

## Who was Ben Chifley?

**Ben Chifley was Australia's 16th Prime Minister.**

Joseph Benedict (Ben) Chifley was born in Bathurst, New South Wales, on 22 September 1885.

Ben had two younger brothers and spent most of his childhood living on his grandfathers farm in Limekilns near Bathurst whilst his brothers lived at home with his parents.

Ben worked on his grandfathers' farm until he was 13 years old.

Ben Chifley went to the local school at Limekilns a few days a week. After he moved back to Bathurst he studied at night.

Ben joined the railways at the age of 17 as a shop boy and by the time he was 24 years old he was the youngest first class locomotive driver.

Ben Chifley married Elizabeth McKenzie on 6 June 1914.

Ben and his wife Elizabeth lived at 10 Busby Street in Bathurst.

Ben Chifley became Prime Minister of Australia on 13 July 1945 when he was elected the leader of the Federal Labor Party.

One month after he became Prime Minister, World War II ended. You can listen to Ben Chifley announcing the end of the War on the Australian War Memorial web page <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/S00106/>

Ben and Elizabeth stayed living in their small house in Bathurst but Ben traveled to Canberra to fulfill his role as Prime Minister. Elizabeth usually stayed in Bathurst but occasionally went to Canberra with him.

Ben was very committed to the people of Bathurst, he enjoyed gardening and catching up with his friends.

Ben Chifley died in 1951 in Canberra, and Elizabeth died in 1962.

