



THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

NAME OF COLLECTION	Fraser, John Malcolm (Rt Hon.)
ACCESSION NO	106/10 (formerly M441)
CATEGORY	Community and Political, individuals
ACTIVITY	Prime Ministers, Politicians, Farmers
DATE RANGE	1973–1975
SIZE OF COLLECTION	0.53 metres (3 boxes)
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). Following the Labor government’s election win in 1972, he served as Shadow Minister for Industrial Relations. He became leader of the Liberal</p>

	<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	February 2006
ACCESS CONDITIONS	Open
DESCRIPTION	<p>This series mainly comprises invitations received by former Prime Minister J M (Malcolm) Fraser from April 1971 to March 1975. In this period, he was a backbencher (March–August 1971) and Minister for Education and Science (August 1971–December 1972) in the McMahon Government, then a member of the Opposition (December 1972–March 1975) during the Whitlam Labor Government. He was also actively representing his electorate of Wannon in Victoria’s Western District. The invitations relate to various Parliamentary, diplomatic, vice-regal and Liberal Party functions and other events organised by educational institutions, business groups and community organisations.</p> <p>The series falls into two distinct parts, the first covering the period Mr Fraser held the Education and Science portfolio (items 1–9; currently held at the National Archives of Australia) and the second part when he was in Opposition (items 10–22). The earlier invitations are consequently predominantly official or relate to his electorate. These include some occasions when Mr Fraser deputised for McMahon, or Mr Fraser himself was represented either by his wife, Mrs Tamie Fraser, or another Member of Parliament. Invitations dating from 1973 to 1975 tend to be a mixture of electorate and personal, with a noticeable increase from 1974 when Mr</p>

	<p>Fraser's role as an Opposition backbencher became more significant. A small number of invitations in the series were received in the first few weeks after he became Leader of the Opposition (March 1975).</p> <p>Many of the invitations (cards or letters) have associated correspondence attached to them. There are also some publications (booklets, posters) and photographs. Those for the Ministerial period are in two-ring binders, according to whether the invitation was accepted or declined, and were essentially filed by the invitation date. The later invitations are in manila folders and are mostly filed by date of reply.</p> <p>The records were transferred to the National Archives of Australia in two consignments, the first in January 1980 (items 1–18) and the second in November 1983 (items 19–22).</p>
NOTE ON COLLECTIONS	These records were transferred from National Archives of Australia in February 2006. Part of the series (items 1–9, 19) is currently held at the National Archives of Australia.
NOTE ON LISTING	Single number system imposed by National Archives of Australia; chronological
LISTED BY	NAA; revised and reformatted by Caitlin Stone
DATE	23 January 2007

Box No	Series No	Description	Date
		Invitations and related correspondence	1973–1975
	1	Currently held at NAA Invitations accepted, June–December 1971 [as Minister for Education and Science and Member for Wannon]	13 Nov 1970–9 Dec 1971
	2	Currently held at NAA Invitations accepted, January–June 1972 [as Minister for Education and Science and Member for Wannon]	11 Jun 1971–17 Jul 1972
	3	Currently held at NAA Invitations accepted, July–September 1972 [as Minister for Education and Science and Member for Wannon, includes papers relating to visit of Mrs Margaret Thatcher (UK Secretary of State for Education and Science), August 1972]	19 Mar 1971–13 Oct 1972
	4	Currently held at NAA Invitations accepted, October 1972–[July 1973, as Minister for Education and Science and Member for Wannon]	19 Oct 1971–27 Jul 1973
	5	Currently held at NAA Invitations declined, March–December 1971 [as Minister for Education and Science and Member for Wannon, includes invitations to RAAF 50th Anniversary celebrations, March - April 1971]	8 Feb 1971–8 Dec 1971
	6	Currently held at NAA Invitations declined, January–June 1972 [as Minister for Education and Science and Member for Wannon]	Jun 1971–26 Jun 1972
	7	Currently held at NAA Invitations declined, July–September 1972 [as Minister for Education and Science and Member for Wannon]	13 Jan 1972–21 Sep 1972
	8	Currently held at NAA Invitations declined, October 1972–[April 1973, as Minister for Education and Science and Member for Wannon]	18 Dec 1971–21 Mar 1973
	9	Currently held at NAA Invitations pending (alphabetical), 1971–1973 [as Minister for Education and Science and Member for Wannon]	4 Jan 1971–22 Mar 1973
1	10	Invitations, 1973 [as Member for Wannon]	14 Oct 1973–16 Apr 1974
	11	Invitations, 1973–74 [as Member for Wannon]	22 Jan 1973–14 Jun 1974
	12	Invitations, 1974 [as Member for Wannon; includes <i>Pattern for struggle: a brief history</i>]	10 Sep 1973–14 Jan 1975

		<i>of the Australasian Society of Engineers, by K G Goodwin]</i>	
	13	Invitations, 1974 [as Member for Wannon; includes itinerary for visit of Marshall Green]	11 Jan 1974–30 May 1974
	14	Invitations, 1974 [as Member of Wannon; includes ‘Rural policy’ (Liberal Party booklet); invitation to National Gallery of Victoria special viewing of ‘Blue Poles’; Australian Frontier seminar papers of labour relations, metric conversion poster]	11 Dec 1973–8 Oct 1974
	15	Invitations, 1974 [as Member for Wannon]	10 Dec 1973–9 Oct 1974
2	16	Invitations, 1974 [as Member for Wannon; includes <i>National drycleaner</i> (August 1974 issue)]	26 Nov 1973–26 Nov 1974
	17	Invitations, 1975 [as Leader of the Opposition and Member for Wannon; includes congratulatory telegram from Sir Robert Menzies (21 March 1975)]	15 Oct 1974–30 Apr 1975
	18	Invitations, 1975 [as Leader of the Opposition and Member for Wannon]	10 Mar 1975–9 May 1975
	19	Currently held at NAA Electorate invitations – copies [as Minister for Education and Science and Member for Wannon]	26 Nov 1971–13 Dec 1972
	20	Invitations declined, March–August 1973 [as Member for Wannon]	8 Mar 1973–19 Aug 1973
3	21 Part 1	Invitations, 1973–1974 [as Member for Wannon, includes National Library of Australia request for oral history interview]	30 Apr 1973–31 Oct 1973
	21 Part 2	Invitations, 1973–1974 [as Member for Wannon, includes Australian National University Administrative and Allied Officers Association constitution and conditions of service (booklets)]	2 Oct 1973–11 Dec 1973
	21 Part 3	Invitations, 1973–1974 [as Member for Wannon]	29 Nov 1972–19 Mar 1975
	22 Part 1	Invitations, 1973 [as Member for Wannon, includes Tatura Guardian (19 Sep 1973) and two photographs]	16 Apr 1973–27 Dec 1973
	22 Part 2	Invitations, 1974 [as Member for Wannon, includes South Boorok Pastoral Company cattle sale poster]	19 Nov 1973–4 Jun 1974

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