



THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

NAME OF COLLECTION	Fraser, John Malcolm (Rt Hon.)
ACCESSION NO	106/24 (formerly NAA M1370)
CATEGORY	Community and Political, individuals
ACTIVITY	Prime Ministers, Politicians, Farmers
DATE RANGE	1947–1975
SIZE OF COLLECTION	0.35 metres (2 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).</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	February 2006
ACCESS CONDITIONS	Open
DESCRIPTION	<p>This series includes correspondence, reports and other papers maintained by J M (Malcolm) Fraser in the eight months he was Leader of the Opposition (March–November 1975). The series particularly reflects the development of Liberal-Coalition policy in that period.</p> <p>The correspondence is mainly from political colleagues and members of the public. The subjects covered include: the proposed Australian Government Insurance Corporation; the Consumer Protection Authority; possible early election; rural matters; environmental policy; Medibank; New Guinea Independence celebrations; the Australian Constitutional Convention; staff appointments to the Office of the Leader of the Opposition; representations relating to the Family Law Bill; the Whitlam Government's recognition of the incorporation of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia into the Soviet Union; electoral redistribution. There are also personal letters from senior political colleagues (including B M (Billy) Snedden, Dr A J Forbes and Charles Court) and special reports on the</p>

	cattle and beef industry, rural education and the Interstate Commission.
NOTE ON COLLECTIONS	This series was transferred from National Archives of Australia in February 2006. Some items (33, 36–7, 41, 43) are currently held at the National Archives of Australia.
NOTE ON LISTING	Single number system imposed by National Archives of Australia; lexicographical
LISTED BY	Initial listing by NAA; revised and reformatted by Caitlin Stone
DATE	26 February 2008

Box No	Series No	Description	Date
		Subject files maintained by J M (Malcolm) Fraser as Leader of the Opposition	1947–1975
1	1	AGIC [Australian Government Insurance Corporation, includes second reading speech for Australian Government Insurance Office Bill 1975, protest telegrams]	15 May 1975–18 Aug 1975
	2	AGIC [Australian Government Insurance Corporation, includes representations against proposed establishment]	15 Apr 1975–20 Oct 1975
	3	Anonymous [and nonsense letters relating to Liberal Party leadership and other political matters]	15 Mar 1975–28 Nov 1975
	4	Australian Legal Aid Office	7 Mar 1975–1 Apr 1975
	5	Baltic States [letters and telegrams supporting reversal of Whitlam Government's recognition of incorporation of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania into the Soviet Union]	5 Jul 1975–1 Dec 1975
	6	Commonwealth Parliamentary Association [Australian Branch's annual report 1974–75]	7 Oct 1975
	7	Communications with ABC [Australian Broadcasting Commission]	13 Jul 1975–15 Jul 1975
	8	Consumer Protection Authority [telegrams supporting proposed establishment]	21 Aug 1975–15 Oct 1975
	9	Correspondence with Department of Services and Property [relating to official car usage]	20 May 1975–10 Nov 1975
	10	Darwin ship [statement by A Vrettos relating to Chandris Line]	3 Apr 1975–3 Apr 1975
	11	Early election [includes news cuttings relating to rejection of Supply Bill in Victorian Legislative Council, 1947]	30 Sep 1947–8 Sep 1975
	12	Economy [includes 'Economic commentary' (July 1975) and <i>Bulletin</i> articles]	24 Aug 1974–22 Aug 1975
	13	Education [representations relating to possible expenditure cut-back]	29 Apr 1975–29 Jul 1975
	14	Electoral redistribution [personal representations]	18 Mar 1975–21 Apr 1975
	15	Vincent Fairfax	28 May 1975
	16	Family Law Bill [personal representations from ACT residents and others]	1 Feb 1975–6 Jul 1975
2	17	Federalism and Inter-governmental relations	10 Apr 1975–1 Oct 1975

