



Curtin University

JOHN CURTIN PRIME MINISTERIAL LIBRARY

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CURTIN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

INFORMATION UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2015

JCPML Patron

The John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library (JCPML) is honoured to announce that the Hon Julia Gillard has accepted the position as JCPML Patron.

Ms Gillard was the 27th Prime Minister of Australia from 24 June 2010 until June 2013. Ms Gillard was the first woman to serve as Australia's Prime Minister or Deputy Prime Minister.

Ms Gillard delivered nation-changing policies including reforming Australian education, creating an emissions trading scheme, improving the provision and sustainability of health care, aged care and dental care, commencing Australia's first ever national scheme to care for people with disabilities and restructuring the telecommunications sector.

In foreign policy, she strengthened Australia's alliance with the United States, secured stronger architecture for the relationship with China, upgraded Australia's ties with India, and deepened ties with Japan, Indonesia and South Korea.

Ms Gillard is a Distinguished Fellow with the Center for Universal Education at the Brookings Institution in Washington. In February 2014, she was appointed chair of the Global Partnership for Education, a leading organisation dedicated to expanding access and quality education worldwide. Ms Gillard is a member of the board of directors of Beyond Blue and an Honorary Professor at the University of Adelaide.

Visit the JCPML website for more information:
http://www.john.curtin.edu.au/aboutus/patron_index.html



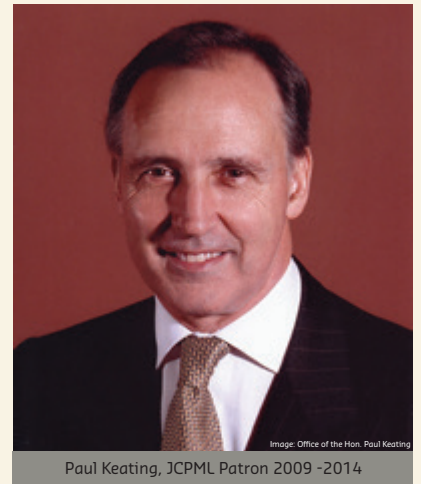
Hon. Julia Gillard

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Left to right: Prof John Phillimore, Prof David Black, Ms Catherine Clark, Frank Busalacchi, Hon John Coudell & Prof Peter Newman
Image by Elizabeth Martin



Paul Keating, Former JCPML Patron

In June 2014, the Hon Paul Keating resigned as the Patron of the John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library (JCPML).

The JCPML thanks Mr Keating for his patronage over the past five years. In supporting the JCPML, Mr Keating has kindly provided permission for his 2002 Anniversary Lecture and 2009 Anniversary Lecture to be accessible via the JCPML website.

2002 Anniversary Lecture
<http://john.curtin.edu.au/events/speeches/keating.html>

2009 Anniversary Lecture
<http://john.curtin.edu.au/events/speeches/keating2009.html>

Curtin MacArthur Alliance

Frank and Robin Busalacchi visited the JCPML on the 30th January. Mr Busalacchi is a former Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and has worked in the transport industry for over 30 years.

The Busalacchis were visiting Perth on their way to South Africa on holiday. Their visit to the JCPML was arranged by Mr Chas Mulcahy who is a member of the VCRT MacArthur Forum.

Prof David Black attended MacArthur Memorial Week in 2014 and presented several papers on Prime Minister Curtin

and his relationship with General MacArthur. Papers from that event are available on the JCPML website.

Sally Laming provided an Archive Tour for Frank and Robin, followed by lunch hosted by Catherine Clark, the University Librarian.

VCRT MacArthur Forum
<http://www.macarthurmilwaukeeforum.com/about/>

MacArthur Memorial Week
<http://john.curtin.edu.au/macarthur/MacArthur-Memorial-Week.html>

VISITOR PARKING AT CURTIN UNIVERSITY

Curtin University's visitor parking payment arrangements have changed. Please plan ahead before visiting Bentley campus and register for CellOPark.

In line with Curtin's vision of a greener campus, visitor car park ticket machines have been removed.

Pay by Plate meters are being installed in car parks D3, B13 and C1.

Visitors can also pay for parking using CellOPark Pay by Phone.

To register, visit www.cellopark.com.au or call 1300 46 7275 (1300 GO PARK). This is a one-off process and once registered, users can begin their parking session in three ways:

Phone - call +61 08 6145 3333 and follow the prompts

Internet - visit www.cellopark.com.au

Smart Phone - download the free CellOPark app from <https://www.cellopark.com.au/Info/SmartphoneApps>.

A limited number of free, short term (45 min) parking bays are located around Bentley campus.

For further information about Pay by Phone parking, please visit the parking website <http://parking.curtin.edu.au/gettingaround/payg.cf>.



Left to right: Barbara Davidson, Prof Deborah Gare, Peter Green - Acting University Librarian, Prof David Black

CURTIN'S FIRST WAR

Professor Deborah Gare November 2014

By Emeritus Professor David Black

On 1 and 2 November 2014, Albany hosted the first major events commemorating the centenary of the outbreak of World War One in August 1914. A fleet of seven naval vessels from Australia, New Zealand and Japan performed a sail past as a symbolic gesture, commemorating the departure of the First Convoy of Australian troops to Europe on the 1 and 2 November 1914. These troops eventually took part in the historic events on the Gallipoli peninsula in April 1915.

World War One cost over 60,000 Australian lives, all of which were sacrificed in the context of a European War with no direct threat to Australian security. As the world recognised the centenary of this conflict, it was timely that Professor Deborah Gare from Notre Dame University should speak on 'Curtin's First War' as the JCPML Visiting Scholar for 2014.

