

John Curtin's Legacy Lives On

The JCPML's newest exhibition, *John Curtin's Legacy: Leading Australia from war to peace*, follows Australia's progress from 1942, the most critical year of the war and arguably of Australian history, when Curtin 'looked to America' for help, until 1951 when the ANZUS Treaty was signed, officially ratifying this shift in Australian foreign policy.

This exhibition looks at the seeds planted by John Curtin during his prime ministership (1941 to 1945) in such areas as the economy, immigration and foreign policy and follows their growth through the early postwar years under Ben Chifley (1945 to 1949) to become the foundation fabric of modern Australia.

Curator Lesley Carman-Brown and designer James Cooper have worked together to blend the social and war history of Australia into an appealing and vibrant exhibition.

'In some senses Australia's wartime prime minister, John Curtin, stands as the first of the modern leaders,' explained Lesley. 'His focus on a more independent Australia and his ideas for social welfare in the postwar economy have become the foundation for contemporary Australian politics.' It was John Curtin's Govern-



Exhibition designer James Cooper and curator Lesley Carman-Brown at the successful launch of *John Curtin's Legacy*

ment which put in place the mechanisms for federal control and instigated policies which allowed Australia to participate in the global economy.

A gold PICA (Printing Industry Craftsmanship Award) was awarded to Image Source for the exhibition's digital graphics. The winners of the State gold awards are automatically entered for national judging by the printing industry.

The exhibition will be open throughout next year from January 24.

**The John Curtin
Prime Ministerial
Library staff take
this opportunity to
wish all supporters a
Merry Christmas
and a happy, healthy
New Year**

What's New in the Archives



One of the new images from the Imperial War Museum showing John Curtin addressing a press conference at the Ministry of Information during his 1944 trip to the UK

As part of its investigation to discover overseas sources of material relating to John Curtin the JCPML has added several new items to the collection.

Some exciting film footage from British Movietone News includes scenes of John and Elsie Curtin with Lord Gowrie; Curtin giving wartime speeches; the UK Prime Ministers Conference in May 1944; Prime Ministers Curtin and Fraser being honoured with the Freedom of the City of London; Curtin visiting Ascot race course and Lords cricket ground; and the arrival of the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester to Australia. The film can be viewed in the Challenge Bank Reading Room at the JCPML.

In addition, a range of photographs from the UK's Imperial War Museum have been digitised for ERA and there is now a digital link within ERA to a selection of correspondence in the Roosevelt Presidential Library collection via the US National Archives and Records Administration website.

Copies of material from the Foreign Office files of the Public Records Office in the UK have been acquired by the JCPML for digitisation. This material includes personal and secret correspondence between Curtin and Churchill, transcripts of Curtin's speeches, and a series of secret reports from the Right Honourable Viscount Cranborne, Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs.

A Date for the Diary

Following extensive workshopping and research, *Shadow of the Eagle* is due for its world premiere on May 24 at the Playhouse Theatre.

This will be a Gala Night and JCPML supporters will have the opportunity to attend, mingle with special dignitaries and enjoy this exciting production. The play is a joint venture between the Perth Theatre Company and the JCPML and is based on the wartime relationship between Prime Minister John Curtin and American General Douglas MacArthur.

A good Sport

Australians are known for their obsession with sport and John Curtin shared this national passion, both as a participant and as a spectator.

Launched in December, *John Curtin: A good sport* tells the story of a man well regarded as 'fairest and best' and recognised for being fair and gracious both in victory and defeat.

The digital publication is divided into several areas including:

- *Captain of the country* – as a powerful leader Curtin often likened his cabinet to a sporting team and compared the rigours of politics and wartime with the challenges of the sporting arena;
- *A Great Barracker* and *A Good Innings* which look at Curtin's involvement with Australian Rules Football and cricket;
- *High Stakes*, what happened with sport during wartime austerity; and
- *Sporting summary*, a range of sporting quotes from Curtin, many of them from personal letters to family and friends.

For a closer look into Curtin's sporting passions, check out the web publication at <http://john.curtin.edu.au/sport/>

A Canberra Connection

When Belle Southwell died in May 1946, Members of Parliament from both sides lost a valued friend because for nearly 20 years Belle had been the manageress of the Kurrajong Hotel, home of many Canberra politicians including John Curtin. Curtin was also a friend of her brother, Fred Southwell.

A scrapbook of her life, including photographs, diaries, letters, postcards, newspaper clippings and other documentation, has been compiled by her niece, Mrs Thelma MacKinnon, who has generously allowed the JCPML to create a facsimile copy of the book to add to the Library's collection.

Art meets Archives

On 26 September the JCPML launched another exciting and dynamic exhibition.

Without Classification: Hazel Hawke, an exhibition jointly organised by the John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library and the John Curtin Gallery, brought together important material from the Hazel Hawke Records held by the JCPML with distinguished examples of Australian poster art.

