R J Hawke

Australian Prime Minister 1983-1991

Australia’s most popular Prime Minister was born in South Australia, and educated in Perth at the University of Western Australia graduating with degrees in Law and BA Economics.

A Rhodes Scholar in 1953, Bob Hawke also studied at University College, Oxford University from 1953 to 1955, graduating with a Bachelor of Letters.

In 1969 Mr Hawke was elected President of the ACTU by the Biennial Congress in Sydney in 1969 and held this position till 1980.

A member of the Australian Labour Party at the age of 17, Mr Hawke became its Senior Vice President in 1972. In July 1973, he was elected President of the ALP and in 1987, received his forty year membership medallion from the Victorian Branch.

In 1980, after serving as a Shadow Spokesman for Industrial Relations, Employment and Youth Affairs, he was elected Leader of the Opposition. In 1983 he led the Labour Party to victory in the general election and was sworn in as Prime Minister. His government was the first Labor Government to achieve a third and fourth term. In 1991 Mr Hawke ceased to be Prime Minister and resigned from Parliament in 1992.

Since leaving politics, Mr Hawke continues his busy lifestyle. He consults to organisations within Australia and overseas, is involved in numerous business ventures and also donates some of his time to chairing a number of charities and trusts.