Joseph Lyons

Guide to Archives of Australia's Prime Ministers

by Susan Marsden
Other guides in the Archives of Australia's Prime Ministers series


This guide includes selected sources related to the subject area but is not necessarily a complete or definitive listing of all relevant material in the National Archives of Australia or in other institutions.

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First published 2002

ISBN 0 642 34481 7

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*Front cover*: Prime Minister Joseph Lyons. *National Archives of Australia: A1200, L11182*

*Back cover*: Joseph and Enid Lyons, 1934. NAA: A1861, 6590
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<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABC</td>
<td>Australian Broadcasting Commission (later Corporation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD</td>
<td>Dame within the Order of Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AHRR</td>
<td>Australian Historic Records Register</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AJCP</td>
<td>Australian Joint Copying Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALP</td>
<td>Australian Labor Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b&amp;w</td>
<td>black and white</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GBE</td>
<td>Dame Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LISWA</td>
<td>Library and Information Service of Western Australia (now the State Library of Western Australia)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MHR</td>
<td>Member of the House of Representatives (Commonwealth Parliament)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MP</td>
<td>Member of Parliament</td>
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<tr>
<td>MS</td>
<td>manuscript</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAA</td>
<td>National Archives of Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>nd</td>
<td>no date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW</td>
<td>New South Wales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qld</td>
<td>Queensland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAAM</td>
<td>Register of Australian Archives and Manuscripts (<a href="http://www.nla.gov.au/raam">www.nla.gov.au/raam</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>South Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLNSW</td>
<td>State Library of New South Wales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UAP</td>
<td>United Australia Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIC</td>
<td>Victoria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WA</td>
<td>Western Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WAAAFF</td>
<td>Women’s Auxiliary Australian Air Force</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Introduction

On 19 December 1931 the Scullin Labor Government was defeated at the polls by the newly formed United Australia Party (UAP) led by Joseph Lyons, a former Minister in Scullin’s Government. It was a turbulent time in politics. Sir Isaac Isaacs became the first Australian-born Governor-General. Jack Lang, the Premier of New South Wales, was dismissed in 1932 by the State Governor, Sir Philip Game, after defaulting on interest payments due on loans raised in London by the State Government. Unemployment among trade union members reached the highest level for the Depression.

Prime Minister Joseph Lyons

Joseph Lyons was Prime Minister from 1932 to 1939, leading Australia through part of the Great Depression. He was previously Premier of Tasmania from 1923 until 1928, as leader of a minority Labor Government. In the Scullin Government (1929–32) he held the portfolios of Postmaster-General, Minister for Works and Railways, and Acting Treasurer during Scullin’s absence in London from August 1930 to January 1931. After resigning from Cabinet and the ALP, he became the Leader of the UAP and led his party to victory in the December 1931 election. He was Prime Minister for three consecutive terms (1932–33, 1934–36 and 1937–39). During his time as Prime Minister, he also served as Treasurer (1932–35), Minister for Commerce (1932), Minister for Repatriation (1935–36) and Minister for Defence (1937).

A timeline appears at Appendix 1.

Dame Enid Lyons

Enid Lyons was the first Prime Minister’s wife to engage directly in a public political career. She campaigned actively on Lyons’ behalf, and gave many public speeches and broadcasts, both when travelling with him and independently, on such topics as women’s rights, buying Australian goods, defence and the secession of Western Australia. She was also the first woman elected to the House of Representatives (1943) and the first female Cabinet member (1949). After leaving politics, Dame Enid retained her interest in women’s issues and public affairs. She was chair of the Jubilee Women’s Convention in 1951, which was established by the Women’s Subcommittee of the Commonwealth Jubilee Celebrations Council, and a member of the governing board of the Australian Broadcasting Commission (1951–62). She was created a Dame Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire (GBE) in 1937 and a Dame within the Order of Australia (AD) in 1980.
National Archives of Australia

Using this research guide

In the early years of the Commonwealth, no formal arrangements for keeping Cabinet records or papers created by successive prime ministers existed. However, records of, and about, the early prime ministers are held in a variety of archives and libraries, principally the National Archives of Australia and the National Library of Australia in Canberra and, in the case of Joseph and Enid Lyons, the University of Tasmania Library and the Archives Office of Tasmania.

This guide aims to make it easier for researchers to access records in the National Archives and other collections relating to Joseph and Enid Lyons. It is a companion publication of the National Archives’ Australia’s Prime Ministers website at primeministers.naa.gov.au. This guide is available online at www.naa.gov.au/publications.

The guide contains:

- basic biographical information on Joseph and Enid Lyons;
- descriptions of records created by Joseph Lyons, including official records, letters and diaries, and records about him including photographs, memorabilia, oral histories, films and other audiovisual materials; and
- information on records of, or about, Enid Lyons.

This guide aims at comprehensiveness. However, given that the collection of the National Archives alone runs to an estimated 250 kilometres of records, clearly only a proportion of records of possible interest to the readers of this guide could be located and identified. Accordingly, the search has targeted the most likely sources of relevant material and is focused on public collections in Australia. Records held by the National Archives are followed by those held in other national collections, and then by records held elsewhere in Australia.

Record descriptions

National Archives records on Joseph and Enid Lyons have been grouped under relevant headings, and within each section the descriptions of series and items are then organised chronologically as far as possible. In many instances, particular series have been found to contain relevant material on several aspects of the Lyons’ activities and responsibilities, and these have been included more than once, with a full description of the series given the first time it appears.

Each entry in the guide describes a group of records that have been maintained together as a series. A series is made up of items, which are often individual files (sometimes volumes, sets of cards, photographs, etc) that were received by the National Archives from the creating agency or person. Series usually consist of many items (ie files), but occasionally consist of just a few or even a single item. Note that items described within particular series are usually only a selection of what is held. A sample description of a National Archives record appears on the next page.

A similar approach is adopted for records held in other libraries and archives. These collections are arranged by location, and then alphabetically by manuscript collection or chronologically depending on the material.
## PRIME MINISTERS LYONS, CORRESPONDENCE (BY SUBJECT), 1937–39

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Series Title</th>
<th>CP167/2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recorded by:</td>
<td>1937–39 The Rt Hon. J A Lyons PC, CH (CP 254)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1937–39 Prime Minister’s Department (CA 12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantity:</td>
<td>0.36 metres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>This series contains correspondence from the public and related ministerial representations with responses from Lyons’ office. Most items relate to specific portfolios and have their original titles, eg Civil Aviation, Defence, Interior, Pensions, Repatriation, War Service Homes or Postal. Some folders are more personal and contain autograph requests, condolences, congratulations and letters of introduction.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Interior, representations (C–W), 1938–39

| CP167/2, 12 |
| This item includes correspondence on entry into Australia, Japanese pearlers, Jewish migrants and naturalisation. |

### Key

- This information gives the **series title** and the date range of the records that make up the series. The **series number** is shown on the right-hand side.

- This shows the **persons** or **government agencies that created the series**. It also shows the date range during which each series was created or recorded. This date range does not necessarily correspond to the contents date range of the records which appears in the series title. The CP (Commonwealth person) and the CA (Commonwealth agency) numbers are a unique identifier allocated by the Archives to each person or agency. These numbers can be used to retrieve more information about the person or agency, and the records they created, from the Archives’ online database, RecordSearch.

- This shows the **total volume of records** in the series. If the records are not held in Canberra, the office of the National Archives at which the series is held is also shown. If copies of records are held in other locations this is indicated here.

- This is a brief **description of the series**.

