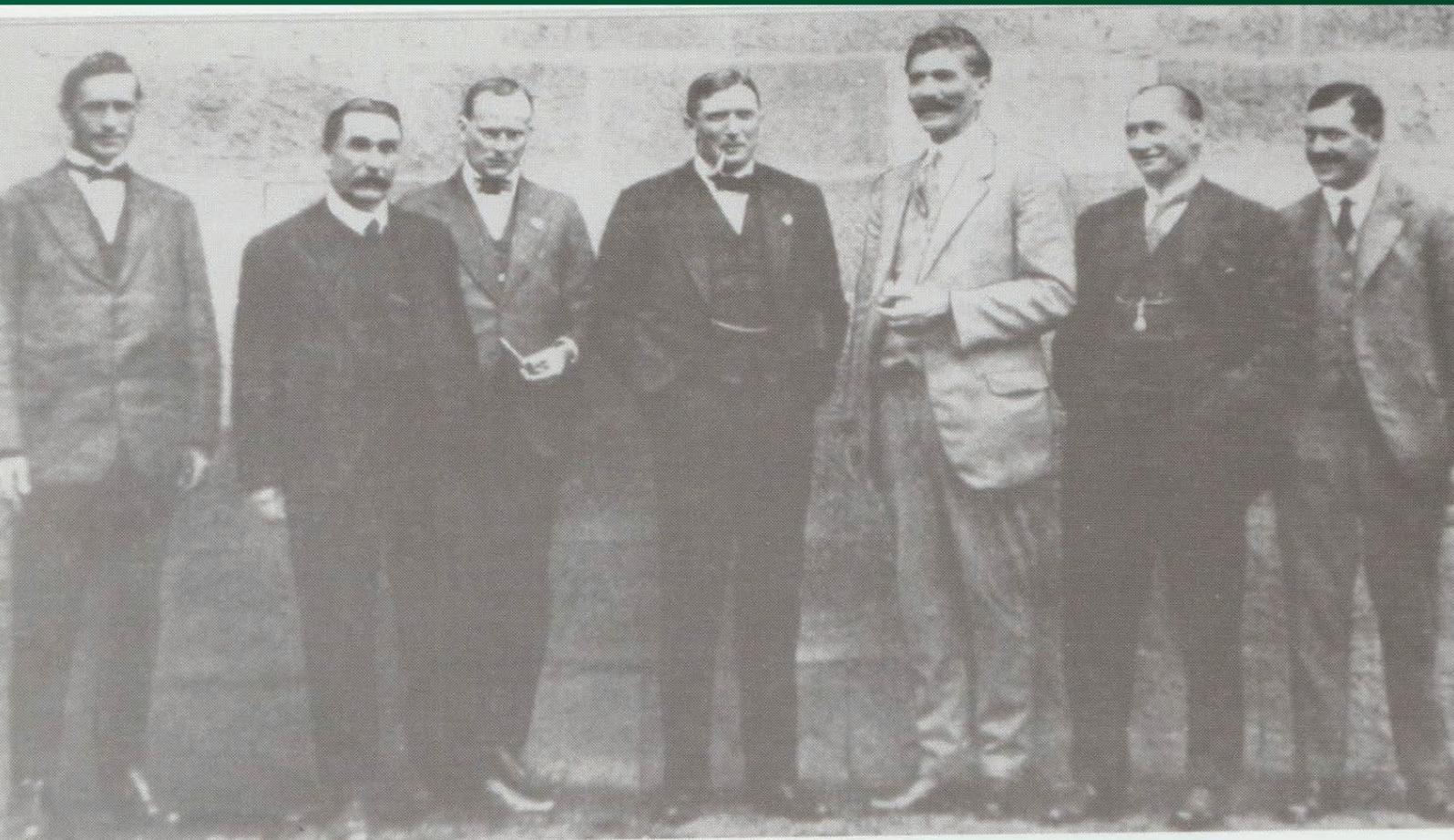


Robust and Resilient

Approaching a Centenary
of Achievement



THE NATIONALS
for Regional NSW

Cover photo

The True Blues: Led by Mick Bruxner, these seven Progressive Party Parliamentarians refused to join a Coalition with George Fuller's Nationalists and split from their colleagues on 15 December 1921. Known as the True Blues, they became foundation members of The Country Party of New South Wales from August 1925 and what is today's NSW Nationals. Left to right: David Drummond (Northern Tableland), Richard Price (Oxley), Mick Bruxner (Northern Tableland), Hugh Main (Cootamundra), Matthew Kilpatrick (Murray), Ernest Buttenshaw (Murrumbidgee), Thomas Ruttledge (Goulburn). (*NSW Government Printer, Sydney*)

The NSW National Party is...

- The most democratic, non-factionalised and stable political party in Australia, fiercely proud of its independent identity and offering equal opportunity to all.
- The second oldest political party in NSW and Australia, celebrating its Centenary on 13 October 2019.
- An organisation that -
 - has the largest membership across regional NSW of any political party
 - has never been unrepresented in the NSW or Commonwealth Parliaments, despite predictions since its formation that it would fail
 - by 2018 had returned 185 parliamentarians to the NSW Parliament and 65 to the Commonwealth Parliament
 - has accumulated an enviable record of achievements on the statute books by working forcefully in State and Federal Coalition governments
 - has ensured from the first Federal and State Coalition agreements that its Parliamentary Leaders are the Deputy Prime Minister or Deputy Premier, as the case may be, and act as Prime Minister or Premier in Coalition Governments when those leaders are absent
 - has always been more than a 'farmers' party', with its formative platform of 16 October 1919 defining its priorities as working 'in the interests of the community as a whole' and for 'national progress and development'
 - is an autonomous organisation operating under its own Constitution and Rules
 - has been an affiliate of the National Party of Australia since the formation of the Australian Country Party Association (Federal Council) in 1926
 - as been central to the progress of the Party in Canberra, providing nine of the 14 Federal Parliamentary Leaders and more than one third of Party members of the House of Representatives.
- The Party's greatest achievement is its independence. Its very existence has forced other parties to pay greater attention to the needs of regional New South Wales and Australia than would otherwise have been the case. Without an independent National Party, State and Federal policy development would be dominated by city interests and city-based politicians.

