



THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

NAME OF COLLECTION	Fraser, John Malcolm (Rt Hon.)
ACCESSION NO	105/82 (formerly NAA M1405)
CATEGORY	Community and Political, individuals
ACTIVITY	Prime Ministers, Politicians, Farmers
DATE RANGE	1949–1953
SIZE OF COLLECTION	0.18 metres (1 box)
HISTORICAL NOTE	<p>John Malcolm Fraser was born in Toorak, Melbourne on 21 May 1930.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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–).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p>

	<p>Following the Labor government's election win in 1972, he served as Shadow Minister for Industrial Relations. He became leader of the Liberal 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>This series of two files, two binders and nine small spiral-bound notebooks is an unordered collection of text book notes, essays and examination papers kept by former Prime Minister J. M. (Malcolm) Fraser during the period he was an undergraduate student at Magdalen College, University of Oxford (1949–52).</p> <p>At Oxford, Fraser read 'Modern Greats' (Philosophy, Politics and Economics). His teachers included Harry Weldon, Gilbert Ryle, Frank Burchardt and AJP Taylor. Among his many friends were Dr A J (Jim) Forbes, later a political colleague in Commonwealth Parliament, and J. Turner who became Prime Minister of Canada.</p> <p>The series provides insights into the nature and extent of Fraser's reading in ethics and logic, political theory and modern history (particularly British, French and American). The notes are often quite detailed, and many of the essays include personal observations.</p>

	<p>Item 1 in the series includes a draft and the speaking notes of his first political speech – delivered on 11 November 1953 – when he obtained pre-selection for the seat of Wannon (Vic).</p> <p>Reference: Ayres, Philip, <i>Malcolm Fraser: A Biography</i>, Richmond Vic.: Heinemann, 1987, 33–62</p>
NOTE ON COLLECTIONS	<p>The records were transferred to archival custody in Melbourne in August 1983 and accessioned as part of VA1983/401. Relocated to Canberra in March 1984, they were re-accessioned as AA1984/99 and registered as series M1405. The series description was revised as part of the NAA's Prime Ministers Papers Project in December 2004.</p> <p>They were transferred to the University of Melbourne Archives in March 2005.</p>
NOTE ON LISTING	Listed by UMA subsequent to transfer. Running single number controls imposed at this time.
LISTED BY	Peter Bode; Amended by Caitlin Stone
DATE	16 June 2005

Box No	Series No	Description	Date
		Notes, essays and examinations from the University of Oxford	1949–1953
1	[1]	[Handwritten notes for preselection speech, 11 November 1953] [Typed version of preselection speech with comments, on University of Melbourne letterhead, by John Medley, former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Melbourne, dated 5 October 1953] [Oxford – University Course Notes]	1949–1953
	[2]	[Oxford – University Course Notes]	1949–1952
	[3]	[Oxford – Lecture Notes – British Politics] – (Annotated: JM Fraser, Magdalen College, 18/1/50)	1950
	[4]	[Oxford – Lecture Notes – Politics] – (Annotated: J M Fraser, Magdalen, 1951)	1951
	[5]	[Oxford – Notebook] – Political Theorists: (1) Hobbes, (2) Rousseau	c. 1952
	[6]	[Oxford – Notebook] – Political Theorists: (3) Locke, (4) Machiavelli	c. 1952
	[7]	[Oxford – Notebook] – Theory of Knowledge: Locke, Berkeley Principles]	c. 1952
	[8]	[Oxford – Notebook] – Theory of Knowledge	c. 1952
	[9]	[Oxford – Notebook] – Theory of Knowledge: Ryle, Ayer	c. 1952
	[10]	[Oxford – Notebook] – 1871–1914: Gooch, Morley	c. 1952
	[11]	[Oxford – Notebook] – 1871–1914: Eyck, Rosenberg	c. 1952
	[12]	[Oxford – Notebook] – Foundations of Ethics: Ross	c. 1952
	[13]	[Oxford – Notebook] – Currency and Credit	c. 1952
E N D			