

Enthusiastic contribution rewarded with Fellowship

On 17 November the Honourable John Cowdell MLC was awarded a prestigious John Curtin Centre Fellowship by Curtin University of Technology.

John was honoured for his outstanding and enthusiastic contribution to the John Curtin Centre and in particular the John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library (JCPML).

At the time the idea of a prime ministerial library was presented, John was Assistant State Secretary of the WA branch of the ALP and the custodian of a significant amount of historical material relating to John Curtin, the only prime minister to represent a Western Australian seat. His belief in the JCPML was strong enough to ensure that this material was relocated here as the first donation to the embryonic research collection.

John has been an active member of the John Curtin Centre Appeal Planning Committee since its very first meeting in 1989 and he dedicated himself to achieving the fund-raising target to build an appropriately fitting structure to house Australia's first prime ministerial library. He has continued to be a key supporter of the JCPML, not only as a significant donor to the research collection but as an advisor and facilitator.



ABOVE: From left to right: JCPML Director Imogen Garner, JCPML staff members Lesley Wallace, David Wylie and Kandy-Jane Henderson, Hon. John Cowdell, John Curtin's granddaughter, Barbara Davidson, and Lesley Carman-Brown, JCPML Staff
BELOW: Vice-Chancellor Lance Twomey presents Hon. John Cowdell with the John Curtin Centre Fellowship.

In his role as an historian, John actively promotes Prime Minister John Curtin and the values he represented to the broader community. Since 1993 he has been a member of State Parliament and has an outstanding record of public and community service. He is currently President of the Legislative Council.

The JCPML warmly congratulates the Honourable John Cowdell for receiving this well-deserved award.



Fascinating new treasure hunt available

The Electronic Research Archive (ERA) contains many fascinating 'treasures' amongst the personal papers, photographs, oral histories, copies of official records and other archival material relating to the life and times of John Curtin. While designed to appeal particularly to young people, the new ERA Treasure Hunt is fun for all ages and leads the hunter to some fascinating and lesser known 'personal treasures' to be found in ERA.

There are four hunts to undertake in search of answers to the following:

- Was the prime minister a surfie?
- What's the prime minister's connection with custard powder?
- Was the prime minister a sporting legend?
- Did the prime minister have favourite foods and stylish socks?

The quirky treasures you find will provide you with that unusual conversation starter or quiz night question to stump the experts!

Doing the best for the country: Behind the scenes of Australia's wartime decision-making 1939-45

Five prime ministers served Australia during the war years – Robert Menzies, Arthur Fadden, John Curtin, Frank Forde and Ben Chifley. The nation's key decision-making bodies—the Cabinet, War Cabinet and Advisory War Council—decided the direction of the war effort in meetings held mainly at Parliament House in Canberra and Victoria Barracks in Melbourne, supported by the hard work and dedication of staff in the Prime Minister's Department and the War Cabinet Secretariat. This web publication takes you inside the walls of the offices and meeting places where the course of the war was directed and invites you to explore the stories of the places and people who worked there.

At the launch on 25 November, author Heather Campbell acknowledged the people and institutions that provided information and resources to enhance the web publication, including Old Parliament House, Victoria Barracks Melbourne and the National Archives of Australia. Heather noted: 'Anecdotes, photographs and a fascinating assortment of documents from the period, identified from many different sources, combine to give visitors to the web publication a flavour of the work, the places and the people 'behind the scenes'.'



Author Heather Campbell

Aspirations of a working class man: Achievements under John Curtin's leadership

This new web resource, authored by Lesley Carman-Brown, explores the achievements of the Labor Government under John Curtin's leadership. Believing that 'the peace must be won for the masses', Curtin used his wartime prime ministership to further his lifelong dream of a fair go for all Australians, implementing Labor programs in the areas of economic reform, social services and immigration, education, public broadcasting, and foreign policy, while maintaining confidence in the power of Parliament.

Political cartoons illustrate vividly the achievements which are the focus of the resource. Online educational activities involve analysis and interpretation of some of these cartoons, providing further resources to complement the recently launched JCPML educational publication *Cartoon PD in a Package*.

