

Information Update

JCPML Anniversary Lecture by Stephen Smith



Stephen Smith MP will present the JCPML Anniversary Lecture on Tuesday, 6 July 2010.

Mr Smith is Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs in the Rudd Labor Government. He represents the federal electorate of Perth.

A barrister and solicitor by profession, Mr Smith's interest in politics saw him serve as principal private secretary to the Attorney-General of WA and then state secretary of the WA Branch of the Australian Labor Party.

From 1990 to 1993, he was an advisor to Paul Keating while Mr Keating was Treasurer and then Prime Minister.

After his election to Parliament in 1993, Mr Smith held numerous portfolios in the Opposition Shadow Ministry, including Trade, Resources and Energy, Communications, Health, Immigration, Industry, Infrastructure and Industrial Relations, and Education and Training.

Your invitation to hear Stephen Smith MP present the JCPML Anniversary Lecture is enclosed.

65th anniversary of John Curtin's death commemorated

Prime Minister Curtin died at The Lodge in Canberra on 5 July 1945, after the surrender of Germany but before the end of the war in the Pacific.

Members of a committee established by Melissa Parke, Federal Member for John Curtin's former seat of Fremantle, are organising a week of commemorative events around 5 July including:

- A breakfast at the Fremantle Town Hall on 5 July
- A visit to John and Elsie Curtin's grave at Karrakatta Cemetery on 5 July
- An essay and public speaking competition for school students
- A visit to the National Trust managed Curtin family home at 24 Jarrad St, Cottesloe
- Creation of a mural featuring John and Elsie Curtin by artist Anne McCaughey and students of John Curtin College of the Arts
- Writing and performance of a play about the Prime Minister by John Curtin College of the Arts students and staff.

The JCPML Anniversary Lecture on 6 July forms part of the week's program.



Gun-carriage bearing John Curtin's coffin outside Curtin home at Cottesloe, 1945. JCPML00347/24. Courtesy West Australian News Ltd.

Education programs a hit with teachers at recent Perth Education Providers Expo

Classroom teachers were keen to learn about the JCPML programs at the Perth Education Providers Expo, hosted by Scitech on 30 April, according to Education Officer Ros Marshall.

Ros was assisted by Anthony Pike, a Curtin University student from the Faculty of Education, who dressed as John Curtin in keeping with the role play aspects which form part of many of the programs.

If attendance and enthusiasm are guides, then this event was a runaway success.

Anthony Pike manning the JCPML stand at the Expo.



New display focuses on 'John Curtin at home'

The Curtin's modest home in Jarrad Street, Cottesloe served as both a working office for John Curtin the politician and a place of refuge and leisure where he could relax with family and friends.

These aspects are reflected in a small display now open in the Kandy-Jane Henderson foyer of the JCPML.

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'

[JCPML00402/2]. John Curtin, his wife and their daughter Elsie were all avid readers and the front room of the home contained the extensive family library.

Son John described his father as an omnivorous reader who 'read everything. Honestly he'd pick up the grocery list and read that... he had a wide range of books... pretty deep stuff too a lot of it.' [JCPML00855/1]

A selection of books from the family library forms part of the

display, including two from the war years: C R Attlee's *Labor's aims in war and peace* and G Bessell-Brown's *The road to Kokoda and other verses*.

John Curtin's political activities took up a good deal of his time at home and intruded into his family life.

Daughter Elsie recalled that 'while he was just the Member for Fremantle, and even when he became Leader of the Opposition, there would be quite a lot of callers to the house, or non-stop telephone calls.' [JCPML00012]

When he was away in Canberra, John Curtin relied on his wife to manage the electoral correspondence and other commitments which today would be undertaken by electoral office staff.

You can view the display at the JCPML weekdays from 9am to 5pm until the end of August.

If you missed the previous foyer display 'They've cut me down to twelve, Glad', you can view an online version at john.curtin.edu.au/resources/smoking.html.



The large front room of the house pictured in 1943 had space for the Curtin's many books and comfortable reading chairs. JCPML376/35.