

INFORMATION UPDATE

Visiting Scholar's public lecture

On 20 October the JCPML's Visiting Scholar for 2005, Dr Michael McKernan, delivered an engaging public lecture titled *John Curtin: A war casualty if ever there was one*.

Dr McKernan examined historian Geoffrey Serle's claim that Curtin was "a war casualty if ever there was one". Dr McKernan discussed some of Curtin's well documented ailments and the inevitable stress of wartime leadership, but also noted the added pressure of Curtin's very intimate relationship with the Australian people. Curtin's prime ministerial correspondence contains many examples of Australians expressing their personal fear, sorrow and hope to a prime minister that they regarded as a friend.

Dr McKernan then used Curtin's example to reflect more widely on what constitutes service to the nation in time of war. He argued that Australians have focused too exclusively on commemorating the efforts of service personnel who have seen active service overseas and too little on the efforts and sacrifice of those who worked at home to support the front-line.

Video, audio and a transcript of the lecture are available on the JCPML website under *Events and Lectures*.

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

(event photographs by Hans Versluis)



Left to right: JCPML Director Imogen Garner, Acting Vice-Chancellor Jeanette Hackett, Dr Michael McKernan, Prof. David Black and JCPML Archivist Kandy-Jane Henderson



Left to right: Des Pearson, Alan Ralph, Karen Anderson, Lesley Wallace, Jan Bishop, Helen Wills-Johnson, Brian Wills-Johnson, Liz McGinnis



Left to right: Steve Errington, Lindsay Peet, Maurene Palmer, Noelene Edwards, Hon. Graeme Edwards, Veronica Kerr



The anniversary year in review

2005 has been an important and exciting year for the JCPML as it marks the 60th year since John Curtin died in office on 5 July 1945. Below is a list of significant events that have helped us commemorate this anniversary.

- Opening of JCPML's major exhibition *The art of the possible: Creating an independent Australian foreign policy* - opened by the Governor of Western Australia, Lieutenant General John Sanderson, 14 February 2005.
- Opening of Old Parliament House traveling exhibition *A brush with politics: The life and work of John Frith*, 10 March 2005.
- Sydney launch of *Curtin's Gift: Reinterpreting Australia's greatest prime minister* authored by JCPML Visiting Scholar Dr John Edwards, 11 March 2005.
- Launch of *WA Cultural Heritage Portal* at UWA, 21 April 2005. The portal is a partnership between the University of WA, Curtin University of Technology and the WA Dept for Culture and the Arts, funded 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.
- Seventh JCPML Anniversary Lecture by Dr Ashton Calvert, *A confident and distinctive foreign policy*, 5 July 2005.
- *John Curtin's Legacy: Leading Australia from war to peace* exhibition opens at Old Parliament House as part of *My Melancholy Duty: Menzies and Curtin in the Second World War*, 2 August 2005.
- Public lecture by JCPML Visiting Scholar Dr Michael McKernan, *John Curtin: A war casualty if ever there was one*, 20 October 2005.
- Life size John Curtin figure made for display in Old Parliament House.
- JCPML touring exhibition, *The Art of the Possible: Creating an independent foreign policy*, hosted by Embassy of Australia – Washington, Center for Australian and New Zealand Studies – Georgetown University, Old Parliament House, National Archives of Australia and Parliament House.
- Issue of special souvenir stamp sheets to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the death of John Curtin.

2005 conference papers

The following conference papers were presented by JCPML staff in 2005.

Regulating recordkeeping in Western Australia - The State Records Act 2000 - two perspectives, four years on

By Kandy-Jane Henderson, State Records Commissioner & JCPML Archivist, and Tony Caravella, Director of State Records, State Records Office of Western Australia.

Delivered to the Australian Society of Archivists *Archives and Communities Conference*, Wellington, New Zealand, 6-8 October 2005.

Kandy-Jane's paper was entitled *The Commission's view: What makes the State Records Commission in Western Australia unique?* and explored key elements of the *State Records Act 2000*, successes to date and future challenges.

Elsie Curtin at the JCPML

By Kandy-Jane Henderson.

Delivered to the *Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Library Conference* Simply the Best: Women's collections in galleries, libraries, archives and museums, South Australia, 28-30 September 2005.

This paper formed part of a panel presentation and provided an overview of Elsie Curtin and her role as a prime ministerial wife.

Cartoon PD in a Package - Let's go 'scaffolding' and 'chunking!'

By Ros Marshall, JCPML Education Officer and Jan Bishop, History Teachers' Association of Western Australia.

Delivered to the *History Teachers' Association of Australia (HTAA) Annual Conference*, South Australia, 4-7 October 2005.

This paper explored innovative techniques for teaching cartoon interpretation to history students called 'scaffolding' and 'chunking'. The paper introduced a new online professional development resource from the JCPML, developed with the support of the Public Education Endowment Trust, which helps teachers master these new techniques.

John Curtin's legacy: Leading Australia from war to peace now online



Photographs by Soula Vouyoucalos, ymo photography

An online version of the major JCPML exhibition, *John Curtin's legacy: Leading Australia from war to peace*, can now be viewed on our website.

The exhibition was officially opened on 26 September 2002 and was on display at the JCPML until December 2004. It then travelled to Canberra where it currently forms part of the Old Parliament House exhibition *My Melancholy Duty: Menzies and Curtin in the Second World War*, open to the public from 2 August 2005 to 29 January 2006.

