoral boundaries.

** The large number of candidates was due to the Queensland National Party supporting the running of candidates in all 13 electorates in each of South Australia and Western Australia as part of the Joh for Canberra campaign.

From now on includes Liberal National Party of Queensland (LNP) candidates and members elected in seats deemed to be National Party seats in the House of Representatives. The LNP was formed by a merger of the Queensland National and Liberal parties on 26 July 2008.

*** The seats won column for 2010 includes Tony Crook, who won the Western Australian seat of O'Connor, but sat as an Independent Western Australian National until joining the Federal Nationals in May 2012. He retired at the August 2013 election.

Seats won compared to numbers in Parliament

The 617 election wins to 2019 have resulted in 131 Party candidates from around Australia being elected to the House of Representatives. The reason why the number of members is significantly lower than the total seats won is simply because many members were re-elected over a long period of time. For instance, 48 members held their seats for 15 years or more, while 25 were returned for 20 years or more. That is testimony to the confidence of local voters in the ability of their elected representatives to pursue their issues and concerns in the Commonwealth Parliament.

Similarly, in the Senate, where the Party's representation over the past 100 years has totalled 56, 18 served for 12 years or more and four for 20 years or more.

Page Research Centre

The Page Research Centre was established in 2002 and formally launched by then National Party Leader and Deputy Prime Minister, John Anderson, on 11 February 2003.

Acting independently from the National Party, the Centre researches and explores contemporary issues, especially those affecting rural and regional Australia. Its findings are published and made available to Commonwealth and State governments.

In recent research, the Centre developed a paper in 2018 examining the rewards and risks of biofuels in Australia; in 2018/19 a paper on improving school education, especially in regional and rural areas; and in 2019, together with the Menzies Research Centre, a paper comparing the economic impact on consumers of the targets of Labor and the Coalition to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

In 2007 the Centre began a project to preserve the history of the National Party at Federal and State levels. This was the beginning of the Page Research Centre Library, located at the Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga, NSW. The Library continues to accumulate a large range of documents, diaries, memos, newspaper articles, personal papers, photographs, and audio and visual tapes, CDs and DVDs. Access to these is available to researchers interested in the Party's history.

The Centre also supports the publication of books on National Party history. More information on the Centre is available at <www.page.org.au>.

Not perturbed: Acting Country Party Leader, Doug Anthony (left), ignores a heckler
during a rowdy public meeting in Perth as part of the campaign for the
25 November 1967 half Senate election
(The New South Wales Countryman, *December 1967, NSW Nationals)*

The Centenary Rolls
National Party of Australia 1920-2020

Organisational Leadership Rolls

Earle Page Meritorious Service Award

Rogers, Hugh
Nixon, Peter
Swinney, Stella
Muir, Fulton
Braithwaite, Ray
Lloyd, Bruce
McKenzie, Sandy
Sharp, John
Hunt, Ralph
McKerrow, Shirley
Fischer, Tim

Note:

Earle Page was a founding member of the Australian Country Party. He served as Federal Parliamentary Leader for 18 years from 1921 to 1939, was Prime Minister in April 1939, and was the first organisational Federal President, holding the position from 1926 until 1961. Introduced in 2005, the award named in his honour is the highest award that is bestowed 'from time to time' on 'eminent individuals to recognise their outstanding contribution to The Nationals and particularly to its Federal Organisation and its role in the affairs of Australia' *(Federal Constitution, clause 7.1 (m))*.

Federal Presidents

Name	Period of service
Page, Earle (NSW)	1926-1961
Moss, William (Vic)	1962-1968
Hunt, Ralph (NSW)	1968-1969
Roberts, Sidney (Qld)	1969-1974
Solomons, Adrian (NSW)	1974-1978
Drake-Brockman, Tom (WA)	1978-1981
McKerrow, Shirley (Vic)	1981-1987
McDonald, Stuart (Vic)	1987-1990
Paterson, John (WA)	1990-1996
McDonald, Don (Qld)	1996-1999
Dickie, Helen (NSW)	1999-2005
Russell, David (Qld)	2005-2006
Tanner, John (Vic)	2006-2012
Ferguson, Christine (NSW)	2012-2015
Anthony, Larry (Qld)	2015-

Note:

The Federal organisation, originally called the Australian Country Party Association, was formed in March 1926 with Earle Page being elected its first Chairman on 30 September 1926. The Chairman title was changed to President in July 1937.

Women's Federal Council Presidents

Name	Period of Service
Innes, Phyllis (Qld)	1960-1961
Robertson, Jessie (WA)	1961-1964
Mott, Freda (NSW)	1964-1965
Moss, Dorothy (Vic)	1965-1968
McCormack, Alma (Qld)	1968-1969
Piesse, Molly (WA)	1969-1970
Hamersley, Judy (WA)	1970-1971
Mott, Freda (NSW)	1971-1973
Adamthwaite, Vera (Vic)	1973-1976
Bale, Shirley (Qld)	1976-1979
Dilley, Marie (WA)	1979-1982
Sheil, Marjorie (Qld)	1982-1985

Name	Period of Service
McIntyre, Jean (Qld)	1985-1988
Armytage, Virginia (NSW)	1988-1991
Dickie, Helen (NSW)	1991-1994
Nesbitt, Diane (NSW)	1994-1997
Wolcott, Karolee (Vic)	1997-1999
Stallman, Pam (Qld)	1999-2002
Hawkins, Jennie (NSW)	2002-2004
Ferguson, Christine (NSW)	2004-2007
Wood, Cathy (WA)	2007-2008
Strang, Ruth (NSW)	2008-2011
Abbott, Jackie (SA)	2011-2014
Cranwell, Terry Ann (Qld)	2014-2017
Craig, Theresa (Qld)	2017-

Note:
The Women's Federal Council was formed as the Conference of Country Party Women's Representatives, holding its inaugural meeting on 24 November 1960 and being renamed the Women's Federal Council from 7 December 1962.

Young National Party of Australia Presidents

Name	Period of Service
Ahern, Mike (Qld)	1967-1969
Evans, Doug (Vic)	1969-1970
Shannon, Neville (SA)	1970-1971
Fogarty, John (NSW)	1971-1972
West, Garry (NSW)	1973-1976
Pike, Gary (Qld)	1976-1977
McNamara, Patrick (Vic)	1977-1979
Behan, Michael (Qld)	1979-1981
Smith, Nigel (NSW)	1981-1983
Walsh, Gerard (Qld)	1983-1985
Anderson, Julian (Qld)	1985-1987
Brewer, Judy (Vic)	1987-1988
Borgu, Aldo (WA)	1988-1989
Calder, Angus (NSW)	1989-1991
Anderson, Duncan (WA)	1991-1992

Name	Period of Service
Kelliher, Daniel (Vic)	1992-1994
Dickie, Meredith (Vic)	1994-1996
Burnett, Donald (Qld)	1996-1997
Doyle, Douglas (NSW)	1997-1998
Macaulay, Rob (NSW)	1998-1999
Copeland, Stuart (Qld)	1999-2000
Mitchell, Scott (Vic)	2001-2002
Dixon, Tim (NSW)	2002-2004
Kahler, Chris (Qld)	2004-2006
Callachor, Damian (NSW)	2006-2008
Alridge, Martin (WA)	2008-2009
Mitchell, Sarah (NSW)	2009-2011
O'Neil, Cameron (Qld)	2011-2014
Cameron, Ruby (Vic)	2014-2018
Banks, Daniel (NT)	2018-2019
Maruca, Alessia (Qld)	2019-

Note:

Federal Council agreed to the formation of the Young Australian Country Party Federal Council in 1967, and adopted a draft Constitution for the organisation on 19 January 1968.

John McEwen House Pty Ltd Chairmen

Name	Period of service
Hunt, Ralph	1968-1969
Roberts, Sidney	1969-1976
Solomons, Adrian	1976-1984
Thomson, David	1984-1997
McKerrow, Shirley	1997-2016
Tanner, John	2016-

Note:

John McEwen House Pty Ltd was established in 1966 to manage the Federal Secretariat property.

Page Research Centre Chairmen

Name	Period of Service
Nehl, Garry	2003-2006
Armstrong, Ian	2006-2012
Anderson, John	2012-

Note:
The Page Research Centre was established in 2002 and launched in February 2003.

Federal Directors

Name	Period of service
Warwick, Peter	1968-1976
Cassell, Barry	1976-1977
Bailey, Jenny (Acting)	1977-1979
Osmond, Bryce	1979-1981
Harvey, John	1981-1983
Davey, Paul	1983-1992
Ferguson, Cecile	1992-1997
Braithwaite, Ray (Honorary)	1998-1998
Davey, Paul (Honorary)	1998-2000
White, Gay	2000-2001
Hall, Andrew	2001-2007
Henderson, Brad	2007-2012
Mitchell, Scott	2012-2017
Hindmarsh, Ben	2017-

Note:
Before the opening of the Federal Secretariat in Canberra in 1968 and the appointment of a Federal Director, administrative work for the Federal organisation was undertaken in an honorary capacity by the NSW Country Party General Secretary – EJ Munro, 1927-1948; John Dredge, 1948-1967; Bill Ford, 1967-1968.

Change at the top: Shirley McKerrow hands over as Federal President to Stuart McDonald after the March 1987 Federal Council meeting *(Page Library P2717)*

Parliamentary Leadership Rolls

Federal Parliamentary Leaders

Name	Period of Service
McWilliams, William James (Tas)	25 Feb 1920-5 Apr 1921
Page, Earle Christmas Grafton (NSW)	5 Apr 1921-13 Sept 1939
Prime Minister	*7 Apr-26 Apr 1939*
Cameron, Archie Galbraith (SA)	13 Sept 1939-16 Oct 1940
Fadden, Arthur William (Qld) (Acting)*	16 Oct 1940-12 Mar 1941
	12 Mar 1941-26 Mar 1958
Prime Minister	*29 Aug 1941-7 Oct 1941*
Opposition Leader	*7 Oct 1941-16 Sept 1943*
McEwen, John (Vic)	26 Mar 1958-1 Feb 1971
Prime Minister	*19 Dec 1967-10 Jan 1968*
Anthony, John Douglas (NSW)	2 Feb 1971-17 Jan 1984
Sinclair, Ian McCahon (NSW)	17 Jan 1984-9 May 1989
Blunt, Charles William (NSW)	9 May 1989-6 Apr 1990
Fischer, Timothy Andrew (NSW)	10 Apr 1990-1 July 1999
Anderson, John Duncan (NSW)	1 July 1999-23 June 2005
Vaile, Mark Anthony James (NSW)	23 June 2005-3 Dec 2007
Truss, Warren Errol (Qld)	7 Dec 2007-11 Feb 2016
Joyce, Barnaby Thomas Gerard (NSW)	12 Feb 2016-26 Feb 2018**
McCormack, Michael Francis (NSW)	26 Feb 2018-

