

1974.0081 PAPERS OF GEORGE OSWALD REID 1958-1973

Creator	Reid, George Oswald
Creator's Activity/Occupation	Politicians Lawyers
<p>Biography:</p> <p>Sir George Oswald Reid (1903–1993), lawyer and politician, was born on 22 July 1903 at Hawthorn, Melbourne. He was educated at Camberwell Grammar School and, from 1917 to 1920, Scotch College, Melbourne. While George was no sportsman, at Scotch he was a debater, a founding member of the literary club, and a prefect. He won a non-resident exhibition for Ormond College and a senior State scholarship to the University of Melbourne (LLB, 1924), where he studied arts subjects as well as law. Excelling in languages, he gained honours in English and Latin and won the W. T. Mollison scholarship in Italian (1923).</p> <p>After serving his articles at the firm Eggleston & Eggleston, Reid was admitted as a barrister and solicitor on 3 May 1926 and joined Cleverdon & Hayes. He worked at the Bar from 1929 to 1937, when he bought out Hayes, and the firm was renamed Cleverdon & Reid. By the early 1930s Reid had become politically active: he served on the committee of the conservative Constitutional Club, was a foundation member of (Sir) Robert Menzies' Young Nationalist Organisation, and was an unsuccessful United Australia Party candidate at the 1934 by-election for Nunawading in the Legislative Assembly.</p> <p>On 26 March 1940 Reid was commissioned as a flying officer in the Royal Australian Air Force. For much of World War II he was engaged on administrative and personnel duties at RAAF Headquarters, Melbourne. As officer-in-charge of the Casualty Section, in late 1944 he was sent to the United States of America and Britain to study plans for the repatriation of RAAF prisoners of war from the European theatre, and to obtain information that would assist similar planning in the South-West Pacific Area. Following cessation of hostilities, he travelled around the SWPA and recommended that the RAAF establish an organisation to locate missing aircrew while Allied forces remained in occupied areas.</p> <p>In November 1947 Reid entered the Victorian Legislative Assembly, winning the seat of Box Hill for the Liberal Party of Australia. A convert from Presbyterianism, he later claimed he was the only Catholic in the party. He attracted controversy in 1951 when he successfully made representations to the Federal immigration minister, Harold Holt, to liberalise the ban on Japanese brides of Australian servicemen entering the country. Nobuko 'Cherry' Parker was the first to arrive, in July 1952. Her husband, Gordon, was the son of two of Reid's constituents.</p> <p>Reid lost his seat in the Australian Labor Party's landslide win in 1952, but regained it three years later. On 7 June 1955 Reid was included in Sir Henry Bolte's first ministry and he served in cabinet continuously until 1973. He held the portfolios of labour and industry and electrical undertakings (1956–65), fuel and power (1965–67), and immigration (1967–70), before his appointment as attorney-general (1967–73). Although he was considered conservative rather than law-reforming in this latter role, he had carriage of the legislation which established the office of ombudsman in 1973. In retirement he was disappointed not to be appointed to the post. He had been a loyal supporter of Bolte, but was uncomfortable with the progressive liberalism of his successor, (Sir) Rupert Hamer. In 1972 he announced that he would not contest the 1973 election.</p> <p>He was appointed QC in 1971 and was knighted a year later. In retirement he was active in a range of community groups: he chaired the Music for the People committee (from 1964), the Middle Yarra Advisory Council (1975–82), and the C. J. Dennis Centenary committee (1976–77). He died on 18 February 1993 at Macleod. Following a State funeral at St Francis Xavier Church, Box Hill, he was buried in the Warrandyte cemetery.</p>	

Reference Number	1974.0081
Collection/Series Title	PAPERS OF GEORGE OSWALD REID
Date Range of Collection/Series	1958-1973

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Size/Extent	1 box (0.12m)
Access Conditions	Access: Open
Scope and Content of Series Constituency files incorporating inward and outward correspondence; file regarding Kerrimuir Primary School, No. 4816 including correspondence, plans, newspaper clippings relating to the establishment and maintenance of Kerrimuir Primary School 16 May - 27 March 1972; file regarding Box Hill station, street crossing (No. 1) including plans dated 21 and 23 July 1958, and undated sheets of specifications and sketch plans; copy of "A City of Box Hill, Box Hill Shopping Centre, A Development Report", prepared by Len T. Frazier and Associates, in association with Perrott Lyon Timlock & Kesa, and Jones, Lang, Wootton. 21 August 1967, 62 pp.	
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Records Description List

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To request access to records on the list below via the University of Melbourne Archives Reading Room, quote the Unit/Box reference in full.				
Unit/Box	Item number	Title	Date range	Description
1974.0081 Unit 1	1974.0081.00001	Kerrimuir Primary School No. 4816	1958-1972	File containing correspondence, plans, press cuttings, etc., relating to the establishment and maintenance of Kerrimuir Primary School No. 4816, Molbray Street, North Box Hill, 16 May 1958 - 27 March 1972.
1974.0081 Unit 1	1974.0081.00002	Box Hill Station, Street Crossing (No. 1)	1958	File containing plans dated 21 and 23 July 1958 and undated sheets of specifications and sketch plans.
1974.0081 Unit 1	1974.0081.00003	Box Hill Shopping Centre	1967	Copy of City of Box Hill, Box Hill Shopping Centre, A Development Report, prepared by Len T Frazer and Associates, in association with Perrott Lyon Timlock & Kesa, and Jones, Lang, Wootton, 21 August 1967.
1974.0081 Unit 1	1974.0081.00004	Constituency and Finished from 1/7/72	Undated	File contains chiefly inward and outward correspondence concerning miscellaneous constituency matters.

End of list