

Information Update

Anniversary Lecture *John Curtin: A Labor Life*

On July 5 Senator John Faulkner delivered the 2006 JCPML Anniversary Lecture titled *John Curtin: A Labor Life*.

Senator Faulkner spoke about the importance of John Curtin's Labor values to his prime ministership and the enduring relevance of those values today.

"John Curtin - and his senior ministers - found their strength to both wage a war and build a peace in their unwavering confidence that they served Australia by serving the labour cause. They sought not only to defend democracy, but to make democracy worth defending. To not only defend Australia but to build an Australia worth the cost of lives lost in that defence", Senator Faulkner said.

Senator Faulkner went on to compare John Curtin's government with today's government and addressed the controversial new industrial relations laws.

Video, audio and text versions of the 2006 Anniversary Lecture are now available on the JCPML website at - john.curtin.edu.au/events/speeches/faulkner.html.



The Hon. Senator John Faulkner



Left to right: Assoc. Prof. Susan Fyfe,
Vice-Chancellor Jeanette Hackett, Pro Vice-
Chancellor Jane den Hollander



Left to right: Gary Davidson, Barbara Davidson,
Stephen Smith



The Hon. Gough Whitlam with students from
Frederick Irwin Anglican School



Left to right: John Curtin, Bob Kucera, Senator
Ruth Webber

The JCPML has been an enthusiastic partner with The Le@rning Federation (TLF) in providing online curriculum content to Australian and New Zealand schools.

TLF is an initiative of the state, territory and federal governments of Australia and New Zealand. Its aim is to produce a bank of high quality online curriculum content and a delivery infrastructure to encourage student learning and support teachers in Australian and New Zealand schools.

Since its inception 5 years ago, TLF's bank of resources has grown to include 4,500 online items, with content provided from the collections of partner institutions including the National Archives of Australia, the National Film and Sound Archive, the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, the National Library of Australia, the National Trust of Australia (WA) and the Powerhouse Museum.

The JCPML has provided 50 learning resources to TLF including photographs, correspondence, speeches and oral history excerpts relating to John and Elsie Curtin, the Australian Labor Party, World War Two, Alex McCallum and the history of Western Australia. 'Educational value' information was also supplied to accompany each item and provide valuable context for teachers using the material with their students.



John Curtin presents Eleanor Roosevelt with a copy of Captain Cook's Journal, Parliament House, Canberra, 1943 (JCPML00367/89)

Items from the JCPML collection which are now accessible to schools via TLF's online curriculum bank include:

- Image of Prime Minister Andrew Fisher laying the foundation stone for the Perth Trades Hall on August 1911
- Program for opening of Hills Water Scheme for Perth and Fremantle, 1925
- Image of John Curtin and Eleanor Roosevelt at an official dinner, Canberra, 1943
- Image of funeral cortege of Thomas Edwards (killed in the 1919 Fremantle Wharf riot), Fremantle Trades Hall, 1919
- Australian Labor Party flyer for the 1943 elections
- Image of Alex McCallum at discharging of first bulk spirit cargo, Fremantle Wharf, 1927
- Letter from RAAF airmen to John Curtin, January 1942

The General and The Prime Minister



Douglas MacArthur and John Curtin

The JCPML has launched a new online resource by David Black that considers the Curtin-MacArthur relationship and how historians have subsequently assessed its strengths, failings and overall importance to Australia's war effort and national sovereignty.

US General Douglas MacArthur and Australian prime minister John Curtin first met at Parliament House Canberra on 26 March 1942, at a time when the threat of invasion by Japanese forces moving ever southward seemed very real. What began as a "marriage of convenience" between "the drab, socialist politician and the colourful, conservative general" appointed as Supreme Commander of Allied Forces in the South-West Pacific Area, developed into a "close and mutually supportive relationship".

The resource was produced by the JCPML in collaboration with the MacArthur Museum Brisbane and is available on the JCPML website at john.curtin.edu.au/macarthur.

Digests of the Curtin Government now available online

The JCPML is making available online the *Digests of Decisions and Announcements and Important Speeches by the Prime Minister* from Curtin's period as prime minister.

