



THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

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| NAME OF COLLECTION | Fraser, John Malcolm (Rt Hon.) |
| ACCESSION NO | 107/10 (formerly NAA M1268) |
| CATEGORY | Community and Political, individuals |
| ACTIVITY | Prime Ministers; Politicians; Farmers |
| DATE RANGE | 1969–1978 |
| 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> |

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| | <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> |
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| DATE OF TRANSFER | 7 December 2006 |
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| ACCESS CONDITIONS | Open |
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| DESCRIPTION | <p>This series of subject files was maintained in the Prime Minister's Office during the Prime Ministership of J M (Malcolm) Fraser (1975–83). It covers the entire period of his term in office with the exception of the final six weeks (February–March 1983).</p> <p>The files are titled according to their subject, a particular person or an institution. These include Aborigines, Australia Council, Australian Science and Technology Council, Cabinet, Interdepartmental and other committees, Commonwealth and Olympic Games, Commonwealth Heads of Government meetings, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Australian Constitutional Conventions, various countries, economic matters, education, elections and electoral redistribution, Australian Heritage Commission, herbicides used in Vietnam, honours, Loans Affair, Medibank, Sir Robert Menzies, individual Ministers and state Premiers, Office of National Assessments, Parliament, referendums,</p> |

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| | <p>Royal Commissions, royalty, Sinclair Pastoral Company, superannuation, uranium, VIP aircraft etc.</p> <p>The files include correspondence, notes, reports, publications and other reference material. In general they were maintained in lexicographical order, although this is not always apparent. For example, individual countries are arranged alphabetically under the keyword 'Country'. Some other sequences resulted from separate storage arrangements or were affected by different transfers to archival custody. They are, nevertheless, considered to be part of the same overall filing system.</p> |
| NOTE ON COLLECTIONS | <p>The following items are held at UMA: 26, 28, 35 Part 1, 43, 47–49, 76, 118, 148, 176, 208 Part 1, 216, 222 Part 1, 223, 227 Part 1, 238, 259, 278. The remaining 346 items from this series are currently held at the National Archives of Australia.</p> |
| NOTE ON LISTING | |
| LISTED BY | NAA; revised and re-formatted by Caitlin Stone |
| DATE | 11 September 2007 |

| Box No | Series No | Description | Date |
|---------------|------------------|--|-------------------------|
| | 1 | Subject files maintained as Prime Minister | 1969-1978 |
| | 1-25 | Held at National Archives of Australia | |
| 1 | 26 | Censorship [paper by Evan Adermann MP] | 16 Aug 1975-22 Sep 1975 |
| | 27 | Held at National Archives of Australia | |
| | 28 | Charters [includes papers relating to policy on the use of VIP and special purpose aircrafts by Leader of the Opposition] | 6 Mar 1975-7 Jan 1976 |
| | 29-34 | Held at National Archives of Australia | |
| | 35 Part 1 | Committees - Parliamentary Joint Committee on the Parliamentary Committee System - [Transcripts] | 24 Feb 1975-22 Sep 1976 |
| | 36-42 | Held at National Archives of Australia | |
| | 43 | [National Compensation Scheme, includes papers relating to uniformity of entitlements under workers compensation legislation etc.] | 23 Aug 1975-6 Nov 1975 |
| | 47 | [Constitution Convention 1975, includes papers relating to the Constitution Alteration (Interchange of Powers) Bill etc.] | 9 Oct 1975-27 Oct 1975 |
| | 48 | [Australian Constitutional Convention 1975, includes Agenda, Standing Committee A Report to Executive Committee (13 August 1975) and Standing Committee C Recommendations etc.] | 7 Jul 1975-26 Sep 1975 |
| | 49 | Australian Constitutional Convention 1978, includes Agenda, Constitution as Altered to 1 December 1977 together with Statute of Westminster Adoption Act 1942 and various standing committee reports etc.] | 23 Jun 1977-28 Jul 1978 |
| | 50-75 | Held at National Archives of Australia | |
| 2 | 76 | [Decentralisation of Public Service, includes papers relating to transfer of Division of National Mapping to Bathurst-Orange etc.] | 18 Sep 1975-28 Oct 1975 |
| | 77-117 | Held at National Archives of Australia | |
| | 118 | Interstate Commission | 15 Aug 1975-15 Aug 1975 |
| | 119-147 | Held at National Archives of Australia | |
| | 148 | National Memorials Committee [includes paper relating to proposed meeting (21 May 1975)] | 16 May 1975-16 May 1975 |

| Box No | Series No | Description | Date |
|---------------|------------------|--|-------------------------|
| | 149–175 | Held at National Archives of Australia | |
| | 176 | [Palestine Liberation Organisation, includes paper relating to visas for PLO representatives] | 11 Jul 1975–11 Jul 1975 |
| | 177–207 | Held at National Archives of Australia | |
| | 208 Part 1 | [Royal commissions and committees, includes papers relating to enquiries, commissions and committees appointed by the Whitlam Government, Minutes of Minister's Meeting with Maritime Unions (16 August 1974) etc.] | 16 Aug 1974–8 Oct 1975 |
| | 208 Part 2–215 | Held at National Archives of Australia | |
| | 216 | Small business [includes papers relating to failures, voluntary liquidations etc.] | 7 Oct 1975–7 Oct 1975 |
| | 217–221 | Held at National Archives of Australia | |
| | 222 Part 1 | Superannuation [includes papers relating to Commonwealth and State pension schemes etc.] | 1969–10 Nov 1975 |
| | 222 Part 2 | Held at National Archives of Australia | |
| | 223 | Superannuation Bill 1975 [includes papers relating to Schedule of Amendments made by the Senate and Second Reading Speech by Treasurer J F Cairns] | 1974–5 Jun 1975 |
| | 224–226 | Held at National Archives of Australia | |
| | 227 Part 1 | Taxation [includes 1974 Budget taxation highlights presented by the Treasurer and Council of Commonwealth Service Organisations, Australian Council of Trade Unions' Submission to the Taxation Review Committee etc.] | 10 Feb 1974–4 Dec 1974 |
| | 227 Part 2–237 | Held at National Archives of Australia | |
| | 238 | Vietnam [includes representations relating to refugees, South Vietnamese students in Australia, plight of orphans etc.] | Jun 1971–29 May 1975 |
| | 239–258 | Held at National Archives of Australia | |
| | 259 | Political situation - Loan raising and public servants before Senate | 19 Aug 1975–19 Aug 1975 |
| | 260–277 | Held at National Archives of Australia | |
| | 278 | Supply 1975 - Menzies comments [includes papers relating to powers of the Senate, 'The need for an election' speech notes etc.] | 21 Oct 1975–21 Oct 1975 |
| | 279–365 | Held at National Archives of Australia | |

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