



THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

NAME OF COLLECTION	Fraser, John Malcolm (Rt Hon.)
ACCESSION NO	106/12 (formerly NAA M446)
CATEGORY	Community and Political, individuals
ACTIVITY	Prime Ministers, Politicians, Farmers
DATE RANGE	1971–1973
SIZE OF COLLECTION	0.17 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). 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</p>

	<p>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 consists of five two-ring binders of personal correspondence maintained by J. M. (Malcolm) Fraser from late 1971, when he held the Education and Science portfolio in the McMahon Government, to mid-1973, when he was a member of the Opposition and its spokesman on rural matters.</p> <p>The correspondence relates to cheques for private subscriptions, sponsorship and appeals; courtesy letters received and sent in relation to private and official engagements as Minister for Education and Science; approaches to representatives from the wool, dairying and other primary industry organisations as Opposition rural spokesman; requests for information as a member of the Opposition in the first six months of the Whitlam Labor Government; and correspondence (letters and telegrams) received and sent in relation to the general election of December 1972.</p> <p>Part of the series (item 2) is held at the National Archives of Australia.</p>
NOTE ON COLLECTIONS	This series was transferred from National Archives of Australia in February 2006.
NOTE ON LISTING	Single number system imposed by National Archives of Australia

LISTED BY	Initial listing by NAA; revised and re-formatted by Caitlin Stone
DATE	23 January 2007

Box No	Series No	Description	Date
		Correspondence concerning cheques, courtesy letters, Opposition rural spokesman matters, requests for information, December 1972 election	1971–1973
1	1	Correspondence re cheques [for private subscriptions, sponsorship, appeals, including Walk Against Want, Robert Menzies Centre, community organisations, Papua New Guinea Institute of Technology (Lae)]	Oct 1971–5 Jun 1973
	2	Held at National Archives of Australia Courtesy letters [as Minister for Education and Science in relation to private and official engagements, includes letter from Mrs Margaret Thatcher (UK Secretary of State for Education and Science)]	29 Oct 1969–29 Jan 1973
	3	Correspondence as [Opposition] rural spokesman [with representatives from the wool, dairying and other primary industries]	1 Apr 1971–21 May 1973
	4	Correspondence - Information requested from: 1. Library; 2. Prime Minister/Minister; 3. Departments/other sources [includes Agreement to end the Vietnam War (US Information Service publication) and papers from Australian Agricultural Council 84th meeting (February 1973)]	22 Dec 1972–6 Jun 1973
	5	Correspondence - Election, December 1972	29 Nov 1972–25 Jan 1973
END			