



THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

NAME OF COLLECTION

Fraser, John Malcolm (Rt Hon.)

ACCESSION NO

105/72 (formerly NAA M1265)

CATEGORY

Community and Political, individuals

ACTIVITY

Prime Ministers, Politicians, Farmers

DATE RANGE

1971–1983

SIZE OF COLLECTION

0.54 metres (2 boxes)

HISTORICAL NOTE

John Malcolm Fraser was born in Toorak, Melbourne on 21 May 1930.

His grandfather, Sir Simon Fraser (1832–1919), had emigrated from Canada in 1853, initially to work as a prospector, but later moving into business, farming and politics. He was elected to the Victorian Legislative Assembly in 1874 and later served as a delegate to the Australasian Federal Convention (1897–1898) and a senator representing the Free Trade Party (1901–1913).

Malcolm's father, John Neville Fraser (1890–1962), studied law at the University of Oxford, but on his return to Australia concerned himself largely with his work as a pastoralist. In 1926, he married Una Woolf. Neville and Una had two children: Lorraine (1926–) and (John) Malcolm (1930–).

The Fraser family lived at Balpool-Nyang near Moulamein in New South Wales before moving to 'Nareen', a station in western Victoria, in 1943. During this period Malcolm attended Tudor House School in New South Wales (1940–1943) and Melbourne Grammar (1944–1948). In 1949, he was admitted to the University of Oxford to study 'Modern Greats' (Politics, Philosophy and Economics).

After graduating, Malcolm Fraser returned to Victoria and decided to embark on a political career. He succeeded in being elected as Liberal member for the seat of Wannon in western Victoria at his second attempt in 1955. A backbencher under Menzies for ten years, Fraser gained his first cabinet post as Minister for the Army under Prime Minister Harold Holt in 1966. He went on to become Minister for Education and Science (1968–1969 and 1971–1972) and Minister for Defence (1969–1971). Following the Labor government's election win in 1972, he served as Shadow Minister for Industrial Relations. He became leader of the Liberal

	<p>Party in March 1975 and in November became caretaker Prime Minister after the Governor-General, Sir John Kerr, dismissed the Whitlam government. He was returned to office through election victories in 1975, 1977 and 1980, before losing to Bob Hawke at the 1983 election. He resigned from politics in March 1983.</p> <p>Following his formal political career, Malcolm Fraser has continued a presence on the world stage, as Chair of the United Nations Panel of Eminent Persons on the Role of Transnational Corporations in South Africa (1985); as Co-Chair of the Commonwealth Group of Eminent Persons campaigning for an end to apartheid in South Africa (1985–1986); and Chair of the UN Secretary-General’s Expert Group on African Commodity Issues (1989–1990). In 1987 he founded CARE Australia, the country’s largest non-political and non-religious overseas aid organisation and was president of CARE International from 1990 to 1995. In 1997, he led a Commonwealth Observer Mission to Pakistan to monitor the national elections.</p> <p>Malcolm Fraser remains actively interested in issues associated with human rights, multiculturalism and reconciliation with indigenous Australians. He has been highly critical of the Howard government’s involvement in the war in Iraq, as well as of its treatment of asylum seekers.</p>
DATE OF TRANSFER	March 2005
ACCESS CONDITIONS	Open
DESCRIPTION	<p>These folders contain drafts and finals of electorate talks (transcripts of radio broadcasts) and press releases prepared for J. M. (Malcolm) Fraser as Member for Wannan (Victoria), including as Minister for Education and Science (August 1971–December 1972), Leader of the Opposition (March–November 1975) and his later years as Prime Minister (1981–83). Overall, the series dates from 1971 to early 1983, although there are no records for the period October 1975 to April 1981 inclusive.</p> <p>The earlier electorate talks in the series (to 1973) were broadcast direct on local radio stations 3HA (Hamilton), 3YB (Warrnambool) and 3LK (Western Victoria) in a series ‘Our Australia’. Occasionally prefaced with the phrase ‘This is Malcolm Fraser in Canberra’, the transcripts were distributed to Liberal Party branches and local newspapers in his electorate. These talks cover matters both specific to the Western District, e.g. postal and telephone services; and of wider public interest, e.g. CSIRO, education, wool industry, rural reconstruction. The radio broadcasts for 1974–75 were probably also given locally, but increasingly focus on controversial issues associated with the Whitlam Labor Government, e.g. Senator Lionel Murphy, 1975 budget.</p>