Look at the JCPML website under 'What's new on this site' to explore all these new digital projects!

Visiting researchers welcomed at JCPML



Senator Peter Cook (right) with Kandy-Jane Henderson and James Fielding

Senator Peter Cook has been appointed an Adjunct Professor at Curtin University of Technology and we are pleased to welcome Peter and his research assistant, James Fielding, to the JCPML which will be their base for the next 12 months.

Peter is developing a guide for parliamentarians in Commonwealth countries dealing with the World Trade Organisation, a project for the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and the World Trade Organisation. The guide will include suggestions on ways parliamentarians can better fulfil their roles as elected custodians of their national interests.

As a Senator Peter held Federal Ministerial

positions from 1988-1996 serving both the Hawke and Keating Governments. Other career achievements include his role as founder and inaugural Chairman of the Australia/China Parliamentary Group, Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Senate and Chairman of the Senate Foreign Affairs Defence and Trade Reference Committee.

Curtin Vice-Chancellor Professor Lance Twomey believes that the appointment of a Senator of Peter's standing is a coup for the University.

'Senator Cook's vast experience as a Federal Minister will bring an international perspective on public policy to the University,' Professor Twomey said.

'We are delighted that this association has been established and his involvement with Curtin will broaden and strengthen our expertise in this area.'

Peter Hugill, Professor in the Department of Geography and Bush School of International Affairs Program at Texas A&M University, was a visiting researcher at the JCPML for the month of August.

Peter is a leading authority on world systems and geopolitics and

his interest in Australia around the period of World War II as a case study of the transition from British global hegemony to American led to him basing his research at the JCPML. His draft paper, which includes a focus on John Curtin, Robert Menzies and Herbert Vere Evatt, has the working title *Multi-polarity to hegemony: the switch from British to American global power through the eyes of Australia*.

During his visit, co-sponsored by Texas A&M University, the JCPML and the Division of Humanities at Curtin, Peter also presented a guest lecture to Curtin undergraduate students and gave a seminar for interested staff and postgraduate students of WA universities.



Professor Peter Hugill (centre) with (l to r) Dr Roy Jones, Professor of Geography at Curtin, and JCPML staff David Wylie and Lesley Wallace

Putting a value on JCPML's research collection



Kandy-Jane Henderson (left) with Baiba Berzins and Peter Perriam

With the expert assistance of Peter Perriam, Director, Corporate Risk and Compliance at Curtin, the JCPML recently undertook the challenge of assigning a monetary value to the research collection. Wayne Gardener and Associates, Valuers and Auction Consultants, valued the objects (realia) in the collection and Baiba Berzins, archivist, historian and Valuer for the Cultural Gifts Program, assessed the value of the books, manuscripts, photographs and audio-visual materials.

Placing a value on the collection for insurance purposes required significant expertise. In her report, Ms Berzins wrote: 'I do not know of a collection similar to JCPML, in Australia or overseas, which has been valued as a whole.'

Ms Berzins spent a week working through the collection at the JCPML as part of the valuation and noted: 'It was very interesting for me to not only see what you had in the collection but also to realise how technology is making accessible materials which once one had to travel to distant places to peruse.'

JCPML Visiting Scholar for 2005

The JCPML Visiting Scholar for 2005 will be Dr Michael McKernan. Michael has been at various times a successful academic, historian, museum manager, speechwriter, consultant, writer and broadcaster. Trained as an historian, his doctoral thesis, *Australian Churches and the Great War*, became the first of more than a dozen books he has solely authored or edited. His recent books include *Beryl Beaurepaire*; *This war never ends: the pain of separation and return*; and *Peoplescape*. His new book, *Drought, the red marauder*, will be published next year.

In 1990 Michael was appointed historical consultant for the veterans' return to Gallipoli to mark the 75th anniversary of the landing; in 1993 he had key responsibility for the planning and implementation of the Entombment of the unknown Australia soldier; and in 1994-95 he was involved as Historical Adviser to the Minister for Veterans' Affairs in the national *Australia Remembers 1994-1995* program.