Deputy Federal Parliamentary Leaders

Name	Period of Service
Jowett, Edmund (Vic)	24 Feb 1920-5 Apr 1921
Gregory, Henry (WA)	5 Apr 1921-2 Dec 1921***
Fleming, William Montgomerie (NSW)	27 June 1922-16 Dec 1922
Gibson, William Gerrand (Vic)	16 Jan 1923-12 Oct 1929
Paterson, Thomas (Vic)	19 Nov 1929-30 Nov 1937+
Thorby, Harold Victor Campbell (NSW)	30 Nov 1937-21 Sept 1940
Fadden, Arthur William (Qld)	16 Oct 1940-12 Mar 1941
Vacant	12 Mar 1941-22 Sept 1943++
McEwen, John (Vic)	22 Sept 1943-26 Mar 1958
Davidson, Charles William (Qld)	26 Mar 1958-1 Nov 1963
Adermann, Charles Frederick (Qld)	25 Feb 1964-8 Dec 1966
Anthony, John Douglas (NSW)	9 Dec 1966-2 Feb 1971
Sinclair, Ian McCahon (NSW)	2 Feb 1971-17 Jan 1984+++
Hunt, Ralph James Dunnett (NSW)	17 Feb 1984-23 July 1987
Lloyd, Bruce (Vic)	23 July 1987-23 Mar 1993
Anderson, John Duncan (NSW)	23 Mar 1993-1 July 1999
Vaile, Mark Anthony James (NSW)	1 July 1999-23 June 2005
Truss, Warren Errol (Qld)	23 June 2005-3 Dec 2007
Scullion, Nigel Gregory (Sen, NT)	3 Dec 2007-13 Sept 2013#
Joyce, Barnaby Thomas Gerard (NSW)	13 Sept 2013-12 Feb 2016
Nash, Fiona Joy (Sen, NSW)	12 Feb 2016-27 Oct 2017##
McKenzie, Bridget (Sen, Vic)	7 Dec 2017-

Senate Leaders

Name	Period of Service
Hardy, Charles (NSW)	Oct 1935-June 1938###
Cooper, Walter Jackson (Qld)	Mar 1947-Dec 1960####
Wade, Harrie Walter (Vic)	Mar 1961-Nov 1964
McKellar, Gerald Colin (NSW)	Nov 1964-Nov 1969
Drake-Brockman, Thomas Charles (WA)	Dec 1969-Dec 1975
Webster, James Joseph (Vic)	Feb 1976-Jan 1980
Scott, Douglas Barr (NSW)	Feb 1980-June 1985
Collard, Stanley James (Qld)	July 1985-June 1987
Stone, John Owen (Qld)	Aug 1987-Mar 1990
Boswell, Ronald Leslie Doyle (Qld)	Apr 1990-Dec 2007
Scullion, Nigel Gregory (NT)	Dec 2007-Sept 2008
Joyce, Barnaby Thomas Gerrard (Qld)	Sept 2008-Aug 2013
Scullion, Nigel Gregory (NT)	Sept 2013-May 2019
McKenzie, Bridget (Vic)	July 2019-

Notes:

* Page and McEwen tied in the ballot for the leadership. To break the deadlock, the Party Room agreed to proceed with the election of its Deputy Leader – for which Fadden had overwhelming support – and then appoint the Deputy as Acting Leader. With the deepening war crisis and Prime Minister Menzies overseas, the Party Room confirmed Fadden as Leader on 12 March 1941. It also agreed to leave the Deputy's position vacant.

** Joyce was advised by the New Zealand High Commission in Canberra on 10 August 2017 that he may be a New Zealand citizen by descent in light of his father's New Zealand heritage, potentially bringing into question his right to serve in the Commonwealth Parliament, as per Section 44 of the Australian Constitution. Joyce requested that the matter be referred for adjudication to the High Court of Australia and immediately took the necessary action to renounce any right to New Zealand citizenship that he might have. On 27 October 2017 the High Court ruled him ineligible to be a parliamentarian. A by-election for his seat of New England, NSW, was announced for 36 days later, on 2 December 2017. While Joyce remained the Party's Federal Leader pending his return at the by-election, Nigel Scullion became Interim Parliamentary Leader. The Liberal Party's Deputy Leader and Foreign Minister, Julie Bishop, became Acting Prime Minister during three absences overseas by the Prime Minister during the by-election period, while the position of Deputy Prime Minister remained vacant. Joyce resumed his portfolio and Deputy Prime Minister responsibilities from 6 December 2017 after winning the New England by-election in a landslide.

*** Gregory resigned as Deputy Leader over a disagreement on Coalition strategy. As the Parliament rose for the summer recess on 10 December (and was subsequently prorogued twice) and did not resume until 28 June 1922, the Deputy Leader's position was not filled until the pre-sessional Country Party meeting on 27 June 1922, when Fleming was elected. His

tenure was short-lived as he lost his NSW seat of Robertson at the election on 16 December 1922. Gibson was elected to replace him at the pre-sessional Party meeting on 16 January 1923.

+ The eldest of Page's three sons, Earle junior, was killed by lightning while moving cattle on the family property, *Heifer Station*, Grafton, in January 1933. As a result Page was absent from Parliament for nine months until 4 October 1933. The Party Room appointed Paterson Acting Leader in the meantime.

++ With the confirmation of Fadden as Leader, the Party Room agreed that 'with the party reuniting and in light of international events, there was no need for a Deputy to be appointed'.

+++ Anthony as Trade Minister embarked on a series of international visits in 1976, including to the Soviet Union. He returned unwell to Australia in July. Unable to shake his illness, ultimately identified as hepatitis, he was granted leave from Parliament from 20 October and did not return until 1 February 1977. During that period, the Party Room appointed Ian Sinclair Acting Leader and Peter Nixon Acting Deputy.

Scullion was a member of the Northern Territory Country Liberal Party and sat with the National Party in the Commonwealth Parliament. He was the first senator to hold the Party's Deputy Leader position, all others, as with Leaders, having come from the House of Representatives.

Nash was ruled ineligible to be a senator by the High Court of Australia on 27 October 2017, due to her father's British heritage.

The Party did not elect a formal Senate leader prior to 1935, instead agreeing that one of its number be authorised to act as the channel of communication with ministers in connection with the business of the chamber. Senator William Carroll (WA) undertook the role for several years until ill health forced a change in October 1935. The statement to the Senate by Senator Charles Hardy (NSW) on 3 October 1935 that he had been appointed as Leader of the Party in the Senate became controversial when Senator Edward Johnston (WA) claimed Hardy was wrong and that he had in fact been elected to represent the Party on the same lines as previously. Hardy disputed Johnston's statement, as did Senator Macartney Abbott (NSW) who declared that Hardy 'has not made any statement that he was not fully authorized to make'. Hardy's position as Party Leader in the Senate was approved at a Parliamentary Country Party meeting on 10 October 1935. As a result, Johnston, who insisted that the Senate was 'a non-Party House' and that he was responsible only to the State of Western Australia, advised the Senate on 22 October 1935 that he had 'tendered to Dr. Earle Page my resignation as a member of the Federal Country Party. In future, I shall sit in the Senate as a Western Australian Country party senator'. This, however, appeared to have no negative impact on the Country Party or Coalition governments or oppositions in the Senate between October 1935 and Johnston's death in office in September 1942. *(Commonwealth Parliamentary Debates, Senate, 3, 9, 10, 22 October 1935, pp. 462; 522-523; 598-601; 867-869).*

In the period 1938 to 1949, the Party's Senate numbers gradually diminished from four to one, making it hardly necessary to elect a leader. However, Walter Cooper most likely fulfilled the role on an informal basis. He was undoubtedly Leader from July 1947 to December 1949 as he was the only Country Party senator. He was Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Senate from 19 March to 31 May 1947 and Senate Leader of the Opposition from 1 July 1947 to 19 December 1949. Country Party numbers increased to five at the December 1949 elections, from which time leadership positions were regularly filled.

Deputy Senate Leaders

Name	Period of service
Webster, James Joseph (Vic)	Feb 1973-Feb 1976
Scott, Douglas Barr (NSW)	Feb 1976-Feb 1980
Maunsell, Charles Ronald (Qld)	Feb 1980-Feb 1981
Collard, Stanley James (Qld)	Feb 1981-July 1985
Bjelke-Petersen, Florence Isabel (Qld)	Aug 1985-Apr 1990
Tambling, Grant Ernest John (NT)	Apr 1990-Mar 1993
Brownhill, David Gordon Cadell (NSW)	Mar 1993-Apr 2000
Tambling, Grant Ernest John (NT)	May 2000-Nov 2001
Macdonald, John Alexander Lindsay (NSW)	Nov 2001-Feb 2007
Scullion, Nigel Gregory (NT)	Feb 2007-Dec 2007
Boswell, Ronald Leslie Doyle (Qld)	Dec 2007-June 2008
Nash, Fiona Joy (NSW)	June 2008-Oct 2017
McKenzie, Bridget (Vic)	Dec 2017-July 2019
Canavan, Matthew James (Qld)	July 2019-

Senate Party Whips

Name	Period of service
Maunsell, Charles Ronald (Qld)	Feb 1973-Feb 1980
Sheil, Glenister (Qld)	Feb 1980-Feb 1981
Collard, Stanley James (Qld)	Feb 1981-Feb 1985
Sheil, Glenister (Qld)	Feb 1985-Sept 1987
Tambling, Grant Ernest John (NT)	Sept 1987-Apr 1990
Sheil, Glenister (Qld)	Apr 1990-June 1990
Brownhill, David Gordon Cadell (NSW)	July 1990-Mar 1993
Bjelke-Petersen, Florence Isabel (Qld)	Mar 1993-June 1993
O'Chee, William George (Qld)	July 1993-June 1999
McGauran, Julian John James (Vic)	July 1999-Feb 2006
Scullion, Nigel Gregory (NT)	Feb 2006-Feb 2007
Nash, Fiona Joy (NSW)	Feb 2007-Sept 2008
Williams, John Reginald (NSW)	Sept 2008-Sept 2013
McKenzie, Bridget (Vic)	Sept 2013-June 2014
O'Sullivan, Barry James (Qld)	July 2014-Sept 2015
Canavan, Matthew James (Qld)	Sept 2015-Feb 2016
O'Sullivan, Barry James(Qld)	Feb 2016-May 2016

Name	Period of service
Williams, John Reginald (NSW)	May 2016-June 2019
Davey, Perin McGregor (NSW)	July 2019-

Note:
Records indicate that Country Party senators did not elect a Deputy Senate Leader or Senate Whip until 1973.

