

Malcolm Fraser



Peter Adamis - Abalinx - 21 March 2015

A grassroots tribute to a great man who achieved so much in his life and in my opinion more as a humanitarian than a Prime Minister. A man who brought down a government only to see it rise again from the ashes just like the phoenix and achieve greatness in life.

There are numerous other writers better equipped and well versed in writing about Malcolm Fraser and therefore my tribute is from a grass roots point of view that sees life for what it is and calls a spade a spade.

As a young bloke growing up in the sixties and seventies and spending the better part of my life in the Australian Defence Force, my reflections of Malcolm Fraser are somewhat different for others. In my eyes he was an ordinary bloke who lived on his farm, grazing his cattle and rising to reaching the pinnacle of success as a Humanitarian Ambassador. Yes he became an Australian Prime Minister but the achievements and accolades that are being given to him should not all be attributed to him as he had a great team around him.

He was a smart and intelligent political force who used all the resources available to him to obtain his objectives. In my eyes, Malcolm Fraser achieved more as a humanitarian rather than as a Prime Minister and in doing so achieved the status that few men and women in our life time hope to achieve. Malcolm Fraser was a great Australian who put aside his personal biases and the cultural paradigms of his upbringing, to usher in a new generation of Australians.

An Australian with a personal following had the skills and ability to attract good men and women around him, in order to bring about much needed change. In doing so he was able to place Australia in a favourable international position, without losing its independence in a chaotic world. Without him and the tale tented team around him, the life we enjoy today would have been vastly different.

I would not call him the best Defence Minister as that title belongs to Kim Beasley and I would not call him the best Prime Minister as that belongs to John Curtin (WW2 Prime Minister) but he certainly was of the better Prime Ministers who went onto being a man who understood his fellow Australians, their strengths and weakness, their courage in battle, their resilience to face the rigors of life and one can say that he was up there with the best of them. He will always be remembered for his statement that "Life was not meant to be easy".

The relationship with his Labor opponent Gough Whitlam is akin to the relationship Robert Menzies had with Arthur Calwell. Students of politics will notice that despite differences in political ideologies no could accuse Menzies/Calwell and Fraser/Whitlam of being un-Australians. The interesting thing here is that such relationships brought about change in the Australians way of life that strengthened the fabric of Australia's society and assisted in ushering a new generation of people, a people that we call Australians.

Fraser was canny enough like his predecessors (not all of them) to identify the societal patterns of change occurring in Australia and channel that change into a positive movement that assisted in bringing down further barriers that hampered them. Like the teacher who first identified greatness in Billy Graham (world's greatest evangelist preacher); Malcolm Fraser was instrumental in identifying and encouraging good men and women, all of whom went onto achieving great things in life. This is what I believe is his greatest achievement.

A compassionate man, humanitarian, and an unbelievable Australian who cared very much for the future of Australia and its people May he rest in peace, while we who live on, continue the legacies and examples that he left behind for us to emulate. May his next journey be a good one and continue his good work in the next world.



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