He has been the inaugural Frederick Watson Fellow at the National Archives of Australia (2000) and an inaugural Creative Fellow at the State Library of Victoria (2003). Michael is also a regular broadcaster, book reviewer and public speaker.

The JCPML is very pleased to welcome Michael McKernan as 2005 Visiting Scholar.



Digitool now allows you to put all your records in one 'Basket'

On 13 October, the Electronic Research Archive (ERA) quietly migrated from Digitool version 2.2 to version 2.4. What will users of ERA notice as different? The enhancement that will be immediately obvious to researchers is a 'Basket' to which records of interest can be added as they are identified in the course of one or more searches. Records stored in the 'Basket' can then be saved or emailed as a set, either in brief citation format or in full view format. Researchers are already finding this a useful and time saving option. Previously, ERA only allowed one record to be saved or emailed at a time.

Behind the scenes, other changes to functionality have been made which improve the search capability and efficiency of the system. This seamless upgrade took place thanks to the hard work of the JCPML and Library & Information Services staff, in partnership with international software applications developer ExLibris.

As one researcher commented: 'ERA just keeps on getting better and easier to use.'

If you haven't explored ERA recently, check out the online help and quick tutorial or just discover how easy it is to use by trying a basic search – access ERA via the JCPML website at <http://john.curtin.edu.au>.

Shadow wins award for regional tour

Following on from its very successful tour earlier this year, the *Shadow Of The Eagle* has won the inaugural National Touring Award for Excellent Audience Response. This award was presented on 24 September to the Perth Theatre Company (PTC), which developed the play in association with the JCPML. The award is a testament to the quality of the production and the response the play generated from audiences around Australia. The intent of the award is to recognise a production that is popular with audiences and to acknowledge people's need to have a great night out and be 'touched by the magic of theatre'. *Shadow Of The Eagle* won against a host of national and interstate productions including opera, dance and theatre.

John Curtin's Legacy moves on

On 10 December JCPML's exhibition, *John Curtin's Legacy*, closed its doors to make way for a new exhibition opening in early 2005.

In the two years it has been open nearly 22,000 people have visited the exhibition.

Next year *John Curtin's Legacy* will go to Old Parliament House (OPH) in Canberra to become part of new OPH exhibition to celebrate the 60th anniversary of VJ Day.

Good news for researchers – a definitive guide to archives of John Curtin now published

On 4 November, *John Curtin: Guide to Archives of Australia's Prime Ministers* was officially launched at the JCPML by eminent historian, Geoffrey Bolton.

The guide, written by David Black and Lesley Wallace, is a joint publication of the National Archives of Australia (NAA) and the JCPML. It contains biographies of both John and Elsie Curtin and detailed listings of records on the prime minister and his wife held by the NAA, the JCPML and other institutions in Australia and overseas.

In launching the book, Professor Bolton spoke of the value of the publication to researchers interested in John Curtin and the many aspects of his wartime prime ministership and he noted the continuing contribution to Australian history arising from the partnership between the NAA and the JCPML.

Ross Gibbs, Director General of the NAA, and Lance Twomey, Vice Chancellor of Curtin University of Technology, participated in the launch which was attended by



Back left to right: Professor Geoffrey Bolton and NAA Director Ross Gibbs. Front left to right: co-authors Lesley Wallace and David Black, JCPML Director Imogen Garner and Vice-Chancellor Lance Twomey

representatives from archives, libraries and records offices.

The guide is available for downloading (2.5 Mb pdf file) or you can purchase hard copies via the National Archives of Australia online shop at:

https://shop.naa.gov.au/browse_cat.php?cat=41#356.

Portal to shed light on WA heritage

During 2004 the JCPML contributed to a new website which is being developed to enable researchers to search the contents of a variety of cultural heritage collections simultaneously.

This exciting new venture, the Western Australian Cultural Heritage Portal, is a partnership between The University of Western Australia (UWA), Curtin University of Technology and the WA Department for Culture and the Arts and should be available to users next year.