House of Representatives Party Whips

Name	Electorate	Period of service
Page, Earle Christmas Grafton	Cowper (NSW)	Feb 1920-Apr 1921
Gibson, William Gerrand	Corangamite (Vic)	Apr 1921-Jan 1923
Stewart, Percy Gerald	Wimmera (Vic)	Jan 1923-Feb 1923
Prowse, John Henry	Forrest (WA)	Feb 1923-Aug 1924
Hunter, James Aitchison	Maranoa (Qld)	Aug 1924-Nov 1934
Thompson, Harold Victor	New England (NSW)	Nov 1934-Nov 1937
Nock, Horace Keyworth	Riverina (NSW)	Nov 1937-Apr 1940
Corser, Bernard Henry	Wide Bay (Qld)	Apr 1940-Feb 1950
Davidson, Charles William	Dawson (Qld)	Feb 1950-Feb 1956
Turnbull, Winton George	Mallee (Vic)	Feb 1956-Oct 1972
England, John Armstrong	Calare (NSW)	Oct 1972-Feb 1975
Corbett, James	Maranoa (Qld)	Feb 1975-Aug 1980
Fisher, Peter Stanley	Mallee (Vic)	Aug 1980-Apr 1983
Hicks, Noel Jeffrey	Riverina (NSW)	Apr 1983-Nov 1998
Forrest, John Alexander	Mallee (Vic)	Nov 1998-Aug 2006
Hull, Kay Elizabeth	Riverina (NSW)	Aug 2006-Sept 2010
Coulton, Mark Maclean	Parkes (NSW)	Sept 2010-Aug 2016
Christensen, George Robert	Dawson (Qld)	Aug 2016-Mar 2017
Drum, Damian Kevin	Murray (Vic)	Mar 2017-Feb 2018
Landry, Michelle Leanne	Capricornia (Qld)	Feb 2018-Sept 2018
Drum, Damian Kevin	Murray/Nicholls (Vic)	Sept 2018-

Note:
Up to the 1950s, the Whip was also referred to as the Secretary of the Party. From the mid-1970s, the Party also elected a Deputy Whip. The contemporary Party elects a Chief Whip and a Whip for the House of Representatives. The above list nominates those members who have been elected to the senior Whip position.

Sweet success: 14 March 1983 and the Party Room celebrates the return of Noel Hicks after a bruising campaign in his NSW seat of Riverina, which he won with 50.43 per cent of the two-party preferred vote. Hicks was successively elected Whip for the next 15 years, the second longest behind Winton Turnbull (Mallee, Vic), who held the position for 16 years, (left to right, back row) Bruce Lloyd, Ray Braithwaite, Bruce Cowan, Tom McVeigh, Doug Scott, Ian Robinson, Ian Cameron, Flo Bjelke-Petersen, Ralph Hunt, Ian Sinclair, Stan Collard, Peter Fisher; (front row) Bob Katter snr, Stephen Lusher, Doug Anthony, Noel Hicks, Peter McGauran, Ron Boswell *(Federal Secretariat)*

Vote NO: Country Party how to vote leaflet for the four referendum questions put by the Whitlam Government at the 1974 double dissolution election. The Country Party was particularly concerned with a proposal to make the size of the population, rather than elector numbers, the basis for determining the size of electorates, fearing it would lead to many more city electorates and fewer country ones. All four referendum questions were defeated *(NSW Nationals)*

Roll of Senators and Members 1920 to 2020

Alphabetical list of those who have represented the Australian Country Party, National Country Party of Australia, and National Party of Australia in the Commonwealth Parliament over the past 100 years

The Senate

Name	State	Party	Period of service
Abbott, Macartney	NSW	CP	1.7.1935-30.6.1941 def
Abbott, Percy Phipps	NSW	CP	14.11.1925-30.6.1929 def
Abbott, Richard Hartley Smith	Vic	CP	*18.12.1928-30.6.1929 ret
Andrew, David John	Vic	CP	14.11.1925-18.11.1928 died
Badman, Albert Oliver	SA	LCL sitting with CP	1.7.1932-30.9.1937 res
Bjelke-Petersen, Florence Isabel	Qld	NCP; NPA	*12.3.1981-30.6.1993 ret
Boswell, Ronald Leslie Doyle	Qld	NPA (LNP)#	5.3.1983-30.6.2014 ret
Brownhill, David Gordon Cadell	NSW	NPA	1.12.1984-14.4.2000 res
Bull, Thomas Louis	NSW	CP	1.7.1965-30.6.1971 def
Carroll, William	WA	CP	1.7.1926-30.5.1936 died
Canavan, Matthew James	Qld	LNP sitting with NPA	1.7.2014-
Chapman, John Hedley	SA	CP	1.7.1926-14.3.1931 died
Collard, Stanley James	Qld	NCP; NPA	13.12.1975-5.6.1987 ret
Cooper, Walter Jackson	Qld	CP	1.7.1935-30.6.1968 ret
Davey, Perin Mcregor	NSW	NPA	1.7.2019-
Drake-Brockman, Thomas Charles	WA	CP; NCP	*12.8.1958-30.6.1978 ret
Elliott, Robert Charles Dunlop	Vic	CP	1.7.1929-30.6.1935 def
Gibson, William Gerrand	Vic	CP (excluded from Party Room until 1943)	1.7.1935-30.6.1947 ret
Hardy, Charles	NSW	CP	1.7.1932-30.6.1938 def
Johnston, Edward Bertram	WA	CP; CP-WA from Oct 1935	1.7.1929-6.9.1942 died

Name	State	Party	Period of service
Joyce, Barnaby Thomas Gerard	Qld	NPA (LNP)#	1.7.2005-8.8.2013 res
Kilgariff, Bernard Francis	NT	CLP sitting with NCP to March 1979, then with Lib	13.12.1975-10.7.1987 ret
Latham, Charles George	WA	CP	*8.10.1942-20.8.1943 def
Lawrie, Alexander Greig Ellis	Qld	CP; NCP	1.7.1965-11.11.1975 ret
Macdonald, John Alexander Lindsay	NSW	NPA	1.7.1993-30.6.1999 def *4.5.2000-30.6.2008 ret
McDonald, Susan Eileen	Qld	LNP sitting with NPA	1.7.2019-
McGauran, Julian John James	Vic	NPA; Lib from Feb 2006	11.7.1987-30.6.1990 def 1.7.1993-30.6.2011 def
McKellar, Gerald Colin	NSW	CP	22.11.1958-13.4.1970 died
McKenzie, Bridget	Vic	NPA	1.7.2011-
McMahon, Samantha Jane	NT	CLP sitting with NPA	29.5.2019-
Maher, Edmund Bede	Qld	CP	22.2.1950-30.6.1965 ret
Martin, Steven Leigh	Tas	JLN; Ind; NPA from May 2018##	*9.2.2018-30.6.2019 def
Marwick, Thomas William	WA	CP	*19.8.1936-22.10.1937 def
Maunsell, Charles Ronald	Qld	CP; NCP	1.7.1968-30.6.1981 def
Nash, Fiona Joy	NSW	NPA	1.7.2005-27.10.2017 inel
Neal, Laurence William	Vic	NCP	*11.3.1980-30.6.1981 def
O'Chee, William George	Qld	NPA	*8.5.1990-30.6.1999 def
O'Sullivan, Barry James	Qld	LNP sitting with NPA	*11.2.2014-30.6.2019 ret
Piesse, Edmund Stephen Roper	WA	CP	22.2.1950-25.8.1952 died
Prowse, Edgar Wylie	WA	CP	1.7.1962-31.12.1973 res
Rankin, George James	Vic	CP	22.2.1950-30.6.1956 ret
Reid, Albert David	NSW	CP	22.2.1950-22.5.1962 died
Reid, David Donald	WA	CP	*16.1.1974-11.4.1974 ret
Robertson, Agnes Robertson	WA	Lib; CP from 1955	22.2.1950-30.6.1962 ret
Robinson, William Charles	WA	CP	*30.9.1952-8.5.1953 def

Name	State	Party	Period of service
Scott, Douglas Barr	NSW	CP; NCP; NPA	*6.8.1970-20.11.1970 def 18.5.1974-30.6.1985 ret
Scullion, Nigel Gregory	NT	CLP sitting with NPA	10.11.2001-29.5.2019 ret
Seward, Harrie Stephen	WA	CP	28.4.1951-23.7.1958 died
Sheil, Glenister	Qld	CP; NCP; NPA	18.5.1974-6.2.1981 res; 1.12.1984-30.6.1990 def
Stone, John Owen	Qld	NPA	11.7.1987-1.3.1990 res
Tambling, Grant Ernest John	NT	CLP sitting with NPA	11.7.1987-9.11.2001 ret
Tehan, Thomas Joseph	Vic	NCP	13.12.1975-30.6.1978 def
Wade, Harrie Walter	Vic	CP	1.7.1956-18.11.1964 died
Webster, James Joseph	Vic	CP; NCP	*9.12.1964-28.1.1980 res
Williams, John Reginald	NSW	NPA	1.7.2008-30.6.2019 ret
Wilson, Reginald Victor	SA	CP (did not attend Party meetings)	1.7.1920-30.6.1926 def

Notes

* Selected under section 15 of the Constitution Act to fill a casual Senate vacancy

Liberal National Party of Queensland (LNP) from July 2008, following the merger of the National and Liberal Parties in that State, and continuing to sit with the National Party in the Commonwealth Parliament.

Martin, a Tasmanian senator who replaced Senator Jacqui Lambie when she was found to be ineligible to sit in Parliament because of dual citizenship, sat as an Independent. On becoming a National senator, he joined the NSW National Party, which he was able to do under Rule 1.3.1. of that Party's Constitution and Rules, as there was no National Party organisation in Tasmania.

inel Nash was ruled ineligible to be a senator by the High Court of Australia on 27 October 2017 due to her father's British heritage.

Keeping the numbers: the National Party maintained its total parliamentary strength of 26 at the 11 July 1987 double dissolution election (left to right, back row) Julian McGauran (Senate, Vic), Michael Cobb (Parkes, NSW), Tim Fischer (Farrer, NSW); (third row) Grant Tambling (Senate, NT), Ron Boswell (Senate, Qld), Evan Adermann (Fairfax, Qld), Glen Sheil (Senate, Qld), John Sharp (Gilmore, NSW); (second row) Ian Robinson (Page, NSW), David Brownhill (Senate, NSW), Garry Nehl (Cowper, NSW), Flo Bjelke-Petersen (Senate, Qld), Bruce Cowan (Lyne, NSW), Charles Blunt (Richmond, NSW), Noel Hicks (Riverina-Darling, NSW), Ian Cameron (Maranoa, Qld); (front row) Bob Katter snr (Kennedy, Qld), Peter Fisher (Mallee, Vic), Clarrie Millar (Wide Bay, Qld), John Stone (Senate, Qld), Ian Sinclair, Federal Leader, (New England, NSW), Bruce Lloyd (Murray, Vic), Peter McGauran (Gippsland, Vic), Ralph Hunt (Gwydir, NSW), Ray Braithwaite (Dawson, Qld). Absent, Tom McVeigh (Groom, Qld) *(Federal Secretariat)*

