Voices from the Past:

Creating living memory through the digitisation and interpretation of sound recordings

Campbell Rhodes
Curatorial Officer
Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House
"WE'RE FAIR DINKUM
CLIVE PALMER

WHAT WE STAND FOR

6 KEY POLICIES:

1. Exclude lobby groups from official positions.

2. 25% wealth for regions. 25% of wealth raised in a region stays in a region.

3. Refund electricity increases.


5. Save billions for Australia - fair immediate decision on arrival. Repatriate arrivals who have no rights to stay. Keep families together - Save $5 Billion p.a.

6. Reduce Taxation.

VOTE FOR PALMER UNITED

Clive Palmer speech in Canberra
Clive Palmer speech at airport
Bonus TITANIC II video
Palmer United Party TV advertisements

Authorised printed and paid for by Clive Palmer.
‘Messrs Bruce, Hughes, Page and Theodore, central figures in the Federal elections, have followed the American lead, and have made special records at Columbia Graphophone (Aust.) Ltd.’

The Age, Monday 23 September 1929
‘A few months ago, during the elections in the United Kingdom, the Columbia Company issued a number of records by prominent leaders. These records made a great success and were widely used during the election campaign.’
‘On Wednesday night when the Grafton Debating Society was debating the Federal arbitration issue, Mr. W. R. Weiley took along his portable gramophone and the record of Dr. Earle Page’s speech.’
‘Fifty years ago if one wished to hear the speeches of aspiring candidates for political honours one had to attend election meetings in person, or else rely on the reports...in the daily newspapers.’

Daily Telegraph, Monday 23 September 1929
‘When the fight is over and a new Government (or the old one) is installed, people will be able to spend the quiet summer evenings listening, to the family gramophone recount the speeches of a famous quartette.’

Daily Telegraph, Monday 23 September 1929
just setting up my twttr
6:50 AM - Mar 22, 2006

Be sure to tune in and watch Donald Trump on Late Night with David Letterman as he presents the Top Ten List tonight!
4:54 AM - May 5, 2009
**DISSOLUTION.**

**Granted by Governor-General.**

**EARLY ELECTION.**

**MESSAGES TO THE PEOPLE.**

By Mr. Bruce and Dr. Page.

(From our Special Representative.)

**CANBERRA, Thursday.**

A dissolution of the House of Representatives is to be granted by the Governor-General (Lord Stonehaven), on the advice of his Ministers.

The House sat for the last time to-day.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Bruce) announced the decision of his Excellency, and members passed a Supply Bill and several other formal measures before adjourning.

A general election will be held next month, if possible on October 19.

Should a Labour majority be returned to the House of Representatives there will probably be a double dissolution within a few months, as the present Nationalist majority in the Senate would be likely to make the Parliament unworkable.

The Prime Minister will deliver his policy speech next week, and a hurried campaign will follow.

**OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE.**

Between Governor-General and Prime Minister.
“You all know the limerick of the young lady of Riga, who went for a ride on a tiger. They came back from the ride with the lady inside and a smile on the face of the tiger.”
- Ted Theodore, 1929
"A FILM THAT MAKES YOUR SPIRIT SOAR. A RARE COMBINATION OF CROWD-PLEASER AND TRIUMPHANT ARTISTRY." — WALL STREET JOURNAL

THE KING'S SPEECH
COLIN FIRTH · GEOFFREY RUSH · HELENA BONHAM CARTER

IN THEATERS THIS CHRISTMAS
What did our early PMs sound like?

We know a lot about what our early prime ministers were like. There are plenty of photos of them throughout their lives, and biographies record their personalities, appearance, quirks, habits, and even their tastes in food, literature or music. But we don't know much about how they sounded.

The first sound recordings were made in the late 19th century, when all of Australia's early prime ministers were alive. Sadly, if they ever had their voices recorded, the recordings are lost. Research hasn't been able to dig up any audio of the first five Australian prime ministers – Edmund Barton, Alfred Deakin, Chris Watson, George Reid or Andrew Fisher. But, thanks to archives and collectors, we have recordings of the voices of all the others. Modern politicians are recorded every day, so future historians will know all about their voices.

The First Five

Because no recordings of the first five PMs are known, we have to go by descriptions and a little bit of guesswork. Biographers describe Barton's voice as rich, medium-pitched, and beautifully modulated. Because of the time in which he lived and his social status, it is likely Barton would sound more English to modern ears. So would Alfred Deakin, who claimed his baritone voice had 'no trace of provincial accent'. Chris Watson grew up in New Zealand and may have had a slight Kiwi accent. George Reid was born in Scotland and generally spoke with an English accent. Andrew Fisher was born in the US and might have a strong American accent.
Have you ever wondered if Stanley Bruce sounded as posh as he looked? Did Billy Hughes have a Welsh accent?

In Campbell's blog post he unearths some rare recordings to find out what our early prime ministers actually sounded like: https://www.moedoph.gov.au/blog/what-did-our-early-prime-ministers-sound-like/

Image: Bruce records 'A talk to the Nation' for Columbia Gramophone in 1929. National Library of Australia
THE BOB HAWKE WALK
(B. Power)

by BLAH BLAH BLAH

Recorded & Produced at Trackdown Studios in the hope of a NUCLEAR FREE PACIFIC