APRIL  
2000

## Launch of *John Curtin's Legacy*

In the lead up to ANZAC Day, the John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library celebrated the launch of its newest book with an afternoon tea for special guests on 17 April, at which Associate Professor David Black, JCPML Historical Consultant, officially launched *John Curtin's Legacy: A series of public lectures from the John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library*.

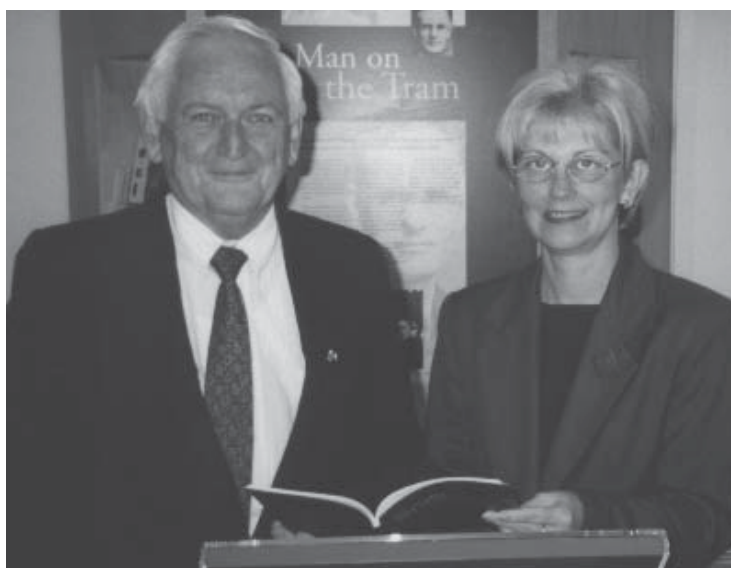
This publication brings together a small, but eminent, body of work from five distinguished lecturers who have participated in the JCPML's public lecture program since the program's inception in 1997. These include the first two Curtin Anniversary Lectures — delivered by former Prime Minister Gough Whitlam, the Library's inaugural patron, and community leader Mrs Hazel Hawke — and three special lectures from distinguished historians Geoffrey Serle and David Day, and Michelle Grattan, one of Australia's most influential and respected political journalists. The speeches discuss a range of issues from political democracy, reform and republicanism, to the repercussions of

social and economic restructuring of Australian society and the power of the press.

In addition, the book includes extracts from Curtin's editorials published between 1917 and 1932 and drawn from the JCPML collection. Using his own words, they give an indication of some of the attitudes and ideals he held throughout his political and personal life and allow readers to contrast Curtin's views with those offered in the modern speeches. Plus *John*

*Curtin's Legacy* offers two splendid historical insights into Curtin the man and the national leader, one by Geoffrey Serle which offers us glimpses over the whole of Curtin's career, and the other by his most recent biographer David Day which gives a fascinating and stimulating look at 'John Curtin's first war'.

The book retails for \$10 plus postage and handling and order enquiries should be directed to (08) 9266 2414 (an order form is included with this newsletter). ►



Associate Professor David Black with JCPML Director, Vicki Williamson, at the launch of the JCPML's newest book

# From the Director's Desk ...

As we head into a new century, it seems timely to take stock of what we have planned for 2000 and to reflect on the progress we have made in establishing Australia's first prime ministerial library.



Critical to our success have been the constructive partnerships the JCPML has built up with other institutions and corporations and the relationships we have developed between ourselves and our donors and sponsors over the years. We have embarked on several projects with, for example, the National Archives of Australia, the National Library of Australia and the History Teachers

Association of Western Australia. The confidence and experience we have gained from these partnerships and the quality of the programs that have resulted, have led us to embark on our most innovative project to date – producing a play based on the meeting between John Curtin

and Douglas MacArthur – that sees us joined in partnership with the Perth Theatre Company and local playwright George Blazevic.

This month we are very pleased to be able to launch our latest publication, *John Curtin's Legacy*, which highlights the small, but eminent, body of work resulting from our program of public lectures by distinguished lecturers since 1997. The book also contains excerpts from John Curtin's editorials between 1917 and 1932 which put forward his views on some of the issues discussed in the lectures, while Associate Professor David Black has kindly written the foreword for us. Joining our distinguished list of lecturers is Dr John Edwards who is the JCPML Visiting Scholar for 2000. Dr Edwards is a well-known economist and political writer and he is interested in researching John Curtin's contributions to economic and social policies.

All in all we have a very exciting year ahead of us.

Dr Vicki Williamson  
JCPML Director

## New JCPML education web page launched

The JCPML web site has been given a new look for 2000. A feature of the revamped web site is the addition of an education web page.

Targetted primarily at students and teachers, the new link has resources for both primary school and high school studies with activities for students from years 5 through to 12. In addition the site has information about the forthcoming National History Challenge, including hints and advice for students wanting to enter the John Curtin category. A handy online booking form for teachers to book visits to the JCPML is available for downloading.

The link can be found at: <http://john.curtin.edu.au/...>

## Curtin delights Seniors



Ros Marshall (far left) with Seniors tour — Northern Districts WAAFs

The first Seniors Tour for 2000 took place on 22 February with 38 participants from the South Perth Men's Probus Club. Members and their partners enjoyed viewing a film on the life and times of John Curtin and were very moved by the 1945 footage of his funeral. Afterwards a conducted tour of the major exhibition, *John Curtin: A Man of Peace, A Time of War*, was given. Participants found

this so intriguing that they postponed their morning tea at the adjacent Kirribilli Café in order to spend more time in the exhibition.