House of Representatives

Name	Electorate/ State	Party	Period of service
Abbott, Charles Lydiard Aubrey	Gwydir, NSW Gwydir, NSW	CP CP	14.11.1925-12.10.1929 def 19.12.1931-28.3.1937 res
Abbott, Joseph Palmer	New England, NSW	CP	21.9.1940-31.10.1949 ret
Adermann, Albert Evan	Fisher, Qld Fairfax, Qld	CP; NCP; NPA	2.12.1972-1.12.1984 ce 1.12.1984-19.2.1990 ret
Adermann, Charles Frederick	Maranoa, Qld Fisher, Qld	CP	21.8.1943-10.12.1949 ce 10.12.1949-2.11.1972 ret
Allan, Archibald Ian	Gwydir, NSW	CP	+19.12.1953-30.4.1969 res
Anderson, Charles Groves Wright	Hume, NSW Hume, NSW	CP	10.12.1949-28.4.1951 def 10.12.1955-9.12.1961 def
Anderson, John Duncan	Gwydir, NSW	NPA	+14.4.1989-24.11.2007 ret
Anthony, Hubert Lawrence	Richmond, NSW	CP	23.10.1937-12.7.1957 died
Anthony, John Douglas	Richmond, NSW	CP; NCP; NPA	+14.9.1957-18.1.1984 res
Anthony, Lawrence James	Richmond, NSW	NPA	2.3.1996-9.10.2004 def
Armstrong, Adam Alexander	Riverina, NSW	CP	+27.2.1965-25.10.1969 def
Atkinson, Llewelyn	Wilmot, Tas	ANTI-SOC; COL; NAT; CP 1923-25; NAT	12.12.1906-12.10.1929 def
Badman, Albert Oliver	Grey, SA	LCL sitting with CP; IND CP Apr-Nov 1939	23.10.1937-21.8.1943 def
Bandidt, Henry Norman Charles	Wide Bay, Qld	CP	22.11.1958-9.12.1961 def
Barnes, Charles Edward	McPherson, Qld	CP	22.11.1958-2.11.72 ret
Blunt, Charles William	Richmond, NSW	NPA	+18.2.1984-24.3.1990 def

Name	Electorate/ State	Party	Period of service
Bowden, George James	Gippsland, Vic	CP	21.8.1943-2.11.1961 ret
Braithwaite, Raymond Allen	Dawson, Qld	NCP; NPA	13.12.1975-29.1.1996 ret
Brand, William Alfred	Wide Bay, Qld	CP	29.5.1954-14.10.1958 ret
Brimblecombe, Wilfred John	Maranoa, Qld	CP	28.4.1951-31.10.1966 ret
Broad, Andrew John	Mallee, Vic	NPA	7.9.2013-18.5.2019 ret
Calder, Samuel Edward	Northern Territory	CP; CLP from July 1974 sitting with CP; NCP	26.11.1966-19.9.1980 ret
Cameron, Archibald Galbraith	Barker, SA	LCL sitting with CP; UAP from1940; Lib	15.9.1934-9.8.1956 died
Cameron, Ian Milne Dixon	Maranoa, Qld	NCP; NPA	18.10.1980-19.2.1990 ret
Carige, Colin Lawrence	Capricornia, Qld	NCP	13.12.1975-10.12.1977 def
Causley, Ian Raymond	Page, NSW	NPA	2.3.1996-24.11.2007 ret
Chester, Darren Jeffrey	Gippsland, Vic	NPA	+28.6.2008-
Christensen, George Robert	Dawson, Qld	LNP sitting with NPA	21.8.2010-
Cobb, John Kenneth	Parkes, NSW Calare, NSW	NPA	10.11.2001-24.11.2007 ce 24.11.2007-2.7.2016 ret
Cobb, Michael Roy	Parkes, NSW	NPA	1.12.1984-31.8.1998 ret
Collins, Maurice	Wakefield, SA	CP	17.11.1928-12.10.1929 def
Collins, Thomas Joseph	Hume, NSW	CP; IND CP; Apr-Nov 1939	19.12.1931-21.8.1943 def
Conaghan, Patrick John	Cowper, NSW	NPA	18.5.2019-
Conquest, Bryan Joseph	Hinkler, Qld	NPA	1.12.1984-11.7.1987 def
Cook, Robert	Indi, Vic	VFU; CP	13.12.1919-9.10.1928 ret
Corbett, James	Maranoa, Qld	CP; NCP	26.11.1966-19.9.1980 ret
Corser, Bernard Henry	Wide Bay, Qld	CP; IND CP Apr-Nov 1939	+3.9.1928-21.4.1954 ret

Name	Electorate/ State	Party	Period of service
Coulton, Mark Maclean	Parkes, NSW	NPA	24.11.2007-
Cowan, David Bruce	Lyne, NSW	NCP; NPA	18.10.1980-8.2.1993 ret
Crook, Anthony John	O'Connor, WA	IND Nats-WA to May 2012; NPA	21.8.2010-5.8.2013 ret
Davidson, Charles William	Capricornia, Qld	CP	28.9.1946-10.12.1949 ce
	Dawson, Qld		10.12.1949-1.11.1963 ret
Drum, Damian Kevin	Murray, Vic Nicholls, Vic	NPA	2.7.2016-18.5.2019 ce 18.5.2019-
Drummond, David Henry	New England, NSW	CP	10.12.1949-1.11.1963 ret
Eggins, Eldred James	Lyne, NSW	CP	10.12.1949-28.1.1952 died
England, John Armstrong	Calare, NSW	CP; NCP	+5.11.1960-11.11.1975 ret
Fadden, Arthur William	Darling Downs, Qld	CP; IND CP Apr-Nov 1939	+19.12.1939-10.12.1949 ce
	McPherson, Qld		10.12.1949-14.10.1958 ret
Failes, Laurence John	Lawson, NSW	CP	10.12.1949-29.9.1969 ret
Fischer, Timothy Andrew	Farrer, NSW	NPA	1.12.1984-8.10.2001 ret
Fisher, Peter Stanley	Mallee, Vic	CP; NCP; NPA	2.12.1972-8.2.1993 ret
Fleming, William Montgomerie	Robertson, NSW	COL; NAT; NAT&Farmers; CP from 1921	31.5.1913-16.12.1922 def
Forrest, John Alexander	Mallee, Vic	NPA	13.3.1993-5.8.2013 ret
Gee, Andrew Robert	Calare, NSW	NPA	2.7.2016-
Gibson, William Gerrand	Corangamite, Vic	VFU; CP from 1920	+14.12.1918-12.10.1929 def
	Corangamite, Vic		19.12.1931 to 7.8.1934 ret
Gillespie, David Arthur	Lyne, NSW	NPA	7.9.2013-
Gilmore, Thomas Vernon	Leichhardt, Qld	CP	10.12.1949-28.4.1951 def

Name	Electorate/ State	Party	Period of service
Green, Roland Frederick Herbert	Richmond, NSW	CP	16.12.1922-23.10.1937 def
Gregory, Henry	Dampier, WA Swan WA	COL; NAT; CP from 1920	31.5.1913-16.11.1922 ce 16.11.1922-15.11.1940 died
Hallett, John Mead	Canning, WA	CP	30.11.1963-18.5.1974 def
Hamilton, Leonard William	Swan, WA Canning, WA	CP	28.9.1946-10.12.1949 ce 10.12.1949-2.11.1961 ret
Hartsuyker, Luke	Cowper, NSW	NPA	10.11.2001-18.5.2019 ret
Hay, Alexander	New England, NSW	NAT&Farmers; CP from 1920; IND from 1921	13.12.1919-16.12.1922 def
Hewson, Henry Arthur	McMillan, Vic	CP; NCP	2.12.1972-13.12.1975 def
Hicks, Noel Jeffrey	Riverina, NSW Riverina-Darling, NSW Riverina, NSW	NCP; NPA	18.10.1980-1.12.1984 ce 1.12.1984-13.3.1993 ce 13.3.1993-31.8.1998 ret
Hill, William Caldwell	Echuca, Vic	VFU; CP from 1920	+20.9.1919-7.8.1934 ret
Hogan, Kevin John	Page, NSW	NPA; Ind NPA; Aug 2018 to May 2019; NPA#	7.9.2013-
Holten, Rendle McNeilage	Indi, Vic	CP; NCP	22.11.1958-10.12.1977 def
Hull, Kay Elizabeth	Riverina, NSW	NPA	3.10.1998-9.7.2010 ret
Hunt, Ralph James Dunnet	Gwydir, NSW	CP; NCP; NPA	+7.6.1969-24.2.1989 res
Hunter, James Aitchison Johnston	Maranoa, Qld	CP	+30.7.1921-27.8.1940 ret
Jowett, Edmund	Grampians, Vic	NAT; VFU; CP from 1920	27.10.1917-16.12.1922 def
Joyce, Barnaby Thomas Gerard	New England, NSW; New England, NSW	NPA	7.9.2013-27.10.2017 inel +6.12.2017-
Katter, Robert Carl	Kennedy, Qld	NPA; IND from July 2001	13.3.1993-

Name	Electorate/State	Party	Period of service
Katter, Robert Cummin	Kennedy, Qld	CP; NCP	26.11.1966-19.2.1990 ret
Kelly, De-Anne Margaret	Dawson, Qld	NPA	2.3.1996-24.11.2007 def
Killen, William Wilson	Riverina, NSW	CP	16.12.1922-27.11.1931 ret
King, Robert Shannon	Wimmera, Vic	CP; NCP	22.11.1958-10.11.1977 ret
Landry, Michelle Leanne	Capricornia, Qld	LNP sitting with NPA	7.9.2013-
Lawler, Anthony John	Parkes, NSW	NPA	3.10.1998-8.10.2001 ret
Leslie, Hugh Alan	Moore, WA	CP	10.12.1949-22.11.1958 def
Littleproud, David Kelly	Maranoa, Qld	LNP sitting with NPA	2.7.2016-
Lloyd, Bruce	Murray, Vic	CP; NCP; NPA	+20.3.1971-29.1.1996 ret
Lucock, Philip Ernest	Lyne, NSW	CP; NCP	+22.3.1952-19.9.1980 ret
Lusher, Stephen Augustus	Hume, NSW	CP; NCP; NPA	18.5.1974-1.12.1984 def
MacKenzie, Alexander John	Calare, NSW	NCP; NPA	13.12.1975-5.3.1983 def
McClelland, Hugh	Wimmera, Vic	CP	19.12.1931-23.10.1937 def
McCormack, Michael Francis	Riverina, NSW	NPA	21.8.2010-
McEwen, John	Echuca, Vic Indi, Vic Murray, Vic	CP	15.9.1934-23.10.1937 ce 23.10.1937-10.12.1949 ce 10.12.1949-1.2.1971 res
McGauran, Peter John	Gippsland, Vic	NPA	5.3.1983-9.4.2008 res
McNicoll, Walter Ramsay	Werriwa, NSW	CP	19.12.1931-2.8.1934 res
McVeigh, Daniel Thomas	Darling Downs, Qld Groom, Qld	CP; NCP; NPA	2.12.1972-1.12.1984 ce 1.12.1984-29.2.1988 res
McWilliams, William James	Franklin, Tas	REV TAR; ANTI-SOC; COL; NAT; CP from 1920	16.12.1903-16.12.1922 def
Maisey, Donald William	Moore, WA	CP	30.11.1963-18.5.1974 def