John Curtin's legacy follows Australia's progress from 1942, the most critical year of the war, when Prime Minister Curtin 'looked to America' for help, until 1951 when the ANZUS Treaty was

signed. It explores the Curtin Government's initiatives in areas including the economy, immigration and foreign policy and how these developed in the postwar years under Ben Chifley (1945 to 1949) to form the foundations of modern Australia.

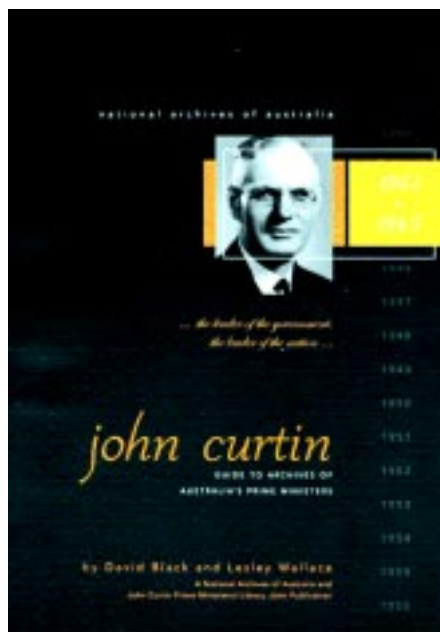
The online exhibition features virtual reality tours which provide panoramic views of the exhibition in its original form along with options to click on 'hotspots' and view more detail of objects on display. A range of online activities for primary and secondary students enhance the educational value of the resource.

The exhibition can be viewed at <http://john.curtin.edu.au/legacyex/>

Guide to John Curtin archives wins Australian Society of Archivists' Mander Jones Award

At the October Australian Society of Archivists' conference in Wellington, New Zealand, Kandy-Jane Henderson, JCPML Archivist, and Ross Gibbs, Director General of the National Archives of Australia (NAA), accepted the Society's prestigious Mander Jones Award 'for the best finding aid to an archival collection held by an Australian institution or about Australia'. The award was received for the publication *John Curtin: Guide to archives of Australia's prime ministers*.

The guide, jointly published by the NAA and JCPML and authored by David Black (JCPML Historical Consultant) and Lesley Wallace (JCPML Collections Librarian), includes biographies of Australia's wartime Prime Minister John Curtin and his wife Elsie and a comprehensive listing of archival records relating to them. The guide was released in both print and electronic forms simultaneously in November 2004. The electronic version (a pdf file which can be freely downloaded via the NAA website at the NAA online shop) contains hyperlinks to many of the records listed so researchers can quickly access digitised material via the NAA's RecordSearch database and the JCPML's Electronic Research Archive.





2006 Visiting Scholar Prof. David Horner

The JCPML is pleased to announce that our Visiting Scholar for 2006 will be Professor David Horner.

Prof. Horner is currently an Official Historian and Professor of Australian Defence History in the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies at the Australian National University.

He served for 25 years in the Australian Regular Army, seeing active service in South Vietnam. More recently he has been Editor of the Army History Series (1994 to present), Head of the Australian Army's Land Warfare Studies Centre (1998 to 2002) and media advisor.

Prof. Horner's research interests include Australian defence history, particularly strategy, command, intelligence and operations and current defence issues. His major research project is the *Official History of Australian Peacekeeping and Post-Cold War Operations*.

His publications include

- *The Gunners: A History of Australian Artillery*, Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 1995.
- *Inside the War Cabinet: Directing Australia's War Effort, 1939-1945*, Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 1996.
- *Breaking the Codes: Australia's KGB Network*, Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 1998. (with Desmond Ball)
- *Blamey: The Commander-in-Chief*, Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 1998.
- *Defence Supremo: Sir Frederick Shedden and the Making of Australian Defence Policy*, Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 2000.
- *The Australian Centenary History of Defence, Volume 4, Making the Australian Defence Force*, Oxford University Press, Melbourne, 2001.
- *Strategic Command: General Sir John Wilton and Australia's Asian Wars*, Oxford University Press, Melbourne, 2005.

Teaching and Learning Ideas - English -

The JCPML has recently released an English program for senior students in years 10 to 12 entitled *Teaching and Learning Ideas - English*. English education consultant, Rod Quin, created the English program to be consistent with the WA Curriculum Framework and the new post compulsory English Course of Study.

The new program uses the JCPML's major exhibition, *The Art of the Possible: Creating an independent Australian foreign policy*, which examines Australia's growing independence in the realm of foreign policy from 1935 to 1950. The exhibition covers a key period in Australia's history and development as a nation. For students of English the exhibition provides the opportunity to explore a variety of concepts and develop a wide range of skills consistent with the Curriculum Framework and English Course of Study.

The English program provides teaching notes, activities and lesson plans relevant to representation, image analysis, national and cultural identity and text study.

Contributions and Support since August 2005

Gwen Allsopp
David Black
John Cowdell
John Edwards

Ros Marlborough
Michael McKernan
Natalie Thomas

JCPML Challenge Bank Reading Room Visitors

Marie-Louise Ayres
Kat Barton
Judy Ballantyne
Bob Bedwell
Bonnie-Rae Bruce
Niamh Corbett
Oliver Cosgrove
Helen Crab
Kate Curr
Irene Davey
Fred Dreyer
Yve Dunsh
Jonathon Erridge
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