



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 as the federal Member for Fremantle in 1928 and rose to become parliamentary leader of the Australian Labor Party in 1935. Following the collapse of the Fadden government, 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 60, less than six weeks before the end of the war in the Pacific.



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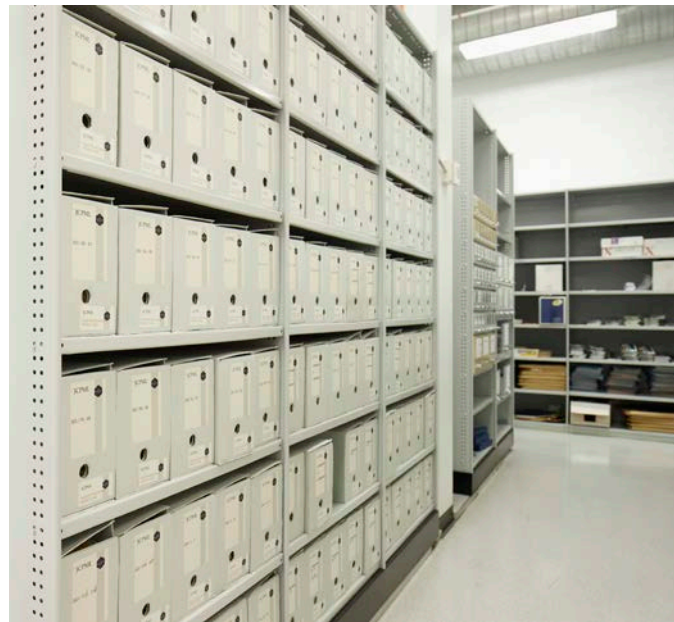
JOHN CURTIN PRIME MINISTERIAL LIBRARY PUBLIC TOURS



The John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library at Curtin University manages a unique collection of resources relating to the life and times of Australia's wartime prime minister and international statesman John Curtin (1885-1945). The purpose designed building houses the archival collections comprised of letters, official records, photographs, sound recordings, books from John Curtin's personal library, objects, artworks and much more.

JCPML COLLECTION

Highlights of the collection include John Curtin's pocket watch, the bible used at the appointment of Curtin to the office of Prime Minister, letters and telegrams John Curtin wrote to his wife Elsie, the newspapers edited by Curtin, and correspondence between Curtin and other world leaders.



SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

The University library special collections are also housed in the same facility. These special collections include the records of Hazel Hawke, Geoff Gallop and Carmen Lawrence, records created for Project Endeavour — Jon Sanders' Triple Circumnavigation of the World, the Women's Health Collection, the Western Australian Folklore Archive, and the Elizabeth Jolley bibliography.

HOW TO BOOK

Members of the public, community groups and post-secondary students are invited to book for tours.

Tour participants will be able to see some of the unique objects from the collections, browse the reference collection in the reading room, and learn about searching the collections online.

Tours will take about one hour and are available on weekdays only. Bookings for tours are required one month in advance, and groups to a maximum of 15 people are preferred. For more information and to make a booking please contact the Library Archivist on 9266 4205 or email jcpml@curtin.edu.au.