Name	Electorate/ State	Party	Period of service
Marek, Paul	Capricornia, Qld	NPA	2.3.1996-3.10.1998 def
Marwick, Thomas William	Swan, WA	CP	+21.12.1940-21.8.1943 def
Millar, Percival Clarence	Wide Bay, Qld	CP; NCP; NPA	18.5.1974-19.2.1990 ret
Nehl, Garry Barr	Cowper, NSW	NPA	1.12.1984-8.10.2001 ret
Neville, Paul Christopher	Hinkler, Qld	NPA (LNP)##	13.3.1993-5.8.2013 ret
Nixon, Peter James	Gippsland, Vic	CP; NCP; NPA	9.12.1961-4.2.1983 ret
Nock, Horace Keyworth	Riverina, NSW	CP	19.12.1931-21.9.1940 def
O'Brien, Llewellyn Stephen	Wide Bay, Qld	LNP sitting with NPA	2.7.2016-
O'Dowd, Kenneth Desmond	Flynn, Qld	LNP sitting with NPA	21.8.2010-
O'Keefe, Frank Lionel	Paterson, NSW	CP; NCP; NPA	25.10.1969-26.10.1984 ret
Page, Earle Christmas Grafton	Cowper, NSW	AFFO; CP from 1920	13.12.1919-9.12.1961 def*
Paterson, Thomas	Gippsland, Vic	CP	16.12.1922-7.7.1943 ret
Pettitt, John Alexander	Hume, NSW	CP	30.11.1963-2.12.1972 def
Pitt, Keith John	Hinkler, Qld	LNP sitting with NPA	7.9.2013-
Prowse, John Henry	Swan, WA Forrest, WA	CP	13.12.1919-16.12.1922 ce 16.12.1922-21.8.1943 def
Rankin, George James	Bendigo, Vic	CP (withdrew from Party Room 1939-1943)	23.10.1937-31.10.1949 ret
Roberton, Hugh Stevenson	Riverina, NSW	CP	10.12.1949-21.1.1965 res
Robinson, Ian Louis	Cowper, NSW Page, NSW	CP; NCP; NPA	30.11.1963-1.12.1984 ce 1.12.1984-24.3.1990 def
Russell, Charles Wilfred	Maranoa, Qld	CP	10.12.1949-28.4.1951 def

Name	Electorate/ State	Party	Period of service
St Clair, Stuart Roy	New England, NSW	NPA	3.10.1998-10.11.2001 def
Scott, Bruce Craig	Maranoa, Qld	NPA (LNP)##	24.3.1990-2.7.2016 ret
Sharp, John Randall	Gilmore, NSW Hume, NSW	NPA	1.12.1984-13.3.1993 ce 13.3.1993-31.8.1998 ret
Shaw, George William	Dawson, Qld	CP	30.11.1963-9.1.1966 died
Sinclair, Ian McCahon	New England, NSW	CP; NCP; NPA	30.11.1963-31.8.1998 ret

Reunion: former Federal Leader, Doug Anthony, organised a reunion dinner at Old Parliament House, Canberra, on 15 May 2007 for those surviving Country/National Party senators and members who had served under his leadership. The occasion included the convening of a 'Party meeting' in the Country Party room at Old Parliament House, (left to right) Ray Braithwaite, Clarrie Millar, Stephen Lusher, Bruce Cowan, Bruce Lloyd, Jim Webster, Ian Sinclair, David Thomson, Grant Tambling, Peter Nixon, Doug Anthony, Ian Robinson, Noel Hicks, Peter Fisher, Stan Collard, John Sullivan, Ron Boswell, Tom McVeigh. Ian Cameron, who also attended, took the photograph *(photo courtesy Ian Cameron)*

Name	Electorate/ State	Party	Period of service
Slipper, Peter Neil	Fisher, Qld	NPA	1.12.1984-11.7.1987 def
Stewart, Percy Gerald	Wimmera, Vic	VFU; CP from 1920; C PROG from 1926; CP from 1930	13.12.1919-14.10.1931 died
Sullivan, John William	Riverina, NSW	CP; NCP	18.5.1974-10.12.1977 def

Name	Electorate/ State	Party	Period of service
Tambling, Grant Ernest John	Northern Territory	CLP sitting with NCP; NPA	18.10.1980-5.3.1983 def
Thompson, Victor Charles	New England, NSW	CP	16.12.1922-21.9.1940 def
Thomson, David Scott	Leichhardt, Qld	NCP; NPA	13.12.1975-5.3.1983 def
Thorby, Harold Victor Campbell	Calare, NSW	CP	19.12.1931-21.9.1940 def
Treloar, Thomas John	Gwydir, NSW	CP	10.12.1949-15.11.1953 died
Truss, Warren Errol	Wide Bay, Qld	NPA (LNP)##	24.3.1990-2.7.2017 ret
Turnbull, Winton George	Wimmera, Vic Mallee, Vic	CP	+9.2.1946-10.12.1949 ce 10.12.1949-2.11.1972 ret
Vaile, Mark Anthony James	Lyne, NSW	NPA	13.3.1993-30.7.2008 res
Webster, Anne Elizabeth	Mallee, Vic	NPA	18.5.2019-
Whitsitt, Joshua Thomas Hoskins	Darwin, Tas	CP	16.12.1922-3.10.1925 ret
Weinholt, Arnold	Moreton, Qld	NAT; CP from 1920	13.12.1919-6.11.1922 ret
Wilson, Alexander	Wimmera, Vic	IND CP; CP from 1943	23.10.1937-31.12.1945 res

Notes
+ By-election
# Kevin Hogan moved to the cross bench on 24 August 2018 in protest against another

change in Prime Minister. However, he maintained support for the Government and still attended Parliamentary National Party meetings. He returned to the Government benches on 22 May 2019, after being re-elected as the National Party Member for Page, NSW, at the 18 May 2019 Federal election.

Liberal National Party of Queensland (LNP) from July 2008, following the merger of the National and Liberal parties in Queensland, and continuing to sit in the Commonwealth Parliament with The Nationals.

inel Joyce was ruled ineligible to sit in Parliament by the High Court of Australia on 27 October 2017 on the grounds that his father's New Zealand heritage made him a dual citizen at the time of the 2016 federal election. Having resolved the matter, he resoundingly regained his electorate of New England at a by-election 36 days later, on 2 December 2017.

def* Earle Page never knew that his 42 year hold on Cowper, NSW, ended at the December 1961 election, with the seat being won by Labor. Page died in hospital in Sydney on 20 December 1961, just hours before the declaration of the Cowper poll that day.

Leadership team: (left to right) Deputy Leader, Nigel Scullion (Senate, NT), Federal Leader, Warren Truss (Wide Bay, Qld), Senate Leader, Barnaby Joyce (Senate, Qld) at the National Party Federal Council, Canberra, 25 October 2008 *(Federal Secretariat)*

Abbreviations:

ce	changed electorate
def	defeated
res	resigned
ret	retired
AFFO	Australian Farmers' Federal Organisation
ANTI-SOC	Anti-Socialist Party
CLP	Country Liberal Party (Northern Territory)
COL	Commonwealth Liberal Party
CP	Australian Country Party (January 1920 to May 1975)
C PROG	Country Progressive Party (Victoria)
CP-WA	Western Australian Country Party
FSU	Farmers and Settlers Union
IND	Independent
IND CP	Independent Country Party
IND Nats-WA	Independent Western Australian Nationals
IND NPA	Independent National
JLN	Jacqui Lambie Network
LCL	Liberal and Country League (South Australia)
Lib	Liberal Party of Australia
LNP	Liberal National Party of Queensland
NAT	Nationalist Party
NAT & Farmers	Nationalist and Farmers
NCP	National Country Party of Australia (May 1975 to October 1982)
NPA	National Party of Australia (October 1982 to date, including the period between October 2006 and June 2013, when the Party's constitutional name was The Nationals)
REV TAR	Revenue Tariff
UAP	United Australia Party
VFU	Victorian Farmers Union

Roll of Party Ministers 1923 to 2019*

Bruce-Page Ministry – Nationalist/CP Coalition – 9 Feb 1923 to 22 Oct 1929

Page, Earle Christmas Grafton	Treasurer [Deputy Prime Minister]**
Gibson, William Gerrand	Postmaster-General Minister for Works and Railways from 10 Dec 1928
Stewart, Percy Gerald	Minister for Works and Railways to 5 Aug 1924
Hill, William Caldwell	Minister for Works and Railways 8 Aug 1924 to 29 Nov 1928
Wilson, Reginald Victor	Honorary Minister to 16 Jan 1925 Minister for Markets and Migration 16 Jan 1925 to 18 June 1926
Atkinson, Llewellyn	Vice-President of Executive Council to 18 June 1926
Paterson, Thomas	Minister for Markets and Migration 18 June 1926 to 19 Jan 1928 Minister for Markets 19 Jan 1928 to 10 Dec 1928 Minister for Markets and Transport from 10 Dec 1928
Abbott, Charles Lydiard Aubrey	Minister for Home and Territories 29 Nov 1928 to 10 Dec 1928 Minister for Home Affairs from 10 Dec 1928

First Canberra Cabinet: with Prime Minister Stanley Bruce overseas, Acting Prime Minister Earle Page (seated) chaired and signed the minutes of the first meeting of Federal Cabinet to be convened on Federal Territory, Yarralumla Homestead, 30 January 1924 *(photo courtesy National Library of Australia, nla.obj-163302197)*

Lyons-Page Ministry – UAP/CP Coalition – 9 Nov 1934 to 7 Nov1938

Page, Earle Christmas Grafton	Minister for Commerce [Deputy Prime Minister] Minister for Health from 29 Nov 1937
Thorby, Harold Victor Campbell	Minister for Defence from 29 Nov 1937 Minister assisting Minister for Commerce 1 Sept 1935 to 29 Nov 1937 Minister assisting Minister for Repatriation to 1 Sept 1935 Minister without portfolio in charge of War Service Homes to 11 Sept 1936
Paterson, Thomas	Minister for the Interior to 29 Nov 1937
McEwen, John	Minister for the Interior from 29 Nov 1937
Hunter, James Aitchison Johnston	Minister without portfolio in charge of War Service Homes 11 Sept 1936 to 29 Nov 1937 Minister assisting Minister for Repatriation 1 Sept 1935 to 22 Nov 1937 Minister assisting Minister for Commerce 18 Mar 1937 to 25 July 1937 Minister assisting Minister for the Interior 23 Sept 1935 to 29 Nov 1937 Minister without portfolio representing Postmaster-General in House of Representatives to 1 Sept 1935
Thompson, Victor Charles	Minister assisting Treasurer from 29 Nov 1937 Minister assisting Minister for Interior from 1 Feb 1938
Cameron, Archie Galbraith	Minister assisting Minister for Commerce from 29 Nov 1937

Lyons-Page Ministry – UAP/CP Coalition – 7 Nov 1938 to 7 Apr 1939

Page, Earle Christmas Grafton	Minister for Commerce [Deputy Prime Minister]
Thorby, Harold Victor Campbell	Minister for Works Minister for Civil Aviation
McEwen, John	Minister for the Interior
Cameron, Archie Galbraith	Postmaster-General Minister without portfolio administering External Territories
Thompson, Victor Charles	Minister assisting Minister for Commerce

Page Ministry – CP/UAP Coalition – 7 Apr 1939 to 26 Apr 1939

Page, Earle Christmas Grafton	Prime Minister Minister for Commerce
Thorby, Harold Victor Campbell	Minister for Works Minister for Civil Aviation
McEwen, John	Minister for the Interior
Cameron, Archie Galbraith	Postmaster-General
Thompson, Victor Charles	Minister assisting Minister for Commerce

