

# Information Update



Above L to R: JCPML Director Imogen Garner, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Greg Craven, JCPML Visiting Scholar Prof. David Horner, JCPML Historical Consultant Prof. David Black  
Top Right L to R: Prof Mike Wood, Debbie Hindley, Evan Nicholas  
Bottom Right L to R: Prof. John Maloney, Ian Warner, David Wylie

## Visiting Scholar scrutinises Curtin's record as war leader

JCPML Visiting Scholar, Professor David Horner, offered a critical assessment of John Curtin's record as war leader and Defence Minister in his public lecture on 5 October.

Professor Horner said that "Curtin has been accorded recognition as one of Australia's great prime ministers. He restored cohesion to the Labor Party, rallied Australia in the dark days of 1942, and put aside his party's socialist aims in the pursuit of national unity. His most important contribution to national strategy was his concern to maintain national cohesion."

However, according to Prof. Horner, "Curtin did not appear to have any overall strategic view of his own, and once MacArthur arrived, was content to accept his approach."

"In some ways, after MacArthur arrived, Curtin took the easy way by handing over military decision making to a general. Some might say that given the power of the United States, he had little option, but it is a dangerous practice for any political leader not to take a close interest in operational matters."

Professor Horner concluded that "This is not to suggest that Curtin failed. He was faced with a devilishly difficult situation in dealing with the Americans. In the main, his approach worked, but much could have been done better."

Professor Horner is currently Professor of Australian Defence History at the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre at the Australian National University in Canberra. He is also an Official Historian researching the *Official History of Australian Peacekeeping and Post-Cold War Operations*.

Full text, video and audio versions of the public lecture are available from the JCPML website at [john.curtin.edu.au/events/speeches/horner.html](http://john.curtin.edu.au/events/speeches/horner.html).

# Exhibitions now available online



In November the JCPML released two new online exhibitions - one based on our major exhibition *The art of the possible: Creating an independent foreign policy* and the other on *The art of the possible* travelling exhibition.

Both exhibitions explore Australia's growing independence in the realm of foreign policy from 1935 to 1950.



The online version of the major exhibition features selected objects, photographs and documents from the original exhibition as well as offering a virtual tour that captures the feel of the original displays.

View the online version of the major exhibition at [john.curtin.edu.au/artofthepossible](http://john.curtin.edu.au/artofthepossible)

*The art of the possible* travelling exhibition was based on the major exhibition of the same name and was developed to commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of John Curtin's death.



The online version of the travelling exhibition contains all the exhibition content with additional information on the development of the exhibition, its touring schedule and education activities for secondary school students who visit the exhibition in person or online.

View the online version of the travelling exhibition at [john.curtin.edu.au/artofthepossible/touringex](http://john.curtin.edu.au/artofthepossible/touringex)

*The art of the possible* travelling exhibition is available for loan. Institutions wishing to host the exhibition are requested to contact the JCPML.



## New email distribution List

The JCPML is creating an email contact list. Would you like to receive event information and/or our newsletter (Information Update) by email?

Please contact us at [jcpml@curtin.edu.au](mailto:jcpml@curtin.edu.au) and let us know if you would like to be included on our email list.

All email addresses that we collect for our contact list will only be used for the distribution of JCPML information.

# National History Challenge 2006 - Turning Points

The JCPML once again supported the National History Challenge in 2006, with our Education Officer, Ros Marshall, taking on the additional role of State Coordinator.

This year's theme, "Turning Points", lent itself to a wide variety of subject matter and formats. Winning entries in WA included essays, a web site, a museum display and a video production. Subjects considered included the Vietnam War, the Whitlam Government, Australia from 1901 to 1945, women's suffrage and Nature's Arc.

This year's WA Young Historian of the Year, Aithne Dell of Santa Maria College, superbly researched an essay about the Vietnam War as a turning point in Australian history. Aithne also won in the year 9/10 age group and two special categories: *In War and Peace*, sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and *Using Primary Sources*, sponsored by the National Archives of Australia.