- This shows the **title given to the item by the person or agency** that created it. The dates of the earliest and latest document on the file are shown. The **item’s identifying number** appears on the right-hand side. This number must be quoted when requesting a copy of the record or access to it.

- This describes the main contents of an item. Note that it does not describe every document on the file.
Access to the records

To see original records, a researcher has to visit the archives or library where the material is held. However, digitised copies of some National Archives records are available through the Australia’s Prime Ministers website at primeministers.naa.gov.au and at www.naa.gov.au/primeministers. The National Archives series described in this guide are listed in the National Archives’ RecordSearch database, available on the Archives website at www.naa.gov.au and in each of its reading rooms. Records can be ordered online or in the relevant reading room.

Citing the records

The correct citation of archival records in the National Archives and in other collections is important both when requesting the records and when referring to them in written or published works. Using proper citations will not only help staff to more readily locate records, but will help other researchers to find that material.

The correct form of citation for records held by the National Archives of Australia is expressed as follows: the name National Archives of Australia followed by a colon, the series number followed by a comma, and then the item number. An example is:

National Archives of Australia: CP167/2, 12

The name National Archives of Australia may be abbreviated to ‘NAA’ provided the full name has been used in the first citation. National Archives Fact Sheet 7 provides further information on citing the records and can be located on the website at www.naa.gov.au/publications/fact_sheets/FS07.

For other archives and libraries, the name of the institution should be provided, followed by the reference or call number of the collection. An example is:

National Library of Australia: MS 4744

Locating additional information

Additional information on the papers of Joseph Lyons can be located by searching on the National Archives’ RecordSearch database and databases of other institutions. Further information on records relating to Joseph Lyons can also be found through the Australia’s Prime Ministers website at primeministers.naa.gov. This website has research maps that lead researchers into the collections of a number of archives, both within Australia and overseas.

State archives also hold records relating to service in State legislatures and interaction between prime ministers and State premiers (Lyons was also State Premier before becoming Prime Minister). Please see the bibliography at Appendix 2.

The Australian Historic Records Register, which contains one item of interest to researchers of information on the Lyons, is at Appendix 3, while addresses for the National Archives reading rooms and other archival institutions is at Appendix 4.
1

Joseph Lyons

Joseph Aloysius Lyons (1879–1939) was a prime minister with an unusual record. He was one of only two State premiers who became Prime Minister (the other was Sir George Houstoun Reid), and the only Tasmanian. He was the first to win three successive elections, and was one of the longest-serving as well as one of the most popular prime ministers in the nation’s first century.

However, there is scant public recollection of Joseph Lyons today, in part because of his ‘self-effacing good humour’.¹

Lyons has also ‘disappeared’ from public view because he is identified with neither the Australian Labor Party (ALP) nor the Liberal Party, having resigned from the first and led a precursor to the second party.

He was Prime Minister when Australia faced its most difficult years, leading the nation through the Great Depression. As Henderson noted:

Lyons’ brief as prime minister was to tackle weighty matters of monetary planning and the tricky behind-the-scenes politics of smoothing and uniting an abnormal collection of Cabinet egos and conflicting personalities: not so colourful for the historical records.²

Early years

Joseph (Joe) Lyons was born at Stanley, Tasmania on 15 September 1879 to Irish Catholic parents Michael and Ellen Lyons. His father gambled and lost all the family’s money

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2. ibid., p. 155.
when Joseph was only nine, forcing the boy to help support the family by working as a messenger and printer’s devil (apprentice). At 12, with help from his aunts, Joseph resumed his schooling and in 1901 he became a teacher at various small rural schools. These youthful experiences coloured Lyons’ whole life and he retained an empathy with Australia’s working poor that won him popularity as Prime Minister.

As a teacher, Lyons was rebuked by the Education Department for his criticisms of the system and for his membership of the Workers’ Political League (forerunner of the ALP in Tasmania). Effectively his political career had begun. He qualified at Tasmania’s first teacher training college in 1907 and then resumed teaching, but resigned in 1909 to contest the State seat of Wilmot for the ALP. He was elected and remained member for Wilmot for 20 years. He continued to fight for teachers’ rights, including equal pay for women, and for secondary education.

**Tasmanian Premier**

From April 1914, when the second Labor Administration was formed in Tasmania, until April 1916, Lyons was State Treasurer, Minister for Railways and Minister for Education. With the Government’s defeat in 1916, he became Leader of the Opposition. In 1919 he made an unsuccessful bid for the Federal seat of Darwin (Tasmania). In 1923, Lyons became Premier, as leader of a minority Labor Government with Nationalist support. He was Premier of Tasmania and Treasurer from 25 October 1923 until the fall of his Government in June 1928.

In 1915 Lyons married Enid Burnell, a 17-year-old junior teacher in his own department. A foretaste of a marriage that would be both an affectionate and a political partnership was given in a courting letter Lyons sent to Enid when he was Treasurer in 1914:

> I have battled sometimes against heavy odds, from the time when at nine years of age I first had to go to work, through one hardship after another, and now that I have risen to practically as high a position as this State can give ... I want to be able to place it at your feet.

‘Lyons took a self-effacing approach, playing the role of one among equals’. One of those equals was Enid, who described their marriage as ‘an equality of partnership’. Lyons’ personal belief in women’s rights was also reflected in his campaign in Tasmania for equal pay and for women’s right to sit in Parliament. As Premier, Lyons also acted with impartiality. Drawing on the support of the conservative National Party and with the advice of economists such as L F Giblin and Douglas Copland, he reformed Tasmania’s financial structure, cutting costs, reducing loans, and imposing new taxes. When he was returned as Premier after the election of 1925, he sought new industries for the State. He was replaced as Premier in June 1928 and went with the ALP into Opposition in 1929.

**Federal Minister**

In October 1929 Joseph Lyons was elected to the House of Representatives for the Federal seat of Wilmot in the landslide defeat of the conservative Bruce Government. The new ALP Prime Minister James Scullin appointed Lyons to the positions of Postmaster-General

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and Minister for Works and Railways, which he held from 22 October 1929 to 4 February 1931. Most railways in Australia remained the responsibility of the State governments for some years after Federation, but by 1929 the Commonwealth was responsible for the North Australia Railway in the Northern Territory, the Trans-Australian Railway between Western Australia and South Australia, the Federal Territory (Australian Capital Territory) Railway, and the Central Australian Railway in South Australia.5

Early in July 1930, the Federal Treasurer, E G Theodore, resigned from Cabinet after the Queensland Government began an investigation into the probity of his business affairs. Prime Minister Scullin assumed the Treasury portfolio, but during his absence in London to attend an Imperial Conference (from 25 August 1930 to 6 January 1931) Lyons was Acting Treasurer. During this time, the Scullin Government was confronted by the worst effects of the Great Depression. Following the Wall Street crash in October 1929, Australia faced national insolvency. The Scullin Government increased tariff protection to an unprecedented level and in 1930 announced a grant of £1 million to be distributed among the States to relieve unemployment.

