

# Information Update

## JCPML Events 2006

Public Lecture  
*The US/Australia alliance:  
Why its still relevant*  
by Professor Ross Terrill  
Council Chambers, Curtin  
University of Technology  
3 April, 3.30-4.30pm

Public Lecture & Book Launch  
*Saving Australia: Curtin's  
secret peace with Japan*  
by Bob Wurth  
BankWest Theatre, Curtin  
University of Technology  
12 May, 3-4pm  
For more about the book go  
to [www.savingaustralia.com](http://www.savingaustralia.com)

JCPML Anniversary Lecture  
by the Hon. John Faulkner  
John Curtin Building, Curtin  
University of Technology  
5 July, 4-5pm

Visiting Scholar's Public Lecture  
by Professor David Horner  
BankWest Theatre, Curtin  
University of Technology  
5 October, 3.30-4.30pm



Inaugural meeting of the Advisory War Council  
28 October 1940, JCPML00376/131

## New web resource on Menzies and Curtin

In February this year the JCPML launched a new web resource that examines the wartime leadership of prime ministers Robert Menzies and John Curtin.

The publication, *Menzies and Curtin in World War Two: A comparative essay* by David Black, was created in collaboration with the Menzies Foundation.

Robert Menzies and John Curtin were very different in personality, style and philosophy and faced different challenges in their terms as Prime Ministers of Australia during World War Two.

The essay compares the two leaders in four key areas:

- running the war effort
- defining Australia's place on the world stage
- dealing with party politics, elections and the press, and
- visions for Australia.

Accompanying the essay are a collection of contemporary perspectives on the two men as wartime leaders from nine eminent historians and commentators; Joan Beaumont, Geoffrey Bolton, Greg Craven, John Edwards, Peter Edwards, David Horner, Paul Kelly, Michael McKernan and Gavin Souter.

The resource is available on the JCPML website at:  
[john.curtin.edu.au/ww2leaders/](http://john.curtin.edu.au/ww2leaders/)



Prime Minister of Malaysia, Abdullah Badawi, and the Minister for Education, Science and Training, the Hon. Julie Bishop

## Visit by Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi

On 22 February Malaysian Prime Minister, Abdullah Badawi, visited the JCPML after being awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Technology by Curtin University of Technology.

Accompanying the Prime Minister on his visit to the JCPML and representing Prime Minister John Howard, was the Minister for Education, Science and Training, the Hon. Julie Bishop. The Prime Minister and Ms Bishop toured the JCPML after official photos were taken in the foyer.

Ms Bishop represents the federal seat of Curtin which includes John Curtin's Cottesloe house and parts of his old seat of Fremantle.

# Curtin grandchildren John Curtin Centre Fellows for 2005

In December of 2005 John Curtin's grandchildren, Barbara Davidson, John Curtin and Beverley Lane, received the award of Fellow of the John Curtin Centre from Curtin University of Technology.

Since the opening of the John Curtin Centre, Barbara, John and Beverley have demonstrated a consistent and active commitment to the Centre through donations of family records, participation in events, and by generously sharing their knowledge and providing ongoing support and advice to the JCPML.

The grandchildren have made significant donations of Curtin family records to the JCPML research collection, enabling these private family records to be made available to researchers throughout the world for the first time.

Barbara, John and Beverly have always supported JCPML events and their presence on these important occasions has been an inspiration to staff and visitors.

At all times the grandchildren have been available to discuss and understand the issues facing the JCPML and have provided assistance and sound advice on many occasions. Furthermore, like John Curtin's son John and daughter Elsie, they have generously given their time to share their knowledge of the family, greatly enhancing our knowledge and understanding of John Curtin the man.

Barbara, John and Beverley are also called upon by the wider community to provide comment and to represent John Curtin on a range of significant community matters.



Left to right: Beverley Lane, John Curtin and Barbara Davidson

# In Brief

Michael McKernan and David Black appointed Adjunct Professors to JCIPP

Historian, Micheal McKernan, and JCPML Historical Consultant, David Black, have been appointed Adjunct Professors to the John Curtin Institute of Public Policy (JCIPP).

During his appointment Prof. McKernan will research and write a major book on World War Two. He will focus on the home front, examining the political leaders, public policy, and on the stories of those whom Curtin said would win the war for Australia - those in the factories and on the farms.

When the book is published Prof. McKernan will present a public lecture on his research at Curtin University of Technology.