Funding for the project is provided by the Australian Research Council's Linkage Infrastructure and Equipment Fund. Professor Richard Nile and Kandy-Jane Henderson from Curtin are both Chief Investigators for this grant.

Cultural heritage materials relating to Western Australia are housed in a variety of public institutions from libraries and archives to museums and galleries. Searching these collections on an individual basis can be frustrating for researchers.

However, the new portal will bring together the collections of The UWA Library, the State Library of WA, the National Archives of Australia, the JCPML, the Berndt Museum of Anthropology and the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery.

The portal is the first of its kind for Australia and creates a model for others to follow.

Information about the project was presented at a Humanities Research Seminar at Curtin as a joint initiative between the Humanities Division and the Library and Information Service.

Celebrating Australian history – a national challenge for schools

The theme for the 2004 National History Challenge for students in years five to twelve was 'Celebrations in Australian history'. Over 480 WA entries were received, including museum displays, audiovisual productions and essays.

State coordinator Ian Murray ensured that the preliminary and final state judging, as well as the state awards presentation in October, proceeded smoothly. As in previous years, the judging and presentation was held at the JCPML

Graham Giffard, MLC, representing the Minister for Education and Training, spoke at the state awards ceremony about the virtues of studying history and praised the efforts of teachers for their strong support of the competition. Mr Giffard awarded Lee Fairhead from Lake Joondalup Baptist College the prize for WA Young Historian of the Year for her essay about the different ways Australians celebrate ANZAC Day.

Other WA winning entries covered diverse

themes including: a video documentary on the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal history of Cue by students at Cue Primary School; and an essay on the debate between Australia and New Zealand over who invented the Pavlova, accompanied by a freshly made Pavlova!

The national winner in the JCPML special category prize, announced in December, was Louise Upshall from Hawker College in the ACT. Her essay, *John Curtin: Celebration of a wartime leader*, analysed the life and contribution of John Curtin, focussing on Curtin as a strong leader, both during his prime ministership and after his death.

The judges noted: 'We were particularly impressed by the depth and breadth of the research evidenced in the essay and the way in which Louise used primary source material to support her arguments... Louise's essay was well structured, her writing was clear and to the point and her referencing exemplary.'

Cartoons delight teachers

Cartoon PD in a Package made a real splash when it was workshopped for the first time at a national level in Melbourne. Teachers from across Australia attending the History Teachers Association of Australia national conference were delighted by this excellent new teaching resource. Our thanks to Meredith Wright and Liz McGinnis who presented the workshop.

Since the presentation the JCPML has been approached by Tony Taylor, Director of the National Centre for History Education at Monash University, to showcase *Cartoon PD in a Package* in the Centre's Hyperhistory website; and by Assoc. Professor Ric Lowe at Curtin who wants to link one of Curtin's online education units to the package.



In November Japanese Consul General Hiroiyuki Ariyoshi visited the JCPML, meeting with JCPML Historical Consultant David Black and other JCPML staff to discuss a range of interesting topics.

Contributions since August 2004

Australian National University
City of Armadale History House Museum
John Cowdell
Curtin University of Technology,
University Development
John Francis Curtin
Kathy Deubert
Peter Gelencser
John Keefe Howard
Paul Kelly
Denis Meagher
Bruce Miller
National Archives of Australia

JCPML Challenge Bank Reading Room Visitors

Nabhan Al Harrasi
Hiroyuki Ariyoshi
David Baird
Peter Beilharz
Gary Billingham
Brendan Bourke
Sandy Clugston
D E Davis
Sarah Edmunds
Helen and Tom Forde
Rigmore George
Elaine Haigh
Bill & Rea Hodgson
Margaret Hooker
Peter Hugill
Helen Livingston
Elaine Miller
Joan Moncrieff
Masa Ogawa
Heidi Ross
Tamar Sadeh
Staff from Nanjing University, China
Staff of WA Parliamentary Library
Patricia Strange
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