In 2004, the former Prime Minister of Australia the Right Honourable Malcolm Fraser A.C., C.H. made the University of Melbourne the official custodian of his personal papers. In time, Mr Fraser’s library of several thousand books will also be transferred to the University and will be housed in the Malcolm Fraser Room at the Melbourne Law School, where Mr Fraser is a Professorial Fellow in the Centre for Asia-Pacific Military Law. Commonwealth records created by Mr Fraser as a Minister of the Crown will remain at the National Archives of Australia.

So far, about eighty metres of records and several hundred photographs have been transferred to the University of Melbourne Archives. Among the records are:

- Mr Fraser’s notebooks from his time as a student at the University of Oxford.
- Correspondence from individuals and interest groups associated with his electorate.
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- Correspondence from individuals and interest groups associated with his electorate.

Wannon in Victoria’s Western District. The series covers Mr Fraser’s entire 28 years in federal politics (1955-1983).

- Speeches from Mr Fraser’s 1953 pre-selection speech to the present day.
- Records relating to Mr Fraser’s role as a founding member of the Commonwealth Eminent Persons’ Group.
- Press releases, board papers and other records from CARE Australia, Australia’s largest non-political and non-religious overseas aid organisation. Mr Fraser founded CARE Australia in 1987.

There are also several hundred photographs in the collection. These include official photographs recording overseas and domestic visits made by Malcolm Fraser during his Prime Ministership, as well as photographs taken by Malcolm Fraser himself. There are also several albums of photographs recording the Fraser family’s life at Balpool-Nyang, the station.
near Moulamein in the Riverina district of New South Wales where they lived until 1943, and at Nareen in the Western District of Victoria.

The project involves not just collecting and maintaining Mr Fraser’s papers but also developing a website for the collection. In this way, all of Mr Fraser’s records will – in a virtual sense at least – be brought together in a central location.

The website was launched by Mr Petro Georgiou MP on 20 November. Other speakers included the Chancellor of the University, Ian Renard, and Mr Fraser himself. Among the guests were a former senior advisor and speech writer to Mr Fraser, David Kemp; Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations in the Fraser government, Tony Street; Vice-Chancellor of the University of Melbourne, Professor Glyn Davis; the author of Malcolm Fraser, A Biography, Philip Ayres; Professor of Victorian Parliamentary Democracy at Swinburne University of Technology, Professor, Brian Costar; and National Editor of The Age, Michael Gordon.

Mr Fraser reiterated his hope that the site would be a living resource and reflect not just his activities as a Member of Parliament, but also his more recent interests in human rights, multiculturalism and the rule of law. He reflected that while he himself does not enjoy ‘looking through old papers’, he is glad that there are those – namely archivists and historians – who make their living from just this activity.

The website is still in its early stages and will continue to grow and develop as more material becomes available in digital form. It can be viewed at http://www.unimelb.edu.au/malcolmfraser/.

For enquiries about the collection, email malcolmfraser-collection@unimelb.edu.au or phone 03 8344 9893.
I am pleased to say my knowledge of the holdings and processes at the UMA has continued to grow since taking up my position in May. Over the past months I have attended and presented papers at the Family History Feast held at the State Library of Victoria, the Australian Society of Archivists annual conference in Port Macquarie, and travelled to Canberra for the Digital Futures Industry Briefing and also had site visits to the Noel Butlin Archives at the Australian National University, the National Library of Australia and the National Archives of Australia. The visits have given me the unique opportunity to benchmark and reflect on UMA’s current policy and procedures. To that end, and because the UMA Strategic Directions 2003–2007 plan will expire in March, I am planning (with the assistance of University Archivist, Michael Piggott) a Futures Seminar for all staff at the UMA. From this we hope to develop new directions which will reshape the UMA around the three strands of the University’s Growing Esteem strategy: Research, Learning and Teaching, and Knowledge Transfer.

Collection Management
Three goals were identified for collection management for the second half of 2006:

1. Analysis of holdings to identify high priority collections for listing
High-use collections which are unlisted or only partially listed are difficult for researchers to access and increase staff time locating requested material. The top 60 such collections were identified and work has begun to list, or revise the existing list, for five of them.

2. All accessions for 2006 should be processed to a defined level of acquisition
A decision has been made to rehouse and fully document on the collections database all collections which contain fewer than five boxes, but not to list them in further detail. All collections of more than five boxes are rehoused, fully described on the collections database, and a processing plan completed which assigns it a priority for full processing. The figures for this level of processing have significantly improved for 2006, and backlog work continues on accessions from 1999.

