



THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

NAME OF COLLECTION	Fraser, John Malcolm (Rt Hon.)
ACCESSION NO	106/19 (formerly NAA M1357)
CATEGORY	Community and Political, individuals
ACTIVITY	Prime Ministers, Politicians, Farmers
DATE RANGE	1962–1975
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</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 small series comprises correspondence between J M (Malcolm) Fraser, as Leader of the Opposition (March–November 1975), and Prime Minister E G (Gough) Whitlam and eight members of his third Ministry.</p> <p>The correspondence relates to various matters, including the entitlements of the Leader of the Opposition (e.g. access to government information), rural policy, the 1975–76 Budget, the state of the economy, accommodation in Canberra for members of Parliament, the proposed Northern Territory Education Advisory Committee and superannuation for Australian government employees. Copies of speeches and statements by Whitlam and articles relating to Dr Jim Cairns are also included in the series.</p>
NOTE ON COLLECTIONS	This series was transferred from National Archives of Australia in February 2006. Part of this series (item 8) is currently held at the National Archives of Australia.
NOTE ON LISTING	Single number system imposed by National Archives of Australia; alphabetical

LISTED BY	NAA; reformatted by Caitlin Stone
DATE	3 April 2008

Box No	Series No	Description	Date
		Correspondence with Members of the Whitlam Labor Ministry	1962–1975
1	1	The Hon L H Barnard, Minister for Defence [relates to briefings]	21 Apr 1975–24 Apr 1975
	2	The Hon Kim Beazley, Minister for Education [relates to proposed Northern Territory Education Advisory Committee]	7 Feb 1975–10 Apr 1975
	3	The Hon Gordon Bryant, Minister for the Capital Territory [relates to accommodation for Members of Parliament in Canberra, Superannuation Bill 1975]	28 Apr 1975–9 Sep 1975
	4	The Hon Jim Cairns, Deputy Prime Minister and Treasurer [copies of articles relating to views on Russia, Vietnam, Communism etc]	5 Nov 1962–2 Oct 1974
	5	The Hon Frank Crean, Minister for Overseas Trade [speech to the House of Representatives relating to 1975-76 Budget]	28 Aug 1975–28 Aug 1975
	6	The Hon. Bill Hayden, Minister for Social Security [includes statement relating to Australian Government Employees' superannuation funding]	15 May 1975–29 May 1975
	7	The Hon G G D Scholes [Speaker, House of Representatives and Member for] Corio, Victoria [relates to motion to the House on the state of the economy]	3 Jun 1975–3 Jun 1975
	8	Held at National Archives of Australia The Hon E G Whitlam, Prime Minister [includes Sir Robert Garran Memorial Oration 'Australian Public Administration under a Labor Government' (Nov 1973), statement on mdo-China (Apr 1975), correspondence relating to entitlements as Leader of the Opposition, access to Cabinet and other government records, Vietnamese refugees, Gascoyne Groundwater Supply Scheme, Ken report on Cocos (Keeling) Islands (Nov 1971)]	12 Nov 1973–8 Sep 1975
	9	Senator the Hon K S Wriedt, Leader of the Government in the Senate and Minister for Agriculture [relates to rural policy, export of live cattle]	18 Apr 1975–4 Nov 1975

END
