

April 2008

# Information Update

## A missed opportunity: the Curtin-Roosevelt meetings and Australian-American relations

John Curtin's relationship with Franklin Roosevelt is the focus of a lecture to be presented by 2008 JCPML Visiting Scholar Dr Steven Casey on 8 May.

The alliance between the American and Australian governments during World War II was often a brittle affair. While most of the acrimony had been precipitated and exacerbated by their abrasive senior foreign policy advisers, the two great war leaders were actually gravitating towards a meeting of minds on crucial postwar issues like international and regional security and the fate of Pacific islands.

Dr Casey's lecture explores the missed opportunity of April 1944, when Prime Minister John Curtin

made his one and only visit to the United States. Both Curtin and President Roosevelt were suffering from illnesses that would strike them down just months before the war's end, therefore the leaders had little chance to discuss the issues in detail or build up a personal rapport.

Dr Casey is a Senior Lecturer in International History at the London School of Economics and Political Science and has a D.Phil. and M.Phil. in International Relations from Oxford University. He is the author of numerous journal articles and two books, *Selling the Korean War: Propaganda, Politics, and the Press in the US, 1950-1953* and *Cautious Crusade: Franklin D. Roosevelt, American Public Opinion and Nazi Germany, 1941-45*.



2008 JCPML Visiting Scholar,  
Dr Steven Casey

**Your invitation to the  
lecture by Dr Casey on  
Thursday 8 May  
is enclosed.**



**'The pursuit of knowledge: Curtin,  
Looking ever forward will entertain,  
educate and excite you.'**

*His Excellency Dr Ken Michael, AC, Governor of Western Australia, speaking at the opening of the new JCPML exhibition on 26 March.*

### **Exhibition opening hours:**

Monday – Friday 12 noon to 5pm

**Free entry.** Members of the public and school groups welcome.

**Venue:** John Curtin Gallery, Curtin University of Technology, Bentley.

  
**JOHN CURTIN PRIME MINISTERIAL LIBRARY**

# Educational activities go online for the 21st century

A number of the popular education activities enjoyed by school groups who visit the exhibition or borrow the JCPML Treasure Boxes can now be accessed by the young and young at heart via the JCPML website.

Students love playing the *John Curtin Snakes and Ladders* game and putting together the *Jigsaws of Curtin* with General MacArthur and the Commonwealth leaders and the online versions are just as much fun and just as educationally sound.

There's also a code breaking activity *Astonishing Artefacts* based around communications in World War II and another activity that comes to grips with the party political line up of

Australia's Federal Parliament before and after John Curtin became prime minister – *It's a Numbers Game*.

Created for the JCPML by Form'e Design Studio, these new online activities are designed to be engaging and fun without any lessening of educational value. They are suitable for ages nine and up and adults be warned – you may find the children can do the jigsaws more quickly than you can!

Try them out online via the *Just for Kids* page at [john.curtin.edu.au/education/kids/](http://john.curtin.edu.au/education/kids/) or in person by visiting the new exhibition *The Pursuit of Knowledge*.



Led by Education Officer Ros Marshall, school students from John XXIII College enjoy the various education activities available in the new exhibition.

Some of these activities are now available worldwide via the JCPML's website on the *Just for Kids* page at [john.curtin.edu.au/education/kids/](http://john.curtin.edu.au/education/kids/).

## Curtin University Library News

### The Carmen Lawrence Collection

In 2007, Dr Carmen Lawrence, former Premier of Western Australia and the first woman to become Premier of an Australian State, donated her personal papers relating to her time in the WA Parliament to Curtin University of Technology.

The collection, which focuses on Dr Lawrence's years as MLA for Subiaco (1998-99), then as MLA for Glendalough (1989-94) and as Premier (1990-93), includes electoral office papers, speeches and speech notes, photographs and other records. The Lawrence Collection is held by the Library and housed in the JCPML. Work on the creation of a digital archive for this significant collection has commenced.



Premier Carmen Lawrence with Salvation Army Captain Merv Lincoln at the launch of the Winter Food Appeal, 1990. CUL00005/2/36

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& John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library  
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