

# Information Update



## Hazel Hawke Scholarship winner

Hazel Hawke donated her papers from her time at the Prime Minister's Lodge (1983-91) to the JCPML in 2000. Curtin University of Technology established an undergraduate scholarship in her name the following year with a particular focus on supporting education opportunities for mature age female students.

This year the scholarship was awarded to Hayley Fletcher, a fine arts student. In accepting the award Hayley, who lives in Albany and is studying externally, said, 'I have a passion for the arts and a strong interest in promoting it within the community. I aim to finish my arts degree and gain a teaching qualification so that I can travel Australia and other countries to share in the exchange of cultural ideas and experience through art.'

Hayley Fletcher with one of her recent works – a ceramic installation 'Endo Spirit', 2009

## Australia Day honour for JCPML Historical Consultant

On 26 January, Emeritus Professor David Black was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia 'for service to education and the social sciences, particularly through the promotion and preservation of the political and parliamentary history of Western Australia'.



Curtin Library warmly congratulates David Black on this well deserved national recognition.

## More opportunity to study life and times of John Curtin in new WA history course

The new Course of Study in Modern History introduced in WA this year offers eight different opportunities to make the life and times of John Curtin relevant to senior secondary students studying Australian History.

Initially the JCPML's education programs targeted the unit of study '1900 to 1945' but over time an introduction to the alternative course '1945 to 1990' was also offered. The programs have proved popular with both teachers and students.

All the new JCPML education programs include document, cartoon and exhibition interpretation, as well as options for scripted or unscripted role plays. Students studying units at TEE level can also carry out research as part of their onsite visit.

The average program length for a school visit in 1998 was 2 hours. Now most schools book in for a whole day visit, a convincing testimonial to the value participants place on the programs.



# 'They've cut me down to twelve, Glad' – the JCPML collection on display



Iconic items from the library's archival collections will feature in small displays in the Kandy-Jane Henderson Foyer of the JCPML during 2010.

The silver cigarette box presented to departing editor John Curtin by the staff of the *Westralian Worker* in 1928 is the focus of the first display.

According to Elsie Curtin, the box was one of her husband's 'most treasured possessions and he always cleaned it himself'. [JCPML00557/3] He kept it at home, well stocked with cigarettes.

John Curtin was a heavy smoker, at times a chain smoker, and his son, John Francis Curtin, recalled that their home 'always had plenty of ash trays...He liked his cigarettes. He didn't do the drawback, so it was a pretty waste of good cigarettes... I remember he smoked Country Life. He smoked Capstan in the early days, State Express. I can remember all his brands'. [JCPML00855/1].

On display from March until the end of May, the small exhibit provides

a snapshot of how smoking was viewed in the years of the Second World War.

Cigarette advertisements from the 1940s encouraged men and women to buy tobacco products with no sign of the health warnings we now take for granted.

In contrast, a government advertisement for the £100,000,000 Austerity Loan exhorted men to reduce their smokes and support the war effort with the words 'It's on the little things that you can save, fella'

A newspaper article from the *Sydney Sun* of 10 May 1942 revealed that the prime minister was affected by war time tobacco shortages just like any other smoker:

'Finding it just as difficult as any other Australian to make his cigarette-ends meet is chain-smoking Prime Minister John Curtin.

'Yet at a Press conference last week with a burst of generosity, pure Socialism, or what-you-will, he produced from a locked drawer his "hoard" - three small packets of a popular brand and offered to "loan" a packet to anybody left without

cigarettes for the weekend.

'The Prime Minister's Press secretary, Don Rodgers, promptly borrowed two packets, then spent all his spare time scouring cigarette starved Canberra to replace them.' [JCPML00964/64]

A follow up article one week later reported that the prime minister had received an anonymous gift of two packets of cigarettes.

'Wrote the anonymous giver: "I admire you and your work for this country, which I have come to love, too. I am 53, an unhappy bachelor, who can do nothing for his country, being medically unfit. So when I read the article I thought

I might just help you out, as it is absolutely no sacrifice to me. I hope you'll enjoy them."

To chain-smoker Curtin the gift was welcome, but he insisted Press Secretary Don Rodgers should share it. "I'll have to learn to go without them," said the Prime Minister.' [JCPML00964/65]

Suffering from a heart condition, John Curtin did eventually give up smoking in 1944.

His secretary, Gladys Joyce, recalled: 'I was visiting him in the Mercy Hospital when he was ill and that's how I knew he smoked 40 cigarettes a day because he said, "They've cut me down to twelve, Glad," and he said, "I'm sitting there and I'm watching the time and I thought I can't stand this and I cut it right out."

'And he stopped smoking. And he said to me at the time, "I know I could be a pensioner and live on, but that's not my way of life." And he went back to work at the House and he didn't last long at all.' [JCPML00210/1]

You can view the display in the Kandy-Jane Henderson Foyer weekdays from 9am to 5pm until the end of May.