Although no prize was awarded at the state level this year for the JCPML special category *The life and times of John Curtin*, the national prize went to



National History Challenge WA winners with HTAWA President Tom Loreck and WA Minister for Education, the Hon. Ljiljana Ravlich

Jacinta Livingstone of Brisbane Girls Grammar School for her outstanding essay on the foreign policy of the Curtin Government. Jacinta examined the impact on Australia's history of John Curtin's *Look to America* New Year's article of late 1941.

The WA awards ceremony took place in the Bankwest Theatre at Curtin University of Technology on Saturday October 28<sup>th</sup>. Speakers included the Minister for Education, the Hon.

Ljiljana Ravlich and History Teachers' Association of Western Australia (HTAWA) President Tom Loreck. All student winners and those receiving Highly Commended certificates were invited to tell guests about their research before being presented with certificates, cheques and medallions. The morning tea that followed the ceremony featured a gigantic National History Challenge cake which was enjoyed by all.



Left to right: HTAWA President Tom Loreck, WA Young Historian of the Year Aithne Dell and WA Minister for Education, the Hon. Ljiljana Ravlich



# Education workshops

Each year JCPML Education Officer Ros Marshall delivers workshops to assist professionals working in the education sector. Below are details of some recent workshops Ros has presented.

**Making and Keeping Connections Transforming Information and Learning Conference, ECU, 30 September.**

Conference workshop title: *Online and onsite – the John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library experience for schools*. In this workshop Ros introduced participants to the JCPML website and in particular to projects like *War and Peace*, *Rationing and Rebuilding* and *Cartoon PD in a Package* as examples of web materials designed specifically for schools. She also discussed the secondary and primary school onsite programs, providing participants with a brief opportunity to look at our materials.

**Pushing Boundaries: National Conference of the History Teachers' Association of Australia, 5 October to 8 October.**

Conference workshop title: *JCPML Cartoon PD in a Package – Let's go 'scaffolding' and 'chunking'*. In this workshop Jan Bishop from the History Teachers' Association of Western Australia (HTAWA) and Ros introduced participants to *Cartoon*

*PD in a Package*. Participants were taken on a step by step journey through the package, given the opportunity to 'play' with it and provided with hands-on instruction in the process of scaffolding (a technique to improve cartoon interpretation).

**Recent visits by Faculties of Education**

In November, Ros was delighted to host a number of workshops for trainee teachers from the Faculty of Education at Curtin University of Technology and the University of Western Australia (UWA). Curtin Second Year Primary Education students were introduced to the JCPML primary school history program *Exploring Australia at War*. Students used documents and photographs, made gas masks, played John Curtin Snakes and Ladders, put together jigsaws, cracked codes, created timelines, sequenced cablegrams and generally had a great time pretending to be primary school students. In a separate visit, UWA Graduate Diploma students investigated the facilities of JCPML, examined aspects of the website and then workshopped one of the secondary school roleplay/document studies, *Planning for Peace*. This workshop was hands-on with students invited to don costumes and role play John Curtin and Robert Menzies or to participate in the document study as if they were secondary school students. Students were also introduced to the National History Challenge and the Sir Charles Court Young Leaders Program.

Contributions and support since August 2006

Dr. Geoff Gallop  
Percy Groves  
John Ketteringham

Reading Room Visitors

Barbara Adamson  
Hazel Butorac  
Linda Cohen  
Suzanne Collins  
Kevin Contini  
Lynn Craig  
Jake Crawford-Harris  
Jodielyn Crawford-Harris  
Janine Douthie  
Richard Dearden  
Carl Edmunds  
Jessie Harrington  
John Holland  
Darren Holland  
Anne Horn  
Prof. David Horner  
Alison Hunter  
Margaret Fleming  
Michael Fleming  
Ian Goviers  
Donald Groves  
Gloria Groves  
Percy Groves  
Jenni Jeremy  
Joan Moncrieff  
David Mason  
Janette Mason  
Levas Mejus  
Ruth Pagell  
Michael Pal  
Maxine Pauley  
Leeanne Pitman  
Ruth Quinn  
Greg Wallace  
Robyn Waller  
Joy Webster  
Dr Geoff Gallop  
Ms Kay Clark

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