3. Volunteers to focus on priority projects
The UMA now has seven regular volunteers, working on such projects as the Bright Family papers, various business records, labour records, the records of the Victorian Women’s Liberation and Lesbian Feminist Archives, and on the records of J.W. Powling and Company. The records of St Michael’s Church have also been listed by a member of the congregation. In 2006 volunteer work has been augmented by participation in the Student Project Program run for the Cultural Collections Group by Helen Arnoldi. Seven student interns have participated this year and they are increasingly working on priority projects (see page 8 for more detail).

Projects
A further accession of the papers of the Rt. Hon. Malcolm Fraser, from both the National Archives in Canberra and Mr Fraser’s Melbourne office has been received. Dr Caitlin Stone has worked on these papers two days per week for most of 2006. Several hundred architectural plans from the Arthur Purnell collection were humidified, flattened and rehoused in preparation for the exhibition by Dr Derham Groves on Purnell’s work (see page 5). This enabled the UMA to gain experience in preservation of architectural plans, and to purchase technology to continue flattening plans and posters in-house. During 2005 and 2006 funds from the School of Dental Science enabled archivist Bruce Smith to sort and list the records of the School and several pioneering dental organisations. Finally, in a minor project, Lindsay Howe has spent three months two days per week reorganising plan cabinets at the UMA to enable better storage of flattened architectural plans.

Access & Outreach
Writing and Making Histories
For the second year running theme-based material has been provided for the fourth year History subject ‘Writing and Publishing History’. Students researched and wrote essays on collections of peace movement organisations and protagonists; the result was a volume of essays published by the students. The UMA has also recently produced a bookmark to promote both awareness of the Archives, and our interest in accepting donations of archival material and financial support.
Mander Jones Awards 2005

On Thursday 19 October during the welcome cocktail party for the Australian Society of Archivists (ASA) Conference in Port Macquarie, Michael Piggott, Manager Cultural Collections and University Archivist, along with Sue McKemmish, Barbara Reed and Frank Upward, was honoured as the recipient of a 2005 Mander Jones Award.

In 1996 the ASA introduced the Mander Jones Awards for publications of excellence in the field of recordkeeping. The awards honour Phyllis Mander Jones who, amongst other contributions to the profession, authored manuscripts in the British Isles relating to Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific.

The award was presented for a ‘Publication making the greatest contribution to archives or a related field in Australia written by a person in their own right’.

This year it was for the publication of Archives: Recordkeeping in Society, edited by Sue McKemmish, Michael Piggott, Barbara Reed and Frank Upward, Charles Sturt University Centre for Information Studies, 2005.

Since its publication, Archives: Recordkeeping in Society has been considered indispensable for teaching and learning in the field and is already into its third printing and selling well to university programs and archival societies in the UK, Sweden, USA, and Canada. The work has been translated into Spanish and is shortly due for release in Spain, Portugal and Latin America. It is also being translated into Japanese by Professor Masahito Ando at the Department of Historical Documents, National Institute of Japanese Literature, Tokyo for release in late 2007.

What’s New at the UMA

New collections/additional accessions
- Malcolm Fraser
- David Scott
- Sir Harry Somerset
- Printing Industries Association of Australia
- Melbourne University Debating Society
- Allan Vosti
- Edward Clarence Dyason
- Kathleen Fitzpatrick
- Rio Tinto Ltd
- Clifton Hill and Northcote UFS Dispensary

Newly processed collections
- Sixth International Feminist Book Fair
- Kathleen Fitzpatrick
- Sir Andrew Grimwade
- Gwendolen Grimwade
- Drug Houses of Australia
- Australian Nurses Federation (Vic. Branch)
- Dental Hospital/Dental Association
- Australian Psychological Society
- Strathfieldsaye Estate
- Rio Tinto Ltd
- Edward Clarence Dyason
- MU Hockey Club
- Sir Harry Somerset
- Trade union journal collections
- David Scott
An exhibition celebrating the work of architect Arthur William Purnell (1878-1964) is currently on display in the University of Melbourne’s Baillieu Library. Drawing largely on the Purnell collection held by the UMA, the exhibition showcases a selection of architectural drawings and plans that show some of the best work of this once well known Melbourne architect.

Born in Geelong and educated at Geelong College, Purnell worked in China, mainly Guangzhou (then known as Canton), from 1900 to 1910 where he designed many substantial buildings. Returning to Australia in 1910 Purnell practised solely and in a string of partnerships, mainly in Melbourne, for some 50 more years.