We believe

We believe in equal opportunity for all Australians so they can fully contribute to and share in the wealth of our nation.

We believe in freedom of speech, movement and philosophy; freedom of religious activity, association and assembly; and in equality and justice for all before the law.

We believe the constitutional monarchy is a rich and practical heritage and we uphold the Westminster system of parliamentary democracy with laws decided by our elected representatives.

We believe in the three tiers of government – Federal, State and Local – and in the decentralisation of responsibility.

We believe in private enterprise and ownership, with minimum government interference in industry, commerce, production and distribution.

We believe initiative deserves rewarding so that those who work hardest can prosper from their efforts.

We believe in lower taxes, smaller government and individual economic freedom.

We believe in the development of our economy, the decentralisation of population and services, and the balanced protection of our environment.

We believe the family is the basis of a strong and stable society.

We believe the very young, the aged and the disadvantaged are entitled to the support of society and to receive appropriate help to live in comfort and dignity.

We believe every Australian has a right to the best possible education.

We believe individual groups of people have the right to associate to defend and promote their interests, ideas and pursuits, providing they act responsibly towards the community and within the law.

We believe Australia must have a strong defence force that can defend our nation, police our coastline, and meet our reasonable international obligations.

We believe all Australians should foster a spirit of national pride and Australian identity, joining together to make a better future as one people, with one flag, as one nation.

We believe Australians, as individuals and as a nation, must be prepared to oppose social and political ideas that threaten freedom and democracy in Australia and throughout the world.



***We Believe** was developed as a revised statement of NSW Party philosophy following the name change to National Party in June 1982. It remains fundamentally the same to this day*

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 politicians 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, it won ten seats in the Western Australian Parliament at elections 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. The Tasmanian Party disbanded in 1975, was revived as the National Party in 1994 and again disbanded in 1996. 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 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, many of them having been prominent in local service, community and industry clubs and organisations, before entering Parliament.

The Party's Branch members and parliamentarians have a united ambition - to improve the level of services and infrastructure in their electorates and in regional NSW and Australia. There is close co-operation between Federal and State MPs on achieving such outcomes across all government jurisdictions.

An underlying priority across all National Parties has been, and remains, 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.

The Party in New South Wales

The NSW Party came into being on 13 October 1919, when the State's FSA and Graziers' Association (GA) met in Sydney to formalise the creation of a Central Electoral Council of The Progressive Party of New South Wales.

A third organisation was also involved - the People's Party of Citizens and Soldiers - but it withdrew support a month later over policy differences.

The President of the FSA and a Member of the Legislative Council since December 1916, Arthur Trethowan, became the Party's Leader until after the next State election, due early in 1920, when the then elected and united Progressives would choose their Leader.

Early organisation

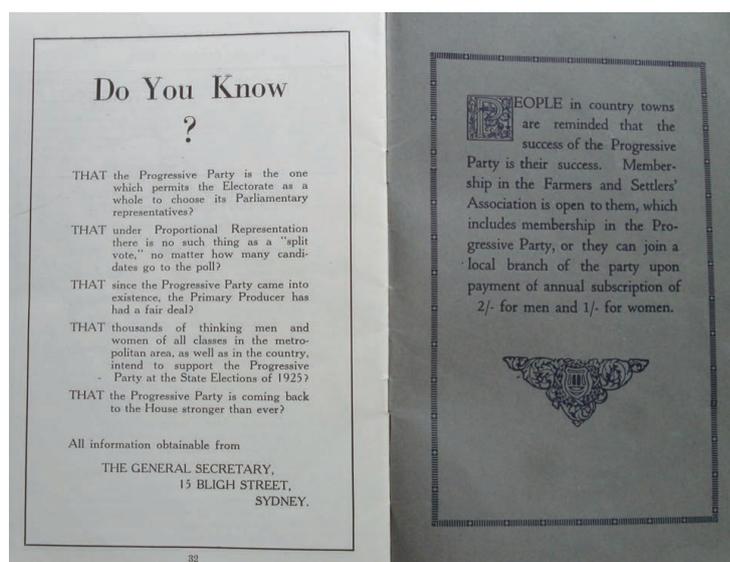
The Constitution of The Progressive Party, adopted on 30 August 1920, defined the powers and membership of what had then become the Central Council - the Party's governing body - and provided for the establishment of Branches 'for men and/or women', and Electorate Councils. The annual membership subscription was two shillings (20 cents) for men and one shilling (10 cents) for women.

The FSA and GA between them boasted 12,000 members in more than 400 Branches across NSW. Both organisations facilitated their Branches becoming Affiliated Branches of the Party, with their members entitled to full Party membership for an annual subscription of sixpence (five cents). These resources were the backbone of the Party's Branch and Electorate Council development across the State, and were used to promote wider Party membership and to identify prospective parliamentary candidates.

The Constitution also provided for the establishment of a Central Executive from amongst the members of Central Council, and the convening of an Annual Meeting of the Party, to which Electorate Councils could each appoint a delegate. This has evolved into today's Annual General Conference.

While expanded over the years to meet changing administrative and political circumstances, the structures defined in the first Constitution remain fundamentally in place in today's Constitution and Rules of the NSW National Party. The original Constitution covered two and a half A4 pages.

Today's Constitution and Rules, including appendices, run to 36 A4 pages. The first meeting of Central Council, on 24 September 1920, agreed to establish a Party headquarters in Sydney, which was located at 7 O'Connell Street. The Party has maintained a secretariat, or Head Office, ever since, with the prime roles of maintaining membership records, liaising with other Party secretariats and Parliamentary Parties, convening organisational meetings and conferences, and planning and overseeing State and Federal election campaigns in NSW.



Getting known in the electorate

A Party promotional booklet produced in the lead up to the 30 May 1925 State election. The Party became The Country Party of New South Wales from 12 August 1925. (NSW Nationals)

The Progressive Party's first election

The election on 20 March 1920 took place under a new electoral system which provided for five members in metropolitan electorates and three in country ones. The Progressives ran 52 candidates in 48 of the 90 seats in the Legislative Assembly, winning 15. Eleven of the 15 were from country electorates, including two for the then seat of Northern Tableland. The Parliamentary Party chose the Member for Namoi, Walter Wearne, as its first elected Leader.