Prof. Black will research and write on the life, achievements and leadership of John Curtin for the University, the JCPML and the JCIPP.

## State Arts Sponsorship Scheme Awards

Late in 2005 the JCPML's partnership with the Perth Theatre Company was shortlisted, and received a partnership endorsement, in the State Arts Patron category of the State Arts Sponsorship Scheme Awards.

The six year old partnership has produced a national tour of the play *Shadow of the Eagle* and a multimedia installation that forms part of the JCPMLs exhibition *The Art of the Possible*.

## The National History Challenge

### THEME: "Australians All"

The National History Challenge is a research-based competition for students from Years 5 to 12 in Australian schools. It gives students a chance to be a historian, investigating their community and exploring their own past. It emphasises and rewards quality research, the use of community resources and effective presentation.

The JCPML actively supports the National History Challenge, sponsoring state and national prizes each year in the special category *The life and times of John Curtin*. In WA, the JCPML has hosted the state judging and presentation ceremony each year since the library's opening in 1998.

The 2005 National History Challenge theme was *Australians All!* The 2005 Young Historian of the Year was Emily Read from Clarence High School in Bellerive, Tasmania, for her essay on *The Snug District Disaster Appeal Committee*.

In the JCPML special category *The life and times of John Curtin*, the national winner was Stephanie Giles from Korowa Anglican Girls School, Victoria. Stephanie's web resource *Raising the Curtin*, created in the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the end of the World War Two, considered John

Curtin's war-time leadership, focusing on the bombing of Darwin, the turn to America, bringing the troops home and post-war planning. She used an impressive range of primary and secondary sources, showed an empathetic understanding of the war period and made her website attractive and logical in its presentation. Well done Stephanie!

State prizes were also awarded in the JCPML special category to Stephanie Wise, Trinity Catholic College, Auburn, NSW and to Elizabeth Prime, Walford Anglican School for Girls, SA.

In WA, the award of Young Western Australian Historian of the Year was shared by a group of year 12 students from Santa Maria College, who addressed the *Australians All!* theme brilliantly in a performance called *Shades of Grey*. Elle McLaren, Anna Melon, Clara Stapleton and Sorcha Stapleton brought attention to the roles that minority cultures have played in shaping an Australian identity and the discrimination which has tarnished our past.

In 2006, Ros Marshall, Education Officer at the JCPML, will be state coordinator for the National History Challenge. The theme for 2006 is *Turning Points*.

# The Hon. John Cowdell and Hazel Hawke awarded Honorary Doctorates



Left to right: The Hon. John Cowdell, Chancellor Eric Tan, Vice Chancellor Lance Twomey

Curtin University of Technology recently awarded Honorary Doctorates to two significant supporters of the JCPML, the Hon. John Cowdell and Hazel Hawke.

The Hon. John Cowdell received his Honorary Doctorate of Letters at Curtin's Bentley campus on 25 February. It was awarded in recognition of his exceptional contribution to professional and public life and to learning, through promoting the value of education and raising the profile of education within the community and amongst young people in particular; for his significant efforts in achieving the vision for the John Curtin Centre, and his continued involvement in and support of the John Curtin Centre and the JCPML.

John Cowdell has recently completed an oral history for the JCPML focusing on the development of the John Curtin Centre.

Hazel Hawke received her Honorary Doctorate of Letters at Curtin's Sydney campus on 14 March. It was awarded for her service to public life and distinguished contribution to learning, demonstrated through strong advocacy for education, particularly for women's and indigenous education; acting to raise the profile of education among adults; and for efforts to raise public awareness of barriers to indigenous education and indigenous issues within the community in general.

Hazel Hawke's papers from her time at the Prime Minister's Lodge (1983-1991) are held at the JCPML.

## JCPML Challenge Bank Reading Room Visitors

Prime Minister of Malaysia  
Abdullah Badawi

The Hon. Julie Bishop

The Hon. Laurie Brereton

The Hon. Simon Crean

The Hon. John Faulkner

Andrew Gill

Heather Henderson

Peter Henderson

Terry Lewis

Barbara Milech

Gary Quinlan

Joanne Richards

Donna Runner

Susan Ryan

Emma Walton

John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library  
Curtin University of Technology,  
Kent St, Bentley WA 6102  
GPO Box U1987 Perth WA 6845  
Tel: 08 9266 4205 Fax: 08 9266 4185  
Email: [jcpml@curtin.edu.au](mailto:jcpml@curtin.edu.au)  
Web: <http://john.curtin.edu.au>