Photographs on left hand page:

John Curtin, 1941. JCPML00180/6

John Curtin's silver cigarette box, inscribed: Presented to J. Curtin MHR by the Staff of the Westralian Worker as a token of esteem Dec. 7th 1928 JCPML00287/3

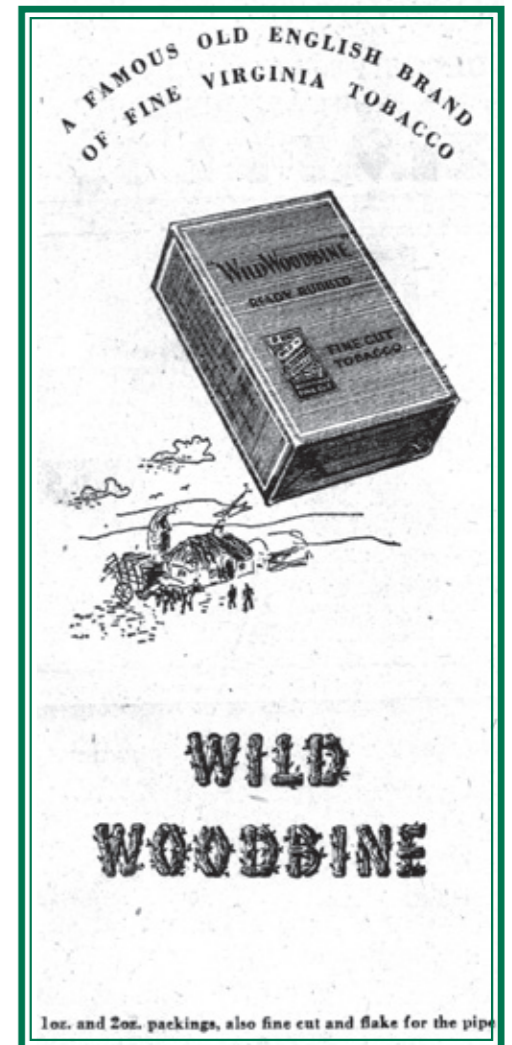
Photograph on right hand page:

John Curtin lighting a cigarette for British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, 1944. JCPML00018/13

Cigarette ads:

'Black and White' advertisement, *West Australian*, 6 January 1942, p.4

'Wild Woodbine' advertisement, *West Australian*, 6 January 1942, p.7



# The prime minister and the president: John Curtin and Franklin Roosevelt web resource

The relationship between the war time leaders of Australia and the United States is explored in a JCPML web resource launched this month.

*The Prime Minister and the President* expands on the research Dr Steven Casey undertook as 2008 JCPML Visiting Scholar.

Images of photographs, documents, news articles, correspondence and government propaganda from the time bring the resource to life.

According to Dr Casey, 'Prime Minister Curtin and President Roosevelt met only once, in April 1944, when both were clearly ailing. Although their relationship was always distant and often frosty, the interaction between the two men

clearly did matter.

'Their parallel careers reveal important dimensions of Australian and American politics in the first half of the twentieth century.

'Their tense wartime relationship sheds light on the two countries' differing conceptions of grand strategy, while their evolving visions for the post-war world show areas of similarity that would play a role in cementing the Australian-American alliance that emerged shortly after their untimely deaths.'

Dr Casey is a Senior Lecturer in International History at the London School of Economics.

You can view the web resource at: [john.curtin.edu.au/roosevelt](http://john.curtin.edu.au/roosevelt)



*To the Rt Hon John Curtin, Prime Minister of Australia from his friend Franklin D Roosevelt*

Inscribed: For The Rt Hon John Curtin, Prime Minister of Australia from his friend Franklin D Roosevelt. JCPML00376/123



Arriving in Washington on 23 April 1944, Elsie and John Curtin received a warm welcome from Eleanor Roosevelt, the First Lady, who was determined to repay Australia for the hospitality she had received on her visit a year earlier. Official Washington gave Curtin's party the full red-carpet treatment. The White House hosted its first state dinner since the start of the war, causing a stir amongst social commentators.

From left to right: Elsie Curtin, Eleanor Roosevelt and John Curtin. JCPML00004/34

## JCPML exhibition on display in Kalgoorlie

The JCPML travelling exhibition *Menzies, Fadden, Curtin and the Japanese Envoy* is on display at Curtin University's Kalgoorlie Campus Library during April and May 2010.

**Entry is free and members of the public are welcome.**

## JCPML now open longer hours

The JCPML is now open from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday, except national public holidays.

The JCPML exhibition, in the John Curtin Gallery, continues to be open between 12 noon and 5pm each week day, and on occasional Sundays. See [johncurtingallery.curtin.edu.au/](http://johncurtingallery.curtin.edu.au/) for more information about Sunday opening.

Curtin University Library & John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library  
Curtin University of Technology,  
Kent St, Bentley WA 6102  
GPO Box U1987 Perth WA 6845

John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library  
Tel: 08 9266 4205 Fax: 08 9266 4185  
Email: [jcpml@curtin.edu.au](mailto:jcpml@curtin.edu.au)  
Web: [john.curtin.edu.au](http://john.curtin.edu.au)