=The Party's role was to sit on the cross benches and lend support to whichever of the major parties would support its policies – the Labor Party or the Nationalists, forerunners of the United Australia Party and later Liberal Party of Australia.

The True Blues

The death of Labor Premier John Storey on 5 October 1921 made Labor's hold on office precarious. This was exacerbated when the Nationalist Speaker, Daniel Levy, resigned, forcing Labor to fill the position. As a result, an Opposition censure motion on the December 1921 budget was carried. The Nationalist Leader, George Fuller, proposed a Nationalist-Progressive Coalition Government. The Progressive agreed to support the Nationalists on the floor of the House, which was not good enough for Fuller, who demanded an unequivocal Coalition.

As a result, the Parliamentary Progressive Party split on 15 December 1921. Eight Progressives favoured Coalition and seven did not. The ensuing Fuller Coalition Government, formed on 20 December 1921, lasted just seven hours.

The seven non-Coalition Progressives, led by Mick Bruxner, a decorated World War I Light Horseman, grazier and stock and station agent from Tenterfield, known affectionately as 'the Colonel', became known as the True Blues and called themselves Country Progressives. They were among the founding parliamentary members of what became The Country Party of New South Wales, as announced to the Legislative Assembly by Bruxner on 12 August 1925, and ultimately today's NSW Nationals.

The True Blues were:

MEMBER	ELECTORATE IN DECEMBER 1921
Mick Bruxner	Northern Tableland
Ernest Buttenshaw	Murrumbidgee
David Drummond	Northern Tableland
Matthew Kilpatrick	Murray
Hugh Main	Cootamundra
Richard Price	Oxley
Thomas Rutledge	Goulburn

Two other Parliamentarians, Arthur Trethowan and Alfred Hunt, should arguably be recognised as True Blues. They were Legislative Councillors at the time of the split. They were both former FSA Presidents, and they were both anti-Coalition. Their names are not generally included on the roll of True Blues because, as Legislative Councillors, they did not attend Party Room meetings. At the time, people were appointed to the Legislative Council, not elected, and were supposedly non-party political.

Despite numerous predictions by its detractors, virtually from the day of its establishment, that the Party would fail, it has never been without parliamentary representation in either the New South Wales or Commonwealth Parliaments. Rather, it has returned 185 parliamentarians to the NSW Parliament and 65 to the Commonwealth Parliament, as well as providing nine of the Federal Party's 14 Leaders.

A separate entity in Coalition

After the State election in October 1927, the first contested under the new Country Party name and with 12 members elected to the Legislative Assembly, the issue of Coalition again arose. By this time, the Parliamentary Leader was Ernest Buttenshaw (then the Member for Lachlan), and the Coalition Progressives still in Parliament had become Nationalists.

In Canberra, the Australian Country Party, established on 22 January 1920, had been in Coalition with Stanley Bruce's Nationalists since 1923.

The Coalition agreement guaranteed the Country Party's separate entity and saw its Leader, Earle Page, appointed Treasurer and effectively Deputy Prime Minister.

Page and the Country Party were delivering impressive achievements as participants in 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 and Water Resources.

The NSW Party accepted that if it was to achieve similar success and get its policies on the statute books, it needed to be a part of Government.

Using a similar formula to that drawn up by Page and Bruce, Buttenshaw forged the founding Country Party Coalition with the Nationalists under Thomas Bavin. The Government held office from 8 October 1927 to 25 October 1930.

Buttenshaw secured five portfolios and the Deputy Premiership for the Country Party, after having initially been offered three ministerial positions. The Party Leader has always been the Deputy Premier in subsequent State Coalition Governments and acted as Premier during absences of the Premier.

As with the Party in Canberra, the NSW Country Party quickly notched up important achievements - expansion of the Main Roads Board and introduction of State, trunk and main roads classifications (1927-1930), establishment of the first country Teachers' Training College, Armidale, and of one-teacher schools where none previously existed (1928), establishment of the Junior Farmers' Movement (1929), and creation of the State's Western Division (1930).

The Party has been an influential partner in all non-Labor Governments in New South Wales since the Bavin/Buttenshaw administration, and in Coalition Oppositions since 1976, while at the same time emphatically rejecting overtures to amalgamate in favour of steadfastly maintaining its separate identity.

At both State and Federal levels, the Country/National Party continues to build on its achievements, with particular emphasis on regional NSW and Australia and on the sustainable development of the agricultural and mining sectors.

United Country Party

An emerging issue for the Country Party was the New States Movement, which by 1930 was gaining popularity across NSW. Aggravated by the Depression, there was a growing community belief that the established political parties were failing and the solution lay in decentralised self-government.

Several Country Party members and parliamentarians, not the least of them being Earle Page and Mick Bruxner, were prominent in the Northern New State Movement, as were others elsewhere. The Country Party needed to become the political champion of the New States cause.

By early 1931, there were four New States Movements – the Northern, Riverina, Western, and Monaro South Coast – and in August 1931 these came together as the United Country Movement (UCM).

A meeting of the UCM with Country Party Chairman, Trethowan, on 13 August 1931, thrashed out a United Country Movement Agreement, which involved enveloping the UCM into a renamed United Country Party of New South Wales (UCP). The new Party name was ratified by Central Council on 24 September 1931.

It remained as such until 1944. A conference in Melbourne of the Federal organisation, the Australian Country Party Association – forerunner of today's Federal Council – in early December 1943 agreed to recommend that State organisations be named The Australian Country Party of their respective State. The UCP General State Conference on 9 February 1944 agreed that in future the Party would be known as The Australian Country Party (N.S.W.).

The UCP experiment had both worked and failed. It worked because the Party's representation in the Legislative Assembly increased impressively from 12 in 1930 to 25 at the June 1932 election, which resulted in a UAP-UCP Coalition led by Bertram Stevens and Mick Bruxner, 23 in 1935 and 22 in 1938. It failed in that the Party's organisational structures became fragmented and almost unworkable. Moreover, the UCP was back to 12 MLAs after the May 1941 election, at which the Coalition was defeated by Labor under William McKell.

The push for New States diminished after a referendum on establishing a Northern New State, held on 29 April 1967, was defeated.

Meeting the challenge of change

The UCP is a good example of the Party's ability to meet changing political, economic and social circumstances. No other political party in Australia has been as adaptable to change as has the National Party.

