

Curtin

UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

INTRODUCTION

The John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library (JCPML) operates as an integral part of Curtin University of Technology Library and Information Service. During 2002 the JCPML extended the reach of its unique learning and research collection of archival materials relating to the life and times of John Curtin and the office of the prime minister. As Australia's first prime ministerial library the JCPML contributes to Curtin University of Technology's prestige both locally, nationally and internationally.



WEBSITE DEVELOPMENTS

The high quality and significance to Australia's documentary heritage of the JCPML website was recognised in 2002 by the National Library of Australia which has commenced archiving the site annually through its PANDORA (Preserving and Accessing Networked Documentary Resources of Australia) archive.

The JCPML launched three significant web resources, *John Curtin: A good sport*, *On Track: Curtin's Railway Journeys* and, with generous sponsorship from the Water Corporation, *War & Peace: Rationing & Rebuilding: 1940s life in Cottesloe Western Australia*. During 2002 the JCPML was a partner with the National Archives of Australia (NAA) in the new *Australia's Prime Ministers* website, creating webpages featuring "what's in the JCPML" on John and Elsie Curtin and Hazel Hawke which are accessed via the website's Research Map. The JCPML was the only non-national or state institution to be a partner with the NAA in this undertaking.

EXHIBITIONS

Shaping the Nation: John Curtin and Australia closed its doors in 2002 after being viewed by more than 21,000 visitors and this popular exhibition is now available online. The JCPML opened its major new exhibition *John Curtin's Legacy: Leading Australia from war to peace* in September. The exhibition explores Australia's progress from 1942 until 1951 and looks at the seeds planted by John Curtin during his four year prime ministership in such areas as the economy, immigration and foreign policy and follows their growth to become the foundation fabric of modern Australia. The exhibition's digital graphics won a gold PICA (Printing Industry Craftsmanship Award) which was awarded to Image Source.

The JCPML also launched an exhibition focused on Hazel Hawke's years in the Lodge (1982-1991). *Without Classification: Hazel Hawke*, organised jointly by JCPML and the John Curtin Gallery, brought together important material from the Hazel Hawke records held by the JCPML with distinguished examples of Australian poster art. The links between the two were the many issues ranging from women's concerns to welfare, Aboriginal Australia to education that Mrs Hawke championed – issues which were in the forefront of the minds of many artists using poster art to define and communicate political and social awareness.

AWARDS

The JCPML won the prestigious Mander Jones Award for a publication 'making the greatest contribution to archives or a related field in Australia written by or on behalf of a corporate body'. *Understanding Society through its Records* is part of the JCPML's ongoing endeavour to contribute to the development and promotion of archives.

In August the JCPML was awarded a \$40,000 grant by the Australia Council for the Arts to produce the play *Shadow Of The Eagle* which has been developed by the Perth Theatre Company in association with the JCPML.



EDUCATION

The education program continued to grow with a new addition in 2002 being the role play and document investigation *Planning for Peace: postwar reconstruction*. This program has particular relevance to students studying Australia 1945-1990 and has proved very popular.

During the year the education officer presented a workshop at the Global Citizenship Conference at the Constitutional Centre, took part in Murdoch University's History in Action Project as well as participating in the HTAWA professional development seminar day held at the JCPML. Resulting from this participation the JCPML submitted a grant application to the Public Education Endowment Trust to develop further PD for teachers. The project, *Cartoon PD in a Package* will be developed in 2003.

COMMEMORATING 5 JULY

Two former prime ministers came together at the JCPML for the annual commemoration of the death of John Curtin on 5 July. JCPML Foundation Patron Gough Whitlam introduced 2002's guest speaker, Paul Keating who delivered a masterful lecture on the significance of leaders in history. In a speech entitled *John Curtin's World and Ours*, Paul Keating explored aspects of Curtin's leadership during World War Two including the strategic turn away from Britain to the United States and then made a series of salient points about current foreign policy decisions, suggesting that rather than relying on powerful allies a better way for the future would be to build

coalitions of interests with smaller countries.

Also on 5 July Gough Whitlam's contribution to the JCPML and Curtin University of Technology was recognised by the naming of a significant campus walkway in his honour – 'the Whitlam Walk'.

RESEARCH

Collection development had an international as well as a national focus in 2002. Within the UK, films, documents and images from the Imperial War Museum, film footage from British Movietone and documents from the Public Records Office were copied and added to the JCPML collection. In the USA, links via ERA were made to documents identified in the online collections of the Franklin D Roosevelt Presidential Library.

Within Australia, records of interest from the National Archives of Australia and from the State Library of Victoria continued to be identified and links provided via ERA to those institutions' online collections. All John Curtin related records in the Lloyd Ross collection in the National Library of Australia were copied digitally for access via ERA.

Nearly 200 articles written by Ross Gollan, Canberra correspondent for the *Sydney Morning Herald* between 1941 and 1945, were made available through ERA.



Statistics for 2002

Visitors to JCPML exhibition	11,524*
Visitors to JCPML Reading Room	563
Participation in education program	1,097
Research Enquiries	1,628
Website hits	25,369
ERA usage	2,809

*Gallery closed January and for 10 days during every six week exhibition period

Events for 2002

- July 5 *John Curtin's World and Ours* Anniversary Lecture by the Hon. Paul Keating
- July 7-10 Sir Charles Court Young Leaders Program in conjunction with Division of Humanities and HTAWA
- September 26 Launch of JCPML exhibition 'John Curtin's Legacy' and JCPML/JCG joint exhibition 'Without Classification: Hazel Hawke' by Mrs Pat Barblett in the presence of Mrs Hawke
- October 19 WA presentation of the National History Challenge winners in conjunction with HTAWA

2002 JCPML Publications

John Curtin: A good sport
Author: Debbie Hindley
<http://john.curtin.edu.au/sport/index.html>

On Track: Curtin's railway journeys
Author: Philippa Rogers
<http://john.curtin.edu.au/railway/index.html>

War & Peace: Rationing & Rebuilding: 1940s life in Cottesloe, Western Australia
Author: Rosslyn Marshall
<http://john.curtin.edu.au/1940s/index.html>



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