



THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

NAME OF COLLECTION	Fraser, John Malcolm (Rt Hon.)
ACCESSION NO	107/5 (formerly NAA M1256)
CATEGORY	Community and Political, individuals
ACTIVITY	Prime Ministers; Politicians; Farmers
DATE RANGE	1948–1975
SIZE OF COLLECTION	0.26 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	7 December 2006
ACCESS CONDITIONS	Open
DESCRIPTION	<p>This series was maintained in the Prime Minister's Office during the Prime Ministership of J M (Malcolm) Fraser. It contains correspondence relating primarily to representations from members of the public, the Wannon electorate (Western Victoria), business, church and other community interest groups, Liberal Party branches and some Liberal Party colleagues etc. The series covers the period from January 1976 (second Fraser Ministry) to March 1983 (end of term in office), but includes some papers with an earlier date.</p> <p>The representations cover a broad range of subjects. Internationally, they relate to Rhodesia, South Africa, Soviet Union, Afghanistan, Kampuchea, Vietnam, China, Japan, and some ASIAN member countries. Domestically, they concern primary industry (eg fishing, wool, dairy, beef, fruit, wine and mining), facilities and services (eg roads, education, broadcasting, housing, hospitals, Medibank, disabled persons, nursing</p>

	<p>homes, employment, pensions and repatriation benefits). At governmental and parliamentary levels, subjects include salaries, superannuation, travel allowance, appointments, resignations and some overseas postings. Correspondence relating to industrial relations, immigration, Indo-Chinese refugees, Barrier Reef, environment, uranium, livestock exports, abortion, Right to Life campaign, Aboriginal land rights, multiculturalism, unionism, Communism, Moscow Olympics boycott, Carlton Football Club, tourism, national anthem and Australian flag etc is also present in this series.</p> <p>The correspondence consists of hand-written and typed letters, cards, telegrams, inspirational literature etc and includes requests for letters of introduction. The series also contains annual reports, minutes of committee meetings, Australia Day speeches, other speeches made at sporting events or for special anniversaries, some interview transcripts and a small collection of photographs relating to the Press Photographer of the Year Awards etc. Original letter and reply are filed together, although not all letters have replies. The folders are in the order in which they were taken into archival custody, but the control number system has been amended to reflect the contents more consistently. Bulky files have been divided into parts and the papers within filed chronologically. Six folders of 'unfiled' correspondence covering the last few weeks of Mr Fraser's term in office have been arranged in date order.</p>
NOTE ON COLLECTIONS	17 items have been transferred to the University of Melbourne Archives. A further 11.61 metres remain at NAA.
NOTE ON LISTING	This list does not include items currently held at NAA.
LISTED BY	NAA; edited and reformatted by Caitlin Stone
DATE	11 September 2007

Box No	Series No	Description	Date
		Political and personal correspondence, annual alphabetical series	1948–1975
1	1976A PART 1	Correspondence '1976A' [correspondence relating to AUSTCARE, Hancock Prospecting, Australian Council for the Arts, Australian Paper Manufacturers, Australians of Baltic Origin etc.]	10 Dec 1974–11 Nov 1975
	1976B PART 1	Correspondence 1976B [correspondence relating to 1975 election, Burhah Oil Australia, industrial relations policy etc.]	20 Jul 1948–11 Nov 1975
	1976C PART 1	Correspondence '1976C' [correspondence relating to manufacturing industry, Canberra College of Advanced Education, Lake Varley telephone services (WA), Tibetan children's village in Dharmsala (India) etc.]	17 Jan 1975–10 Nov 1975
	1976D PART 1	Correspondence '1976D' [correspondence relating to transport for disabled persons, immigration, livestock export etc.]	19 May 1975–5 Nov 1975
	1976F PART 1	Correspondence '1976F' [correspondence relating to Commonwealth funding of cancer research, mini-bikes in Dandenong Valley Metropolitan Park (Vic), immigration, manufacturing industry etc.]	16 Dec 1974–14 Dec 1975
	1976G PART 1	Correspondence '1976G' [relating to Geelong Rifle Club, Australian Assistance Plan, social services etc.]	19 Aug 1975–5 Nov 1975
	1976H PART 1	Correspondence '1976H' [relating to immigration, import tariffs, unionism, Australian Industry Development Corporation, Hancock Prospecting etc]	25 Apr 1975–30 Oct 1975
	1976K PART 1	Correspondence '1976K' [relating to income tax, concessional allowances for aged persons etc.]	7 Jul 1975–17 Nov 1975
	1976L PART 1	Correspondence '1976L' [relating to income tax, public libraries, Tasmanian dairy industry etc.; includes <i>Tasmanian Dairying Economics and Potentials: Series of Rural Meetings 12–</i>	Nov 1974–20 Nov 1975

Box No	Series No	Description	Date
		<i>16 May 1975</i> [publication]; Lactos Cheese Manufacturers submission 'whey plant proposal' etc.]	
	1976M PART 1	Correspondence '1976M' [relating to retrenchment, Bermagui surf club facilities, unemployment benefit, Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme etc.]	20 Jan 1975–10 Nov 1975
	1976P PART 1	Correspondence '1976P' [relating to repatriation benefits, Professional Musicians' Union of Australia etc.]	28 Mar 1975–18 Nov 1975
	1976Q PART 1	Correspondence '1976Q' [relating to Queensland Chamber of Mines, dairy industry, fruit growers' opposition to levy system etc.]	22 Jan 1975–11 Nov 1975
	1976R PART 1	Correspondence '1976R' [relating to Tertiary Education Assistance Scheme for Sydney University veterinary science students, Rockhampton Chamber of Commerce etc.]	Dec 1974–30 Oct 1975
2	1976S PART 1	Correspondence '1976S' [relating to post offices, postal charges, pensions, unemployment benefits, James Frederick Staples (Hansard extracts) etc.]	7 Sep 1960–6 Nov 1975
	1976T PART 1	Correspondence '1976T' [relating to immigration, Australia Council, compensation claims following Tasman Bridge collapse etc.]	7 Oct 1974–10 Nov 1975
	1976V PART 1	Correspondence '1976V' [relating to tariffs, Vietnamese refugees, Government policy on family reunion for Vietnamese students in Australia etc]	19 Apr 1975–27 Oct 1975
	1976W PART 1	Correspondence '1976W' [relating to Narrabeen War Veterans' Paramedical Centre, World Peace Council, wool marketing, wine and brandy industry, Vietnamese refugees etc.; includes letter from Prime Minister E. G. Whitlam regarding Australian Government's policy on Vietnamese students]	14 Mar 1975–30 Oct 1975
E N D			