Economic and demographic changes, which in some areas have seen diminishing regional populations – meaning fewer country electorates – and huge advances in communications' technology, have totally altered lifestyles, work opportunities and associated political challenges across regional Australia.

Almost from the day of its birth, the Country Party was written off by its detractors as an organisation that was unnecessary and that would die on the vine.

But it didn't. It adapted to change and remains relevant, indeed, essential to the political framework of regional Australia.

To meet evolving challenges, not only has it changed its name a number of times, but it has also broadened its policy interests and activities, at State and Federal levels, so they now cover the broad spectrum of all Government administrative areas.

Other name changes

Not all Party name changes were achieved as seamlessly as that from the Progressive Party to Country Party, to United Country Party and Australian Country Party (N.S.W.).

After the election of the Whitlam Labor Government in Canberra in 1972, the then Country Party Leader, Doug Anthony, began assessing the Party's results across a range of electorates and sent questionnaires to Party Branches inviting their input into a comprehensive revision of national policy.

From this, Anthony became convinced the Party had to change, including changing its name, if it was to secure its long term future. He might have been encouraged in this direction by the Queensland Country Party, which was coincidentally assessing how to broaden its own electoral appeal, and which rebadged itself as the National Party of Australia – Queensland on 6 April 1974.

Anthony was aware of the strongly held view among many Party members, especially in NSW, that the word 'Country' should remain in any rebranding. He opted for a Federal name of National Country Party of Australia (NCP), which was agreed by Federal Council on 6 March 1974 and ultimately endorsed and launched at a Federal Convention in Canberra on 2 May 1975.

In the meantime, the Western Australian Party became the National Country Party of Australia - WA from 28 July 1974, while the Victorian Party would change to National Party of Australia - Vic from 24 July 1975, and South Australia to National Country Party - SA from 9 September 1975.

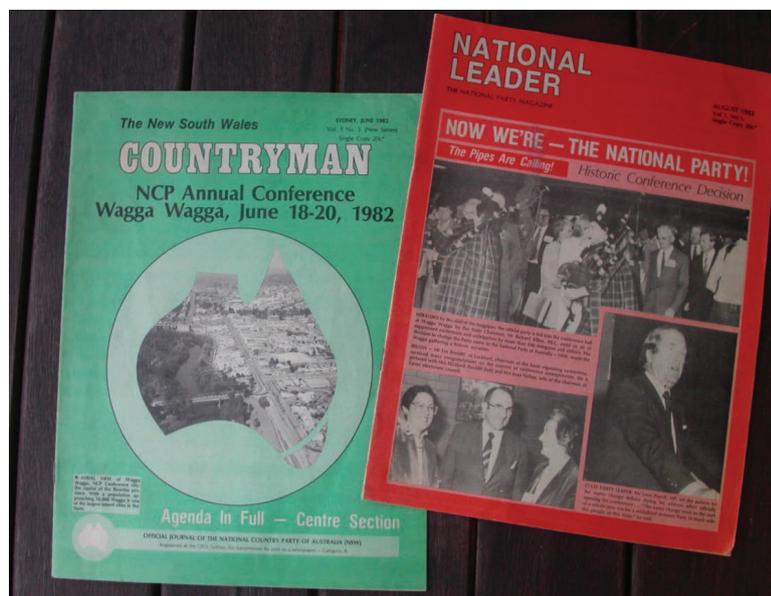
The NSW Party debated changing to NCP at its Annual General Conference in Broken Hill on 26 June 1976. While the motion received majority support, it failed to get the required two-thirds majority and was lost.

The motion came before the next Annual General Conference, in Coffs Harbour on 26 June 1977, where the result was 374 in favour and 132 against. New South Wales fell into line with the National Country Party name.

While these debates had been robust and emotive, the change was ultimately seen as acceptable because the word 'Country' was still there. People could refer to the NCP, or the National Party, or still the Country Party.

When a motion came before the Annual General Conference in Wagga Wagga on 26 June 1982 to change to National Party of Australia - NSW, it was widely expected to fail. Debate was again robust - and the motion was overwhelmingly carried by 258 to 70 votes.

The Federal Party became National Party of Australia from 16 October 1982 and South Australia and Western Australia followed suit in August and October 1984.



Country becomes National

The last issue of The New South Wales Countryman, June 1982, and the first issue of National Leader, August 1982. (NSW Nationals)

Guaranteeing regional policy concentration

An important role for an independent organisation exclusively representing people who live and work beyond the capital cities is to ensure the needs of those people, communities, businesses and industries are considered in the development of policy.

By far the Party's greatest achievement, at State and Federal levels, has been to force other political parties to pay greater attention to the social and economic development of regional New South Wales and 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.

A Party brochure, *Mileposts*, which charted achievements up 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 is just as true today.

More than a farmers' party

The NSW Nationals have always been more than a farmers' party. Even its founding farm organisations recognised that its appeal had to stretch beyond the farm gate. The Party's first platform, *Production First*, released on 16 October 1919, three days after the Progressive Party's formation, committed it to supporting legislation 'that is in the interests and welfare of the community as a whole' and to promoting 'the co-operation of all sections of the people in dealing with matters relating to national progress and development'.

Hence the Party's policies and achievements over the past 100 years, while certainly assisting the development of the agricultural and resource industries, have benefited broader community interests, such as education, health, transport, telecommunications, Aboriginal affairs, the environment, and jobs.

Constructive influence

The Party has been envied for exerting greater influence on policy outcomes and Coalition arrangements than its parliamentary numbers might suggest. By way of just one example, in the first term of the Nick Greiner-Wal Murray NSW Government (1988-1991), the Nationals prevented the widespread closure of railways beyond Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong, as well as the closure of one-man police stations, many small country schools and hospitals, and the axing of free school buses.

