



## THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

<b>NAME OF COLLECTION</b>	<b>Fraser, John Malcolm (Rt Hon.)</b>
<b>ACCESSION NO</b>	<b>107/4 (formerly NAA M1255)</b>
<b>CATEGORY</b>	Community and Political, individuals
<b>ACTIVITY</b>	Prime Ministers; Politicians; Farmers
<b>DATE RANGE</b>	1975–1975
<b>SIZE OF COLLECTION</b>	0.58 metres (2 boxes)
<b>HISTORICAL NOTE</b>	<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>
<b>DATE OF TRANSFER</b>	7 December 2006
<b>ACCESS CONDITIONS</b>	Open
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<p>This series consists of office copies of outward correspondence maintained in the period J M (Malcolm) Fraser was Leader of the Opposition (1975) and, subsequently, Prime Minister (1975–83). The correspondence tends to be more general than in the related series of 'Blues' (M1254) and carries the signature block of either Mr Fraser, his Principal Private Secretary at the time or another staff member in the Prime Minister's Office.</p> <p>Known as 'Chron's' ('Chronological'), the correspondence in series M1255 was kept in two-ring folders in the Prime Minister's Office from November 1975. Most of the letters are addressed to members of the public, including persons in Mr Fraser's constituency, the federal electorate of Wannon in Victoria's Western District. Politicians, business and other prominent figures are also represented. The 'Chron's' relate to a mix of personal and general issues, including administrative matters in the</p>

	<p>Prime Minister's Office, and are consequently wide-ranging in subject matter.</p> <p>Many of the letters are brief acknowledgements, others are more substantial in content, covering subjects such as Vietnamese refugees; defence, foreign affairs and education policy. They are on either white or green paper for the Opposition period and yellow or white paper for the Prime Ministerial period, and are in chronological order within each folder. The latter may cover a period between one and three months. In cases where the 'Chron's' have exceeded the capacity of the original folder, those for the final few days or week of the given period have been removed and placed in archival folders.</p>
<b>NOTE ON COLLECTIONS</b>	Six items (1–6) are currently held at UMA.
<b>NOTE ON LISTING</b>	
<b>LISTED BY</b>	NAA; edited and reformatted by Caitlin Stone
<b>DATE</b>	11 September 2007

<b>Box No</b>	<b>Series No</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
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		<b>Office copies of outward correspondence ('Chrons')</b>	<b>1975-1975</b>
<b>1</b>	1	Office copies of outward correspondence ('Chrons')	5 Apr 1975-28 May 1975
	2	Office copies of outward correspondence ('Chrons')	29 May 1975-11 Jul 1975
	3	Office copies of outward correspondence ('Chrons')	14 Jul 1975-31 Jul 1975
	4	Office copies of outward correspondence ('Chrons')	4 Aug 1975-29 Aug 1975
<b>2</b>	5	Office copies of outward correspondence ('Chrons')	1 Sep 1975-26 Sep 1975
	6	Office copies of outward correspondence ('Chrons')	29 Sep 1975-31 Oct 1975

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