

October 2009

Information Update



Menzies, Fadden, Curtin and the Japanese Envoy

2009 JCPML Visiting Scholar Bob Wurth is a former journalist who took up writing and researching full time in 1999. He was also awarded an Australian Prime Ministers Centre Fellowship in late 2008 to further his current research on wartime prime ministers.

Wurth worked from 1981-85 for the ABC as a foreign correspondent based in Singapore, reporting for radio and television on major events across the region. He was ABC Manager for Asia before becoming Manager of ABC radio and television in Queensland.

His publications include:

Justice in the Philippines, Father Brian Gore, the church, the state and the military, ABC Books, 1985

Saving Australia: Curtin's secret peace with Japan, Lothian Books, 2006

1942: Australia's greatest peril, Pan Macmillan, 2008

'A link fashioned in iron: the Curtin-Kawai thread'. In *An enduring friendship: Western Australia and Japan – Past, present and future*, edited by David Black and Sachiko Sone, Westerly Centre, 2009, pp.91-102

Capturing Asia, ABC Books, to be published in June 2010.

Bob Wurth will speak at the launch of a new JCPML web resource and travelling exhibition *Menzies, Fadden, Curtin and the Japanese Envoy* on 19 November 2009.

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..


JOHN CURTIN PRIME MINISTERIAL LIBRARY



JCPML exhibition expanded and updated



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 5pm 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'.

Curtin University Library &
John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library
Curtin University of Technology,
Kent St, Bentley WA 6102
GPO Box U1987 Perth WA 6845

John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library
Tel: 08 9266 4205 Fax: 08 9266 4185
Email: jcpml@curtin.edu.au
Web: john.curtin.edu.au