The exhibition was curated by the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning’s Dr Derham Groves, in association with Cultural Collections’ Curator of Exhibitions and Partnerships, Mr Brian Allison.

Dr Groves has carried out extensive research on the life and work of Purnell and has spent many hours studying the several thousand architectural drawings, plans, elevations and perspectives held by the UMA. One of the highlights of the exhibition was the use of the plans by students from Architecture, Building and Planning to build scale models for the exhibition.

The exhibition was officially launched on 4 October by the Victorian Government Architect Mr John Denton, of Denton Corker Marshall, who said that Purnell was an adventurer, an ‘architect’s architect who followed many other styles effortlessly’.

Guests at the opening included a delegation from China’s Guangzhou Bureau of Culture, whose members are familiar with Purnell’s work through projects he designed for their city, the most notable being the South China Cement Works – later the palace of China’s first president, Dr Sun Yat-sen. Purnell’s commissions in China, apart from the South China Cement Works, included extensions to the Canton Club, and many premises for European trading companies. At home in Melbourne, his projects included the Olympic Stand at the MCG, the Michael’s Camera House building on Elizabeth Street, and plans for an extension to the Melbourne Club.


Right: Olympic Stand, Melbourne Cricket Club designed by Arthur Purnell (1953-1955). (Arthur Purnell Collection, Acc. No. 73/81)
The UMA received its first instalment of Grimwade family archives in 1975, when the papers of Sir Russell (1879-1955) and Lady Grimwade (1887-1973) were transferred to the UMA at the time that Miegunyah (their family home) and its contents were bequeathed to the University of Melbourne. Sir Russell was a University of Melbourne Science graduate and successfully involved in Grimwade family businesses throughout his life. He also made many philanthropic and community contributions to Victorian life, for which he was knighted in 1950, and is perhaps most remembered now for donating Captain Cook’s Cottage to the people of Victoria in the State’s centenary year.

Sir Russell Grimwade’s tradition of philanthropy and engagement in Victorian public life has been continued by succeeding branches of the family, and over the last 30 years the UMA has continued to acquire records from members of the Grimwade family, spanning their business and political interests, public and honorary appointments, and family life.

Thanks to funding support from the Miegunyah Fund, a project to process the collections was undertaken, on a part-time basis, from November 2005 to November 2006. The project worked on all collections held by the UMA which were produced by members of the Grimwade family, or Grimwade companies. These are

- Drug Houses of Australia (incorporating predecessor companies)
- Sir Andrew Grimwade
- Gwendolen Grimwade
- Philip Grimwade
- Sir Russell and Lady Grimwade

Collection lists were prepared which arrange the collections into record series, and describe and number all items in accordance with UMA listing standards. A guide to the scope of the records is being prepared for the UMA website which will link researchers to these lists.

The largest Grimwade collections are the papers of Sir Russell Grimwade and Sir Andrew (Sir Russell’s nephew and another University of Melbourne BSc.). Sir Andrew (b. 1930) continues the tradition of engagement in business and public life. His papers, which currently comprise nearly 50 linear metres, include series relating to his principal career appointments, such as his Chairmanship of ACI Resources Ltd. and his many honorary appointments, including his presidency of the National Gallery of Victoria from 1976 to 1990. Business files created when Sir Andrew worked for earlier family companies, including Carba Dry Ice and Drug Houses of Australia, are a valuable record of the management of businesses in the 1950s and 1960s. Smaller, but delightful, accessions in 2006 were the two travel diaries of Sir Andrew’s mother, Gwendolen Grimwade (1905-2004) in which she recorded her impressions as she traveled with her parents on her first ‘grand tour’ in 1923-1924.

The Grimwade Collections will offer researchers access to perspectives on Victorian business and public life over more than a century through the records of a significant family.
Les Dalton has been doing volunteer work at the UMA since the early 1990s. During that time he has processed and listed many significant collections. In a new feature in the UMA Bulletin, where we profile some of the many interesting people who cross our threshold, Jane Ellen put the tough questions to Les about life and archives.

**JE:** What work did you do before you came here?

**LD:** I started working at the CSIRO on polymers early in the Second World War. My research had mostly to do with the plastics used in trainer aircraft. [Les was continuing in the family tradition; his father, a self-taught chemist, was the first person to make Bakelite plastics in Australia. Ed.] Later on I drifted into synthetic organic chemistry, working on pharmaceuticals and pesticides. Though today I’d be pretty reluctant to undertake research on some of those classes of chemicals for use in agriculture. I am a lot more conscious about the environment than I was in those days. Then I didn’t really question the hazards of pesticides. Actually it was the use of Agent Orange in the Vietnam War, which I had joined the campaign against, that first made me conscious of those hazards.