Menzies-Cameron Ministry – UAP/CP Coalition – 14 Mar 1940 to 28 Oct 1940

Cameron, Archie Galbraith	Minister for Commerce [Deputy Prime Minister] Minister for the Navy
Thorby, Harold Victor Campbell	Postmaster-General Minister for Health
McEwen, John	Minister for External Affairs
Fadden, Arthur William	Minister for Civil Aviation from 14 Aug 1940 Minister assisting Treasurer Minister assisting Minister for Supply and Development
Nock, Horace Keyworth	Minister without portfolio in charge of External Territories Minister assisting Prime Minister Minister assisting Minister for Interior

Menzies-Fadden Ministry – UAP/CP Coalition – 28 Oct 1940 to 29 Aug 1941

Fadden, Arthur William	Treasurer [Deputy Prime Minister]
Collins, Thomas Joseph	Postmaster-General from 26 June 1941 Minister assisting Prime Minister dealing with External Territories to 26 June 1941 Minister assisting Minister for Interior to 26 June 1941 Minister assisting Minister for Supply and Development from 26 June 1941
McEwen, John	Minister for Air Minister for Civil Aviation
Page, Earle Christmas Grafton	Minister for Commerce
Anthony, Hubert Lawrence	Minister for Transport from 26 June 1941 Minister assisting Treasurer Minister assisting Minister for Commerce
Abbott, Joseph Palmer	Minister for Home Security from 26 June 1941 Minister assisting Minister for Defence Co-ordination from 26 June 1941 Minister assisting Minister for Army from 26 June 1941

Fadden Ministry – CP/UAP Coalition – 29 Aug 1941 to 7 Oct 1941

Fadden, Arthur William	Prime Minister Treasurer
McEwen, John	Minister for Air Minister for Civil Aviation
Page, Earle Christmas Grafton	Minister for Commerce
Collins, Thomas Joseph	Postmaster-General
Anthony, Hubert Lawrence	Minister for Transport
Abbott, Joseph Palmer	Minister for Home Security

Menzies-Fadden Ministry – Lib/CP Coalition – 19 Dec 1949 to 11 May 1951

Fadden, Arthur William	Treasurer [Deputy Prime Minister]
McEwen, John	Minister for Commerce and Agriculture
Page, Earle Christmas Grafton	Minister for Health
Anthony, Hubert Lawrence	Postmaster-General
Cooper, Walter Jackson	Minister for Repatriation

Menzies-Fadden Ministry – Lib/CP Coalition – 11 May 1951 to 11 Jan 1956

Fadden, Arthur William	Treasurer [Deputy Prime Minister]
McEwen, John	Minister for Commerce and Agriculture
Page, Earle Christmas Grafton	Minister for Health
Anthony, Hubert Lawrence	Postmaster-General Minister for Civil Aviation to 9 July 1954
Cooper, Walter Jackson	Minister for Repatriation

Menzies-Fadden Ministry – Lib/CP Coalition – 11 Jan 1956 to 10 Dec 1958

Fadden, Arthur William	Treasurer [Deputy Prime Minister]
McEwen, John	Minister for Trade
Davidson, Charles William	Postmaster-General Minister for the Navy from 24 Oct 1956
Cooper, Walter Jackson	Minister for Repatriation
Roberton, Hugh Stevenson	Minister for Social Services from 28 Feb 1956

Menzies-McEwen Ministry – Lib/CP Coalition – 10 Dec 1958 to 18 Dec 1963

McEwen, John	Minister for Trade [Deputy Prime Minister]
Davidson, Charles William	Postmaster-General
Cooper, Walter Jackson	Minister for Repatriation to 29 Dec 1960
Wade, Harrie Walter	Minister for Air 29 Dec 1960 to 22 Dec 1961 Minister for Health from 22 Dec 1961
Roberton, Hugh Stevenson	Minister for Social Services
Adermann, Charles Frederick	Minister for Primary Industry

**Menzies-McEwen Ministry – Lib/CP Coalition – 18 Dec 1963 to 26 Jan 1966**

McEwen, John	Minister for Trade and Industry [Deputy Prime Minister]
Adermann, Charles Frederick	Minister for Primary Industry
Wade, Harrie Walter	Minister for Health to 18 Nov 1964
Anthony, John Douglas	Minister for the Interior from 4 Mar 1964
Roberton, Hugh Stevenson	Minister for Social Services to 21 Jan 1965
Sinclair, Ian McCahon	Minister for Social Services from 22 Feb 1965
McKellar, Gerald Colin	Minister for Repatriation from 22 Dec 1964
Barnes, Charles Edward	Minister for Territories

Holt-McEwen Ministry – Lib/CP Coalition – 26 Jan 1966 to 14 Dec 1966

McEwen, John	Minister for Trade and Industry [Deputy Prime Minister]
Adermann, Charles Frederick	Minister for Primary Industry
Barnes, Charles Edward	Minister for Territories
Anthony, John Douglas	Minister for the Interior
McKellar, Gerald Colin	Minister for Repatriation
Sinclair, Ian McCahon	Minister for Social Services

Holt-McEwen Ministry – Lib/CP Coalition – 14 Dec 1966 to 19 Dec 1967

McEwen, John	Minister for Trade and Industry [Deputy Prime Minister]
Anthony, John Douglas	Minister for the Interior to 16 Oct 1967 Minister for Primary Industry from 16 Oct 1967
Adermann, Charles Frederick	Minister for Primary Industry to 16 Oct 1967
Barnes, Charles Edward	Minister for Territories
McKellar, Gerald Colin	Minister for Repatriation
Sinclair, Ian McCahon	Minister for Social Services Minister assisting Minister for Trade and Industry
Nixon, Peter James	Minister for Interior from 16 Oct 1967
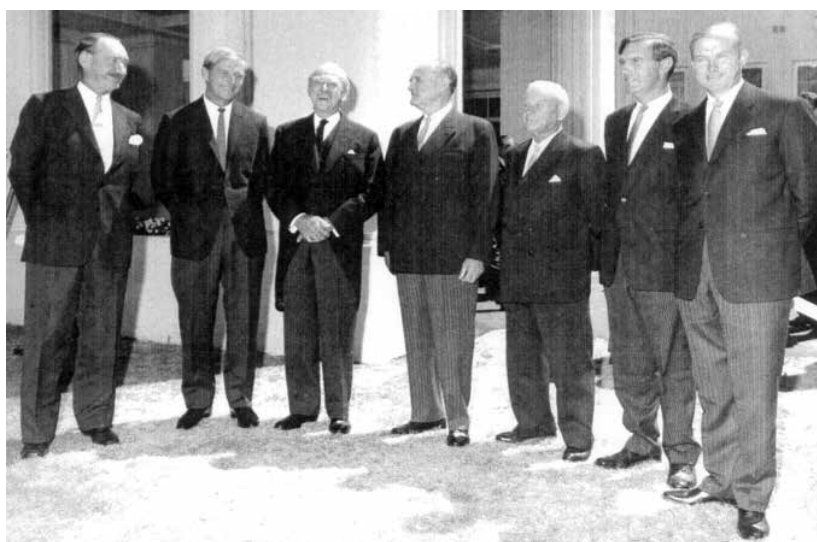
Sworn in: Country Party ministers after being sworn in by the Governor-General, Lord Casey, following a reshuffle on 16 October 1967, (left to right) Charles 'Ceb' Barnes, Territories; Doug Anthony, Primary Industry; Lord Casey; John McEwen, Federal Leader, Trade and Industry; Colin McKellar, Repatriation; Ian Sinclair, Social Services; Peter Nixon, Interior *(Australian Information Service/Federal Secretariat)*

McEwen Ministry – CP/Lib Coalition – 19 Dec 1967 to 10 Jan 1968

McEwen, John	Prime Minister Minister for Trade and Industry
Anthony, John Douglas	Minister for Primary Industry
Sinclair, Ian McCahon	Minister for Social Services Minister assisting Minister for Trade and Industry
Barnes, Charles Edward	Minister for Territories
McKellar, Gerald Colin	Minister for Repatriation
Nixon, Peter James	Minister for the Interior

Gorton-McEwen Ministry – Lib/CP Coalition – 10 Jan 1968 to 28 Feb 1968

McEwen, John	Deputy Prime Minister Minister for Trade and Industry
Anthony, John Douglas	Minister for Primary Industry
Sinclair, Ian McCahon	Minister for Social Services Minister assisting Minister for Trade and Industry
Barnes, Charles Edward	Minister for Territories
McKellar, Gerald Colin	Minister for Repatriation
Nixon, Peter James	Minister for the Interior

Gorton-McEwen Ministry – Lib/CP Coalition – 28 Feb 1968 to 12 Nov 1969

McEwen, John	Deputy Prime Minister Minister for Trade and Industry
Anthony, John Douglas	Minister for Primary Industry
Sinclair, Ian McCahon	Minister for Shipping and Transport Minister assisting Minister for Trade and Industry
Barnes, Charles Edward	Minister for External Territories
McKellar, Gerald Colin	Minister for Repatriation
Nixon, Peter James	Minister for the Interior

Gorton-McEwen-Anthony Ministry – Lib/CP Coalition – 12 Nov 1969 to 10 Mar 1971

McEwen, John	Deputy Prime Minister to 5 Feb 1971 Minister for Trade and Industry to 5 Feb 1971
Anthony, John Douglas	Minister for Primary Industry to Feb 5 1971 Deputy Prime Minister from 5 Feb 1971 Minister for Trade and Industry from 5 Feb 1971
Sinclair, Ian McCahon	Minister for Shipping and Transport to 5 Feb 1971 Minister assisting Minister for Trade and Industry to 5 Feb 1971 Minister for Primary Industry from 5 Feb 1971
Nixon, Peter James	Minister for the Interior to 5 Feb 1971 Minister for Shipping and Transport from 5 Feb 1971
Hunt, Ralph James Dunnet	Minister for the Interior from Feb 5 1971
Barnes, Charles Edward	Minister for External Territories
Drake-Brockman, Thomas Charles	Minister for Air
Holten, Rendle McNeilage	Minister for Repatriation

McMahon-Anthony Ministry – Lib/CP Coalition – 10 Mar 1971 to 5 Dec 1972

Anthony, John Douglas	Deputy Prime Minister Minister for Trade and Industry
Sinclair, Ian McCahon	Minister for Primary Industry
Nixon, Peter James	Minister for Shipping and Transport
Barnes, Charles Edward	Minister for External Territories to 25 Jan 1972
Drake-Brockman, Thomas Charles	Minister for Air
Holten, Rendle McNeilage	Minister for Repatriation Minister assisting Minister for Trade and Industry from 20 Aug 1971
Katter, Robert Cummin	Minister for the Army from 2 Feb 1972
Hunt, Ralph James Dunnet	Minister for the Interior
King, Robert Shannon	Assistant Minister assisting Minister for Primary Industry from 5 Oct 1971
Robinson, Ian Louis	Assistant Minister assisting Postmaster-General from 20 Aug 1971

Fraser-Anthony Ministry – Lib/NCP Caretaker Coalition – 11 Nov 1975 to 22 Dec 1975

Anthony, John Douglas	Deputy Prime Minister Minister for Overseas Trade Minister for Minerals and Energy
Sinclair, Ian McCahon	Minister for Agriculture Minister for Northern Australia
Nixon, Peter James	Minister for Transport Postmaster-General
Drake-Brockman, Thomas Charles	Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