Yet, much of its influence has been directed towards ensuring strong Coalition relations, especially at Parliamentary level, both in Government and Opposition:

- The True Blues, sitting on the cross benches, ensured the Nationalist-Progressive Coalition of George Fuller and Walter Wearne ran its full term from April 1922 to June 1925.
- Three Liberal MLCs and one Independent joined the Country Party in September 1959 because they objected to Liberal Party procrastination on the future of the Legislative Council. The defections made the Country Party the senior non-Labor Party in the Upper House. However, the Party did not claim a right to the Opposition leadership of the Council, a move that Leader, Charles Cutler, believed was fundamental to forging the strong Coalition Government with Robert Askin from 1965 to 1976 – the longest serving non-Labor Government in the State’s history.
- When the President of the Legislative Council, Labor’s William Dickson, died in May 1962, Premier Askin insisted the position be filled by the Country Party’s Harry Budd – the only Country/National Party Councillor to fill the post.
- When the Government’s Leader in the Legislative Council, the Liberal Party’s Arthur Bridges, died in July 1968, Askin declared the new Leader would be the Government’s senior minister in the Upper House, the Country Party’s John Fuller. Fuller continued as the Opposition Leader in the Legislative Council after Labor came to power in 1976 until his resignation from Parliament in August 1978.
- As Leader in April 2002, George Souris confirmed an agreement with the Liberal Party to ensure no three-cornered contests at the next election, in recognition of the fact that optional preferential voting, introduced by Labor in 1979, made it almost impossible to guarantee a tight flow of preferences between National and Liberal candidates for the Legislative Assembly. There had been seven three-cornered contests at the 1999 election.
- Similar to the situation in the 1960s, the National Party’s Duncan Gay was the Government’s Leader in the Legislative Council from May 2014 until January 2017.

Women and Young Nationals

The Party has long been one of equal opportunity, encouraging the involvement of women and young people – Younger Sets, as they were originally known when first constitutionally recognised in 1939. They became the Young Country Party, on the instigation of then State Chairman, Ralph Hunt, from 14 April 1965. The inaugural Chairman, Richard Bull, went on to become a Legislative Councillor from 1984 to 2000.

The Party's first Constitution provided for the establishment of Branches 'for men and/or women'. In later years, provision was made for women only Branches, although many eschewed the idea of such segregation and remained in 'mixed' Branches. Nonetheless, there were 14 women's Branches operating by July 1927 and the last one, the Castlereagh Women's Branch, based in Gilgandra, continued until the mid-2000s.

Many women and young people have been prominent in the Party. The Young Country/National Party became a training ground for future parliamentarians, including Tim Fischer, John Anderson, Mark Vaile, John Sharp, Garry West, Wendy Machin, Jenny Gardiner, Katrina Hodgkinson, Adrian Piccoli, Sarah Mitchell, and more.

At parliamentary level, Judy Jakins entered the Legislative Council in 1984 and Wendy Machin became the Member for Gloucester the following year. Jenny Gardiner entered the Legislative Council in 1991. Kay Hull became the New South Wales Party's first woman Federal parliamentarian, winning Riverina in 1998.

Katrina Hodgkinson, at just 29 years of age, won preselection to contest Southern Highlands at a by-election in May 1996. She lost to the Liberals, but then won preselection for Burrinjuck for the 1999 election – and won. Melinda Pavey was elected to the Legislative Council in 2002, Fiona Nash to the Senate in 2004, and Leslie Williams won the State seat of Port Macquarie in 2006.

More recently, Sarah Mitchell was elected to the Legislative Council in 2011, Melinda Pavey won Oxley in 2015, Bronnie Taylor entered the Legislative Council in 2015 and Stephanie Cooke won Cootamundra in 2017. These parliamentary numbers do not reflect the fact that the Party has preselected many more women over the years.

While the Party does not support a quota system for women's representation in Parliament, it actively encourages increased participation by women (and young members) at all levels, notably through the NSW Nationals Women's Council, established in 2012 as a reincarnation of the Women's Advisory Council, which was formed in 1927.

At the 2016 Annual General Conference, the Party adopted a target of achieving 50:50 male/female parliamentary representation by 2025.

Trail blazers at organisational level

At organisational level, the Party has been a market leader with the election or appointment of women to senior positions.

Jenny Gardiner, appointed General Secretary (State Director) in 1984, was the first woman executive of a political party in New South Wales and only the second anywhere in Australia. Interestingly, the first, Helen Tiller, was appointed State Director of the South Australian National Country Party.

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. The first woman Federal President of any political organisation was the National Party's Shirley McKerrow, from Victoria, in 1981. She had previously been President of the Victorian Party.

Christine Ferguson followed Helen Dickie's footsteps, being State Chairman from 2007-2012 and Federal President from 2012-2015. Emma Watts was elected a Vice-Chairman of Central Council while at the same time being a member of the Young Nationals and Chairman of an Electorate Council. She also holds the important position of Chairman of Federal Council's Policy Standing Committee.

The current Chairman of the NSW Women's Council is Claire Taylor, who succeeded the inaugural Chairman, Sharon Cadwallader, in 2014, and the present Chairman of the NSW Young Nationals is again a woman, Jessica Price-Purnell, who has held the position since 2016. Eight women have been Chairman of the NSW Young Country/National Party, the first being Jenny Bone from 1979 to 1981.

Suffice to say, there are many more women and young people who have given, and continue to give, outstanding service to the Party at Branch and Electorate Council level.

The Federal Party

The Country Party of Australia 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, which was formed in September 1916 and included delegates from State farm bodies.

These nine were joined by two more on 24 February 1920, giving a parliamentary strength of eleven.

A Party meeting the next day agreed to elect an interim Leader, thereby providing time for the members to assess each other's strengths and weaknesses before electing a permanent Leader. The Tasmanian Member for Wilmot, William McWilliams, was chosen for the role. He was replaced on 5 April 1921 by the Member for Cowper, NSW, Earle Page, who would hold the position until September 1939.

Page forged the Party's first Coalition Government with the Nationalists under Stanley Bruce. It held office from February 1923 to October 1929, when it was defeated by Labor under James Scullin.

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 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, at NSW and Federal levels, are based.



Budgeting times

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. (Page family)

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.

After the Whitlam Labor Government's election in December 1972, Doug Anthony and Liberal Leader, Bill 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.

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 split the Party and broke the Coalition for 100 days between 28 April and 6 August.

The Country Party

Prime Ministers

Three Federal Leaders have been Prime Ministers -

- Earle Page (Cowper, NSW) – 7-26 April 1939, following the death of Prime Minister Joe Lyons (left below)
- Arthur Fadden (Darling Downs, Qld) – 29 August-7 October 1941, following the resignation of Prime Minister Robert Menzies (centre below)
- John McEwen (Murray, Vic) – 19 December 1967-10 January 1968, following the death of Prime Minister Harold Holt (right below).