Lyons’ role as Acting Treasurer and as Minister of Works was crucial. His responsibilities included implementation of the ‘Melbourne Plan’, adopted in 1930, a collaborative State–Commonwealth measure designed to adjust the Australian economy to the impact of the Depression. Sir Otto Niemeyer, the Bank of England emissary to Australia, had informed the 1930 Premiers’ Conference that severe deflationary measures must be taken. As a result, the premiers agreed to balance their budgets, refrain from overseas borrowing and curtail public works programs. In 1931 the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration announced a 10 per cent reduction in the basic wage, with Lyons arguing strongly for similar reductions for public servants.6

Lyons’ transition from State to Federal politics was not a happy one. He disliked the party machines that dominated Labor politics in New South Wales and Victoria, and his fiscal conservatism set him at odds with more radical party members who opposed the stringent financial plan devised to combat the effects of the Depression in Australia. As Acting Treasurer, Lyons struggled with the Labor Caucus to allow the Government to implement the plan. Lyons’ adherence to ‘sound financial management’ won him conservative friends. He was courted in Melbourne by ‘the Group’, a collection of influential businessmen and non-Labor politicians led by stockbroker Staniforth Ricketson and including Victorian member of Parliament Robert Menzies. Lyons’ struggle in Cabinet over economic policy won him national prominence and the vocal support of powerful citizen movements that emerged in response to the crisis in several States.

**Prime Minister**

On 4 February 1931, with his close supporter James Fenton, Lyons resigned from the Cabinet after the reappointment of E G Theodore as Federal Treasurer. On 13 March 1931 during the vote on a no-confidence motion, Lyons, Fenton and three other ALP members crossed the floor and voted with the Nationalist Party Opposition. Over the next few months Lyons consulted with the Group, negotiated with the Nationalist Party and met with the principal citizens’ groups. As a result of these meetings, the United Australia

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5. For information on rail records in the National Archives, see www.naa.gov.au/The_Collection/transport/rail.html.
6. For other relevant records of the Commonwealth’s response to the Great Depression, see Working for the Dole: Commonwealth Relief during the Great Depression, by Don Fraser, National Archives of Australia, Canberra, 2001.
Party (UAP) was formed from Lyons’ followers and the Nationalist Party, with support from the citizens’ groups. Lyons was elected UAP Leader and John Greig Latham, Leader of the Opposition and Nationalist Party Leader, stood aside to become its Deputy Leader.

In April the Senate rejected the Fiduciary Notes Bill, the first in a series of legislative proposals for controlled inflation by which the Government had hoped to create credit. There was rising public dispute about the responses taken by the Scullin Government to the Depression. In the same month, Joseph and Enid Lyons were mobbed by enthusiastic supporters in Adelaide when they arrived to speak at a Citizen’s League conference, Lyons shouting from the train, ‘We shall strike a match tonight that will start a blaze throughout Australia’. On 7 May, ‘Lyons announced the changes [about the new Opposition] in parliament … amid a torrent of denunciation and recrimination from his former colleagues.’

In the fraught economic circumstances of 1931, Lyons’ confrontation with his Prime Minister and his resignation and departure from the ALP were not the only internal problems facing the Government. More prominent was its dispute with ‘Lang Labor’, a splinter group of supporters of New South Wales Premier Jack Lang that had formed in Canberra and gained the balance of power in the House of Representatives. This conflict gave Lyons the opportunity to win government within the year. In March, Premier Lang defaulted on interest payments due on loans raised in London by the New South Wales Government. The Commonwealth Government was forced to pay the amounts and began legal proceedings against New South Wales to recover the money. In November 1931, Lang Labor voted with the Opposition (including the UAP) in a no-confidence motion and the Scullin Government was defeated. Parliament was dissolved and Labor suffered a decisive defeat by the UAP, led by Lyons, at the ensuing election in December 1931.

Lyons’ personal correspondence in the National Archives includes a revealing letter from Sir James Connolly in London. Connolly (1869–1962) was a social reformist politician, a member of both the Western Australian Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly. He was Western Australian Agent-General in London (1917–23), where he was involved in the group settlement scheme to attract settlers onto farming land in rural Australia and the renewal of British migration. His letter of congratulations to Lyons read:

You will see from this morning’s London papers, especially the ‘Times’, the magnificent way in which they hail your victory and the eulogistic way in which they refer to you personally. Having been in politics I can fully appreciate your magnificent courage in coming out from your own party and standing for what you believe to be just and right. In these circumstances we Australians in London feel very very grateful to the people of Australia for endorsing you in such an emphatic way.

When you come over here to the Imperial Conference early next year you will have an opportunity of learning how much the Catholics of England appreciate the magnificent stand you took against Communism and how helpful it is to them here.9

The UAP formed a government with Lyons as Prime Minister on 6 January 1932. He was also Treasurer from January 1932 until 3 October 1935, when he was succeeded by Richard Gardiner Casey, and Minister for Commerce from 3 to 13 October 1932. He became a member of the Privy Council in 1932. After the 1934 elections the UAP formed a coalition Government with the Country Party, retaining Lyons as Prime Minister.

Dr Earle Page, Country Party Leader and Deputy Prime Minister in the Bruce–Page Government of 1923–29, again became Deputy Prime Minister and served as Minister of Commerce and later Minister of Health in this coalition Government.

During Lyons’ prime ministership, the Opposition leaders were James Henry Scullin, ALP (January 1932 to October 1935) and John Curtin, ALP (October 1935 to October 1941). Speakers of the House of Representatives were Norman Makin (1929–32), George Hugh Mackay (1932–34) and George John Bell (1934–40). Governors-General were Sir Isaac Isaacs, who was appointed on Scullin’s recommendation in 1931, followed in 1936 by Lord Gowrie (Brigadier General Alexander Gore Arkwright Hore-Ruthven).

Lyons was Vice-President of the Executive Council from 8 November 1935 to 29 November 1937 and Minister for Repatriation from 8 November 1935 to 6 February 1936. He was Minister for Health from 8 November 1935 to 26 February 1936. In 1936 he was appointed as a Companion of Honour. From 20 to 29 November 1937 he was Minister for Defence. Earlier the same year he represented Australia at the Coronation of George VI and led the Australian delegation to the Imperial Conference, London. He also visited the United States in 1937. An Australian counsellor was attached to the British Embassy in Washington during that year – a small step towards closer foreign relations with the United States of America.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Lyons took few other initiatives in foreign affairs, remaining content with Australia’s dependence on Britain. This contributed to an undue faith by Australians that Britain would move its battle fleet to Singapore and protect Australia against a clearly emerging threat in the southwards expansion of Japan. The Lyons Government’s response to this threat was ambivalent, relying on British protection but loath to jeopardise Australia’s second largest trading market, while also acting to prohibit the export of pig-iron to Japan as a strategic material.

Lyons’ own ambivalence is illustrated in correspondence in 1933 with Dr Rupert Hornabrook, who sent Lyons a copy of his letter published in The Herald newspaper in Melbourne, in which he promoted trade with Japan (he also sent copies to London and Tokyo). But Lyons forwarded this correspondence to the Attorney-General (Latham) describing it as ‘very objectionable’ and asking Latham to advise him ‘as to whether there is any action that could be taken to restrain Dr Hornabrook from transmitting such damaging Statements’.

Such responses, in addition to Latham’s own efforts to prosecute communists, strict censorship and the restrictive immigration policies applied by other ministers, gave the Lyons Government a ‘repressive tinge’. However, in 1936 the Commonwealth did agree to allow entry of a limited number of Jewish refugees from Germany. In many historical accounts, this repressive image is reinforced by the Government’s cautious fiscal management of the Depression and the poor treatment of Aboriginal people. In 1937 the Commonwealth Government refused to send a petition to the King, signed by Aboriginal

10. Hornabrook, Australia’s first full-time anaesthetist, had been a medical officer in India and during the Anglo-South African (‘Boer’) War and World War I. As a result he had developed respect for, and personal friendships with, men in Asia, including in Japan (as his enclosed letters explain). See ‘Note from J A Lyons to J G Latham’, 20 July 1933. NAA, J A Lyons, Papers: CP30/3, 34 (Correspondence ‘H’), at folio 115.

people from all over Australia, requesting an Aboriginal representative in the House of Representatives. When the Australian sesquicentenary celebrations were held in Sydney in 1938, to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the First Fleet, the Aborigines’ Progressive Association staged a ‘day of mourning’.

