

Information Update

Geoff Gallop at the opening of the Tonkin Highway extensions, 2005. GG0020/97



2009 Hazel Hawke Scholarship awarded to nursing student Cheri Crocker

Hazel Hawke donated her papers from her time at the Prime Minister's Lodge (1983-91) to the JCPML in 2000 and an undergraduate scholarship in her name was established by Curtin in 2001. Speaking of the importance of education, Mrs Hawke said: 'We all know that it can make a critical difference to a person's chances to develop talents and capacity, and to their ability to contribute effectively to the wider community.'

In accepting the award, Cheri explained she was looking forward to the opportunities that nursing will provide, from empowering individuals and communities to supporting families.



Cheri with photos and scrapbooks from the Hazel Hawke Collection at the JCPML
Picture courtesy Community Newspaper Group

Geoff Gallop's political career chronicled in web resource

Take a fresh look at the political career of former Premier of Western Australia, Geoff Gallop, and the achievements and initiatives of the Gallop government (2001-2006) in this web resource authored by Professor David Black and drawing on personal papers donated by Dr Gallop to Curtin University Library in 2006.

The resource examines Dr Gallop both as a constituency politician and political leader, and delves into his research interests and writings on themes such as constitutional and electoral reform, federalism, multiculturalism and sustainability.

Included is an overview of the Gallop government years as well as comprehensive coverage of his government's achievements and major policies. No state government has documented its own initiatives as systematically as Gallop's.

Another feature is a series of nine 'perspectives' contributed by prominent political commentators, academics and politicians on Dr Gallop and his government.

If there is one quality that emerges in any conversation about Geoff Gallop it is his unimpeachable integrity. Michael Beahan

He brought strong leadership, integrity and due process to government administration. Not all initiatives were successful but Gallop brought a fresh approach to ensuring government was sustainable economically, socially and environmentally. John Langoulant

His success in reinstating Labor as competitive and competent when it risked lapsing into irrelevance is one of his greatest achievements and a major contribution to parliamentary democracy in WA. Mark McGowan

The site will soon include a number of interactive educational activities targeted at secondary school students.

Available at

john.curtin.edu.au/gallop



Education Officer Ros Marshall organises John XXIII students into groups at the start of their visit to JCPML.

Farewell to Gladys Joyce (1917-2009)

The JCPML offers condolences to the family of Gladys Joyce, an early donor and valued supporter of the Library. Miss Joyce was John Curtin's personal secretary from 1941 until his death in 1945 and her recollections of that time featured in the 'Collection Corner' segment of our very first newsletter in November 1997.

She described a 1943 flight with Prime Minister Curtin in a Lancaster Bomber, 'Queenie VI', when she was so ill that she had to be taken to hospital by ambulance on arrival in Kalgoorlie. 'Mr Curtin who didn't like flying said, "Glad, there was only one percentage difference between you and me." And he said, "I didn't enjoy it very much." But he was certainly not sick.'

Miss Joyce recalled times of high drama: 'I was in Sydney with [John Curtin] when the news came through about the bombing of Darwin. ... I was there taking the calls coming through: they'd been to Canberra and they were transmitting them to Sydney.'

'I was receiving them on the teleprinter and Don Rodgers was standing behind me... The ships were coming down like that: the list of the ships that were sunk in the bay and his face was getting longer, and longer and longer. "Oh, God," he said, "Oh, God." Mr Curtin hadn't been very well and he was back in his hotel. Anyway, we had to get through this, get it all typed for him and then we went back to Canberra on the night train.'

The records of Gladys Joyce include her oral history interview, a number of photographs, letters and other items.

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Young students get taste of wartime Australia

When primary school students visit the JCPML's exhibition 'The Pursuit of Knowledge: Curtin, Looking ever forward', they get a taste of wartime Australia.

It's 1943 and John Curtin's Labor Government has recently introduced rationing of essential goods as part of the process of gearing up for total war. Darwin has been bombed repeatedly and even though the Americans have arrived, the possibility of invasion by Japan still seems very real. Australians need both coupons and money to purchase essential items like clothing, sugar, butter and petrol. Still, everyone must make sacrifices if Australia is to win the war.

Working in small groups, students have fun with hands on activities including a 'Mosquitoes, mites and corrosion' crossword, a John Curtin timeline and a 'Money, money, money' pie graph showing the financial cost of the war. Along the way they earn coupons for their ration books which they can redeem at the excursion's end. The education program is a hit with teachers and students.

The excursion perfectly complemented our unit of work in the classroom. The materials provided by Ros made this unit of study so much more appropriate to the students and they revelled in the topic and the related activities carried out. This was the best

excursion I have ever taken students on as it was educational and exciting. The students were educationally engaged for the whole duration and the feedback from them substantiated my observations from the day. Esme Pashley, Year 6 teacher, Parkwood Primary School

One of my favourite activities at John Curtin was the one where we were given a clipboard and on the front of it had the tasks that we had to do [in the exhibition]. Each time we finished it we stamped our ration books. I enjoyed this because we could learn all sorts of different things, from guns to games. I also enjoyed the other activities but this one was my favourite. I loved the whole day!!! Alisha, Year 6 student, Parkwood Primary School

Country students don't miss out!

If you can't bring your students onsite, then the JCPML Treasure Box is available for loan to metropolitan and country schools within Western Australia.

It's packed with engaging historical activities suitable for years 5-9. One of the most popular activities recreates the wartime drama of air raid practices through archival footage and practising air raid procedures.