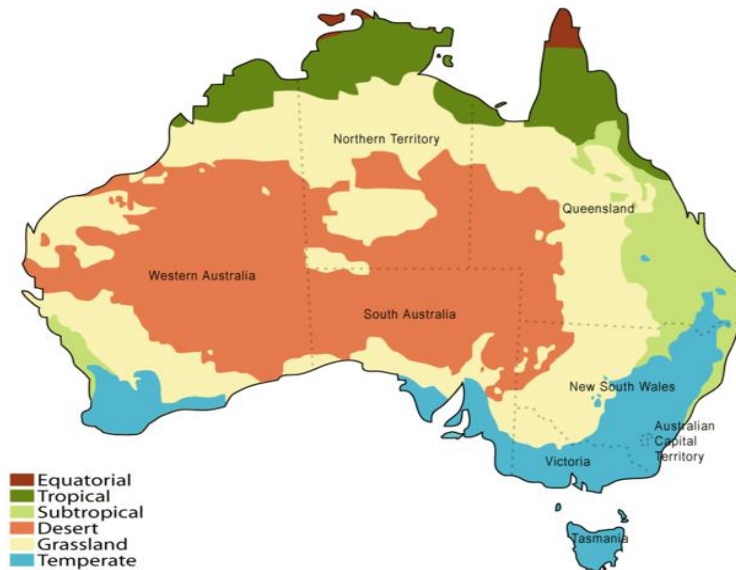


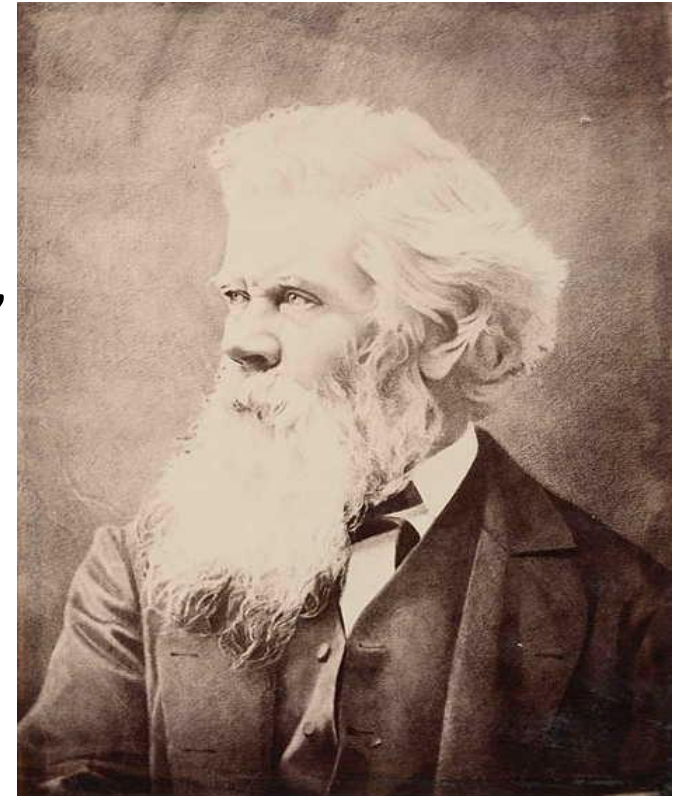
# Australian colonies become a nation.

- During the 1890s a series of meetings, called conventions, were attended by representatives from each colony.
- During these conventions, the Constitution was drafted.
- The Constitution was then put to a vote by the people of the colonies in referendums.



# Before 1900

- Sir Henry Parkes, regarded as “The father of Federation” was Premier of New South Wales.
- He was the primary instigator of the conference in 1890 and the Constitutional Convention in 1891, the first of the series of meetings that led to the federation of Australia.
- He died in 1896.



# Other colonies in the Pacific decline.

- Fiji and New Zealand took part in discussions, but they decided not to join the federation.



# 1900.

- The Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act (UK) was passed on 5/7/1900 and given Royal Assent by Queen Victoria on 9/7/1900.



# 1900/1901.

- Since there was no existing federal parliament the leader of the largest party could not be invited to form government.
- The new Governor-General, Lord Hopetoun, instead invited Sir William Lyne, who was an earlier opponent of federation, until a late change of mind, and premier of New South Wales, to form a federal government and thus be Prime Minister.

Lord Hopetoun.