Historians have also noted the Government’s laggard response to rising military threats in Europe and the Pacific. Lyons was himself a pacifist and opposed conscription during World War I. His role as Vice President of the League of Nations Union in New South Wales was far more suited to his convictions. He opposed the introduction of conscription again in 1938 but then launched a successful recruitment drive led by W M (‘Billy’) Hughes.

**UNEMPLOYMENT**

Lyons took strenuous action both privately and through public policy to ameliorate the effects of the Depression. In 1932, his first year as Prime Minister, unemployment among trade union members reached 30 per cent nationally, the highest unemployment level for unionists during the Great Depression. A census in the following year revealed that approximately half of the unemployed men had been without a job for over two years. However, in 1933 there were also the first signs of improvement in unemployment levels as the number of unemployed unionists fell from 26.5 per cent to 23 per cent.12

Even the hostile Labor press acknowledged Lyons’ honesty in addressing the economic crisis. The *Labor Daily* (NSW) described the Prime Minister’s New Year’s Eve radio broadcast of 1934 as ‘the most extraordinary broadcast address of all time’.

> Mr Lyons threw a wet blanket over the New Year celebrations of the Commonwealth … by apologising to the people for all the misery that has been inflicted upon them in 1934, and thanking them for having shouldered it and promising a New Year full of doubt, difficulty and sacrifice … [His message] was in marked contradistinction to propaganda of the Stevens [NSW] Government and the balance sheets of … various companies.13

Lyons’ correspondence files in the National Archives are swollen with letters pleading for jobs. The reply to a Miss Young in 1932 is typical. Apologising first for being unable to answer personally, being ‘hard pressed … with urgent matters arising out of the Premiers’ Conference’, Mr Lyons deeply sympathised but could not give her any material assistance. He wrote, ‘Every avenue of employment known to him [Lyons] has long since been fully explored on behalf of numerous previous writers, and there is now no direction in which he can turn in the hope of finding any offerings.’14 It is notable how many letters in these folders are from average Australians who appeared to feel comfortable in asking him for help or offering advice.

Lyons remained a genuinely approachable and responsive Prime Minister. His continuing electoral appeal was boosted by his and Enid’s skills as public speakers and their willingness to travel widely, including by aeroplane, which was first used for

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12. For a detailed account of the Federal Government and the Great Depression, see Working for the Dole: Commonwealth Relief during the Great Depression.
14. Letter to Miss Young, 21 July 1932, NAA, J A Lyons, Papers: CP30/3, 95 (Correspondence ‘Y’).
campaigning in the 1932 election. Lyons’ electoral appeal was strengthened by his use of the new medium of radio. The Australian Broadcasting Commission (ABC), established in 1932, was inaugurated on-air by Lyons.

The stability of his Government was also helped by an improving economy, although the first sign of an improvement in employment levels did not become apparent until 1933. In 1934 the Prime Minister indicated that the Commonwealth had finally accepted overall responsibility for the welfare of the unemployed. Lyons invited the States to help prepare a national plan to relieve distress due to unemployment, asking premiers to provide schedules of possible public works with estimates of costs so that the share of financial liability could be determined.

COMMONWEALTH–STATE RELATIONS

The Depression had also exacerbated financial difficulties already facing the less populous States as a result of Federation, and Western Australia, South Australia and Tasmania requested special assistance in recompense from the Commonwealth. The request was reinforced in April 1933 by the vote of a majority of Western Australian electors to secede from the Federation, in the hope that Western Australia might regain prosperity as a separate dominion of the British Empire. A petition was sent to the British Parliament, which eventually responded that this would require the consent of Canberra – needless to say, this consent was not given.

The Commonwealth Grants Commission was established in 1933 and in the following year it recommended marginal grants to Western Australia, South Australia and Tasmania sufficient to bring their budgets to the average of the other States. The formation of the commission was one of the major achievements of Lyons’ prime ministership. It formalised the practice of using Commonwealth money (via taxation of the wealthier States) to reduce interstate economic differences and to provide an equality of opportunity across the nation.

Death

The last months of Lyons’ life were marred by power struggles among ambitious members of his Cabinet and defections from his Government, including Menzies’ resignation.

Following a heart attack, Joseph Lyons died in hospital on 7 April 1939. He was the first Prime Minister to die in office. The news was broadcast by Dr Earle Page, speaking from St Vincent’s Hospital in Sydney. The ABC had installed a microphone at the hospital and linked up all broadcasting stations in Australia for the announcement.

Lyons’ body lay in state in St Mary’s Cathedral in Sydney, where it was viewed by 45,000 people. After a state funeral, his body was taken by warship to Tasmania where he was buried. Page was sworn in as ‘caretaker’ Prime Minister and was in office for less than three weeks before being succeeded by Robert Menzies, the new UAP Leader, on 26 April 1939.

Most records relating to Joseph Lyons are held in the National Archives of Australia. The remainder are mainly held at the National Library of Australia with a smaller number of records elsewhere (see Chapter 3). This chapter describes the relevant records of Lyons held in the National Archives, as well as the relevant personal records of other ministers and senior public servants during this period.

Apart from Lyons’ own records, many other records relating to him were created by government departments and agencies during his terms of office as a minister in various portfolios and as Prime Minister. These Commonwealth records, held at the National Archives, reveal the political context of Commonwealth Government activities and the processes of government decision-making and administration. They consist mainly of general policy and correspondence files and refer to the everyday implementation of government policy.
Commonwealth agencies

Lyons was responsible for a number of different portfolios during his time in Federal Parliament. The Commonwealth agencies listed below are those that Lyons was directly associated with during his terms of office. Records created by these agencies contain much information relevant to him and his role in government matters.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date range</th>
<th>Agency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22 Oct 1929 – 4 Feb 1931</td>
<td>Department of Works and Railways (CA 14) – as Minister</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 Oct 1929 – 4 Feb 1931</td>
<td>Postmaster-General’s Department (CA 9) – as Postmaster-General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 Aug 1930 – 10 Jan 1931</td>
<td>Department of the Treasury (I) (CA 11) – as Acting Treasurer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Jan 1932 – 3 Oct 1935</td>
<td>Department of the Treasury (I) (CA 11) – as Treasurer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Jan 1932 – 7 Apr 1939</td>
<td>Prime Minister’s Department (CA 12) – as Prime Minister</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3–13 October 1932</td>
<td>Department of Commerce (CA 28) – as Minister</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Nov 1935 – 6 Feb 1936</td>
<td>Repatriation Department (I) (CA 16) – as Minister</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Nov 1935 – 26 Feb 1936</td>
<td>Department of Health (CA 17) – as Minister</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Nov 1935 – 29 Nov 1937</td>
<td>Federal Executive Council (CA 2) – as Vice-President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20–29 November 1937</td>
<td>Department of Defence (II) (CA 19) – as Minister</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Commonwealth records

Two main types of Commonwealth records relate to Lyons. The first type was created when he was a member of the Legislative Assembly in Tasmania, particularly while he was Premier (1923–28). The second and far larger group of records consists of material created during Lyons’ time in Federal Parliament, as Postmaster-General and Minister for Works and Railways (1929–31), Acting Treasurer in the Scullin Labor Government (1930–31)\(^{16}\) and Prime Minister (1932–39).