During her years in the Lodge (1982 -1991), Mrs Hawke was a vigorous campaigner for many causes and became Patron to a wide range of agencies in welfare, education, arts and the environment. In particular, she was an advocate for the rights of women, children and indigenous Australians. Material featured in the exhibition includes speeches, interviews, correspondence, photographs and newspaper cuttings which provide insight into her values and aspirations.

Issues that Mrs Hawke considered important were also in the forefront of the minds of many artists working in poster collectives across the country. Poster art in the exhibition reveals how these artists used their works as a means to define and communicate political and social awareness.

According to exhibition curator, Margaret Moore, *Without Classification* examines a socially vibrant period in recent Australian history by merging a voice from high office with the voices of grass roots artists. The exhibition closed on 10 November.



Above: *Without Classification*
Right: Exhibition curator Ms Margaret Moore (left) with special guest Mrs Hazel Hawke



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

Meet Australia's Prime Ministers

On 14 November the *Australia's Prime Ministers* website was launched by Prime Minister John Howard at the National Archives of Australia (NAA).

The website acts as a gateway for a virtual network of key Australian and overseas collections of original material on Australia's 25 prime ministers. The JCPML is the only non-national or state institution to be a partner with the NAA in this undertaking.

The main objectives of the website are to provide an opportunity for Australians to discover more about their prime ministers and to enhance their understanding of the role of prime ministerial wives. As well it provides a major new facility for documentary research in Australian universities.

Information can easily be accessed by a variety of avenues from timelines to fast facts, and the site provides peripheral information through a who's who and glossary. The research map database includes information about PMs through archives in Australian and overseas institutions and people can find documents, photographs, sound, films, videotape as well as lists of theses, journal articles and books on each PM.

The JCPML has provided information on John and Elsie Curtin and also on Hazel Hawke and users have the opportunity to link to ERA to conduct further searching.

Check out the website from the JCPML's homepage under 'What's New'.

Professional Highlights

In November Ros Marshall, JCPML Education Officer, presented a workshop to participants at the *Global Citizenship: Connecting the Classroom to the World Conference* for the Department of Education, Science and Training and organised by the Asia Education Foundation (WA), the Discovering Democracy Professional Development (WA) programs and the Social Science Association of WA.

Speaking on a theme important to all teachers of Society and Environment, Ros examined how Prime Ministers Curtin and Chifley put Australia on the road to independence and globalisation. 'Australia took its first serious steps towards a policy of independence and globalisation during World War Two,' she said. 'This move reflected Australians' experience of the war and the vision that Curtin and Chifley had for the future.'

The interactive session also included a lively exploration of documents from the period 1941-1949.

History a Winner

The theme for the 2002 National History Challenge (NHC) was 'Journeys and Voyages: the movement of people and ideas to, within or from Australia' and the JCPML sponsored awards in its special category 'the life and times of John Curtin'. National Archives of Australia staff assisted with judging in other states and represented the JCPML in the national awards presentation in Canberra.

Students from years 5 to 12 were encouraged to think broadly about the theme, enquire into local issues and submit their entries in a variety of formats from research essays to live performances. WA's Young Historian for the Year was Julian Sunario who, as part of his prize,

travelled to Canberra to be present at the National presentations in December.

The overall winner for the John Curtin category was Tom Cooper from Shore School in NSW with his essay *A journey through John Curtin's policies as wartime prime minister* with Nicky Morris from Ogilvie High School in Tasmania being given an honourable mention for the essay *John Curtin: A journey from high school dropout to the leader of Australia through its darkest days*. Other state winners were:

SA – Adam Depula, Bethesda Christian College for his essay *John Curtin – A distinguished decision maker*

Victoria – Sara Newton, Melbourne Girls' Grammar for her essay *A political journey up the ranks*.

WA winner of the National History Challenge, Julian Sunario (left) with Alan Carpenter, Minister for Education; Sport and Recreation; Indigenous Affairs.



Contributions and Support since August 2002

Jessie Ayres
Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Library
John Cowdell
John Edwards
Hazel Hawke
Paul Keating
Carmen Lawrence
Thelma MacKinnon
Denis Meagher
Gough Whitlam

JCPML Challenge Bank Reading Room Visitors

Graham Ashford
Australian Society of Archivists School
Archives SIG
David Charnock
Luke Donegan
Simone Dwyer
Margaret Feldstead
Bridget Griffen-Foley
Raina Harvey
Geoff & Lyn Hayward
Marsha Jacobs
Rosemary Luke
Brian MacAvoy
Alex McGavin
Ian & Bette McLaughlin
Paul Morley
Con Pearce
Barbara Ross
E Rozenblum

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



SCOTTISH
LIBRARY
UNIVERSITY OF
GLASGOW