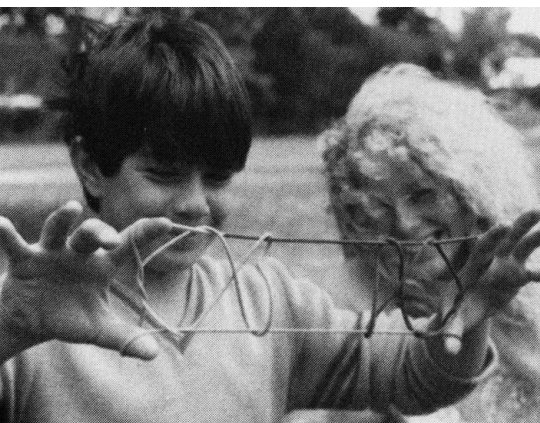


November 2010

Information Update

Exploring the folklore of Western Australia and its people



Launch of the Western Australian Folklore Archive

1 December 2010

The WA Folklore Archive is the only state folklore archive in Australia. It collects, records, preserves and gives public access to the rich folk traditions, past and present, of Western Australians. It is a unique and valuable resource for research, education and tourism.

Professor Graham Seal, Director of the Australian Folklore Research Unit at Curtin, donated the Archive to Curtin University Library in 2008.

The Archive holds student, staff and community-collected materials, including over 170 fieldwork projects undertaken by Curtin folklore students. These reports, interviews, photographs and surveys engage with topics as diverse as urban legends in Perth, folklore of pregnancy and childbirth, droving traditions, superstitions and workplace customs.

In collaboration with the National Library of Australia (NLA) there is now improved online access to interviews recorded as part of the WA Folklife Project since 2004. The interviews document WA

traditions including country music and travelling shows, folk medicine, the early rock 'n' roll era in WA, indigenous traditions in Derby, whaling, migration to WA, and farming traditions.

The Archive also holds copies of material from the Foothills Connection Community Heritage Project, a joint initiative of Curtin's Folklore Unit, the Shire of Kalamunda and the State Library of WA from 1988 to 1990. Community volunteers recorded their own history in interviews, photographs and song. With the support of the Shire and State Library, the Archive is providing enhanced access to these items.

Works on folklore, string figures and storytelling by Perth based comedian and yarn-spinner, Kel Watkins, are another significant part of the Archive. These include recordings of live performances, radio interviews and demonstrations of complex string figures.

The WA Folklore Archive is held by Curtin University Library and housed in the John Curtin Prime

Ministerial Library. Many items, including selected fieldwork projects, items in the Kel Watkins collection and many interviews and photographs associated with the Foothills Community Project and WA Folklife Project, are being progressively digitised for online access.

Find out more about the WA Folklore Archive by visiting john.curtin.edu.au/folklore from 1 December.

You are warmly invited to the launch of the WA Folklore Archive on Wednesday 1 December. At this event Graham Seal will speak about the development of the Archive and Kel Watkins will entertain you with tales of collecting folklore.

Left image: From *String games* by Kel Watkins and Mike & Michelle Jackson, Hodja Educational Resources, 1986. Records of Kel Watkins.

Right image: From *Folklore of Wedge Island*, Christine Eyres, 1998. Folklore fieldwork project. WA Folklore Archive


JOHN CURTIN PRIME MINISTERIAL LIBRARY

Elizabeth Jolley biographer wins WA Premier's Book Award



Photograph of portrait of Elizabeth Jolley, 1995, by Ben Joel. CUL00004/10/15.

The 2008 Western Australian Premier's Book Award in the WA History category has been awarded to Brian Dibble, Emeritus Professor of Comparative Literature at Curtin University, for his acclaimed biography of Elizabeth Jolley, *Doing Life*.

Professor Dibble, in collaboration with Barbara Milech, Associate Professor in the Department of Communication and Cultural Studies at Curtin University, compiled the comprehensive bibliography of Elizabeth Jolley's work which is the foundation of the online Elizabeth Jolley Research Collection.

Curtin Library warmly congratulates Brian Dibble on this significant award.

Check out the Elizabeth Jolley Research Collection john.curtin.edu.au/jolley for a comprehensive bibliography of works by and about Elizabeth Jolley.

Photographs find a wider audience via Picture Australia

Now accessible to researchers worldwide are images from the Carmen Lawrence and Project Endeavour collections. The images are searchable via the National Library of Australia's Picture Australia online database.

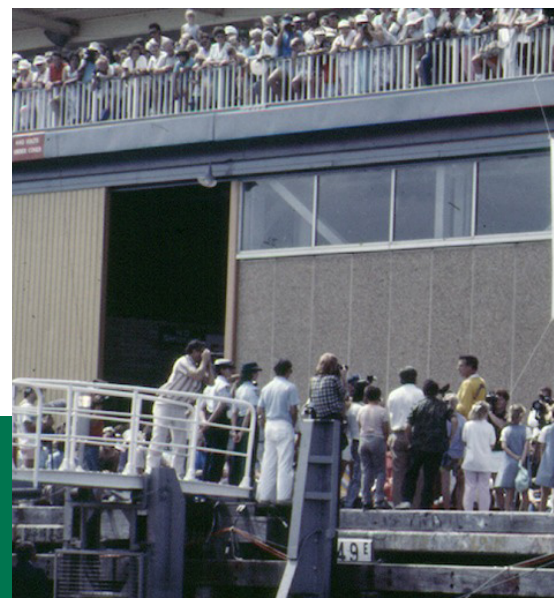
Over 300 photographs dating from 1986 to the early 1990s provide a visual record of the many functions Dr Lawrence was involved in as both a Member of the WA Legislative Assembly for the electorates of Subiaco and Glendalough and then as Premier of the State.

