



THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

NAME OF COLLECTION	Fraser, John Malcolm (Rt Hon.)
ACCESSION NO	106/16 (formerly NAA M1340)
CATEGORY	Community and Political, individuals
ACTIVITY	Prime Ministers, Politicians, Farmers
DATE RANGE	1970–1975
SIZE OF COLLECTION	0.085 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 includes five appointment diaries of J M (Malcolm) Fraser, maintained by her personal staff, for the years 1971, 1972 and 1974. They relate in part to the periods when he was Minister for Defence in the Gorton Government (items 1–2), Minister for Education and Science in the McMahon Government (items 1–4) and a member of the Opposition Executive before he succeeded Billy Snedden as Leader of the Opposition (item 5). The diary entries are in several hands, including that of Mr Fraser. They record both official appointments and social engagements, ranging from Parliamentary sittings, Cabinet meetings, Liberal Party and electoral meetings to appointments with diplomats, political and other colleagues; engagements with community and other organisations and family commitments. Items 1–3 include a partial telephone directory at the back of the volumes. Item 4 includes a list of 1972 Budget sittings and lists of Members of Parliament and Liberal Party Opposition spokesmen announced on 8 January 1973, a month after the Whitlam Labor Government came into office. There is no appointment diary for 1973 nor, as could have been expected, for 1975. When Mr Fraser became Prime Minister, the system for recording his appointments was changed to a series of index cards and related correspondence folders. Formerly National Archives of Australia Series M1340.</p>

NOTE ON COLLECTIONS	Transferred from National Archives of Australia in February 2006 (item 5) and April 2008 (items 1–4).
NOTE ON LISTING	Single number system imposed by National Archives of Australia.
LISTED BY	NAA; re-formatted by Caitlin Stone
DATE	1 March 2008

Box No	Series No	Description	Date
		Appointment diaries	1970–1975
1	1	Appointment diary 1971 [includes official and personal engagements and a partial telephone directory at back of volume (red cover)]	17 Dec 1970–25 Feb 1972
	2	Appointment diary 1971 [includes official and personal engagements and a partial telephone directory at back of volume (blue cover)]	25 Dec 1970–31 Jan 1972
	3	Appointment diary 1972 [includes official and personal engagements and a partial telephone directory at back of volume (red cover)]	30 Jan 1972–31 Jan 1973
	4	Appointment diary 1972 [includes official and personal engagements, list of 1972 Budget sittings inside front cover and lists of Members of Parliament and Liberal Opposition spokesmen as at 8 Jan 1973 at back of volume (blue cover)]	15 Jan 1972–25 Mar 1973
	5	Appointment diary 1974 [includes official and personal engagements (tan cover)]	18 Feb 1974–4 Jan 1975

END