Fraser-Anthony Ministry – Lib/NCP Coalition – 22 Dec 1975 to 20 Dec 1977

Anthony, John Douglas	Deputy Prime Minister Minister for National Resources Minister for Overseas Trade
Sinclair, Ian McCahon	Minister for Primary Industry
Nixon, Peter James	Minister for Transport
Hunt, Ralph James Dunnet	Minister for Health
Adermann, Albert Evan	Minister for the Northern Territory Minister assisting Minister for National Resources
Webster, James Joseph	Minister for Science

Fraser-Anthony Ministry – Lib/NCP Coalition 20 Dec1977 to 3 Nov 1980

Anthony, John Douglas	Deputy Prime Minister Minister for Trade and Resources
Sinclair, Ian McCahon	Minister for Primary Industry to 27 Sept 1979 Minister for Special Trade Representations from 19 Aug 1980
Nixon, Peter James	Minister for Transport to 8 Dec 1979 Minister for Primary Industry from 27 Sept 1979
Hunt, Ralph James Dunnet	Minister for Health to 8 Dec 1979 Minister for Transport from 8 Dec 1979
Adermann, Albert Evan	Minister for the Northern Territory to 28 Sept 1978 Minister for Veterans' Affairs from 4 July 1978 Minister assisting Minister for Primary Industry
Webster, James Joseph	Minister for Science to 5 Dec 1978 Minister for Science and the Environment 5 Dec 1978 to 8 Dec 1979
Thomson, David Scott	Minister for Science and the Environment from 8 Dec 1979
Scott, Douglas Barr	Minister for Special Trade Representations from 8 Dec 1979 to 19 Aug 1980 Minister assisting Minister for Trade and Resources from 8 Dec 1979 to 19 Aug 1980

Fraser-Anthony Ministry – Lib/NCP Coalition – 3 Nov 1980 to 7 May 1982

Anthony, John Douglas	Deputy Prime Minister Minister for Trade and Resources
Sinclair, Ian McCahon	Minister for Communications
Nixon, Peter James	Minister for Primary Industry
Hunt, Ralph James Dunnet	Minister for Transport
Thomson, David Scott	Minister for Science and Technology
McVeigh, Daniel Thomas	Minister for Housing and Construction Minister assisting Minister for Trade and Resources

Fraser-Anthony Ministry – Lib/NCP (NPA from 16 Oct 1982) Coalition – 7 May 1982 to 11 Mar 1983

Anthony, John Douglas	Deputy Prime Minister Minister for Trade and Resources
Sinclair, Ian McCahon	Minister for Defence
Nixon, Peter James	Minister for Primary Industry
Hunt, Ralph James Dunnet	Minister for Transport and Construction
Thomson, David Scott	Minister for Science and Technology
McVeigh, Daniel Thomas	Minister for Home Affairs and Environment Minister assisting Minister for Trade and Resources

Howard-Fischer Ministry – Lib/NPA Coalition – 11 Mar 1996 to 21 Oct 1998

Fischer, Timothy Andrew	Deputy Prime Minister Minister for Trade
Anderson, John Duncan	Minister for Primary Industries and Energy
Sharp, John Randall	Minister for Transport and Regional Development to 25 Sept 1997
Vaile, Mark Anthony James	Minister for Transport and Regional Development from 9 Oct 1997
McGauran, Peter John	Minister for Science and Technology to 9 Oct 1997
Truss, Warren Errol	Minister for Customs and Consumer Affairs from 9 Oct 1997
Scott, Bruce Craig	Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Brownhill, David Gordon Cadell	Parliamentary Secretary (Trade) Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for Primary Industries and Energy to 9 Oct 1997
Tambling, Grant Ernest John	Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for Transport and Regional Development to 14 Oct 1996 Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for Social Security from 14 Oct 1996

Howard-Fischer-Anderson Ministry – Lib/NPA Coalition – 21 Oct 1998 to 26 Nov 2001

Fischer, Timothy Andrew	Deputy Prime Minister to 20 July 1999 Minister for Trade to 20 July 1999
Anderson, John Duncan	Deputy Prime Minister from 20 July 1999 Minister for Transport and Regional Services
Vaile, Mark Anthony James	Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to 20 July 1999 Minister for Trade from 20 July 1999
Truss, Warren Errol	Minister for Community Services to 20 July 1999 Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry from 20 July 1999
McGauran, Peter John	Minister for the Arts and Centenary of Federation
Scott, Bruce Craig	Minister for Veterans' Affairs Minister assisting Minister for Defence
Anthony, Lawrence James	Parliamentary Secretary (Trade) to 20 July 1999 Minister for Community Services from 20 July 1999
Boswell, Ronald Leslie Doyle	Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for Transport and Regional Services from 20 July 1999
Tambling, Grant Ernest John	Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for Health and Aged Care

Howard-Anderson Ministry – Lib/NPA Coalition – 26 Nov 2001 to 26 Oct 2004

Anderson, John Duncan	Deputy Prime Minister Minister for Transport and Regional Services
Vaile, Mark Anthony James	Minister for Trade
Truss, Warren Errol	Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Anthony, Lawrence James	Minister for Children and Youth Affairs
McGauran, Peter John	Minister for Science
Boswell, Ronald Leslie Doyle	Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for Transport and Regional Services to 7 Oct 2003
Kelly, De-Anne Margaret	Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for Transport and Regional Services from 7 Oct 2003 Parliamentary Secretary (Trade) from 7 Oct 2003

Almost 17 years continuous leadership: (left to right) Mark Vaile, John Anderson, Warren Truss were Federal Leaders over a period from 20 July 1999 to 12 February 2016
(Federal Secretariat)

Howard-Anderson-Vaile Ministry – Lib/NPA Coalition – 26 Oct 2004 to 3 Dec 2007

Anderson, John Duncan	Deputy Prime Minister to 6 July 2005 Minister for Transport and Regional Services to 6 July 2005
Vaile, Mark Anthony James	Deputy Prime Minister from 6 July 2005 Minister for Trade to 29 Sept 2006 Minister for Transport and Regional Services from 29 Sept 2006
Truss, Warren Errol	Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to 6 July 2005 Minister for Transport and Regional Services 6 July 2005 to 29 Sept 2006 Minister for Trade from 29 Sept 2006
McGauran, Peter John	Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs to 6 July 2005 Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry from 6 July 2005
Cobb, John Kenneth	Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for Transport and Regional Services to 6 July 2005 Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs 6 July 2005 to 27 Jan 2006 Minister for Community Services 27 Jan 2006 to 30 Jan 2007 Assistant Minister for the Environment and Water Resources from 30 Jan 2007
Scullion, Nigel Gregory	Minister for Community Services from 30 Jan 2007
Kelly, De-Anne Margaret	Minister for Veterans' Affairs to 27 Jan 2006 Minister assisting Minister for Defence 16 Nov 2004 to 27 Jan 2006 Parliamentary Secretary (Trade) 27 Jan 2006 to 29 Sept 2006 Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for Transport and Regional Services from 29 Sept 2006
Macdonald, John Alexander Lindsay	Parliamentary Secretary (Trade) 7 July 2005 to 27 Jan 2006 Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for Defence 27 Jan 2006 to 30 Jan 2007

Abbott-Truss Ministry – Lib/NPA Coalition – 18 Sept 2013 to 15 Sept 2015

Truss, Warren Errol	Deputy Prime Minister Minister for Infrastructure and Transport to 18 Mar 2014 Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development from 19 Mar 2014
Joyce, Barnaby Thomas Gerard	Minister for Agriculture
Scullion, Nigel Gregory	Minister for Indigenous Affairs
Hartsuyker, Luke	Assistant Minister for Employment
Nash, Fiona Joy	Assistant Minister for Health
Chester, Darren Jeffrey	Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for Defence
McCormack, Michael Francis	Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for Finance

Turnbull-Truss-Joyce Ministry – Lib/NPA Coalition – 15 Sept 2015 to 19 July 2016

Truss, Warren Errol	Deputy Prime Minister to 18 Feb 2016 Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development to 18 Feb 2016
Joyce, Barnaby Thomas Gerard	Deputy Prime Minister from 18 Feb 2016 Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources
Scullion, Nigel Gregory	Minister for Indigenous Affairs
Nash, Fiona Joy	Minister for Rural Health Minister for Regional Development from 18 Feb 2016 Minister for Regional Communications from 18 Feb 2016 Minister for Local Government and Territories
Hartsuyker, Luke	Minister for Vocational Education and Skills to 18 Feb 2016
Canavan, Matthew James	Minister for Northern Australia from 18 Feb 2016
McCormack, Michael Francis	Assistant Minister to Deputy Prime Minister to 18 Feb 2016 Assistant Minister for Defence from 18 Feb 2016
Chester, Darren Jeffrey	Assistant Minister for Defence to 18 Feb 2016 Minister for Infrastructure and Transport from 18 Feb 2016

Turnbull–Joyce–McCormack Ministry – Lib/NPA Coalition – 19 July 2016 to 24 August 2018

Joyce, Barnaby Thomas Gerard	Deputy Prime Minister to 27 Oct 2017 and from 6 Dec 2017 to 26 Feb 2018*** Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources to 27 Oct 2017 and from 6 Dec 2017 to 20 Dec 2017*** Minister for Infrastructure and Transport from 20 Dec 2017 to 26 Feb 2018 Minister for Resources and Northern Australia from 27 July 2017 to 27 Oct 2017***
McCormack, Michael Francis	Deputy Prime Minister from 26 Feb 2018 Minister for Infrastructure and Transport from 26 Feb 2018 Minister for Small Business to 20 Dec 2017 Minister for Veterans' Affairs from 20 Dec 2017 to 5 Mar 2018 Minister for Defence Personnel from 20 Dec 2017 to 5 Mar 2018 Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Centenary of ANZAC from 20 Dec 2017 to 5 Mar 2018
Nash, Fiona Joy	Minister for Local Government and Territories to 27 Oct 2017*** Minister for Regional Development to 27 Oct 2017*** Minister for Regional Communications to 27 Oct 2017***
McKenzie, Bridget	Minister for Regional Communications from 20 Dec 2017*** Minister for Rural Health from 20 Dec 2017 Minister for Sport from 20 Dec 2017
Littleproud, David Kelly	Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources from 20 Dec 2017
Scullion, Nigel Gregory	Minister for Indigenous Affairs***
Chester, Darren Jeffrey	Minister for Infrastructure and Transport to 20 Dec 2017 Acting Minister for Local Government and Territories from 27 Oct 2017 to 20 Dec 2017*** Acting Minister for Regional Development from 27 Oct 2017 to 20 Dec 2017*** Minister for Veterans' Affairs from 5 Mar 2018 Minister for Defence Personnel from 5 Mar 2018 Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Centenary of ANZAC from 5 Mar 2018
Canavan, Matthew James	Minister for Resources and Northern Australia to 25 July 2017 and from 27 Oct 2017

Hartsuyker, Luke	Assistant Minister to Deputy Prime Minister to 20 Dec 2017 Assistant Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment from 20 Dec 2017 to 5 Mar 2018
Drum, Damian Kevin	Assistant Minister to Deputy Prime Minister from 20 Dec 2017 to 5 Mar 2018
Pitt, Keith John	Assistant Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment to 20 Dec 2017 Assistant Minister to the Deputy Prime Minister from 5 Mar 2018
Gillespie, David Arthur	Assistant Minister for Health to 20 Dec 2017 Assistant Minister for Children and Families from 20 Dec 2017
Coulton, Mark Maclean	Assistant Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment from 5 Mar 2018.