Project Endeavour images document solo yachtsman Jon Sanders' successful triple circumnavigation of the world on the *Parry Endeavour* between May 1986 and March 1988. The thousand or so photographs in the collection show the preparation of the yacht, the departure and arrival celebrations at Fremantle, the scientific package used by Sanders to verify the existence of an underwater sea mount in the South Pacific Ocean, and everyday life at sea for the lone sailor.

Images from the JCPML and Geoff Gallop collections have been available for the past few years through Picture Australia.

To search over 1.8 million images held by Australian collecting institutions, including the JCPML and Curtin University Library, visit Picture Australia at www.pictureaustralia.gov.au/.

The Carmen Lawrence and Project Endeavour collections can be searched at john.curtin.edu.au/lawrence and john.curtin.edu.au/endeavour.



Top right image: Carmen Lawrence with a group of children, 1992. Records of Carmen Lawrence. CUL00005/3/27.

Bottom right image: Jon Sanders arriving home after 658 days at sea, Fremantle Passenger Terminal, March 1988. Records of Project Endeavour. CUL00039/13/17.

1913 photograph sheds light on John Curtin's early involvement with the national Labor movement

A 1913 photograph donated to the JCPML nearly a hundred years later by the WA Branch of the Labor Party shows John Curtin at an Interstate Congress of the Trades and Labor Council in Adelaide. The twelve delegates, all men, are formally posed and wearing suits and ties.

At that time, John Curtin was Secretary of the Victorian Timber Workers' Union and Alex McCallum, also pictured in the group portrait, was General Secretary of the Australian Labour Federation in WA. This may well have been the first meeting between the two men. McCallum was instrumental in recruiting Curtin some years later for the position of editor of the West Australian Labor newspaper, the *Westralian Worker*.

The Congress was the first national meeting of trade union councils since 1907 and the delegates represented some 700,000 union members. Their aim was to form a Grand Council, a federal body to deal with industrial matters.

While issues including the 44 hour week and setting a minimum wage for women workers were discussed, no Grand Council eventuated. John Curtin's own copy of the conference proceedings forms part of the Curtin family records held in the JCPML. (JCPML00401/5).



Curtin biographer, David Day, noted that Curtin returned from the Adelaide conference frustrated and angry at the conservative nature of his trade union colleagues. (Day, *John Curtin, A Life*, p 171). Lecturing at Melbourne's Gaiety Theatre soon after the Congress, Curtin called for 'an Australian Federation of Labor, with less unions and more unionists; with more agitation, more militancy, and less disorganisation and patching up'. ('Closer organisation', *Timber Worker*, 10 November 1913. JCPML00615/19)



Delegates to the Interstate Congress, Trades and Labor Council. Adelaide, November 1913. John Curtin is in the back row, third from the right. Alex McCallum is second from the left, also in the back row. Records of the Australian Labor Party WA Branch. JCPML01135/23.

FIGHTING LABOR'S BATTLES

Conscription, the Great Depression, and Party Unity



Geoff Gallop at Wilson Wetlands, Arbor Day, 2004.
Records of Geoff Gallop. GG00020/11

A new JCPML web resource highlights John Curtin's commitment to the cause of Labor, initially as a radical Socialist and unionist, and then as editor of a Labor newspaper, member of parliament, and leader of the Australian Labor Party.

The battles John Curtin fought were always Labor's battles. He pursued fair wages and conditions for working men and women, and better social services and security for all.

Labor also had internal battles to be fought, with the ALP enduring deep divisions over issues such as military conscription in the two world wars and how best to deal with Australia's problems in the Great Depression.

John Curtin did not shrink from these battles – he was a strong anti-conscriptionist in World War I and opposed the Premiers' Plan in the Depression years.

As ALP leader from 1935 he 'battled' to unify the party which

was depleted financially and ideologically and split into warring factions in New South Wales. His success saw him heading a Labor government in wartime.

Ironically, as prime minister, different times and desperate circumstances meant he reversed Labor's policy of 'no conscription for overseas service'.

Fighting Labor's Battles was written by Bobbie Oliver, Associate Professor of History at Curtin University.

Dr Oliver's research interests include Australian and comparative labour history, civil liberties, labour and industrial heritage and WA's history. She has authored many publications including *Unity is Strength: A history of the Australian Labor Party and the Trades and Labor Council in Western Australia* (2003).

You can view the web resource, *Fighting Labor's Battles*, at john.curtin.edu.au/battles.

Speaking to the People

Throughout his years as WA Premier (2001-2006), Geoff Gallop ensured that substantial reports on the achievements and policies of his government were produced on a regular basis. Indeed no state government in WA has ever documented its own achievements so systematically.

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

Entitled *Speaking to the People*, the new display highlights the role of communication in the Gallop government.

Dr Gallop lodged his personal papers with Curtin University Library in 2006, following his resignation as Premier. Dr Gallop felt a strong identification with Curtin – the University formed part of his Victoria Park electorate and he served over three years as a Councillor in Fremantle (John Curtin's electorate).

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

If you missed the previous foyer display 'John Curtin at home' you can view an online version at john.curtin.edu.au/resources/house.html.

'The light that failed. Vote No.' by Claude Marquet, ca 1916. Reproduced by John Curtin for the Trades Union Anti-Conscription Committee to promote the anti-conscription case. Records of the Curtin Family. JCPML00399/3.