Because each served for a brief time, they are often disparagingly referred to as 'caretaker' 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 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 Coalition Governments concerned more qualified than these men to be the Prime Minister during the periods in question.

The Federal Organisation

The Federal National Party organisation came into being in March 1926 with the adoption of the first Federal Constitution. Originally known as the Australian Country Party Association, it is made up of delegates from the affiliated and associated State Parties, who come together to form what is today known as the Federal Council and is the governing body of the Federal Party.

Federal Council usually meets once a year in Canberra. It considers, among other issues, policy motions submitted from affiliated State Party conferences, women's sections and Young Nationals, and also elects its office bearers and its Federal Management Committee - the equivalent of the NSW Central Executive - which meets as necessary between meetings of Federal Council to manage the day to day affairs of the organisation.

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.

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

Federal Parliamentary Party

The Federal Parliamentary National Party is made up of those people who have been preselected by their State organisations and have won election to the Senate or House of Representatives.

The Parliamentary Party operates under its own rules, providing they are not inconsistent with the Party's Federal Constitution. It has the right if necessary 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 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.

Other Party women elected to the Commonwealth Parliament have been Flo Bjelke-Petersen (Senate, Queensland), De-Anne Kelly (Dawson, Queensland), Kay Hull (Riverina, New South Wales), Fiona Nash (Senate, New South Wales), Bridget McKenzie (Senate, Victoria), and Michelle Landry (Capricornia, Qld).

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.

The Secretariat provides an additional policy research facility for the Federal Parliamentary Party, and 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, the Secretariat co-ordinates the Federal Leader's campaign and provides campaign material to State Secretariats and candidates throughout Australia.

Women's Federal Council

At each annual meeting of their governing bodies, the affiliated State Parties elect women delegates to represent their State on the Women's Federal Council (WFC), which held its first formal meeting on 24 November 1960. This does not mean women were ignored in Party affairs before that time; 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 organisational bodies are strongly represented by women, including at executive level. For instance, 29 of the NSW Central Council's 85 delegates in 2018 were women.

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 on health services, education, drug and alcohol abuse, transport, domestic violence, and communications. The WFC President is a delegate to the Federal Management Committee and Federal Council and Conference.

Young Nationals

The Young Australian Country Party Federal Council was formed in 1967, with the former Queensland Premier, Mike Ahern, 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 Federal President is a member of the Federal Management Committee and a delegate to Federal Council and Federal Conference. Each State National Party, either through its Young Nationals organisation, or through its Central Council, nominates further delegates to Federal Council and Federal Conference, so the younger Party members are represented at all levels of the organisation.

The Nixon Report

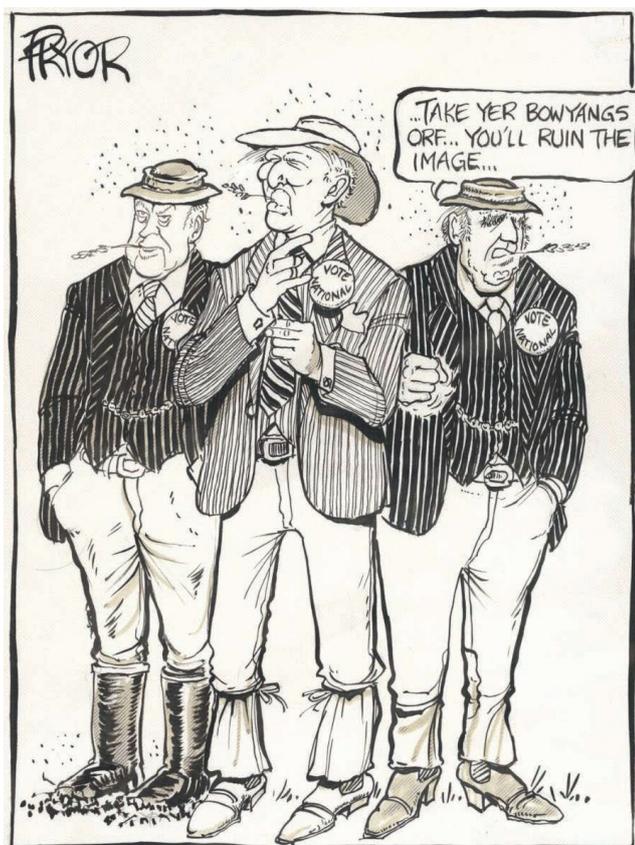
In the wake of the 1987 Joh for Canberra campaign, Federal Council established a committee under the chairmanship of the former Minister for Primary Industry, Peter Nixon (Gippsland, Vic), to comprehensively review the Party's structures and Constitution - the first such inquiry in the Party's history.

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 and consequential amendments to State Party constitutions, as well as changes to Party structures to ensure better co-ordination and co-operation between the State and Federal Parties.

The report was adopted by Federal Council in July 1988, as was the revised Constitution, with minor amendments. The State Parties progressively implemented necessary 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 and recommended that the State parties do likewise, which they did. The NSW Party's Central Council unanimously adopted The Nationals branding at a meeting on 25 October 2003.



Hard to change the image

The Federal name changed from National Country Party to National Party of Australia from 16 October 1982, but The Canberra Times cartoonist, Geoff Pryor, wasn't going to let the cocky image die easily (courtesy Geoff Pryor, NLA PIC Drawer 9171#PIC/3697/195/nla)

Flexing muscles

The Party has been forthright in representing the interests of its constituency in Coalition Governments. For example, it successfully protected the competitiveness of commodity exports affected by Australian dollar revaluations in November 1967 and December 1971.

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 at reducing Commonwealth debt.



Flexing muscles

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)

Page Research Centre

The Page Research Centre was established in 2002. 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 2007 the Centre embarked on a new line of work - to preserve the history of the National Party at State and Federal levels. This was the beginning of the Page Research Centre Library, situated at the Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga, NSW. The Library has and 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 various aspects of National Party history. More information on the Centre is available at www.page.org.au.

