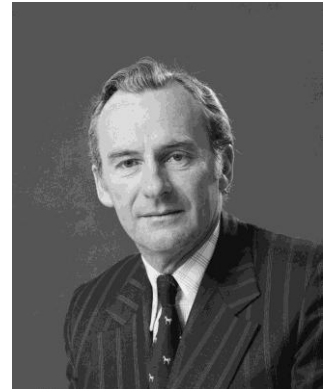


William George HAYDEN AC

Leader of the Opposition 22 December 1977 to 3 February 1983



- Bill Hayden became the 20th Leader of the Opposition after Gough Whitlam retired as leader of the Australian Labor Party when he lost the 1977 election.
- Member of the Australian Labor Party from 1957. Made a life member in 2007.
- Member of the House of Representatives for Oxley (Qld) 1961-88, Minister for Social Security 1972-75, Treasurer 1975, Minister for Foreign Affairs 1983-87, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade 1987-88.
- Replaced as Leader of the Opposition in 1983 by Bob Hawke, on the same day that Malcolm Fraser called a general election, which Labor went on to win.

As Opposition Leader

- Achieved a 4.2 per cent swing to Labor and gained thirteen seats at the 1980 election but did not win enough to form government.
- Oversaw reforms to the Australian Labor Party that saw it adopt a quota of 30 per cent women in Parliament over ten years.
- Supported electoral reforms to adopt proportional representation for the House of Representatives; this never became official Labor policy.
- After his replacement as leader by Bob Hawke, made the famous comment that 'a drover's dog could lead the Labor Party to victory at the present time.'

Political life

- As Minister for Social Security in the Whitlam government, introduced the single mother's pension and Australia's first universal health insurance scheme, Medibank.
- As Minister for Foreign Affairs in the Hawke government, Hayden was a strong advocate for closer ties between Australia and the Asia-Pacific region.



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Personal life

- Born 23 January 1933, Ipswich, Queensland.
- Educated at Brisbane State High School and University of Queensland.
- Married Dallas Broadfoot, 1960. Four children.
- Served in the Queensland Police Force, 1953-61.

Life after politics

- Resigned from Parliament after his appointment as Australia's 21st Governor-General, serving in that office from 16 February 1989 to 16 February 1995.

Character

Hayden's attitude was old-fashioned and uncompromisingly working-class: what you see is what you get. His inability to communicate was a highly personal matter and Hayden would rarely take advice on personal, as distinct from political, matters. But communication is the essence of contemporary politics. Hayden was guileless and lacking in the personal vanity the television age has bred into its political practitioners... the man being projected as the alternative Prime Minister would just stroll into his Ipswich barber; Dallas would buy his shirts at the local shops; Hayden would appear on television with his uniquely Queensland sense of colour contrast: open-necked blue, white and pale blue sports outfits.

Kelly, P 1984, *The Hawke ascendancy: a definitive account of its origins and climax 1975-1983*, Angus & Robertson.

Did you know?

- The man Hayden defeated for the seat of Oxley in 1961, Dr. Donald Cameron, was the physician who had delivered Hayden's wife, Dallas, when she was born in 1935.
- Hayden, at 44, was the ALP's youngest leader since Chris Watson (who was 38). His record was later surpassed by Mark Latham.

Sources

Hayden, B 1996, *Hayden, an autobiography*, Angus and Robertson, Sydney.

Murphy, D 1980, *Hayden: a political biography*, Angus & Robertson, Sydney.

Stubbs, J 1989, *Hayden*, William Heinemann, Port Melbourne.

Further reading

Hawke, B 1994, *The Hawke memoirs*, William Heinemann Australia, Port Melbourne.

Kelly, P 1984, *The Hawke ascendancy: a definitive account of its origins and climax 1975-1983*, Angus & Robertson Publishers, Sydney.



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