The Hon. Paul Keating was Prime Minister of Australia from December 1991 to March 1996.

In his roles as Treasurer (1983 to 1991) and as Prime Minister, Mr Keating transformed the nation’s financial system and economy. The Australian dollar was floated and foreign banks were permitted to operate in Australia. The taxation system was reformed and many protectionist barriers were dismantled.

The Keating Government oversaw the passage of Indigenous land rights legislation and supported reconciliation. It put the Australian republic on the national agenda, encouraging public debate and establishing the Republican Advisory Committee.

Mr Keating focused Australian external policy towards the Asian region. He took an active role in the establishment of APEC, the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, and initiated its annual leaders’ meeting.

He has been awarded Honorary Doctorates in Laws from Keio University in Tokyo, the National University of Singapore and the University of New South Wales.

Mr Keating’s book, Engage: Australia Faces the Asia-Pacific, examines Australia’s foreign policy objectives and achievements during his term as Prime Minister and was published in March 2000.

Funding announced for John Curtin’s house

The Federal Government will provide the National Trust with $580,000 to restore John Curtin’s 1920s home in Cottesloe and develop an interpretation plan for the house.

After touring the house on 22 May, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd spoke of the importance of the house and of John Curtin as a Prime Minister who had inspired a nation at war, transcending politics and uniting Australians against the threat of invasion.

I am delighted that Paul Keating has agreed to be the new Patron of the JCPML. Paul’s insights, eloquence and enthusiasm will ensure that the pre-eminent role of the JCPML in Australian life will continue for many years.

Hon. Gough Whitlam, AC, QC.
Changing perspectives on marriage, sexuality and birth control

‘What a remarkable collection of most important books and pamphlets about women’s health! It brings together what was written about the ‘taboo’ subjects of marriage, sexuality and birth control in the 18th century and especially in the first half of the 20th century.’

Bridget Faye, one of the 32 donors who contributed to the purchase of material to enhance the Women’s Health Collection in 1984. In 2001, she received a Centenary Medal and became a Member of the Order of Australia for services to the community, particularly relating to her work for women’s affairs through the National Council of Women.

‘This comprehensive and rich body of works not only provides a history of women’s health over the past two centuries, it also encapsulates a social commentary of the changing roles of women in society and their struggle to be recognised as individuals with rights that move beyond roles essentially chosen for them…’

Alexandra McManus, Director of the Centre of Excellence for Science, Seafood and Health, Associate Professor at the Curtin Health Innovation Research Institute and Adjunct Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Behavioural Research in Cancer Control.

The Women’s Health Collection comprises more than 500 items documenting all aspects of women’s health. It includes particularly good runs of the writings of three of the most important figures in this field in the early 20th century: Marie Stopes, Margaret Sanger and Havelock Ellis.

JCPML staff have coordinated the project to review the collection and develop the accompanying website. Curtin University Library staff are working on an ongoing program to digitise as many out of copyright items from the collection as possible and make them accessible through the Library catalogue.

Find out more about the collection at john.curtin.edu.au/womenshealth

Investigating Australian history through primary sources

A great resource for classroom teachers, this website provides 55 stimulus documents designed to encourage student learning and support the teaching of history. The documents are grouped into ten broad themes including The home front, Elections, World War I and anti-conscription campaigns, and International relations.

The primary source documents are all from the JCPML collection and include photographs, correspondence, speeches, advertisements, films, objects and excerpts from oral histories. Each is accompanied by detailed contextual information making it easy to use in the classroom.

Available at john.curtin.edu.au/education/tlf

The JCPML originally supplied these resources to the Le@rning Federation in 2006 for use by teachers and students in Australian and New Zealand schools. The Federation is an initiative of the Australian and New Zealand governments and its aim is to produce high quality curriculum content.

This photograph of the Turkey Creek-Wyndham road in 1926 is sure to generate classroom discussion on the difficulties of early travel in the Kimberley!