



Curtin University

JOHN CURTIN PRIME MINISTERIAL LIBRARY
CURTIN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

INFORMATION UPDATE

MARCH 2014

2013-2014 Visiting Scholar Lecture

The 2013-2014 JCPML Visiting Scholar is Dr Toby Davidson. Toby is the great grandson of John Curtin, an Australian poetry researcher and editor, and a lecturer at Macquarie University.

Dr Davidson will visit the JCPML from the 15th - 30th April to conduct his research and present his research findings at the Visiting Scholar Lecture.

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

Poetry has played an important role in the life of John Curtin and his family members. 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 a unique opportunity.

The title of the lecture is *Good for the Soul: John Curtin's Life with Poetry*.

Above: Elsie Curtin at Home (24 Jarrad St) C.1945. Records of the Curtin Family. JCPML00376/47. Below left: Dr Toby Davidson. Below right: John Curtin reading c1942. Records of the Curtin Family. JCPML00381/33.



Event Details:

Date Wednesday 30th April 2014

Time 4.30pm – 5.30pm

Venue Council Chambers Level 3 Building 100
Curtin University, Kent Street, Bentley

The lecture will be followed by light refreshments.

RSVP by 11th April 2014

Telephone +618 9266 4912 or

Email library-events@curtin.edu.au

Free parking (excluding disabled or reserved bays) is available in Car Park D3 from 4.30pm. Enter via the main entrance on Kent Street and follow the signs.

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THE BATTLE FOR AUSTRALIA

The Battle for Australia, launched by His Excellency Malcolm McCusker AC CVO QC at the JCPML on November 9, is Queensland author Bob Wurth's fifth book, and three of these have dealt with differing aspects of the critical years of John Curtin's prime ministership.

Specifically, in thirteen of its fifteen chapters *The Battle for Australia* is focussed on events between January and August 1942 and is designed to counter any attempt to ridicule the concept that there was a Battle for Australia and moments when the fate of Australia trembled in the balance. In the process, with well documented evidence Bob Wurth has vividly revealed through descriptions of Curtin's anxiety and ill health 'the stresses that can consume those in public office in times of great crisis' and in Curtin's case on 21 January 1942 led to his decision to take medical advice and return to Perth by train.

Curtin arrived back in Melbourne on 1 February and the rest as they say is history, related in detail in this splendid addition to the Curtin lexicon.

Professor David Black
JCPML Historical Consultant



A copy of the speech by His Excellency Malcolm McCusker, AC, CVO QC, Governor of Western Australia is available on the book launch webpage:
<http://john.curtin.edu.au/events/speeches/wurth2013.html>



Left: Acting VC Prof Graeme Wright, His Excellency Malcolm McCusker AC CVO QC Governor of Western Australia, Ms Beverley Lane, US Consul General Ms Cynthia Griffin, Mr Bob Wurth and Emeritus Professor David Black. Right: Mr Bob Wurth at the launch of his book, *The Battle for Australia*.

JCPML Education Resources

Digital Treasure Box

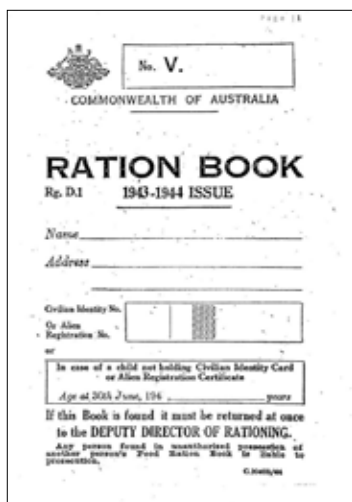
JCPML learning resources for primary and lower secondary students have been available for loan to WA regional schools in the form of Treasure Boxes. In addition to these physical resources, the JCPML now offers a digital Treasure Box available online at

<http://john.curtin.edu.au/education/treasurebox/treasureboxdigital.html>

The new digital Treasure Box explores the Australian experience of the Pacific theatre of World War II with a focus upon the home front, including austerity measures and preparations for possible invasion.

It features updated versions of activity sheets, detailed lesson plans for teachers and links to JCPML resources online, including digital games, the ERA database and virtual exhibitions. Worksheets have been enhanced with new visual resources from Trove and the National War Memorial, including reproductions of 1940s advertisements and photographs. Copyright compliance of all resources in the digital Treasure Box has been reviewed and where material cannot be reproduced, links to relevant audiovisual resources available online have been included.

Teachers and students alike will enjoy the varied and interesting activities contained in the digital Treasure Box, which range from worksheets, games and radio performances to cartoon analysis and exploration of Australian magazines and newspapers from World War II. The digitisation of these resources makes the educational materials of the JCPML accessible to the widest possible audience and maintains its reputation as Australia's premier resource for schools on the life and times of John Curtin.



Replica of a World War II Australian ration book, part of the digital Treasure Box.

Farewell to Jasmine Day

After nearly 3 years as the JCPML Education Officer, Dr Jasmine Day has left the JCPML. We wish Jasmine all the best for the future.



Dr Jasmine Day

John Curtin play wins WA Premier's Book Award

Commissioned by Curtin University Library as part of the John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library Visiting Scholar program, *The Fremantle Candidate* is an engaging play by Ingle Knight, based on a putative friendship between soon-to-be Prime Minister John Curtin and Western Australian academic Walter Murdoch. Their encounter is situated at a pivotal and dramatic moment of personal and political crisis.

The play won the 2013 script category of the WA Premier's Book Awards, with Ingle Knight being described as a "playwright at the peak of his craft" for the "deceptive ease of this theatrical construction."

The Fremantle Candidate premiered in July 2012 as part of the Deckchair Theatre's program sponsored by Curtin University Library.

Oral History of John Curtin's grandchildren

Oral histories of John Curtin's grandchildren, Mrs Barbara Davidson and Mrs Beverley Lane were conducted in 2013 by Heather Campbell. The oral histories are being added to the collection and will be available for public access.

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A stylized, handwritten signature of John Curtin in black ink.