Many relevant Commonwealth records relate to Lyons’ three terms as Prime Minister from 1932 to 1939. During this time he was also Treasurer (1932–35) and Minister for Commerce (1932), a member of the Privy Council (1932), Minister for Health (1935–36), Minister for Repatriation (1935–36), Minister for Defence (1937) and Vice-President of the Executive Council (1935–37).

Cabinet records for the period that Lyons served as a Federal Minister and/or as Prime Minister (1929–39) are also very important. Until 1925 no regular or formal method of recording Cabinet decisions existed, and no systematic recording of Cabinet decisions or submissions took place until 1938. As a result the collection of Cabinet records created

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\(^{16}\) For an overview of National Archives records relating to J H Scullin, see Fact Sheet 75, James Henry Scullin at www.naa.gov.au/Publications/fact_sheets/fs75.html.
between 1925 and 1940 is incomplete. In 1976 the National Archives began copying Cabinet papers and other material found in departmental files in order to create as complete a series as possible of Cabinet documents from this period. This resulted in the creation of series A6006, which contains copies of Cabinet papers from 1901 to 1941.

**Correspondence records**

Lyons’ correspondence held at the National Archives includes personal and official correspondence from 1930 to 1939 with key political and public figures including Stanley Melbourne Bruce, Robert Menzies, Archdale Parkhill, William Morris Hughes, Sir Keith Murdoch and Sir Philip Game. Additional correspondence relates to Lyons’ positions as Postmaster-General, Leader of the United Australia Party and the Federal Opposition, and Prime Minister. General correspondence from 1937 to 1939 includes letters between King George VI and Lyons and cables to and from Lyons and his party during his visit to London, together with associated papers.

The correspondence series most relevant to Lyons were generally created by various Commonwealth agencies and are held in the Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne offices of the National Archives.

Pamphlet from the 1934 Federal election campaign.

*NAA: CP30/3, 78*
The records

National Archives records on Joseph Lyons are listed chronologically as far as possible under the following headings. Unless otherwise indicated, the records are located in the Canberra office of the National Archives. Many of these records have been digitised and are available for viewing online through the National Archives RecordSearch database.

- Tasmanian Premier, 1923–28
- Federal Minister, 1929–37
- Prime Minister, 1932–39
- Death and memorials, 1939–71
- Portraits and photographs, 1927–73

**TASMANIAN PREMIER, 1923–28**

Most of the material about Lyons when he was Premier of Tasmania is held in the collections of other archives (see Chapter 3).

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1901–50**

Recorded by: Prime Minister’s Department (CA 12)

Quantity: 146 metres

This series contains general correspondence files covering the range of subjects that came to the prime minister’s attention in this period. Many papers from the previous general correspondence of the department have been top-numbered into this series. The series also contains constitutional material dating back to 1901.

**Immigration encouragement – early schemes – Tasmania – policy, 1921–25**

This item contains correspondence between prime ministers and successive premiers of Tasmania concerning a joint Commonwealth–State scheme for immigration. In 1923 (when Lyons became Tasmanian Premier), a committee was set up in Hobart to consider development schemes with a view to increasing immigration. A conference was convened on 7 December 1923 on the question of promoting land settlement and increasing production. Letters from Premier Lyons in 1924 outline the forest plantation homes scheme for Tasmania which involved the employment of boy migrants aged 10–18. There is further correspondence relating to a visit to Hobart by Senator R V Wilson to discuss the details of the scheme.
CORRESPONDENCE FILES AND OTHER RELATED PAPERS, 1926–30  
Recorded by: Development and Migration Commission (CA 243)  
Quantity: 24 metres  
This series contains material dating back to 1915. It comprises files of the Development and Migration Commission, including its State-by-State investigations.  
Investigations, Tasmania, conferences with Premier, 1927 CP211/2, 39/13  
Investigations, Tasmania, confidential letter to Premier (Lyons), 1927 CP211/2, 39/14  

FEDERAL MINISTER, 1929–37  
CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1890–1969  
Recorded by: 1903–16 Department of External Affairs (I) (CA 7)  
1916–28 Department of Home and Territories (CA 15)  
1928–32 Department of Home Affairs (II) (CA 24)  
1932–39 Department of the Interior (I) (CA 27)  
Quantity: 455 metres (Canberra); 2 metres (Darwin)  
Records in this series cover administrative and personnel matters for the agencies listed above. The records cover matters as diverse as immigration, employment, forestry, and oil and mineral exploration.  
Unemployment relief loan, 1932–35 A1, 1935/3349  
This item contains information about proposals for public works to alleviate unemployment in the States. The public works schemes included the construction of roads, water supply systems, railway deviations and aerodromes.  
Alien immigration relaxation of restrictions, 1933–34 A1, 1933/9940  
Federal subsidy for extra forestry work in the States to relieve unemployment, 1935–36 A1, 1935/2667  

CABINET PAPERS (FOLDERS OF COPIES), 1901–  
Recorded by: 1976–81 Australian Archives (CA 1720)  
1981–94 Australian Archives (CA 3196)  
1994 National Archives of Australia (CA 7970)  
Quantity: 9 metres (Canberra); microfilm in each State office of the National Archives  
Please see pp. 18 and 19 for a brief description of the method of recording Cabinet decisions and the creation of A6006. A6006 item numbers are the date of the Cabinet meeting. In
some cases, items have the same item number because they relate to the same meeting. When citing items from this series, the series number, item number and title need to be quoted.

Preference in employment (returned soldiers), 1930

A6006, 1930/02/05

This paper was signed by Lyons as Minister for Works in the Scullin Ministry. It states in part:

Cabinet decided that preference in employment is to be given to Returned Soldiers, in accordance with the practice adopted in pursuance of the Provisions of the Public Service Act in relation to employment under that Act, but within that preference, employment is to be given firstly to Returned Soldiers who are Unionists.

'SHEDDEN COLLECTION', 1901–71

A5954

Recorded by: Department of Defence (CA 19)

Quantity: 201 metres (Canberra); smaller quantities other NAA State offices

Sir Frederick Geoffrey Shedden was Secretary of the Department of Defence between 1937 and 1956. This series contains records he collected during his career and collated during his retirement when researching and writing a book on the history of Australian defence policy. The book was not published at the time of his death (8 July 1971). This series

Prime Minister Lyons addressing a crowd in Brisbane, 1934. NAA: CP103/19, 22, photo 6
contains drafts of the manuscript along with copies of departmental correspondence, files, reports and press cuttings, including for 1937 when Lyons was Minister for Defence as well as Prime Minister.17

Messrs Lyons and Fenton – resignation from Scullin Ministry, 1931–66 A5954, 1174/7

Scullin Government (1929–32) – reasons for its defeat, 1957 A5954, 1174/10

**JOSEPH LYONS (LEADER OF THE UNITED AUSTRALIA PARTY AND THE FEDERAL OPPOSITION), CORRESPONDENCE, 1931** CP30/2

Recorded by: The Rt Hon. J A Lyons PC, CH (CP 254)

Quantity: 0.18 metres

This series consists of correspondence files maintained by Lyons following his defection from the ALP in early 1931. Although it contains some earlier and later material, the series effectively ended when the UAP won the general election in December 1931 and Lyons became Prime Minister.

Ten files in this series contain personal representations to Lyons by individuals and organisations, and his replies. The series also contains correspondence between Lyons and other public figures. The correspondence covers Lyons’ stand against the Scullin Government, the All for Australia League, loan conversions and other financial proposals, industry, Tasmanian issues, pensions and unemployment. It was originally filed alphabetically but only files I to P and S are in this series. The remaining files are in CP103/19.

