



Curtin University

JOHN CURTIN PRIME MINISTERIAL LIBRARY
CURTIN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

INFORMATION UPDATE

JULY 2012

The Proclamation of Fremantle, Fremantle Town Hall, 1929, JCPML00830/40

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



Image courtesy Deckchair Theatre

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.

See inside for more

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Continued...



The JCPML's involvement with playwright Ingle Knight, dates back to the creation of the play *Shadow of the Eagle* which had its world premiere in Perth in 2003.

Co-authored with George Blazevic using the JCPML collection to research the content, *Shadow of the Eagle* was produced by the Perth Theatre Company in association with JCPML and first performed at the Playhouse Theatre in Perth on 24 May 2003.

It focuses on the historic first meeting between US General Douglas MacArthur and Prime Minister Curtin in March 1942. More details can be found at john.curtin.edu.au/events/shadowoftheeagle.html.

Further information about the JCPML Visiting Scholars program can be found on the JCPML website: john.curtin.edu.au/events/scholars.html.

Playwright Ingle Knight

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.

2012 Hazel Hawke Scholarship Winners

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

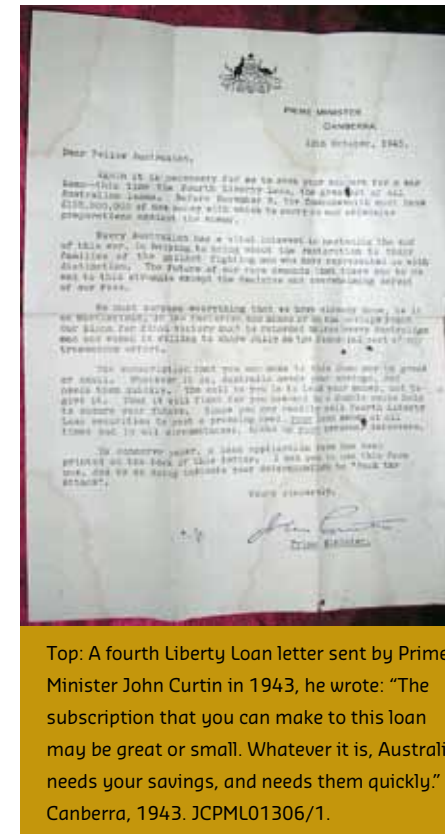
prove to her children that with goals, dreams and hard work, anything is possible. "It also means that I have a chance to change other people's lives. Poverty is a major issue in Australia, and I have always believed that education can be part of the key to eradicating poverty in this country. Studying 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.

Top to bottom: Lesley Watson and Lynda Nilsson



Liberty Loan finds home at the JCPML



Top: A fourth Liberty Loan letter sent by Prime Minister John Curtin in 1943, he wrote: "The subscription that you can make to this loan may be great or small. Whatever it is, Australia needs your savings, and needs them quickly." Canberra, 1943. JCPML01306/1.

In 1942 Curtin's government launched an austerity campaign aimed at diverting as many of the nation's resources as possible to the war effort.

Rationing of clothing and food was introduced to ensure that everyone had fair access to scarce goods and coupons had to be handed over along with money in order to buy any rationed goods. Housewives were encouraged to recycle everything from food scraps to rags, while restrictions were placed on horse racing, alcohol sales and gambling. Thousands of Australians invested their savings in government war loans, called 'Liberty Loans', which raised money for the war effort.

A recent addition to the JCPML collection are images of an original 1943 fourth Liberty Loan letter, with application form attached to the back and signed by John Curtin. Also included is the original envelope this letter was enclosed in.

John Curtin spoke to the Australian people about the value of the Liberty Loans:

"The war is costing Australia one and a half million pounds a day.. That expenditure is for the freedom of this country, but it has to be met by the contributions of the Australian people. They have responded magnificently and they are now asked to maintain that magnificent record. Every pound that is subscribed is one of the factors that will tell against the enemy. It will shorten the war. It will make clear that victory is not only attainable, but that we are actually working for it and willing to make the sacrifices necessary to achieve it. Soldiers fight, sailors fight, airmen fight, money fights, so come on Australia, let's fill this loan."

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.



**National
Year of
Reading
2012**

Visit blogs.curtin.edu.au/national-year-of-reading

Broome 1942 Exhibition now available online

The Broome 1942 Exhibition which ran from 28 February to 30 April 2012 has been transformed into an online resource

The online resource contains information and images from the original exhibition focussing on the bombing of Broome and the relationship between the Curtin government and the Netherlands East Indies (Indonesia).

As well as this there are photographs from the exhibition launch in February.

Visit john.curtin.edu.au/events/broome1942.html.

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 (\$8 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.



Top: John and Elsie Curtin's home at 24 Jarrad St, Cottesloe, 1988. JCPML00632/1.

Left to right: The Curtin family, Cottesloe, 1942, JCPML00381/29, Curtin house, 24 Jarrad Street, 1939, JCPML00382/36, and John and Elsie Curtin, 1941, JCPML00382/57.

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