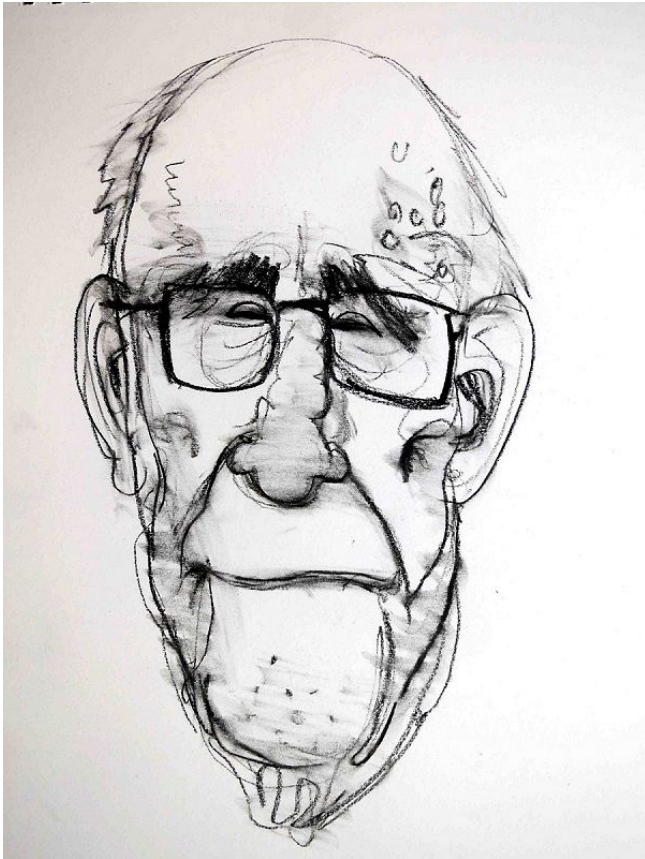


# Vale Malcolm Fraser: A complicated man

By David Donovan

21 March 2015



**Managing editor [David Donovan](#) says former Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser was a complicated but decent man who, ultimately, should be remembered well by the nation.**

OVER a year ago, the former PM began following me on Twitter. He didn't follow many others. I don't know why he liked reading my often banal tweets.

I always felt conflicted about him. As a child, he was the only PM I'd known — before Hawke replaced him in 1983.

Later, as I become more politically aware, I

could not become a hater of Fraser. He espoused many of the principles of equality and humanity I hold dear — the ones that seem missing, all too often, in our current crop of leaders.

Fraser was flawed. He was rich. He was a little pompous. He felt it was his right and destiny to rule. And he was consumed by ambition to realise that end. He made a tragic mistake. He suffered for it until the day he died. And I think he tried to atone for it every day until he did.

We should remember him well. Ultimately, Malcolm Fraser was a decent man. And his decency shines brighter with every passing day.

RIP Malcolm Fraser, your goodness will be remembered.

**The original John Graham artwork used in this piece [is available from the IA online store](#), along with [many others](#). You can follow [David Donovan on Twitter @davrosz](#).**

[#MalcolmFraser](#) reflected on his life and legacy with [@JHutcheon](#) in 2013. Watch the [#OnePlusOne](#) interview next [pic.twitter.com/jVs0OoHkry](http://pic.twitter.com/jVs0OoHkry)

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