Professor Gare's lecture provided valuable new insights into the 1916 and 1917 conscription controversy, which attempted to have Australian men conscripted to help fight

Britain's war. The lecture provided a disturbing look at how Prime Minister Hughes attempted to bypass the will of the people. He set in motion the machinery for two conscription referendums, which led John Curtin to have an unpleasant, yet relatively short, term in prison.

These insights gave meaning and significance to the extraordinary fact that it was also Curtin who persuaded his party to accept a degree of military conscription for the defence of the homeland in 1943.

In Deborah's own words:

"Where 1942 [dating in fact from the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour in December 1941] saw the darkest hours of Curtin's Second World War, 1916 saw the darkest hours of his First. It was in this year that the Labor government, led by Billy Hughes, divided Australia and sundered the Labor Party when it introduced its campaign for compulsory military service."

Reacting to Hughes' decision, against the wishes of the majority of his party to call the referendum, Curtin "...became a vehement

and popular critic of his own government" and the response was "...prosecution, manipulation, lies and sabotage."

Many scholars and observers focus on contrasting Curtin's role during the 1916-1917 conscription campaign with his own introduction of compulsory military service in 1943. However, it must be remembered that this latter event was during the most perilous period of the Pacific War. Under Curtin's schema, members of the militia could only be conscripted to serve in areas south of the Equator and west of the Solomon Islands. In Professor Gare's view, the focus should be on Curtin's resistance to abuses of executive power in 1916, which she compares with "...similar abuses of executive power in modern Australia during times of so-called 'crisis'."

In exploring Hughes' attempt to circumvent opposition to the introduction of military conscription after the slaughter on the Somme, Prof Gare highlighted the confusion between views that "this was a war for Britain" and a "war in which Australia itself was at risk." The two views were used interchangeably "by both the press and the politicians."

Essentially, it was accepted that with Britain "entering a time of

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extreme crisis" in 1914, "Australia would be there to fulfil its imperial obligations" at a time when "the first and only question was the honour of the nation." Herein Curtin's problems arose - he was a critic of militarism from his youngest days. Curtin explained that his stance was an outcome of a capitalist economy where corporate giants directly benefited from the increased market opportunities of warfare.

Ironically, Curtin contested the 1914 federal election as a Labor candidate at a time when the Labor government was elected led by Andrew Fisher, promising to "...help and defend Britain to the last man and the last shilling." Fortunately, while Curtin's personal difficulties and political contradictions came to a head in 1915 and the first half of 1916, he was able to go some way towards meeting the challenges posed by one of his political mentors Frank Anstey to "to emerge reborn from rehab", and "...re-enter the contest of politics."

Prof Gare's lecture mainly focused on the events of the second half of 1916 and most of 1917. The centrepiece of her presentation was what she described as the extraordinary contradiction between Hughes' decision to let the people decide on conscription while at the same time using "...the sweeping powers of the War Precautions Act and the Defence Act..." to suppress those who spoke out against conscription. Within weeks of referring the conscription issue to a referendum, Hughes issued a proclamation requiring

"...all unmarried men or widowed men without children between the ages of 21 and 35 to report to an approved military training camp [with] those who failed to report for duty, or who encouraged others to fail to report...liable for a term of imprisonment of up to six months."

"In extraordinary acts of exploitation" these men "...were paraded through the capital cities in uniform in the day or two preceding the referendum vote." The night before the referendum it was proclaimed that all voting men between 21 and 35 years of age "...who presented at a polling booth were to be asked whether they had reported for duty in October." In the event of an unsatisfactory answer "...their votes would be put to one side and the government would determine later whether those votes would be counted."

Hughes tried twice (in 1916 and 1917) to have the people approve conscription by referendum and both attempts failed. Prof Gare argued that the description of Australia as the one allied nation which did not impose conscription is true in only the most literal sense. Curtin himself, as one of 7000 men failing to respond to the proclamation, spent a very unpleasant few days in gaol (the notorious Melbourne gaol where Ned Kelly was hanged not long before Curtin was born). It took nearly four weeks after the failure of the first conscription referendum before Australian conscripts were released.

Prof Gare contended that while comparing Curtin's First World War with his second is an obvious line of investigation, when she was "in a fighting mood" she would argue that

"...there is much more we can learn by comparing the circumstances of 1916 to those of modern Australia. German soldiers have been replaced by international terrorists as the enemy. Technologies have changed bringing the war closer to the home front but the themes of risk, conflict, surveillance, secrecy, autocracy and censorship are just as evident and...[arguably] the abuse of executive power that was evident in 1916 is just as frequently

evident today."

Prof Gare provided a meaningful and insightful way to deal with the apparent contradiction between Curtin's views and policies concerning military conscription in 1916 and 1943. In this context, and with reference to Sir Keith Murdoch, whose resistance of censorship helped bring about the end of the Gallipoli campaign, she cites his son Lachlan Murdoch's assertion in the course of current controversy over media censorship that

"We certainly do not need further laws to jail journalists who responsibly learn and accurately tell."

For Prof Gare, the value of the First World War stories of "people like Curtin and Keith Murdoch are their relevance to the present day." In this vein she cites Bill Gammage's book *The Broken Years: Australian Soldiers in the Great War*, describing the contest between patriotism and dissent in 1916 as a situation where

"Patriots convinced of their rightness and fearful for their country...made disaffection treason, doubt disloyalty, hesitance cowardice, pacifisms stupidity [and] opposition a crime."

Prof Gare's interest in and analysis of Curtin's First War experience is of considerable relevant contemporary significance and a valuable addition to the body of knowledge provided by JCPML Visiting Scholars over the years.

For more information visit:
<http://www.john.curtin.edu.au/events/speeches/garelecture.html>

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