



# Curtin University

JOHN CURTIN PRIME MINISTERIAL LIBRARY  
CURTIN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

# INFORMATION UPDATE

JUNE 2013

## If they could see us now - JCPML Anniversary Lecture

**The Hon Chief Justice Robert French AC, will present the 14th John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library Anniversary Lecture on Thursday 18 July 2013.**

The lecture, entitled 'If they could see us now - what would the founders say?', will focus on the evolution of our Federation. The Chief Justice will approach the founders' intentions by reference to perceptions of the federal system at the turn of the 19th/20th Century and contemporary writings.

Robert French was appointed Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia on 1 September 2008. At the time of his appointment he was a Judge of the Federal Court of Australia, having been appointed to that office in November 1986. He is a graduate of the University of Western Australia in science and law. He was admitted in 1972 and practised as a barrister and solicitor in Western Australia until 1983 when he went to the Independent Bar.

From 1994 to 1998 he was President of the National Native Title Tribunal. At the time of his appointment he was an additional member of the Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory and a member of the Supreme Court of Fiji.

He was also Deputy President of the Australian Competition Tribunal and part time member of the Australian Law Reform Commission. From 2001 to January 2005 he was President of the Australian Association of Constitutional Law.

In 2012 he was made a Companion in the Order of Australia and Fellow of the Academy of Social Science in Australia.

*Your invitation to the 2013 Anniversary Lecture is enclosed.*



Right: Hon Chief Justice Robert French AC, photo taken by Klaus Schmechtig.

Make tomorrow better.

visit [john.curtin.edu.au](http://john.curtin.edu.au)

# THE CURTIN FAMILY: POLITICS AND POETRY



John Curtin's great grandson, Dr Toby Davidson is the 2013 John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library Visiting Scholar. He is an Australian poetry researcher and editor who has recently published his first book *Christian Mysticism and Australian Poetry*. Dr Davidson is also a lecturer at Macquarie University.

Dr Davidson will visit the JCPML to conduct his research and present his research findings at the Visiting Scholar Lecture early in 2014.

Toby will research the relationship between Curtin and poetry, interviews conducted with John Curtin regarding his love of poetry, identify what poetry was included in his personal library and why, the use of Australian poetry in John Curtin speeches and by other Curtin Family members, Abraham Needham and Elsie Macleod, who have also written poetry.

Poetry has played an important role in the life of John Curtin and his family. This research will explore an interesting aspect of Curtin's life and the fact that the research will be conducted by the great grandson of John Curtin, who is also a published poet, is very special.



Top: Toby Davidson. Left: Abraham Needham, Bellerive Tasmania, n.d. Records of the Curtin Family. JCPML00381/5. Middle: Elsie Macleod, marriage photograph, 1948. Records of the Curtin Family. JCPML00376/118. Right: John Curtin working on a Sunday morning, Lodge study, Canberra, 1942. Records of the Curtin Family. JCPML00376/6.

## 2013 Hazel Hawke Scholarship winner

Ms Delray Newman is the recipient of this year's scholarship and has commenced studying primary school education at Curtin University. To celebrate, the JCPML hosted an afternoon tea in May, attended by four generations of Delray's family.

Delray commented, "the challenge of studying is something that I am really enjoying, putting the previous experiences that I have working with children into context and expanding my knowledge more than I realised. I am thrilled to be receiving this scholarship because it really helps financially and I am grateful to all who are involved. It has also been such a positive experience for me coming to university and showing my four children that you should always pursue what is important to you".

The inaugural Hazel Hawke scholarship was awarded in 2000 and there have been ten recipients in total, studying in fields as diverse as education, fine arts and nursing. The annual scholarship has a particular focus on supporting education opportunities for mature age female students.

As we published the newsletter Hazel Hawke's passing was announced. The John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library is honoured to have the Hazel Hawke Collection and acknowledges the contribution of a remarkable woman.



Four generations. Back: Betty Dixon, Yvonne Busby and Delray Newman. Front: Lani & Macy Newman.

John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library  
Curtin University, Kent St, Bentley WA 6102  
GPO Box U1987 Perth WA 6845  
Tel: +61 8 9266 4205 Fax: +61 8 9266 4185  
Email: [jcpml@curtin.edu.au](mailto:jcpml@curtin.edu.au) Web: [john.curtin.edu.au](http://john.curtin.edu.au)