	<p>The electorate talks given by Fraser as Prime Minister were clearly prepared within the Prime Minister's Office in Canberra, sometimes with assistance from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, e.g. a major talk on Australia's water resources (November 1981). These later talks have a broader national interest, e.g. Premiers Conference (May 1981), the Government's economic program and performance. The series also includes some briefing material, e.g. papers relating to preparations for Victoria's 150th Anniversary celebrations.</p> <p>Part of item 10 is held at the National Archives of Australia.</p>
NOTE ON COLLECTIONS	Transferred from the National Archives of Australia in March 2005, this series was originally NAA series M1265.
NOTE ON LISTING	Running single number system imposed by NAA
LISTED BY	NAA; revised and reformatted by Caitlin Stone
DATE	8 November 2006

Box No	Series No	Description	Date
		Electorate talks and press releases	1971–1983
1	1	Press releases and correspondence as Member for Wannon and Minister for Education and Science relating to local postal and telephone services, CSIRO, education, wool industry	3 Dec 1970–4 Mar 1972
ITEMS: 2005.0072.0001 - 0051	2	Radio talks as Member for Wannon and Minister for Education and Science relating to defence, tariff policy, rural reconstruction, primary industry, economic matters	28 Mar 1971–27 Aug 1972 SOME ITEMS AVAILABLE ONLINE
	3	Press statements and correspondence as Member for Wannon and Minister for Education and Science relation to local telephone facilities, education, rural interests	1 Sep 1972–12 Dec 1972
ITEMS: 2005.0072.0052 - 0065	4	Radio talks as Member for Wannon and Minister for Education and Science relating to wool industry, means test, election campaign	3 Sep 1972–10 Dec 1972 SOME ITEMS AVAILABLE ONLINE
	5	Press releases relating to local postal and telephone services and other electorate matters, Whitlam Labor Government, and notes for talks on foreign policy	5 Jan 1973–27 Dec 1973
2 ITEMS: 2005.0072.0066 - 0084	6	Radio broadcasts 1973 and press statements as Member for Wannon relating to Whitlam Labor Government, Senator Lionel Murphy	18 Mar 1973–17 Dec 1973 SOME ITEMS AVAILABLE ONLINE
ITEMS: 2005.0072.0085 - 0092	7	Material for radio talks as Member for Wannon; includes reports on Parliament by Dr AJ Forbes, T. Street, news cuttings, health insurance booklets	23 Feb 1973–16 Sep 1974 SOME ITEMS AVAILABLE ONLINE
ITEMS: 2005.0072.0093 - 0111	8	Radio broadcasts 1974–75 [and electoral statements as Member for Wannon relating to Whitlam Labor Government]	10 Mar 1974–9 Mar 1975 SOME ITEMS AVAILABLE ONLINE
ITEMS: 2005.0072.0112 - 0139	9	[Electorate talks 1975 as Member for Wannon and Leaders of the Opposition relating to Whitlam Labor Government, 1975 budget, Loans Affair]	16 Feb 1975–28 Sep 1975 SOME ITEMS AVAILABLE ONLINE
ITEMS: 2005.0072.0140 - 0161	10	Electorate talks 1981 [as Prime Minister relating to Premiers' Conference (May 1981), Commonwealth-state relations, Government program, Australia's water resources, Victoria's 150 th anniversary, includes booklet 'The Gallery of Sport: A New Vision for Melbourne, paper and drawing for West Gate Park Stage 2] [Part of this file currently held at NAA]	3 May 1981–29 Nov 1981 SOME ITEMS AVAILABLE ONLINE
ITEMS: 2005.0072.0162 - 0186	11	Electorate talks 1982 [and press releases as Prime Minister relating to Government's performance, ANZUS treaty, Costigan Royal	25 Apr 1982–24 Oct 1982 SOME ITEMS AVAILABLE ONLINE

Box No	Series No	Description	Date
		Commission]	
	12	[Electorate talks, press releases and speech notes relating to Government performance, defence forces, economy; includes briefing paper on implications of 1982-3 budget for Wannon electorate]	Dec 1981-27 Feb 1983
END			