I retired from the CSIRO early, at 57, to do a few different things in life. Just prior to retirement I’d been one of five who got the Movement Against Uranium Mining underway. From then on I have devoted much of my time in the environmental and peace movements. Also, my wife Dorothy and I wanted to be able to go bush when we felt like it, although community movements tend to take a hold on your time just like work. Later on I was also part of a small publishing group putting out information material like school kits about nuclear and other energy issues. We produced a school video – ‘Cold Comfort’ – on the nuclear issue. I also published a couple of books on the same theme.

**JE:** What aspect of working in Archives appeals to you?

**LD:** Oh, it’s taking part in activities and projects with other people, in this case preserving something of the social and political records of our times. As a volunteer, able to turn for advice when I need it, I become quite absorbed in whatever collection I am working on.

**JE:** Which category of collections do you prefer to work with?

**LD:** I like working with the collections of people who have been active in the social and political movements like I myself have been involved or interested in – the peace movement, trade unions, the environment, social justice.

**JE:** Which historical time would you like to have lived through?

**LD:** I wasn’t consulted and have to be content to have experienced most of the 20th century and now a bit of this one. I follow world events pretty closely. I am not sure I am as optimistic as I was in my younger days. Whether that has to do with my growing old or the turbulence of the times in which we live, I do not know.

**JE:** Read any good books lately?

**LD:** I’ve gone back to re-reading the 19th century authors. I’ve just finished *Daniel Deronda* and now I’m reading *Tess of the D’Urbervilles*.

**JE:** Thank you, Les.

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Below: Les Dalton. Photo by John Ellis
In 2006 the University’s Student Projects Program facilitated the placement of 26 students with many of the cultural collections on campus. Over the course of the year the UMA was fortunate enough to host seven of these students who successfully worked on a diverse range of projects.

The varied nature of these projects, coupled with the fact that students are matched to a project that suits their individual needs, has ensured that these placements have been mutually beneficial. All the students who worked with the UMA generously gave of their time and enthusiastically saw their projects through, from the initial project brief that caught their interest to the projects completion.

Listed below are the students who have worked with the UMA this year and a brief summary of their successfully completed projects:

Robert Cook was studying for his Graduate Diploma in Records Management and Archives at Curtin University, WA and for his ‘Archives, Concepts and Practice’ unit he undertook a placement with the UMA. His project had him arranging and describing the Douglas Diomedes Alexandra collection and creating a basic finding aid.

Cecilia Cranfield was matched to a student project to fulfil the requirements of her ‘Public History Placement’ as part of her Masters in Public History at Monash University. For her project she undertook a placement where she investigated potential UMA and Regional Victorian Historical Society partnerships.

Nicola Forster was enrolled in a Bachelor of Arts degree and for her ‘History in the Field’ placement wanted to gain some experience working with Cultural Collections. Working with the UMA art collection her project saw her gain practical skills in the rehousing, to conservation standards, a selection of works on paper.

Masters of Art Curatorship student, Monica Healy elected to do her internship placement at the UMA working on photographic collections. For her project she completed a Significance Assessment on the acetate and nitrate photographic negative collections. In addition to completing the Significance Assessment, Monica learnt much about the best practice management techniques for these collections and generated recommendations on how the UMA might best deal with these in the future.

Christine Kousidis, a student at Monash University, chose to undertake a ‘General Work Placement’ project as part of her Graduate Diploma of Information Management and Systems. Her project saw her focus on the David Orme Masson papers where through this work she gained a practical understanding of the role of an archivist and the physical preservation of archives.

Patricia Lissel completed her placement at the UMA in July. A student of the School of Business Information Technology, RMIT she was in the midst of her Graduate Diploma in Information Management. For her project Patricia created finding aids for the Joseph Burke Collection.

Andrew Withycombe is currently undertaking a Masters of Information Management and Systems at Monash University where he is specialising in electronic record keeping and archiving. Andrew worked on an ‘Archives Project Placement’ which had him working on the Stock Exchange of Melbourne Ltd Project – his specific brief being the arrangement and description of the ancillary papers and physical rearrangement of boxes.

This edited text is taken from Student Projects with Cultural Collections – 2006 at a Glance by Helen Arnoldi, Cultural Collections’ Student Projects Coordinator. The full version can be accessed through the Cultural Collections website at http://www.unimelb.edu.au/culturalcollections/projects