**Correspondence ‘L’, 1922–30 December 1931** CP30/2, 4

This item contains information on the All for Australia League, the *Penny Post* (a Hobart newspaper), religious broadcasting, limbless soldiers’ pensions, Tasmanian savings banks and correspondence with various people, including William Morris (‘Billy’) Hughes.

**Correspondence ‘P’, 15 June 1930 – 10 December 1931** CP30/2, 9

This item contains correspondence on a variety of issues, including fellow politicians, political and private secretaries, the Premiers’ Conference, the *Producers’ Review*, Tasmanian potatoes, taxation of books and missionaries to the New Hebrides.

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JOSEPH LYONS (LEADER OF THE UNITED AUSTRALIA PARTY AND PRIME MINISTER), PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1923–39

Recorded by:

1930–39 The Rt Hon. J A Lyons PC, CH (CP 254)
1930–31 Treasurer’s Office (CA 11)
1932–39 Prime Minister’s Department (CA 12)

Quantity: 0.36 metres

This series contains photocopies of original documents from CP 103/19 and, possibly, CP 167/2, which were transferred from the Prime Minister’s Department to Archives’ custody in 1949. The records mainly relate to Joseph Lyons’ time as Prime Minister, but of particular importance are several papers from 1930, when Lyons was Acting Treasurer, and 1931, when the UAP was established. The series contains correspondence from Lyons’ political colleagues and associates, eg Stanley Melbourne Bruce, Dr Earle Page, Sir Henry Gullett, Sir John Latham and William Morris Hughes. Apart from letters, the series also contains speech notes, departmental briefs, Hansard extracts and published material.

Formation of the United Australia Party, 1931–33

Country Party, includes correspondence with Dr Earle Page regarding merging with UAP, 1932

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1927–42

Recorded by: Department of External Affairs (II) (CA 18)

Quantity: 147 metres

The Department of External Affairs (II) was established as a small office within the Prime Minister’s Department for the conduct of external relations in 1921. Most items were created while External Affairs activities were conducted by this semi-autonomous branch of the Prime Minister’s Department. In 1935 the Department of External Affairs (II) was separated administratively from the Prime Minister’s Department and the series continued until 1942.

Speeches and notes prepared for Minister for Defence, 1935–39

Antarctic – proposed sale of Discovery I, 1936

Conferences – Public Health Works Congress, Paris, July 1937
SCULLIN MINISTRY – TYPED COPIES OF CABINET MINUTES, 1929–31

Recorded by: Secretary to the Cabinet/Cabinet Secretariat (I) (CA 3)

Quantity: 0.91 metres (Canberra); smaller quantities in each State office

This series consists of typed exact copies of the original Cabinet minutes of the Scullin Government. These copies were apparently made in 1951 and cover minutes kept from 1929 until June 1931.

JOSEPH LYONS (LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION AND PRIME MINISTER), CORRESPONDENCE, 1931–39

Recorded by: The Rt Hon. J A Lyons PC, CH (CP 254)
Hon. Dame Enid Muriel Lyons AD, GBE (CP 928)

Quantity: 2.34 metres

Most of the material in this series relates to Lyons’ first term as Prime Minister (1932–34). The series also contains some subject files relating to broadcasting, conversion bonds, iron ore in Western Australia, the sale of scrap iron to Japan, Mrs Enid Lyons and condolences on the death of Lyons in 1939.

Correspondence ‘H’, 1931 CP103/19, 41
Correspondence, ‘L’ – personal, 1934 CP103/19, 58

JOSEPH LYONS (POSTMASTER-GENERAL) CORRESPONDENCE, 1931–56

Recorded by: The Rt Hon. J A Lyons PC, CH (CP 254)

Quantity: 0.09 metres

This series includes the typescript copy of a letter from Joseph Lyons as Postmaster-General to Frank Forde, then Assistant Minister for Trade and Customs. The letter is a reply to a representation made by Forde on behalf of E S Morrow for the latter’s reappointment to the Postmaster-General’s Department. Lyons, as Postmaster-General during the Depression, probably received many such representations relating to employment in this period.
PRIME MINISTER, 1932–39

NAVAL HISTORICAL FILES, ALPHABETICAL SUFFIXES, 1875–

Recorded by: 1943–59 Navy Office (IV), Department of the Navy (II) (CA 38)
1959–79 Navy Office (CA 2615)
1979– Department of Defence (III) (CA 46)

Quantity: 24 metres (Melbourne)

Although it contains material dating back to 1875, this series was actually created in 1943 by the Naval Historical Section to provide source material for the Navy volumes of the *Official History of World War II*. The Melbourne Office of the National Archives holds a copy of subject index cards. The series contains some items of relevance to Lyons.

‘The defence of Australia – what the Lyons Government has done’, ‘Defence aspects of the Imperial Conference’ (pamphlets), 1936–37

CORRESPONDENCE AND PRINTED MATTER ARRANGED BY SUBJECT (‘SPECIAL PORTFOLIO’), 1888–1936

Recorded by: Governor-General’s Office (CA 1)

Quantity: 11.6 metres

Some items in this large series of correspondence between London and the Governor-General of Australia are relevant. Several relate to the period Lyons was Premier of Tasmania.

Lord Stonehaven (Governor-General) and staff visit to Tasmania, 1926

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1890–1969

Please see series description on p. 21.

Production of oil in Australia – prime ministerial statement, 2 September 1935

FILES OF THE SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY, 1896–1952

Recorded by: Department of the Treasury (I) (CA 11)

Quantity: 1.6 metres

This series consists of files created by the Secretary to the Treasury between 1 January 1896 and 31 December 1952. The first part of the series consists of agreements between different
people, organisations and governments. The second part consists of correspondence files on a wide range of Treasury-related matters.

Secretary’s papers – Prime Minister’s remuneration, 1937

RECORDS OF IMPERIAL CONFERENCES, 1897–1933

Recorded by: Prime Minister’s Department (CA 12)

Quantity: 4.3 metres

Although this series was not created until 1911, it contains material dating back to 1897. It comprises papers laid before the Imperial conferences, eg agenda, proceedings, reports and cables, correspondence and departmental notes, and memoranda dealing with the organisation of the conferences, including the 1933 conference when Lyons was Prime Minister.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1899–1939

Recorded by: Prime Minister’s Department (CA 12)

Quantity: 50 metres

This series contains general papers, correspondence and Hansard extracts. The files deal with subjects that came to the attention of the prime minister of the day. In particular, these subjects included the increasing number of unemployed, stringency in government spending and relief work.

Unemployment relief – general, 1932–33

This item contains an extensive collection of unsolicited letters from individuals suggesting various schemes to solve the unemployment problem.

Winter relief – unemployed soldiers, 1933

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ALPHABETICAL PREFIXES, 1899–1983

Recorded by: 1928–41 Territories Branch, Prime Minister’s Department (CA 822)

1941–51 Department of External Territories (I) (CA 42)

1951–56 Department of Territories (I) (CA 60)

Quantity: 242 metres

This series was created in 1928, but includes material dating from 1899 to 1983. In addition to covering the administration and development of Australian external territories such as New Guinea, Nauru and Norfolk Island, the series also deals with aspects of the administration of mainland territories.
Topics covered include agriculture, fishing and fisheries, forestry, public works, communications, employment and the Public Service.

Record of the Lyons Government, January 1933 to January 1934  A518, BB112/1
Norfolk Island – provision of relief work, 1934–42  A518, Y618/3

PAPERS COLLECTED IN THE OFFICES OF THE SECRETARY AND THE PRIME MINISTER, 1901–39  CP290/1
Recorded by: Prime Minister’s Department (CA 12)
Quantity: 0.36 metres
This is an extremely varied collection of papers. Most items appear to have passed back and forth between the Office of the Secretary and the Prime Minister’s Office and to have been held eventually in the Secretary’s safe because of their confidential nature.

