The Fremantle Candidate

*The Fremantle Candidate* will take to the stage on 19 July 2012 as this year’s JCPML Anniversary event. Written by 2010 JCPML Visiting Scholar and multi-award winning playwright, Ingle Knight, the play covers the time after John Curtin lost the seat of Fremantle in the 1931 federal election to 1934.

During this time Curtin worked as a freelance sports journalist for the Westralian Worker. He wrote articles for the ALP from an office in Trades Hall until 1933 when Collier, back as Premier after three years in opposition, employed him to write the Western Australian Government’s submission to the newly formed Commonwealth Grants Commission.

Despite suggestions he should return to Victoria to contest the federal seat being vacated by Frank Anstey, his long-standing colleague and mentor, Curtin stood again for Fremantle in 1934. He won Fremantle narrowly in an election in which Labor regained only a handful of the seats it had lost in 1931. One year later John Curtin was elected leader of the Labor opposition paving the way for his prime ministership in 1941.

In place of the Anniversary Lecture the play is sponsored by Curtin University Library in partnership with Deckchair Theatre. It brings together archives and theatre in an innovative way.

The play’s script will soon be available via the JCPML website and in our education activities for non-commercial, educational access. Curtin University’s Digital Media Unit has produced several five minute videos highlighting various aspects of the play’s production. The videos include interviews with the playwright Ingle Knight, director Chris Bendall and costume and set designer Fiona Bruce, along with the play’s rehearsal and the actors.

Visit john.curtin.edu.au
Lesley Watson and Lynda Nilsson are the recipients of this year’s Hazel Hawke scholarship.

Both studying a Bachelor of Education (Primary) at Curtin University, these hard working women say they are honoured to receive the scholarship.

Lynda Nilsson said that she was honoured to have her contributions to the community acknowledged. “I have lived on Russell Island for the past 5 years and have worked as a teacher aide at Russell Island State School for the past 2 yrs, including working with closing the gap.” Lynda said that she planned to use the extra financial assistance to purchase new software and books.

Lesley Watson said that receiving the scholarship means that she can realise her dream of becoming a teacher, and prove to her children that with goals, dreams and hard work, anything is possible. “It also means that I have a chance to change other people’s lives. Poverty is a major issue in Australia, and I have always believed that education can be part of the key to eradicating poverty in this country. Studying my Bachelor of Primary Education through Curtin has opened up my future, my children’s futures, and the futures of many others.”

The inaugural Hazel Hawke scholarship was awarded in 2000 and there have been nine recipients in total, studying in fields as diverse as education, fine arts and nursing. The scholarship has a particular focus on supporting education opportunities for mature age female students.

2012 Hazel Hawke Scholarship Winners

INFORMATION

The Fremantle Candidate

When: 19 July to 5 August 2012
Where: Victoria Hall, Fremantle

Tickets to The Fremantle Candidate can be purchased from Deckchair Theatre: deckchairtheatre.com.au/bookings

Opening night of The Fremantle Candidate is on Saturday 21st July. Curtin University’s Vice Chancellor, Professor Jeanette Hackett will briefly address the audience before the commencement of the play.

For more information about The Fremantle Candidate see the Deckchair Theatre website, deckchairtheatre.com.au.

National Year of Reading 2012

Throughout his life, John Curtin never lost sight of his dream for a fair and just society in which all people had access to a job, to education, to a home and the basic necessities of life.

John Curtin began to seek work at the young age of 14 in order to support his financially struggling parents. Although he left school at such an early age Curtin took with him an unquenchable thirst for knowledge and understanding, and it is suggested he was largely self educated. In a 1912 letter to his future wife’s family, John Curtin wrote: ‘There is nothing that is not in a great book... There is meat and drink and love’.

A small display features in the Kandy Jane Henderson foyer of the JCPML until the end of July and showcases a selection of books from the Curtin family’s library, with many books displaying inscriptions to John Curtin from friends and associates.

In celebration of the National Year of Reading, Curtin University Library has launched a blog to inspire, develop, nurture and share a love of reading.

Visit blogs.curtin.edu.au/national-year-of-reading
Curtin Family Home opens its doors to the public

From 11 July to 10 August 2012 the Curtin Family Home will open its doors to the public thanks to the National Trust of Australia.

People will have the opportunity to take a peek into the life of the wartime Prime Minister John Curtin, his wife Elsie and their family.

Tours of the Curtin’s Cottesloe home will be offered as well as lectures and an open day on 5 August.

PROGRAM - 11 July to 10 August 2012

**The Curtins in Cottesloe**  
11 July to 10 August  
Talk and tour at the Curtin Family Home, listen to readings from John and Elsie’s diaries, letters, newspapers of the time and oral histories with the family. Afternoon tea provided.  
**When:** 10am to 11.30am or 1.30pm to 3.00pm Monday to Friday.  
**Cost:** $10 (S8 National Trust Members).  
Bookings essential. Groups (max 20) or individuals. Phone 9321 6088 or email trust@ntwa.com.au.

**Curtin Family Home Open Day**  
Sunday 5 August  
Members of the Curtin family graced the halls of their Jarrad Street home for over 75 years, take a peek into their lives at the Curtin Family Home Open Day. There will be games for children and an opportunity to follow ‘Elsie’ around the house on an audio tour.  
**When:** 11am – 4pm. Readings at 2pm.  
**Cost:** Entry by donation.

**Curtin Family Home Lecture**  
Wednesday 3 October  
Politicians and their families must learn to manage the pressures of high profile life and their demanding workloads while under constant scrutiny from the public. Member for Goldstein, Andrew Robb, will discuss his personal fight with depression at this year’s Curtin Family Home lecture.

All events will take place at the Curtin Family Home, 24 Jarrad Street, Cottesloe. For more details on these events contact the National Trust via trust@ntwa.com.au or phone 9321 6088.