



Curtin University

JOHN CURTIN PRIME MINISTERIAL LIBRARY

CURTIN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

INFORMATION UPDATE

DECEMBER 2016

AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE RICHARD ANDREWS VISITS THE JCPML

Mr Richard Andrews, the Australian Ambassador-designate to Ireland visited the JCPML on the 23 August 2016. Library Archivist Ms Sally Laming provided Richard with a tour of the JCPML and collection.

Mr Andrews is a senior career officer with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. He is currently Acting First Assistant Secretary of the Mainland and Regional South East Asia Division, and as Assistant Secretary, Mainland South-East Asia Bilateral Branch, in that Division since January 2015 has been responsible for the bilateral relationships with Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Burma and Thailand.

Prior to this, Mr Andrews was seconded to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet as Assistant Secretary, International Policy and Engagement in the G20 Taskforce. He has previously served overseas, as Minister (Political) Australian Embassy Tokyo, and as Counsellor, Australian High Commission, London; Counsellor, Australian Embassy, Tokyo



L-R: Vice-Chancellor Deborah Terry, Mr Richard Andrews & Associate Professor Simon Leunig.

with an earlier posting to Kuala Lumpur.

During his visit, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Deborah Terry and Associate Professor Simon Leunig met with Mr Andrews at the JCPML.

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Final edition of *Information Update*

For 20 years *Information Update* has announced JCPML events, exhibitions, distinguished visitors and collection highlights. The first issue published in 1997 described the opening of the first JCPML major permanent exhibition, *John Curtin: A Man of Peace, A Time of War* in the newly occupied building, and the publication of *For Australia and Labor: Prime Minister John Curtin*, by Dr Geoffrey Serle. Since then there have been many more exhibitions, visiting scholars, and several book launches together with anniversary lectures, events and special visitors featured in *Information Update*.

In 2017 the format of the JCPML newsletter will be changed to an e-newsletter, which will allow us to take advantage of digital technology and continue to provide news about JCPML activities and events. Your current subscription to *Information Update* will continue with our new publication in 2017.



Commemorative Issue

JCPML Exhibition Opens

John Curtin: A Man of Peace, A Time of War is the major permanent exhibition of the John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library (JCPML). The official opening of this exhibition by respected political journalist and commentator, Michelle Grattan, on April 20 was timed to lead into Australians' observance of Anzac Day.

Featuring documents, photographs, moving footage and artifacts from John Curtin's life, the exhibition was developed in conjunction with the National Archives of Australia and the material has been drawn mainly from the collections of the National Archives and the JCPML. Its establishment as a permanent exhibition at The John Curtin Centre allowed the JCPML to expand the displays to incorporate three-dimensional memorabilia, such as Curtin's personal library of books and Hansards, his writing desk and favourite cigarette case. The exhibition briefly

summarises Curtin's lifework, then focuses on the achievements and challenges of his period as wartime prime minister from 1941 to 1945. The purpose of the exhibition is to explore the complexities of Curtin's story and interpret a range of views on his role in Australian history in a

press secretary and his career as a journalist and editor influenced the prime minister's relations with the wartime "press circus"—points which Michelle Grattan addressed in her opening speech.

David Black, curatorial adviser to the exhibition and JCPML Historical Consultant, said: "John Curtin was an unlikely prime minister. He was modest, reserved and austere, often lonely and prone to bouts of dark depression. Yet rarely has any politician enjoyed such universal respect and affection from both sides of the political fence." And according to Prime Minister John Howard: "Most historians rank him amongst Australia's better prime ministers. He showed determination and commitment. The fact that he was prime minister during a war speaks a lot for his ability."



John Curtin's daughter and grandchildren preview the exhibition before its official opening

dynamic, engaging and accessible way.

In the years since World War II, Curtin's appeal to America has been seen as the genesis of Australia's alliance with the United States. His clash with Churchill has been hailed as a milestone on Australia's road to independence. He was also the first prime minister to appoint a

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Excerpt from the first *Information Update*, 1997.

Recommissioning the JCPML cool room



Image of the cool room replacement works.

After many months of investigation and planning, work has commenced on the replacement of the JCPML cool room operating system and the upgrade of another space to cool room functionality. We are expecting the work to continue for several weeks.

At the completion of the project the JCPML will have two cool rooms designed to house photographic and other collection materials in an environment maintained at 16°C.

"Personal Sacrifice is the measure of
National Service."

The Hon. John Curtin,
Prime Minister.



Greetings!

"My purse, my person, my extremest
means,
Lie all unlock'd to your occasion."
— Shakespeare.

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

50 Years of Innovation

2017 marks 50 years since the founding of the WA Institute of Technology (WAIT), our predecessor institution, and 30 years since the establishment of Curtin University.

The University will celebrate these milestones under the banner of 50 Years of Innovation, highlighting the fantastic contribution WAIT and Curtin have made to the WA and Australian communities since 1967. It is also an opportunity for us to recognise the essential role played by our staff, past and present, in the ongoing success of the University.

The JCPML and Library will contribute to the celebrations in 2017 with a wide range of activities.

Commencing early January, our *50 Objects for 50 Years* blog and exhibit project will showcase JCPML and Special Collections items.

More information regarding the 50 Years of Innovation events will be available via the website <http://50years.curtin.edu.au/>

Season's Greetings

The JCPML will be closed from Friday 23 December 2016 to Monday 2 January 2017; reopening on Tuesday 3 January 2017.

Best wishes for the festive season.



JCPML00689/4. A Christmas
greeting from John Curtin to his
mother, 1919.

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