Report on group settlement in war by the Development Branch, 1934  CP290/1, bundle 1/11
Financial policy of Commonwealth, correspondence with Prime Minister during London visit, 1936–37  CP290/1, bundle 1/15
Commercial relations between Australia and Japan, 1937  CP290/1, bundle 1/17

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1901–50  A461
Please see series description on p. 20.

Schemes for relief of unemployment, South Australia, 1925–39  A461, D351/1/9
This item contains information about alleviating unemployment in South Australia. It includes a letter from Lyons in January 1935 notifying the Premier of South Australia that the Commonwealth would supply £125 000 to his State under the Loan Appropriation (Unemployment Relief) Act 1934.

Broadcasting addresses by Prime Minister and Ministers, 1926–41  A461, C422/1/8 part 1
Changes in Commonwealth Ministers – Scullin and Lyons (Governments), 1929–32  A461, B4/1/3 part 1A: 1929–32
Messages from Prime Minister (general), 1929–32  A461, B4/1/12
Rt Hon. J A Lyons CH, MP, 1929–33  A461, D4/1/12
Unemployment, Christmas relief, 1932–38

This item contains extracts from Hansard (2 November 1932 and 25 October 1933) in which Prime Minister Lyons informed Parliament that the Government was granting funds to provide the unemployed with relief work before Christmas in 1932, and again in 1933.

Messages to and from the Prime Minister, general, 1933–42

This item contains correspondence from Prime Minister Lyons to State premiers about a conference to examine the practicality of standardising the nation’s rail gauges as a way of relieving unemployment.

National plan for the relief of unemployment, 1934–36

On 2 November 1934 Lyons sent a letter to all State premiers referring to the Commonwealth Government’s intention to invite their cooperation in developing a national plan to relieve distress due to unemployment. He stressed that Commonwealth measures would supplement State activities, rather than being a substitute for them. Among the suggestions made by the States was the provision of water supplies to 13 New South Wales country towns, with the estimated cost of £1 250 000 being contributed by local authorities, the New South Wales State Government and the Commonwealth.

Schemes for relief of unemployment, Western Australia, 1934–36

This item contains correspondence between the Premier of Western Australia and Lyons concerning relief of unemployment in that State. It includes Lyons’ advice to the Premier on 18 December 1934 that Federal Parliament had authorised the appropriation of £125 000 for Western Australia.

Schemes for relief of unemployment, NSW, 1934–41

This item contains a schedule of relief works proposed by the Premier of New South Wales, and Lyons’ advice to him on 18 December 1934 that Parliament had allocated £336 091 to that State. It also contains a letter of 10 January 1935 from the premiers to Lyons noting that his ‘Government continues to receive representations from local residents and bodies that the Hydro-Electric development of the Snowy River should be proceeded with’. 
Immigration policy, 1936–37
A461, A349/1/2
part 2

This file contains letters from Lyons to State premiers in September 1936 asking whether they would favour a resumption of assisted migration, and other papers including a memorandum by the Prime Minister’s Department on ‘Development and Migration’.

Immigration policy, 1937–38
A461, A349/1/2
part 3

The bulk of the file covers resumption of assisted migration in 1938. It includes the policy speech ‘More People Imperative’ by Prime Minister Lyons in September 1937; copies of Department of Interior memoranda for Cabinet on ‘Assisted Migration’, February 1938; communications to the States setting out categories to be assisted; and a public Statement by the Prime Minister entitled ‘To restore British Migration’, March 1938.

Immigration of artisans, Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation, 1938
A461, N349/1/6

In January 1938, the Managing Director of General Motors Holden Ltd and founder and Director of the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation, Sir Laurence Hartnett, wrote to the Prime Minister on behalf of the Corporation pointing out that the aircraft industry was handicapped by a lack of skilled tradesmen. In view of the importance of the aircraft industry to Australia’s defence, assisted passages were granted to selected artisans from the United Kingdom.

Immigration, Catholic refugees from Germany and Austria, 1938–39
A461, R349/3/5

This file includes a letter and enclosures from Cardinal Hinsley, Archbishop of Westminster, London, to Prime Minister Lyons in May 1938, on the setting up of a Catholic committee to assist Catholic refugees and inquiring about conditions under which Catholic refugees from Germany and Austria could be admitted to Australia.

Prime Minister’s itinerary, New South Wales – Queensland – Victoria – South Australia – Western Australia, June–July 1939
A461, C4/1/12
part 4

OATHS, CORRESPONDENCE AND GAZETTE NOTICES – APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS OF COMMONWEALTH MINISTRIES, 1901–56
A5447

Recorded by: Federal Executive Council (CA 2)

Quantity: 0.72 metres

This series is recorded by the Secretary to the Federal Executive Council as part of his responsibility to ensure that all necessary action is taken in connection with the
appointment of prime ministers, ministers and Executive Councillors. The action includes the drafting of Commonwealth of Australia Gazette notices and the administration of the appropriate oaths of office.

From 1901 to November 1938 (the end of the First Lyons Ministry) there are two files for each Ministry. The first of these contains the oaths of office for each member of the Ministry. The second file contains correspondence (including letters of resignation), telegrams, newspaper clippings and gazette notices relating to the appointment or resignation of ministers and members of the Federal Executive Council.

17th Commonwealth Ministry, First Lyons Ministry, ministerial oaths, 6 January 1932 – 7 November 1938 A5447, 32
17th Commonwealth Ministry, First Lyons Ministry, correspondence, 6 January 1932 – 7 November 1938 A5447, 33
18th Commonwealth Ministry, Second Lyons Ministry, ministerial oaths, correspondence and gazette notices, 7 November 1938 – 7 April 1939 A5447, 34

This folder includes references to Menzies’ resignation from Cabinet and the Gazette notice of Lyons’ death.

‘SHEDDEN COLLECTION’, 1901–71

Please see series description on p. 22.

The basis of policy and the priority of expenditure, 1932–37 A5954, 1201/13
Frederick Shedden – diaries, 1932–63 A5954, 17/1 to 17–203
Budget speech, 1933–34 A5954, 2390/14
Imperial Conference, defence aspects – speech by Prime Minister, Sydney, 28 July 1937 A5954, 1073/4
Imperial Conference, Prime Minister’s opening speech, 1937 A5954, 1811/5
Prime Minister – speech on Commonwealth Government’s defence policy in the light of the Imperial Conference, 1937 A5954, 2393/5
Speech by Prime Minister in reply to no-confidence motion moved by Leader of Opposition, 2 November 1938 A5954, 1022/7
Government’s new program of national defence – statement by the Prime Minister, 24 March 1938 A5954, 1022/12
Labor’s policy – no-confidence motion – speeches by Leader of Opposition, Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, 1938 A5954, 1077/6
Prime Minister – speech on Government’s new program of national defence, 1938
A5954, 1668/17

Broadcast address by the Prime Minister and Dame Enid Lyons: ‘Campaign to increase the strength of the militia forces to 70,000’, 4 December 1938
A5954, 1949/4

Prime Minister’s letter – notes for Minister – air-raid precaution measures in Australia, 15 March 1939
A5954, 395/2 appendix A

Prime Minister’s letter – cooperation of State governments in matters of a defence value, 15 March 1939
A5954, 1088/6

‘National defence’, broadcast address by the Prime Minister, 23 March 1939
A5954, 1949/8

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1901–78
A571

Recorded by: Department of the Treasury (I) (CA 11)

Quantity: 644 metres (Canberra); 72.4 metres (Sydney)

This is the main correspondence file system of the former Department of the Treasury (I).