Sir Earle Page Memorial Trust

The Sir Earle Page Memorial Trust was established by the NSW Party in 1984 to preserve and honour the memory of Page and the founding members of what is today's National Party of Australia by awarding an annual scholarship at Sydney University for a student from regional NSW.

Page was the Member for Cowper, NSW, from December 1919 until December 1961. He died without knowing he had been defeated at the election. He founded the Australian Country Party Association - today's Federal Council - in March 1926, becoming its inaugural Chairman and holding the position until his death. He became the Country Party's first Prime Minister on the death of Joe Lyons, holding the office from 7 to 26 April 1939.

The Trust conducts an annual Sir Earle Page Memorial Lecture to raise funds for the scholarship. Donations are tax deductible. Past speakers have included former Governors-General, Sir Zelman Cowan and Sir Ninian Stephen, former head of the ABC, Dame Leone Kramer, Rural Press Chairman, John B Fairfax, Managing Director of Western Mining Corporation, Hugh Morgan, and, most recently, the Director of the Australian War Memorial, Dr Brendan Nelson.

Landmark achievements in Government

The Country/National Party has been responsible for many historic landmarks in the development of New South Wales and Australia, too numerous to quantify in this document. A sample of major achievements includes:

NSW Government

- Introduction of a State, trunk and main roads classification scheme (1927-1930)
- establishing a special public school adjacent to Far West Children's Home, Manly (1935)
- setting up the Road Safety Council (1936) and fixing a maximum speed limit of 30 miles per hour in built up areas (1937)
- establishing the University College, Armidale, as part of the University of Sydney (1938) and transforming it into Australia's first regional university, the University of New England (1954)
- introducing the Child Welfare Act to increase the minimum working age to 15 (1939) pioneering the provision of State Aid for Independent schools (1961)
- establishing the State's first Department of Decentralisation and Development (1965)
- establishing or upgrading Colleges of Advanced Education at Wagga Wagga and Bathurst; teachers' colleges at Goulburn, Lindfield, Lismore, Shortland and Westmead; and the Orange Agricultural College (1965-1973)
- completing the Blowering, Pindari and Wyangala dams and initiating construction of the Copeton, Lostock, Toonumbar, and Carcoar dams (1967-1971)
- increasing teacher trainee numbers from 7000 to nearly 20,000 (1965-1973)
- introducing the 3x3 road levy – a three cents a litre fuel tax, raising over \$600 million in three years, with 60 per cent spent on regional roads (1989)
- legislating just terms compensation for compulsory land acquisition (1991)
- decentralising the Department of Agriculture from Sydney to Orange (1991)
- establishing the State's first independent Ministry for Regional Development (1993)
- relocating the Royal Agricultural Society from the Sydney Show Ground to Homebush Bay (1994-98) and beginning development of Homebush Bay into the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games facility
- abolishing stamp duty on inter-generational farm transfers (1994)
- allocating a record \$1 billion to rural health services (1994/95)
- more than half – 65% - of record spending on roads directed to the regions (2011-2017)
- \$1.3 billion Regional Growth Fund (2017)
- more than \$16 billion in projects planned, started or completed across regional NSW, generating 62,000 new jobs (2017/2018)

- allocating all of the \$4.15 billion proceeds from the sale of the State's share in Snowy Hydro to the Commonwealth to regional NSW infrastructure development (2018)
- \$579 million for farmers, families and communities hit by drought (2018).

Commonwealth Government

- The nation's first radio broadcasting licences (1923)
- tax averaging for primary producers (1924)
- Department of Markets, forerunner of contemporary Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (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)
- first Federal Aid Roads Agreement (1926)
- Australian Agricultural Council (1935)
- Australian Trade Commissioner Service – now Austrade (1934)
- National Health and Medical Research Council (1936)
- abolition of petrol rationing (1950)
- free milk for children under 13 in schools (1950)
- free medical treatment for pensioners (1951)
- first medical benefits scheme (1953)
- introduction of television (1956)
- Australia-Japan Agreement on Commerce (1957)
- Reserve Bank of Australia and Commonwealth Banking Corporation (1958)
- live sheep export trade (1960)
- Ord River Irrigation Scheme (1963-1972)
- State Aid to Independent schools (1964)
- Australian Wool Commission and flexible wool reserve price scheme (1970)
- standard gauge Indian Pacific railway, Sydney to Perth (1970)
- National Agricultural Outlook Conference, now known as the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences Outlook Conference (1971)
- abolition of Commonwealth estate and gift duties (1977)
- Australian National Animal Health Laboratory, Geelong, Victoria (1978)
- Closer Economic Relations with New Zealand (1982)
- 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
- \$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)

- Stronger Families and Communities Strategy, including \$8.8 million for National Agenda for Early Childhood (2003)
- National Water Initiative, supported by \$2 billion Australian Government Water Fund (2003)
- \$50 billion Infrastructure Development program – largest in Australia’s history – delivering 22 major works (2014) and 47 in 2015 (\$6.7b Bruce Highway/\$5.6b Pacific Highway/\$565m Black Spots)
- 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)
- \$5 billion Northern Australia Infrastructure Fund (2016)
- \$8.4 billion for the Melbourne-Brisbane inland rail project (2017)
- \$4.4 billion to continue the Roads to Recovery Program and \$685 million to the Black Spots Road Program (2017)
- More than \$1 billion between 2013 and 2017 for farmers and communities hit by drought (2017)
- \$137 million new spending on regional NSW railway upgrades (2018).