Box No	Series No	Description	Date
		[relates to development of Liberal-National Country Party paper 'A new form of federalism for the 1980s'; includes minutes of meetings]	
	18	Dr A J Forbes [letters relating to decision not to seek re-election]	24 Mar 1975–2 Apr 1975
	19	Foreign report [The Economist Newspaper Ltd publication]	5 Feb 1975–8 Oct 1975
	20	Fraser Island [sandmining and effect on Opposition environmental policy]	6 Mar 1975–4 Nov 1975
	21	Government advertising [Shadow Ministry questionnaire]	9 May 1975–19 May 1975
	22	Graziers' Association [includes submissions relating to cattle and beef industry and rural education difficulties]	24 Jan 1975–5 Nov 1975
	23	International Oil Ltd [relates to crude oil prices]	24 Sep 1975–26 Sep 1975
	24	Interstate Commission [includes 'Report of Enquiry on the Effects of the Inter-State Commission Bill']	10 Apr 1975–23 Aug 1975
	25	Labour and Public Service Committee [includes weekly reports of industrial disputes (March 1975), research notes on bans clauses]	10 Feb 1975–21 Mar 1975
	26	Medibank [includes legal opinion relating to Medibank and the Health Insurance Act 1973]	22 Mar 1975–23 May 1975
	27	Members of Parliament trips [schedules for period May-September 1975]	Sep 1975
	28	Sir Robert Menzies [includes comments on the media and press statement (Oct 1975)]	27 Mar 1975–22 Oct 1975
	29	Mercury in [Western Australian] fish	27 Mar 1975–30 Jun 1975
	30	Miscellaneous correspondence with Labor Members of Parliament [R F X Connor, F Crean and others, includes papers relating to overseas trade developments, Australian Consumer Protection Authority, New Parliament House (booklet)]	19 Nov 1974–6 Nov 1975
	31	Montejinnie [Northern Territory cattle station, includes photographs, maps]	1975
	32	National Country Party	31 Mar 1975–29 Aug 1975
	33	Held at National Archives of Australia New Guinea Independence celebrations [includes invitations and background notes]	4 Aug 1975–22 Sep 1975
	34	Office of the Leader of the Opposition [examples of responses to correspondence (various subjects)]	11 Aug 1975–26 Nov 1975
	35	Overseas trip [travel itineraries, includes	25 Mar 1975–8 Oct 1975

Box No	Series No	Description	Date
		personal letters from Lee Kuan Yew (Prime Minister, Singapore), Charles Court (Premier, Western Australia), US officials and R A Woolcott (Australian Ambassador to Indonesia)]	
	36	Held at National Archives of Australia Prime Minister E G (Gough Whitlam) [correspondence relating to Australian Constitutional Convention, Bougainville Island, publication of documents on foreign policy, superphosphate etc.]	18 Mar 1974–4 Nov 1975
	37	Held at National Archives of Australia Royal Commission [on Intelligence and Security, correspondence with Justice R M Hope]	4 Sep 1975–7 Oct 1975
	38	Rural matters - Beef [includes submission to Ron K S Wriedt (Minister for Agriculture)]	23 Jan 1975–23 May 1975
	39	Rural matters - Wool [relates to price support scheme]	
	40	Correspondence with Mr [Billy] Snedden [relates to offer of position in Shadow Cabinet]	25 Mar 1975–28 Mar 1975
	41	Held at National Archives of Australia Special Minister of State [relates to office arrangements for staff etc.]	2 May 1975–11 Dec 1975
	42	Staff [Office of the Leader of the Opposition establishment, appointments etc.]	4 Dec 1974–29 Oct 1975
	43	Held at National Archives of Australia Leader of the Opposition - Staff appointments	24 Feb 1975–22 Aug 1975
	44	Tasmania - Commitments [briefing notes, correspondence]	29 Jan 1975–30 May 1975
	45	Whaling	23 Aug 1973–5 Jun 1975

END
