As JCPML Visiting Scholar, Wurth’s research focused on the sometimes secretive personal relationships that developed between prime ministers Robert Menzies, Arthur Fadden and John Curtin, and the Japanese Envoy to Australia, Tatsuo Kawai.

Against the backdrop of Japanese expansion southwards and the growing fear of war between their countries, desperate private diplomacy took place between these men and unlikely friendships formed. In particular, Curtin and Kawai ‘became increasingly close, bearing their hearts to one another and exchanging opinions’.

The web resource and exhibition showcase photographs and documents sourced by Wurth in researching for his book Saving Australia: Curtin’s secret peace with Japan.

These papers, donated to the JCPML in 2008, include records first identified during Wurth’s trips to Japan and in particular during his visit with Tatsuo Kawai’s son Masumi at the family retreat at Manazuru.

View the online resource at: john.curtin.edu.au/envoy.

Members of the public are welcome to visit the exhibition in the Robertson Library at Curtin University of Technology from 19 November 2009 to 5 February 2010.

The exhibition will then relocate to the Kandy-Jane Henderson foyer of the JCPML to enable visiting school groups to engage with it in terms one and two.

From July 2010 it will be available for other institutions to host.

Your invitation to the launch of the Menzies, Fadden, Curtin and the Japanese Envoy web resource and exhibition is enclosed.
The JCPML’s major exhibition, *The pursuit of knowledge: Curtin, looking ever forward*, has recently been updated, ensuring that the displays showcasing Curtin University’s innovative research remain current.

**RADIO ASTRONOMY**

An exciting new display on radio astronomy and the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) showcases the work of the Curtin Institute of Radio Astronomy (CIRA) under the leadership of co-directors Professors Steven Tingay and Peter Hall.

Fifty times more sensitive than any previous radio telescope, the SKA will allow the study of our Universe over its entire history.

Three deceptively fragile looking antennas from the Murchison Widefield Array feature in the exhibit along with an engaging audio visual presentation.

**DIGITAL ECOSYSTEMS**

The existing very popular Digital Ecosystems display with its interactive computer simulation of ‘swarm’ behaviour of digital species in the online world, has been enhanced by adding a second generation simulation program. Newly developed by researchers at Curtin’s Digital Ecosystems and Business Intelligence Institute, version 2 of the digital ecosystem simulator explores knowledge management in an organisation by predicting levels of knowledge sharing and trust between members of the community.

**CRYSTALLISING OUR VIEW OF THE EARLIEST EARTH**

Ongoing research by Professors Bob Pidgeon and Simon Wilde from Curtin’s Department of Applied Geology on ancient rocks from the Jack Hills area, has provided further insights into the nature of the crust of the earliest Earth.

The latest update to this display incorporates these new findings.

A sample of the Jack Hills conglomerate which travelled into space with Australian astronaut Andy Thomas, has been added to the exhibit. Also showcased, is the ‘space suit’ the sample travelled in and its certificate of authenticity.

**Antennas in a ‘tile’ configuration from the Murchison Widefield Array as used by Curtin researchers. Three of these antennas are on display in the exhibition.**

The Pursuit of Knowledge exhibition is open Monday to Friday from 12 noon to 5 pm in the Wesfarmers Exhibition area in the John Curtin Gallery, building 200A, on Curtin’s Bentley campus. Admission is free.

**2010 Visiting Scholar**

The JCPML is pleased to announce that respected WA playwright Ingle Knight will be the Visiting Scholar for 2010.

Ingle will research the influences on John Curtin in the period leading up to his re-election as federal MP for Fremantle in 1934 to write the script of a play focussing on Curtin in these ‘lost years’.

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