State Parliamentary Leaders

NAME	ELECTORATE	PERIOD
Wearne, Walter	Namoi	1919-1921*
Bruxner, Michael	Northern Tableland	1921-1925
Buttenshaw, Ernest	Murrumbidgee; Lachlan	1925-1932
Bruxner, Michael	Tenterfield	1932-1958
Hughes, Davis	Armidale	1958-1959
Cutler, Charles	Orange	1959-1975
Punch, Leon	Gloucester	1975-1985
Murray, Wal	Barwon	1985-1993
Armstrong, Ian	Lachlan	1993-1999
Souris, George	Upper Hunter	1999-2003
Stoner, Andrew	Oxley	2003-2014
Grant, Troy	Dubbo	2014-2016
Barilaro, John	Monaro	2016-current

**Walter Wearne became a Coalition Progressive when the Parliamentary Party split on 15 December 1921 and a Nationalist from March 1922 until his retirement in September 1930.*

Federal Parliamentary Leaders from NSW

NAME	ELECTORATE	PERIOD
Page, Earle	Cowper	1921-1939
Anthony, Doug	Richmond	1971-1984
Sinclair, Ian	New England	1984-1989
Blunt, Charles	Richmond	1989-1990
Fischer, Tim	Farrer	1990-1999
Anderson, John	Gwydir	1999-2005
Vaile, Mark	Lyne	2005-2007
Joyce, Barnaby	New England	2016-2018
McCormack, Michael	Riverina	2018-current

State Chairmen

NAME	PERIOD
Trethowan, Arthur	1919-1921
Hunt, Alfred	1921-1925
Trethowan, Arthur	1925-1937
Abbott, Joseph	1937-1938
Killen, Eric	1938-1943
Sherwood, Edward	1943-1945
Eggins, Eldred	1945-1950
Sommerlad, Ernest	1950-1952
Carter, John	1952-1957
McKellar, Colin	1957-1959
Fuller, John	1959-1964
Hunt, Ralph	1964-1969
Solomons, Adrian	1969-1974
Connellan, Leo	1974-1978
Killen, Richard	1978-1983
Brownhill, David	1983-1986
Moppett, Douglas	1986-1991
Gay, Duncan	1991-1994
Hunt, Ian	1994-1997
Dickie, Helen	1997-2002
Maher, Patrick	2002-2007
Ferguson, Christine	2007-2012
Blair, Niall	2012-2014
Burke, Bede	2014-current

Federal Presidents from NSW

NAME	PERIOD
Page, Earle	1926-1961
Hunt, Ralph	1968-1969
Solomons, Adrian	1974-1978
Dickie, Helen	1999-2005
Ferguson, Christine	2012-2015

Key dates in Party development

13 October 1919	The first Central Electoral Council (CEC) of The Progressive Party of New South Wales established.
22 January 1920	The Australian Country Party is formed in the Commonwealth Parliament.
30 August 1920	The Progressive Party CEC adopts the Party's first Constitution. The first print is dated 14 October 1920.
15 December 1921	The Parliamentary Progressive Party splits, with a minority of seven parliamentarians, led by Mick Bruxner, refusing to join their colleagues in Coalition with the Nationalists. These 'Country Progressives' are the founding parliamentary members of the Country/National Party in NSW and become known as the 'True Blues'.
12 August 1925	Bruxner announces to the Legislative Assembly the Party has changed its name to The Country Party of New South Wales.
24 September 1931	To facilitate becoming the political voice of the New States Movement, the Party changes its name to The United Country Party of New South Wales.
9 February 1944	The NSW State General Conference votes to change the name to The Australian Country Party (N.S.W.).
2 May 1975	A Federal Convention in Canberra agrees to change the Federal name to National Country Party of Australia.
26 June 1976	The NSW Annual General Conference in Broken Hill debates changing the name to the National Country Party of Australia - NSW. While winning a majority in favour of change, the motion fails to get the required two-thirds majority and is lost.
26 June 1977	The NSW Annual General Conference in Coffs Harbour again considers the name change. On this occasion it wins 374 votes in favour to 132 against. The Party becomes the National Country Party of Australia - NSW.
26 June 1982	The NSW Annual General Conference in Wagga Wagga votes by 258 to 70 to change the name to National Party of Australia - NSW.
16 October 1982	Federal Conference in Canberra votes to change the Federal name to National Party of Australia.
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.
25 October 2003	The NSW Central Council unanimously endorses use of The Nationals for all future State elections and Federal election campaigns in NSW.

Research programs and publications

There is a large body of historical material on aspects of the Country/National Party at State and Federal levels held in libraries, including the National Library in Canberra, the Mitchell and State Libraries in Sydney, the University of New England Library, the Page Research Centre Library at Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga, and the National Archives, Canberra.

The New South Wales Party Head Office also holds an interesting collection of books, as well as the minutes of Central Council and Central Executive going back to the first meetings, and copies of Party publications, including *The New South Wales Countryman* newspaper, which first appeared in 1946 and was the predecessor of today's *National Leader* magazine.

Further information on various aspects of the National Party of Australia, its history and personalities, can be found in the following selection of programs and publications:

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

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

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

Davey, P, *Ninety Not Out - The Nationals 1920-2010*, UNSW Press, Sydney, 2010

Davey, P, *Politics in the Blood - The Anthonys of Richmond*, UNSW Press, Sydney, 2008

Davey, P, *The Country Party Prime Ministers - their trials and tribulations*, Dobson's Printing, Sydney, 2011

Davey, P, *The Nationals - The Progressive, Country and National Party in New South Wales 1919 to 2006*, The Federation Press, Sydney, 2006

- Ellis, UR, *A History of the Australian Country Party*, Melbourne University Press, 1963
- Ellis, UR, *A Pen in Politics*, Ginninderra Press, Canberra, 2007
- Ellis, UR, *New Australian States*, The Endeavour Press, Sydney, 1933
- Ellis, UR, *The Country Party - a Political and Social History of the Party in New South Wales*, FW Cheshire, Melbourne, 1958
- Fadden, AW, *They called me Artie - The Memoirs of Sir Arthur Fadden*, The Jacaranda Press, Brisbane, 1969
- Fisher, PS, *Backbench - behind the headlines*, Copyright Publishing, Brisbane, 2011
- Forrest, P&S, *They started something - A biography of Bern and Aileen Kilgariff*, Everbest Printing, 2005
- Gallagher, P, *Faith & Duty - The John Anderson story*, Random House Australia, 2006
- Golding, P, *Black Jack McEwen - Political Gladiator*, Melbourne University Press, 1996
- Graham, BD, *The Formation of the Australian Country Parties*, Australian National University Press, Canberra, 1966
- Heatley, A, *The Territory Party: The Northern Territory Country Liberal Party 1974-1998*, Northern Territory University Press, 1998
- Jackson, RV, (ed), *John McEwen - His Story*, 1983, republished by The Page Research Centre, 2014
- 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.

Further information

Further information on the NSW Nationals is available from your local State or Federal Nationals Parliamentarian, or the Party's Head Office:

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for Regional NSW