Morrison-McCormack Ministry – Lib/NPA Coalition – 28 August 2018 to 18 May 2019

McCormack, Michael Francis	Deputy Prime Minister Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development
McKenzie, Bridget	Minister for Regional Services Minister for Local Government and Decentralisation Minister for Sport
Scullion, Nigel Gregory	Minister for Indigenous Affairs
Littleproud, David Kelly	Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources
Canavan, Matthew James	Minister for Resources and Northern Australia
Chester, Darren Jeffrey	Minister for Veterans' Affairs Minister for Defence Personnel Minister Assisting Prime Minister for the Centenary of ANZAC
Coulton, Mark Maclean	Assistant Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment
Broad, Andrew John	Assistant Minister to Deputy Prime Minister to 17 Dec 2018
Gee, Andrew	Assistant Minister to Deputy Prime Minister from 25 Jan 2019
Landry, Michelle Leanne	Assistant Minister for Children and Families

Morrison-McCormack Ministry – Lib/NPA Coalition – 29 May 2019-

McCormack, Michael Francis	Deputy Prime Minister Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development
Littleproud, David Kelly	Minister for Water Resources, Drought, Rural Finance, Natural Disaster and Emergency Management
McKenzie, Bridget	Minister for Agriculture
Canavan, Matthew James	Minister for Resources and Northern Australia
Coulton, Mark Maclean	Minister for Regional Services, Decentralisation and Local Government Assistant Trade and Development Minister
Chester, Darren Jeffrey	Minister for Veterans and Defence Personnel
Gee, Andrew	Assistant Minister to the Deputy Prime Minister
Landry, Michelle Leanne	Assistant Minister for Children and Families

Notes:

* Includes ministers from the South Australian Liberal and Country League (LCL), Northern Territory Country Liberal Party (CLP), and Liberal National Party of Queensland (LNP) who sat with the Country, National Country and National Party.

** While acknowledged as the second most senior member of the Ministry, and acting as Prime Minister during absences of the Prime Minister, the title of Deputy Prime Minister was not included in official parliamentary records until 10 January 1968.

*** The High Court of Australia sitting as the Court of Disputed Returns, ruled on 27 October 2017 that Joyce and Nash were ineligible to sit in Parliament as they each held dual citizenship at the time of the 2016 federal election. At the same time the court ruled that Canavan, whose mother had Italian heritage, was eligible to remain in Parliament. Having stood down from the Ministry on 25 July 2017, he was reinstated to his Resources and Northern Australia portfolio on 27 October 2017. Prime Minister Turnbull temporarily took over Joyce's portfolios from 27 October 2017. Nash's Regional Development and Local Government and Territories portfolios were taken over by Chester, while the Liberal Party assumed the Regional Communications portfolio. The National Party's Senate Leader, Nigel Scullion, became Interim Parliamentary Leader, pending Joyce's return to Parliament following a by-election on 2 December 2017 in his electorate of New England, NSW. Nash's Senate position was filled by a Liberal from the NSW Joint Liberal/National Senate ticket for the 2016 election. Nash was replaced as Deputy Leader of the Parliamentary Party by Victorian Senator Bridget McKenzie at a Party meeting on 7 December 2017. Having clarified his citizenship position, Joyce overwhelmingly retained New England. On the return of the by-election writ on 6 December 2017 Joyce returned to Parliament and resumed his portfolio and Deputy Prime Minister responsibilities. During the 40 days of Joyce's absence from Parliament, the Liberal Party's Foreign Minister, Julie Bishop, was Acting Prime Minister on three occasions when the Prime Minister was overseas, although the position of Deputy Prime Minister remained vacant. Prime Minister Turnbull announced a major reshuffle of his Ministry on 19 December 2017. Joyce resigned to the backbench from 26 February 2018, with Michael McCormack becoming Party Leader and Deputy Prime Minister. Further ministerial adjustments were made, effective from 5 March 2018.

Research Programs and Publications

Information on various aspects of the National Party of Australia, its history and personalities, can be found in many libraries and archives around Australia. Extensive collections are held by The Page Research Centre Library at Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga, NSW, and the National Library of Australia and the National Archives of Australia in Canberra. Federal and State Party secretariats also hold historical information. The following selection of programs and publications may be of further assistance to researchers into the Party and its history:

ABC Television, *A Country Road – The Nationals*, 2014

ABC Television, *Dynasties*, episode 6, The Anthonys, 14 December 2004

Anthony, D&M (eds), *Letters Home – Diaries and letters of Sapper Hubert Anthony*, Allen&Unwin, Sydney, 2009

Aitkin, DA, *The Colonel – A political biography of Sir Michael Bruxner*, Australian National University Press, Canberra, 1969

Aitkin, DA, *The Country Party in New South Wales – A study of Organisation and Survival*, Australian National University Press, Canberra, 1972

Australian National University, *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, (various eds), vols 1-18, 1966-2012 and online <www.adb.anu.edu.au>

Botterill, LC, and Cockfield, G, (eds), *The National Party of Australia: Prospects for the great survivors*, Allen&Unwin, Sydney, 2009

Clune, D, and Hogan, M, (eds), *The People's Choice – Electoral Politics in 20th Century New South Wales*, vols 1, 2 and 3, Parliament of New South Wales and University of Sydney, 2011

Commonwealth Parliamentary Library, *Parliamentary Handbook of the Commonwealth of Australia*, (various eds), online <www.aph.gov.au/library/historical>

Costar, B, and Woodward, D, (eds), *Country to National*, Allen and Unwin, Sydney, 1985

Crooke, K, *Foundations for a New Era – The Road to Amalgamation*, LNP, Brisbane, 2013

Davey, P, *Joh for PM – the inside story of an extraordinary political drama*, NewSouth Publishing, Sydney, 2015

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Frame, T, *The Life and Death of Harold Holt*, Allen&Unwin, Sydney, 2005

Frame, T, (ed), *The Ascent to Power, 1996, The Howard Government, vol 1*, UNSW Press, Sydney, 2017

Frame, T, (ed), *Back from the Brink, 1997-2001, The Howard Government, vol 2*, UNSW Press, Sydney, 2018

Frame, T, (ed) *Trials and Tribulations, The Howard Government, vol 3*, UNSW Press, Sydney, 2019

Gallagher, P, *Faith & Duty – The John Anderson story*, Random House Australia, 2006

Golding, P, *Black Jack McEwen – Political Gladiator*, Melbourne University Press, 1996

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Jackson, RV, (ed), *John McEwen – His Story*, 1983, republished by the Page Research Centre, 2014

Joyce, B, *Weatherboard & Iron – politics the bush and me*, New Holland, Sydney, 2018

Layman, L, and Duncan, W, (eds), *Blood Nose Politics – A centenary history of the Western Australian National Party 1913-2013*, The National Party of Australia (WA) Inc., Perth, 2013

Lunn, H, Joh – *The Life and Political Adventures of Johannes Bjelke-Petersen*, University of Queensland Press, Brisbane, 1978

Nixon, P, *An Active Journey – The Peter Nixon Story*, Connor Court Publishing, Melbourne, 2012

Page, E, *Truant Surgeon – The Inside Story of Forty Years of Australian Political Life*, Angus and Robertson, Sydney, 1963

Rees P, *The Boy from Boree Creek – The Tim Fischer Story*, Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 2001

Posters: for the 18 May 1974 double dissolution Federal election (left), and promoting the new leadership of Ian Sinclair and his Deputy, Ralph Hunt, 1984 *(Federal Secretariat)*

Acknowledgements

Many people have directly or indirectly helped in the preparation of this publication – too many to name individually, because I would without doubt unintentionally omit one or two and thereby, understandably, upset them. I have no wish to do that.

In a collective sense, therefore, I am indebted to the many Party members, secretariat and parliamentary staff, as well as current and former parliamentarians, who I have badgered for confirmation on background information, statistics, or the identities of people in historical photographs. May I simply offer a most sincere thanks to you all.

I similarly owe thanks to staff in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Library, the Page Research Centre Library at Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga, NSW, and the National Library of Australia, the National Archives of Australia, and Auspic in Canberra.

I especially thank those people and organisations who have given permission for me to reproduce photographs, documents and cartoons – all of which are acknowledged in the captions.

Despite the above, one person I must thank is Cecile Ferguson, a former work colleague and Federal Director, who willingly gave of her time to undertake the cover design and layout of the book.

And, by no means last, I sincerely thank John McEwen House Pty Ltd and the National Party of Australia for their support in bringing this project to publication.

PD
January 2020

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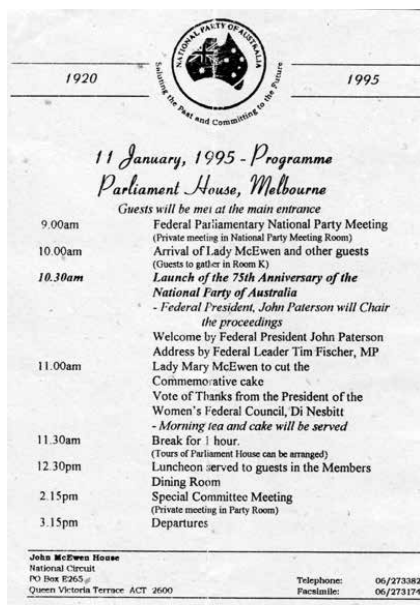
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Landmarks: (left) program for the Party's 75th anniversary celebrations at Parliament House, Melbourne, 11 January 1995 and (right) poster for the 80th anniversary Federal Convention in Tweed Heads, NSW, 17-18 June 2000 *(Federal Secretariat)*
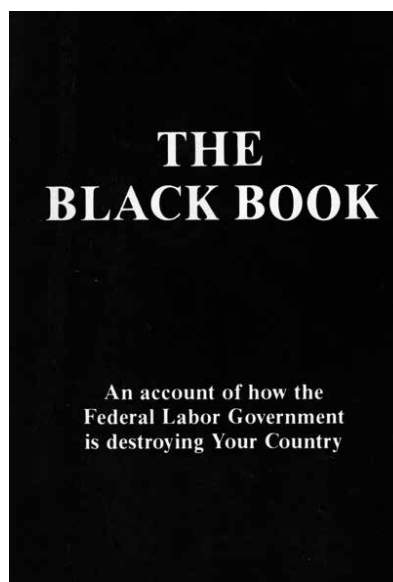
Unequivocal: poster circulated in the lead up to the 24 March 1990 Federal election and (right) 54-page A4 booklet detailing the Hawke Labor Government's economic record and new taxes and charges imposed in the six years from March 1983 to June 1989. The publication was revised and reissued with 72 pages as *10 Years of Hard Labor – The Facts in Black and White* for the 13 March 1993 election *(Federal Secretariat)*