



THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

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| NAME OF COLLECTION | Fraser, John Malcolm |
| ACCESSION NO | 2008.0063 |
| CATEGORY | Community and Political, individuals |
| ACTIVITY | Prime Ministers, Politicians, Farmers |
| DATE RANGE | 1949 |
| SIZE OF COLLECTION | 0.08 metre (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). 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</p> |

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| | <p>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 | 23 September 2008 |
| ACCESS CONDITIONS | Open |
| DESCRIPTION | <p>This diary kept by J M (Malcolm) Fraser describes a trip through New South Wales undertaken with his friend Gavin Casey (the nephew of former Governor-General Richard Casey) in 1949. Fraser and Casey set out from the Fraser family property Nareen in Western Victoria on 2 March 1949, travelling to Horsham, Ouyen, Mildura, Broken Hill, Bourke, Dubbo and back to Victoria via Canberra, Albury and Ballarat.</p> <p>The diary includes accounts of visits to the canning and dried fruit works in Mildura; the surface works at North Broken Hill Ltd and the Australian War Memorial and (Old) Parliament House in Canberra.</p> <p>Also included is a sixteen-page essay, ‘Two Thousand Miles in a Month’, in which Malcolm Fraser both describes the trip itself and reflects more broadly on his feelings for Australia.</p> <p>A brief movie taken on the same trip is held at the National Film and Sound Archive.</p> |
| NOTE ON COLLECTIONS | |

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| NOTE ON LISTING | |
| LISTED BY | Caitlin Stone |
| DATE | 1 December 2008 |

| Box No | Series No | Description | Date |
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| | 1 | Diary | 1949 |
| 1 | 1 | Trip through New South Wales in March 1949 with Gavin Casey | 2 March 1949–31 March 1949 |

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