# Caretaker Prime Minister and leader of the Protectionist Party (against free trade).

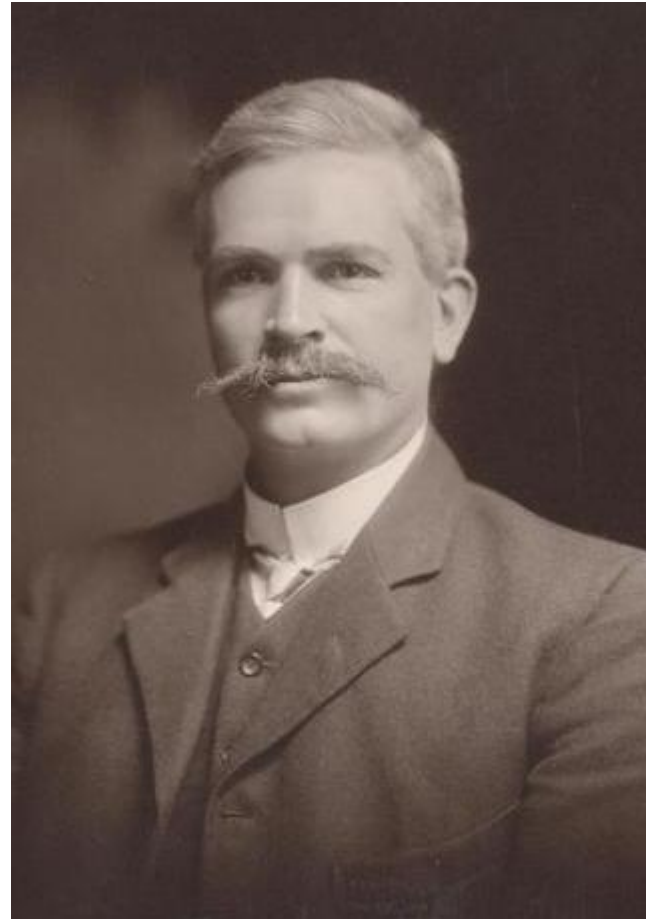
- Prominent federalists such as Alfred Deakin refused to serve under William Lyne.
- After tense negotiations, Edmund Barton was appointed caretaker Prime Minister and he and his ministry were sworn in on 1st January 1901.
- January 1<sup>st</sup> :the Constitution of Australia came into force.

Sir Edmund Barton.



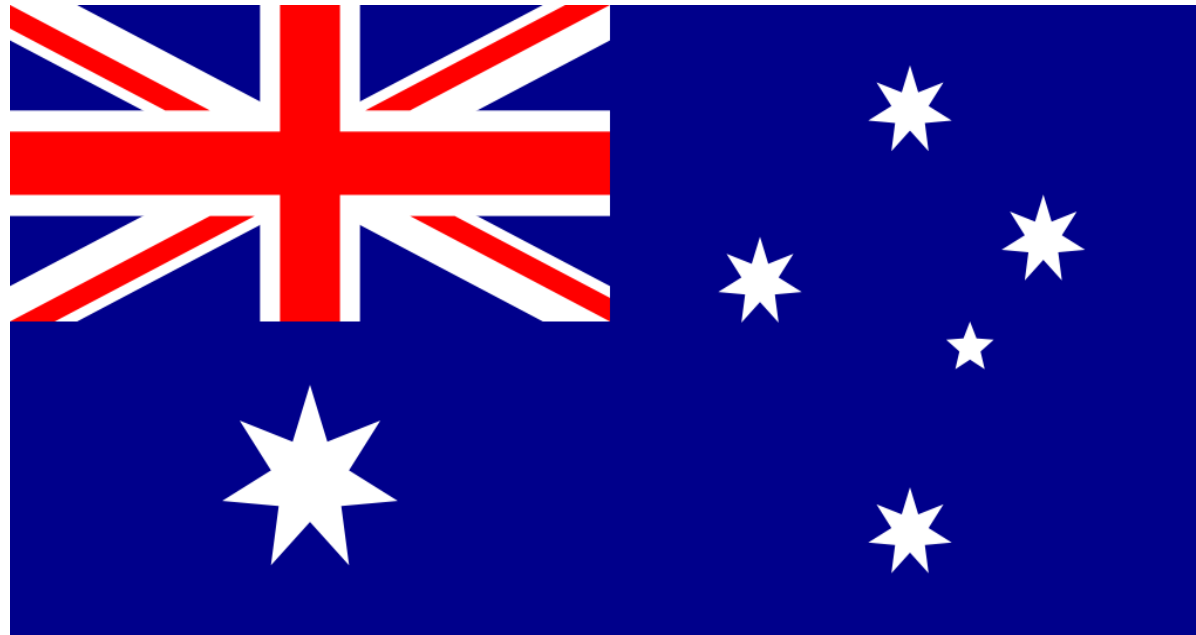
# 1901.

- The inaugural national election was held in March 1901 but no party won a majority.
- With the support of the Labour Party, led by Andrew Fisher (right), Barton's Protectionist Party was able to form a government and he continued as Australia's first Prime Minister.
- Fisher later served as Prime Minister on three separate occasions.



# 1901.

- In 1901 Sir Edmund Barton announced an international competition to design a flag for the new nation. It attracted 32,823 entries. Five near-identical entries were awarded equal first and the designers shared the £200 prize.





# 1901.

- The Australian National Flag was flown for the first time in September 1901 at the Royal Exhibition Building in Melbourne, the site of the first sitting of Federal parliament.

