



# Curtin University

JOHN CURTIN PRIME MINISTERIAL LIBRARY  
CURTIN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

## INFORMATION UPDATE

DECEMBER 2015

### Alexander McCallum North West and Kimberleys Tour

The Alexander McCallum North West and Kimberleys Tour album (part of the McCallum Collection) was made available via the Historypin website in November 2015. This project was the focus for the 2015 John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library (JCPML) Visiting Scholar Program and the work was completed by Julie Woodland.

When the Commonwealth Government threatened to take over the northern parts of Australia in 1925, the WA Government reaction was swift. A ministerial tour from June 21 to July 27 1926 was undertaken to assess the needs and challenges of developing the North West and Kimberley region in Western Australia. Seven men and three vehicles travelled some of the most arduous country in Australia in order for the Minister for Works and his Engineer in Chief to see the logistics of North West development firsthand.

Julie Woodland undertook the less challenging task of adding the tour photographs to Historypin, researching the locations visited by the tour group and adding fuller descriptions to the images to improve discovery of the collection. Julie's research helped identify a building featured but not named in

JCPML00823/2/8. Asbestos mine, Lionel, 1926. Records of Alex McCallum.

the original album and provided valuable contextual information.

Julie has worked in libraries and research support since 1987, gaining qualifications in arts, information studies, business and health. She introduced many international visitors to the North West through her adventure tourism company in the 1990s, and more recently, worked as a registered nurse in a remote Kimberley town. Julie's connection to, and interest in those regions helped her to understand the difficulties faced by the tour. Local knowledge of the Kimberley region helped Julie locate and pinpoint sites and interpret the diary entries.

The McCallum Collection is a useful resource for those wishing to travel the same route as Alexander McCallum and his party without the heat, sweat and threat of crocodiles. The North West and Kimberleys Tour is now available as a John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library collection on Historypin.

The JCPML thanks Julie for her work on this interesting project as part of the JCPML Visiting Scholar Program.

To view the collection on the Historypin website, please visit [historypin.org/en/alexander-mccallum-north-west-and-kimberleys-](http://historypin.org/en/alexander-mccallum-north-west-and-kimberleys-)

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## Researchers' Lounge Christmas Display

On display during December in the JCPML Researchers' Lounge:

- A set of Christmas cards sent by Prime Minister and Mrs Hawke 1983-1991.
- A wartime greeting card from Prime Minister John Curtin (featured below).
- Christmas cards from the McCallum collection 1934-1936.
- *LIFE* magazine (1945) published for the first postwar Christmas.
- The vocal score for Handel's *Messiah* owned by Elsie Curtin. This volume accompanied Elsie in her travels before she moved to Perth. Inside the cover she recorded performances in Hobart, Johannesburg, Perth and Fremantle between 1909 and 1926 (featured right).



JCPML00384/1/154. An extract from the vocal score of Handel's *Messiah* owned by Mrs Elsie Curtin. Records of the Curtin family.



JCPML00376/88. Mrs Eleanor Roosevelt on a visit to Australia, September 1943. Records of the Curtin family.

## Online Memorabilia Shop

The JCPML has launched an online shop for selling memorabilia and publications. Memorabilia include souvenir mugs, teaspoons and lapel pins.

The book *Friendship is a*

*Sheltering Tree: John Curtin's Letters 1907-1945* by David Black is also available.

Shop online at [john.curtin.edu.au/pubs/memorabilia.html](http://john.curtin.edu.au/pubs/memorabilia.html).

## The Eleanor Tree

We receive many requests from an array of individuals and organisations wishing to use photographs and records from JCPML collections in publications and film productions.

Recently we were pleased to provide photographs to the U.S. Embassy in Canberra for a video story about the tree planted by Eleanor Roosevelt on her visit to Canberra in 1943. The tree was an American oak that came to be known as the Eleanor Tree. Visit [facebook.com/australia.usembassy/videos/10153758417056383](https://www.facebook.com/australia.usembassy/videos/10153758417056383) to view the video.

## Season's Greetings

The JCPML will be closed from Monday 21 December 2015 until Sunday 3 January 2016, reopening on Monday 4 January 2016.

Best wishes for the festive season.



JCPML01212/1. A wartime greeting card from Prime Minister John Curtin. Records of JCPML.

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