



The preservation of Australia from invasion will be his immemorial monument. //

General Douglas MacArthur



Curtin University

## JOHN CURTIN

Prime Minister John Curtin (1941-45) led Australia through the crisis of World War II.

He was born in Victoria in 1885 and moved to Western Australia in 1917 to become editor of the *Westralian Worker*.

Curtin entered politics in 1928 as the federal Member for Fremantle and rose to become parliamentary leader of the Australian Labor Party in 1935. Following the collapse of the Fadden government, John Curtin became prime minister on 7 October, 1941.

He was a tireless worker on Australia's behalf and his government put in place a plan for a better postwar Australia. Believing that 'the peace must be won for the masses', Curtin used his prime ministership to advance his dream of a fair go for all Australians, implementing Labor programs in the areas of economic reform, social services, immigration, education and foreign policy.

As a wartime leader he was able to transcend the differences within his own party and to unite the nation behind the war effort. He died on 5 July 1945 at the age of

### CONTACT

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**JOHN CURTIN  
PRIME MINISTERIAL  
LIBRARY**

CURTIN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

[john.curtin.edu.au](http://john.curtin.edu.au)

# JOHN CURTIN PRIME MINISTERIAL LIBRARY

The John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library (JCPML) recognises the contribution to Australian society of wartime prime minister and international statesman, John Curtin (1885-1945). The JCPML aims to advance knowledge and enrich culture by providing a focus for research and educational programs which engage Curtin staff and students and the community.

The JCPML develops and manages a unique collection of scholarly resources focusing on the life and times of John Curtin and provides modern facilities and services to support research within the archives.

## JCPML COLLECTION

The primary focus of the research collection is on John Curtin and the events and people most closely connected to his life and work. The archival collection includes personal records of the Curtin family, published items, ephemera, objects, photographs, oral histories, audio-visual material, and copies of unpublished official records.

## ELECTRONIC RESEARCH ARCHIVE

Building the collection more than 50 years after Curtin's death posed challenges, with materials dispersed amongst individuals, organisations, and state, national and overseas archival institutions. The Electronic Research Archive (ERA) provides online access to these records, as well as to records held in the JCPML, in a seamless manner.

Much of the collection has been digitized and ERA includes images (photographs, documents), text (contents of documents), and audio or video (oral histories, sound recordings, motion pictures).

*Reference enquiries are welcome and researchers are encouraged to contact the JCPML prior to visiting in person.*

## PUBLIC EVENTS

Public events include an annual Anniversary Lecture, lectures by Visiting Scholars, book launches and exhibition openings.

## EXHIBITIONS

The JCPML maintains a major exhibition with a focus on John Curtin, develops temporary displays and travelling exhibitions which showcase the collection, and brings touring exhibitions onto campus.

## PUBLICATIONS

The JCPML publishes, predominantly online, research outputs and resources connected to its collection and programs, including short papers, biographies, audiovisual materials, exhibitions, newsletters, public lectures and educational resources.

## EDUCATION PROGRAM

Onsite, online and travelling education programs are presented for primary, secondary and tertiary students as well as community members. The programs encompass exhibition visits, role plays, document studies, 'Treasure Boxes' for use in classrooms, and online resources and activities.

