Julia Eileen GILLARD
Prime Minister 24 June 2010 – 27 June 2013

- Julia Gillard became the 27th Prime Minister after she was elected unopposed in a ballot for the leadership of the Australian Labor Party.
- Member of the Australian Labor Party.

Main achievements (2010-13)
- The first woman to become Prime Minister, and the first woman to be Deputy Prime Minister.
- Introduced the Clean Energy Bill 2011, a package of legislation establishing an emissions trading scheme to reduce Australia’s carbon emissions.
- Introduced the National Disability Insurance Scheme, DisabilityCare Australia
- Introduced legislation to reform the education system following the Gonski review, including funding to primary and secondary education.

Personal life
- Born 29 September 1961 in Barry, Glamorgan, Wales. Father John was a coal miner.
- As a child suffered respiratory problems. Emigrated with her family to Adelaide in 1966 as ‘£10 poms’ as a warmer climate was more suited to her health.
- Attended Unley High School, University of Adelaide and University of Melbourne, graduating with arts and law degrees in 1986.
- President of the Australian Union of Students 1983–1984
- Joined law firm Slater and Gordon in 1987.
- Chief of Staff to Victorian ALP leader (later Premier) John Brumby 1996–1998
- Partner (since 2006) is Tim Mathieson.
Character

‘Julia Gillard answers questions readily, laughs easily and has a nice line in self-deprecation...she is easy to talk to, hiding any natural wariness behind a smiling and relaxed manner. It is obvious that she genuinely likes people. But she gives little away. Under that engaging manner is a reserved person, a woman who is very well self-protected.’ - Kent, Jacqueline, The Making of Julia Gillard, Camberwell, Vic; Penguin, 2009

‘She is one of the toughest warriors that have ever led the Labor Party. I have observed in the Labor caucus this evening... there have been some 20 leaders of the ALP since the Federal Parliament came together and she is indeed one of the toughest of all. She has done more in three years as a politician than many other politicians could hope to achieve.’ Wayne Swan, in his resignation speech, 26 June 2013.

Did you know?

• Gillard is the first Prime Minister to be sworn in by a woman (Governor-General Quentin Bryce).
• First Prime Minister to be born overseas since Billy Hughes; Gillard is also the first Prime Minister to be born in Wales.
• Gillard is the first Prime Minister to have spent a significant period of her upbringing in South Australia, though she later moved to Melbourne and represents a Victorian seat in Parliament.
• The Gillard family’s immigration file describes them as ’An excellent family... well presented’ [National Archives of Australia: A1877, 07/02/1966 FAIRSKY GILLARD J O]

Further reading

Donovan, Barry, Reconnecting Labor, Carlton, Vic: Scribe, 2006
Jackman, Christine, Inside Kevin 07: The People, the Plan, the Prize, Melbourne University Press, 2008