



JOHN MALCOLM FRASER PC, AC, CH

BORN: 1930

POLITICAL PARTY: LIBERAL PARTY OF
AUSTRALIA

TERM AS PRIME MINISTER: 1975–1983

Malcolm Fraser first entered Federal Parliament in 1955 and subsequently served as Minister for the Army, Education and Science and Defence. He became Prime Minister after a constitutional crisis when the Opposition, led by Fraser, blocked supply in an attempt to force the Whitlam government to an election. The crisis was resolved when the Governor General, Sir John Kerr dismissed Whitlam and appointed Fraser as caretaker Prime Minister – pending a double dissolution election. At the election in December 1975, the Liberal-National Party coalition won a landslide victory. Fraser also led the coalition to victories in 1977 and 1980.

MALCOLM FRASER AND THE NFSA COLLECTION

The NFSA collection has extensive records relating to Fraser including early footage from his time as Minister for Defence in 1965 when he visited troops in Vietnam. The majority of records are from the 1970s and the events leading to the dismissal of the Whitlam Government.

Federal elections held in 1975, 1977 and 1980 are well represented in both recorded sound and moving image. These include policy speeches, advertisements, television news, radio interviews, current affairs and political commentary.

Records relating to his term as Prime Minister are rich and diverse covering issues such as the Lynch Razor Gang, export of uranium, East Timor, preparations for Australia's Bicentenary, Afghanistan, Russia, Olympics, Apartheid in South Africa and the Middle East.

Documentaries include *The Life and Times of Malcolm Fraser* and the 1983 TV mini series *The Dismissal*. Fraser's life after politics is also featured with his humanitarian work with Care Australia.

Fraser's political life, as viewed by the satirist, comedian and songwriter can also be found in the collection.

COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS

| TITLE | MEDIUM | TITLE NO. |
|--|--------------|-----------|
| Malcolm Fraser at his first news conference after his appointment by Sir John Kerr as Prime Minister in the Caretaker Government. 1975.11.11 | Television | 183306 |
| The Greatest advertising campaign this country's ever known | Television | 16180 |
| Peter Nicholson animated political satire. 1974.11.27, Malcolm Fraser makes leadership challenge | Television | 109821 |
| Life at the top : A week with Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser | Television | 510170 |
| The Dismissal | Moving Image | 62515 |

SEARCHING THE COLLECTION

Go to www.nfsa.afc.gov.au/searchthecollection

Search for Fraser records using the sequence **Name: "Malcolm Fraser"**

Other interesting key words

Kerr's cur
Rubbery Figures
Songs
Fred Dagg

Razor Gang
Norman Gunston
Leadership
challenge
Vietnam

Political crisis
Constitution
TV News
Dismissal

Parkinson
Bicentennial
Afghanistan

Image: Malcolm Fraser, c. 1975. National Library of Australia

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON AUSTRALIA'S PRIME
MINISTERS**

Australian Prime Ministers Centre www.apmc.oph.gov.au

National Archives of Australia www.primeministers.naa.gov.au

Prime Minister of Australia www.pm.gov.au

Australian Dictionary of Biography www.adb.online.anu.edu.au