



THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

NAME OF COLLECTION	Fraser, John Malcolm (Rt Hon.)
ACCESSION NO	107/24 (formerly NAA M1372)
CATEGORY	Community and Political, individuals
ACTIVITY	Prime Ministers; Politicians; Farmers
DATE RANGE	1958–1966
SIZE OF COLLECTION	0.08 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).</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>Speeches, reports and press statements made by J M (Malcolm) Fraser in his early years as Member of Parliament for Wannon (Vic). Five files mainly relating to legislation and other matters debated in the House of Representatives, an overseas visit to South East Asia, the dairy, wool and beef industries, including the Portland Wool Sales Inquiry.</p> <p>Formerly National Archives of Australia Series M1372.</p>
NOTE ON COLLECTIONS	Transferred from the National Archives of Australia
NOTE ON LISTING	
LISTED BY	Initial listing by NAA; revised and re-formatted by Caitlin Stone

DATE

1 March 2008

Box No	Series No	Description	Date
		Speeches, reports and press statements by J M (Malcolm) Fraser	1958–1966
1	1	Reports and papers [as Member for Wannon, relating to tertiary education, petrol tax, dairy industry, wool appraisal scheme, parliamentary committees, overseas visit to the United States, Canada, Vietnam, Malaysia and Indonesia, includes evidence presented to Portland Wool Sale Board of Inquiry]	1958–3 Sep 1965
	2	Press statements 1962 [as Member for Wannon, relating to Indonesia, wool industry reorganisation, Portland Wool Sales Inquiry, New Guinea, disarmament etc., includes notes for radio talks 'Dairy industry policy' and 'Australia, the United Kingdom, the United States and the Common Market' (May 1962)]	25 Feb 1962–16 Dec 1962
	3	Papers on South East Asia [as Member for Wannon, includes article 'Australian Policy in South East Asia']	6 May 1965–11 Aug 1965
	4	Speeches: House of Representatives [as Member for Wannon, Nos. 61–73 relating to Appropriation Bill No. 1, Trade Practices Bill, tertiary education, wool industry etc.]	23 Mar 1965–17 Mar 1966
	5	Speeches: House of Representatives [as Member for Wannon, Nos. 1–60 relating to defence, beef and wool industries, estimates, Commonwealth Banks Bill, European Common Market etc.]	17 Sep 1959–12 Nov 1964
END			