Guided exhibition tours and film screenings may be arranged by appointment for groups of eight or more on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Bookings should be made through the JCPML office on (08) 9266 4205.

# New play to bring Curtin alive

The JCPML will collaborate with the Perth Theatre Company to bring to life aspects of the life of the wartime prime minister, John Curtin.

Well-known Perth playwright, George Blazevic, has been engaged to script the project, which forms part of the JCPML's plan to raise the profile of one of Australia's most respected political leaders. JCPML Director, Vicki Williamson, says this will be the first time two such organizations have joined forces to create a major contemporary theatre work focusing on the wartime experience and the forging of Asia-Pacific relations.

The first stage of the project is nearing completion with the production of the first draft of the script. This will be followed



*Archivist Kandy-Jane Henderson shows playwright George Blazevic the cable ordering MacArthur to come to Australia*

by a two-week developmental workshop. It is envisaged that the play, entitled *In the Shadow of the Eagle*, will not only be performed for general audiences but will be adapted for use

within the JCPML education program.

George Blazevic is the writer of *Nevesinjka 17*, the Deckchair Theatre play that recently toured in Croatia. ►

## Professional Highlights

The JCPML Director, Vicki Williamson, was awarded her PhD in February for her thesis, *Innovation and change in professional practice: A case study*. The thesis has been nominated for the Australian College of Education's Heather Barr Award.

Congratulations from JCPML staff and supporters!

## Seminar day success

The History Teachers' Association of WA held their annual Seminar Day on Saturday March 11th at the John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library.

A focus of the Day was the meaning of Australia's national identity — post Mabo, post Wik and post Preamble. Keynote speaker, Mr Bill Bunbury, addressed this and other issues speaking on the topic "Accepted myths and missed messages".

Three workshop sessions provided a wide range of topics and opportunities for participants to improve their professional knowledge, teaching strategies, understanding of the syllabus and the TEE examination. JCPML staff presented a session encompassing a tour of the archives and research possibilities which was well received by attendees. ►

## 2000 Scholar appointed

JCPML's Visiting Scholar for 2000 is John Edwards, chief economist for HSBC Australia. From 1991-1994 John was senior economic adviser to Treasurer, then Prime Minister, Paul Keating. He is the author of *Keating* and three other books. Before joining Mr Keating John was the Washington correspondent for the *Sydney Morning Herald* and had spent his early career as a economic and political reporter in Sydney, Canberra and Washington. He holds a PhD. in economics from George Washington University.

John was a visiting fellow in the Economic History Department of the ANU's Research School of Social Sciences from 1994 to 1996. He is particularly interested in John Curtin's contributions in economic and social policy and will be researching these topics at the JCPML. ►

## Scholarship available

The inaugural Hazel Hawke Scholarship is now available to undergraduate students studying at Curtin University. Applications are now being sought. Please check the JCPML website for further details (<http://john.curtin.edu.au>).

# C O R N E R C O L L E C T I O N



*One of the photographs donated by the Western Australian Newspapers featuring John Curtin with Eleanor Roosevelt*

Over the past twelve months JCPML staff have been active in identifying John Curtin-related material located in newspaper archives around the country. Several substantial donations have been made to the JCPML recently which will be of real benefit to John Curtin researchers.

The majority of the donations were photographic and several hundred new photos have now been accessioned into the collection from the West

Australian Newspapers (WAN), the Fairfax newspapers, the Herald and Weekly Times and Australian Consolidated Press (ACP). In addition, ACP made a major contribution of press clippings as well as donating a number of John Curtin's policy statements and speeches.

Photographs from the WAN archives are available for viewing through ERA (<http://john.curtin.edu.au>).

## New primary program offered

The new JCPML education program launched for 2000 is aimed at primary school students in years 5 to 7. The program provides comprehensive lesson plans and resources for the classroom teacher to be used with the students prior to their visit to the JCPML.

The program centres around the JCPML's major exhibition featuring the Pacific theatre during World War II and Australia on the homefront. Students gain an understanding of the importance of rationing on the homefront. Student activities at the JCPML are all hands-on and work is in small groups as students explore such maths activities as calculating timeline and sterling currency problems, work out crosswords and jigsaws, answer sequencing and CD-ROM questions and play a special John Curtin edition of snakes and ladders.

By the time students finish the program they will have a sound knowledge of Australia's wartime prime minister, John Curtin, and Australians participation in the Pacific War. The program runs on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and booking forms can be obtained from the JCPML office on (08) 9266 4205.

## Visitors to the JCPML Challenge Bank Reading Room

Danny Cusack  
Genevieve Focio  
Margaret Form  
Imogen Garner  
Simon Gouell  
Paula Hamilton  
Shelley Hills  
David Horner  
Amanda Lampe  
Joan Lampe  
Gail MacMillan  
Justine McDermott  
Michael Phillips  
Athanac Psaros  
Ted Snell  
Tom Stannage  
David Toll  
Annabel Turner  
John Waddingham  
Emmett McGeever  
Juliana and Greg Whitfield  
Michael Woods

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Bob Bessant  
Hazel Hawke  
Selby W Munsie  
Harvey R Pearce  
Susan Pieters-Hawke  
UWA Archives & Central Records

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