The digests are a series of small printed booklets which provide a summary of key Commonwealth Government policy statements and activities, commencing in October 1941 when the Curtin Government took office and continuing into the years of Chifley's prime ministership.

The JCPML has been working on a project, nearly completed, to digitise all 104 digests from Curtin's prime ministership to provide access to this significant resource as both images and searchable text via the JCPML's Electronic Research Archive (ERA).

In the Curtin period the digests deal mainly with the state of the war and aspects of Australia's war effort, including administrative arrangements, war casualties, honours and awards, industries, loans, prisoners of war, air raid precautions and attacks, national

security regulations, visits abroad, etc. Included are speeches and statements made by Curtin, Chifley and other Ministers, particularly Forde, Evatt and Dedman. While many of the speeches were given in Parliament (and also appear in Hansard), other speeches and statements were obtained from different government sources or from the media.

To view the series, search for Ser0066 in ERA and then click on the red and white arrow icons to see the text and images of the digests.

In Brief

Economist and JCPML Visiting Scholar, Dr John Edwards, has been appointed as an Adjunct Professor to the John Curtin Institute of Public Policy (JCIPP).

During his appointment Dr Edwards will write a book on the legislative and administrative initiatives of the Curtin Government.

The 2006 Hazel Hawke Scholarship has been awarded to Lynda Burch who is undertaking a Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood Studies) at Curtin's Margaret River Campus.

Check out our new *Just For Kids* web page at - john.curtin.edu.au/education/kids.

Events

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

Saving Australia: Curtin's secret peace with Japan

On May 12 the JCPML hosted the national launch of a controversial new book by Brisbane author Bob Wurth.

The book *Saving Australia: Curtin's secret peace with Japan* explores the fascinating friendship that developed between Curtin and Japan's first minister to Australia, Tatsuo Kawai.

Saving Australia also outlines evidence that early in 1941 Curtin and Kawai discussed a possible

agreement whereby Japan would have access to Australian iron ore and Australia would be safe from Japanese military aggression.

Video, audio and text versions of the launch are now available on the JCPML website at - john.curtin.edu.au/events/speeches/wurth.html.

More information about the book can be found on Bob Wurth's website at - savingaustralia.com.



Left to right: Consul-General of Japan Hiroyuki Ariyoshi, Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor Greg Craven, JCPML Director Imogen Garner, Bob Wurth, U.S. Consul-General Robin McClellan, JCPML Historical Consultant Prof. David Black

Leadership: the power of one?

This was the theme for the 2006 Sir Charles Court Young Leaders Program (SCCYLP) - an exciting winter school in history and leadership for year 10 students.

This annual program is a partnership between Curtin University and the History Teachers' Association of WA and brings together 30 of the top year 10 history students in the state. The program aims to enhance the students' understanding of both history and leadership, and to increase the recognition of the link between the two.

JCPML staff have been active participants in the SCCYLP since the program's inception in 1999, serving on the Board of Management and presenting a session to students that focuses on developing their history skills.

Using documents, newspaper articles, photographs, maps, archival video footage, recent film and video segments from the theatre production of the play *Shadow of the Eagle*, students investigate the leadership styles of two significant figures in Australian history - wartime Prime Minister John Curtin and Supreme Commander of the South West Pacific Area, General Douglas MacArthur. Students are then called upon, as teams, to assume the role of one of these men to address a series of hypotheticals dealing with current issues such as the deployment of Australian troops in Iraq.

The JCPML would like to congratulate the Executive Officer of the SCCYLP, Sheila Flanagan, on the resounding success of this year's program and to thank her for the commitment and creativity she brings to the position.



Sir Charles Court with the 2006 program participants

Contributions and
support since April
2006

Mary Elizabeth Calwell
The Hon. John Cowdell
The Hon. John Faulkner
Bob Morrison
Ray Stannard
Prof. Ross Terrill
Gordon Wise
Bob Wurth

JCPML Challenge Bank
Reading Room Visitors

Dr Alan Bundy
Carry Day
Cr. Pierre Esber
Senator John Faulkner
Peter McCallum
Colin Pearce
Ray Stannard
Cr. Chris Worthington
Bob Wurth

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
Web: <http://john.curtin.edu.au>