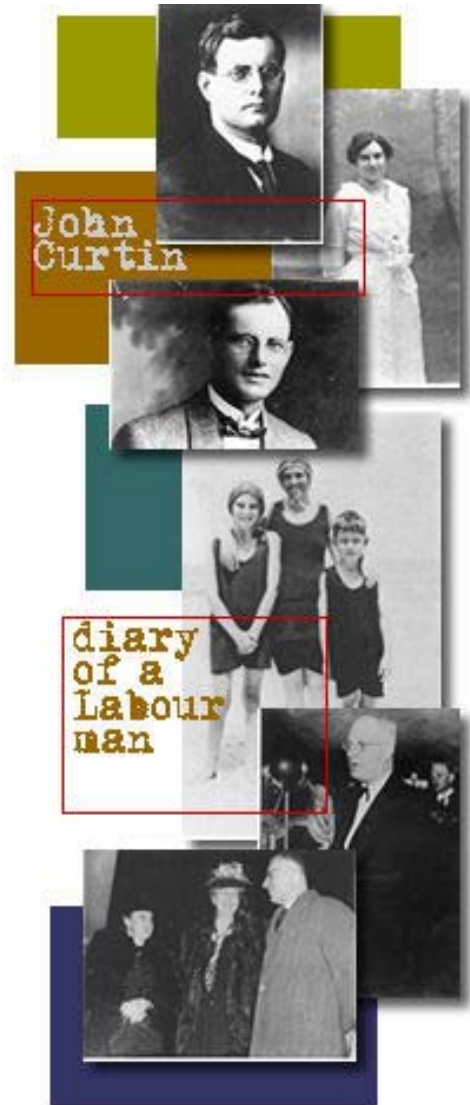


Information Update



Diary of a Labour Man

Did John Curtin keep a diary?

While researchers dream of finding such a treasure, historian Heather Campbell has set about creating the next best thing.

A record of John Curtin's daily life, initially from 1917 to 1928 whilst he was editor of WA's labour weekly, the *Westralian Worker*, has been compiled by the JCPML.

Sources include information from the *Westralian Worker*, supplemented by family papers, photographs and published biographies. While it is not an exhaustive account of Curtin's activities it does paint a picture of the day to day life of this remarkable man.

From the day of Curtin's arrival in

Perth from Melbourne on the *Katoomba*, looking 'fit and well', the diary reveals a demanding schedule of continuous newspaper deadlines, endless meetings (both day and night), frequent speaking engagements, and constant rounds of State and Federal election campaigns along with the odd by-election.

Curtin's frenetic activity is set against the backdrop of the fiery and divisive conscription battles of World War One and the many problems Australia faced in the post-war period and the emerging Great Depression.

Photographs, correspondence, and many fascinating excerpts from the pages of the *Westralian Worker* enliven the diary.

It is available at john.curtin.edu.au/diary/editor/ or look under What's new on the JCPML website.

A Prime Minister's Treasure

An episode of the Film Australia series *The Prime Ministers' National Treasures* shown on ABC television in mid-September featured John Curtin's Australian Journalists' Association badge. Cartoonist and yarn spinner, Warren Brown, used the AJA badge that Curtin always wore on his lapel to reveal how Curtin's journalistic instincts came in handy during World War Two when he kept the media onside with secret press briefings. The badge is part of the Curtin family records in the JCPML collection and is currently on display in the Prime Ministers Centre exhibition at Old Parliament House in Canberra.



JCPML0028711

New research to delve into Curtin's relationship with Roosevelt

The 2008 JCPML Visiting Scholar, Dr Steven Casey, will focus his research on the relationship between Prime Minister Curtin and President Roosevelt. He is seeking to uncover more information about the meetings between the two leaders in the United States in 1944.

Dr Casey is a Senior Lecturer in International History at the London School of Economics and Political Science. His primary research interest is US foreign policy since 1933, looking particularly at the interaction between domestic public opinion and foreign-policy-making.

His first book *Cautious Crusade: Franklin D. Roosevelt, American Public Opinion and the War against Nazi Germany* was

published in 2001 and his most recent work, *Selling the Korean War: Propaganda, Politics, and the Press*, is due out in February 2008. In 2004-5 Dr Casey was the recipient of the Truman Presidential Institute Scholar's Award.



JCPML00376/123



Busy end-of-year Education program

Lessons from the past was the theme of the 2007 National History Challenge. Continuing a well established tradition, the JCPML was the venue for both judging days in August and the State Awards Presentation ceremony on October 13. For the first time in several years, the judges awarded a state prize for our special category, *The Life and Times of John Curtin*. Cameron Payne of St Marks Anglican Community School was the proud winner with his essay about the effects of WWII. This year's coveted Premier's Prize for the WA Young Historian went to PLC student Ashleigh McCloskey. Her essay examined the costly mistakes made by Australia during the two world wars.

Another highlight was a series of workshops given to the Curtin Education Faculty students in Greg Dick's Ed 236 Society & Environment Curriculum classes. Students were invited to experience the JCPML primary school program by participating in activities themselves. A lot of fun was had by all and the JCPML was delighted to be able to present its programs to the next generation of primary school teachers.



Curtin University Library News

Curtin University Library had a chance to highlight its innovative learning spaces to interstate and overseas visitors in mid-September.

The Library hosted a tour as part of the *Places and Spaces – for Learning* seminars organized by the Carrick Institute for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education.

Seminars were conducted around Australia as an opportunity for those responsible for planning space usage within institutions to identify, consolidate and disseminate good practice in the refurbishment and development of innovative learning and teaching environments.

The international keynote speaker, Mr Les Watson, attended the tour led by Karen Tang, member of the Library's Space Planning Advisory Group. Mr Watson is acknowledged around the world for his expertise in reshaping the way universities use space,



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