Information for Prime Minister for overseas visit, 1935
A571, 1935/657

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1901–
A432

Recorded by: 1929–1958
Attorney-General’s Department (CA 5)
Deputy Crown Solicitor’s Office (CA 832)

Quantity: 2,046.6 metres (Canberra); 352.6 metres (Sydney)

This is the department’s main file series. It began in 1929, replacing the existing systems, and contains material top-numbered from those series, including some papers dating back to 1901.

Prime Minister – sanctions, Cabinet memoranda and statements, 1935
A432, 1935/1633 part 5

CABINET PAPERS (FOLDERS OF COPIES), 1901–
A6006

Please see series description on p. 21.

Date of unemployment conference, 1935
A6006, 1935/01/04

This item provides some insight into the Lyons Cabinet’s priorities for solving the unemployment problem.

Prime Minister’s speech – notes – opening of the Loan Council, Canberra, 21 October 1938
A6006, 1938/10/21
CORRESPONDENCE FILES, OCCASIONAL ‘G’ (GENERAL REPRESENTATIONS) INFIX, 1903–

Recorded by: Prime Minister’s Department (CA 12) and subsequently by agency under the control of prime minister

Quantity: 542.6 metres (Canberra); 184 metres (Sydney)

Although this series contains material dating back to 1903, it was raised in 1956 to deal with general and policy matters handled by a department directly under the control of the prime minister. Subjects covered vary, reflecting the coordinating function of the department. Political, social, cultural, economic, industrial and defence matters are all dealt with in this series. Other matters include the administration of the Commonwealth Government, immigration, honours, international conferences and diplomatic relations with other countries.

J A Lyons – appointment as Privy Councillor, 1932 A463, 1957/1084

Portrait and bust of Rt Hon J A Lyons by W B McInnes, 1932–38 A463, 1965/3219

Reports to the Prime Minister on international situation, 1938 A463, 1957/1067

‘SF’ (SPECIAL FILES), SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1905–51

Recorded by: Attorney-General’s Department (CA 5)

Quantity: 32 metres

The series consists of bundles identified as ‘Special Files’ relating to various subjects. The papers include personal papers of attorneys-general and other departmental officers, and deal with such matters as royal commissions, legal cases and seditious literature.

Publications from unlawful associations – forms related to donations to the Communist Party for the defeat of the Lyons Government, 1937 A467/1, bundle 89/42/14

MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS, 1905–69

Recorded by: Prime Minister’s Department (CA 12)

Quantity: 3.6 metres

This series contains miscellaneous papers relating to various functions and responsibilities of the Prime Minister’s Department, accumulated in the security vault at East Block (a Commonwealth building in Canberra). Records relevant to Lyons’ period as Prime Minister include papers of various Commonwealth/State consultative committees (1920–56); miscellaneous papers relating to departmental functions and responsibilities, eg the Governor-General; royal commissions; staffing and various committees.
Ministerial delegation – letters to and from Prime Minister and Ministers abroad, 1938

AA1972/341, 83

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1911–

Recorded by: Department of the Interior (II) and subsequently by various departments

Quantity: 321.3 metres

The contents in this series date from 1908 onwards. This was the department’s principal and general correspondence series. It included the administration of the ACT and the Northern Territory, and files relating to Aboriginal affairs.

Representation of Aborigines in Commonwealth Parliament, 1937

A431, 1949/1591

This file contains a copy of William Cooper’s letter to Joseph Lyons, discussing the Australian Aborigines’ League petition to King George VI in 1937. For a discussion of this correspondence and the deputation to Prime Minister Lyons, see A Markus, ed., Blood from a Stone: William Cooper and the Australian Aborigines League, Monash University, Clayton, Victoria, 1986, pp. 17 and 32.

JOSEPH LYONS (LEADER OF THE UNITED AUSTRALIA PARTY, ACTING TREASURER AND PRIME MINISTER), CORRESPONDENCE, 1932–34

Recorded by: 1932–34 The Rt Hon. J A Lyons PC, CH (CP 254)
1932–34 Hon. Dame Enid Muriel Lyons AD, GBE (CP 928)
1932–34 Prime Minister’s Department (CA 12)

Quantity: 2 metres

This series relates to Lyons’ first term as Prime Minister. It includes personal representations; papers on broadcasting, political associations, industry and pensions; and correspondence from community organisations, friends and political associations. Other items deal with the 1937 Imperial Conference, The Lodge and a tour of Queensland. Some files contain personal correspondence of Enid Lyons.

Correspondence ‘A’, 6 December 1932 – 19 December 1933

CP 30/3, 2

This item includes a letter from Lyons to the editor of the Adelaide Advertiser, 17 June 1932, which notes, ‘Personally I shall always be grateful for the splendid support given to me by “The Advertiser” in the difficult days of 1931’.

Correspondence ‘B’, 12 January – 22 December 1933

CP 30/3, 8

This item includes correspondence about Baerami shale oil (Bet Bet Shire, Victoria) and the wheat industry; and with Lieutenant General Gordon (Henry) Bennett (Commander of
COPY.

AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINALS' LEAGUE

William Cooper,
Hon. Secretary.
43 Mackay Street,
Seddon. W.1.

Doug. Nicholls,
Hon. Treasurer.

The Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister,
Canberra.

26th October, 1937.

Dear Mr. Lyons,

Thank you for your acknowledgement of our petition to His Majesty and the promise of fullest sympathy and consideration. We know you will give this and we do thank you for the definite interest you have in our cause. I would, however, offer the following comment in respect of the penultimate clause of your letter of 17th inst. and would request that these comments be in mind in the consideration promised.

His Majesty is King of Australia, and, on this account, the State control of aborigines should not prevent consideration being given on a national basis. I am not, therefore, able to appreciate the reference to the natives of the Territory in particular and to the jurisdiction of the State Governments. We do trust that the division of the administration over State Legislatures, which is always to our detriment, will not retard our relief. With all respect, since our petition is to the King of Australia, it should not be possible for divided control hurting us in this instance.

Respecting the conference of Chief Protectors, from which we scarcely expected relief, and which, so far as we can see only resulted in one decision which was not previously operative, and that the recognition of the wives of aboriginals married according to Tribal Law being recognised as legal wives and thus not being compellable witnesses. From our point of view the conference was only a waste of time. We did expect a Magna Carta from the Premiers' conference but from the conference of Chief Protectors we only got the confirmation of our humiliation. Frankly, we are alarmed at the intention to seek advice from countries where Negro populations constitute the dark problem, for we, notwithstanding all our indignity, are allowed to walk on footpaths, ride in public vehicles and trains and put up in many hotels where white men are residing. To add to our sorrows the humiliation of our dark brethren in the curfew and the pass system would be degradation indeed. In due course we will present you with our comment on the published minutes of the conference but meantime we are in protest against the whole result. We do claim that the forming of our petition be not clouded with the State aspect or the atmosphere of the Chief Protectors' conference.

Respecting our claim for parliamentary representation, we very definitely submit that the Maori population is approximately the same as our people, with any advantage to us. In an area the size of Victoria they have four members and a Ministry for Native Affairs, which has had a native minister. We are persisting in our claim for one who can speak for us in Parliament, influencing legislation on our behalf and safeguarding us from administrative officers who, with notable exceptions, interpret their responsibilities to the aborigines in much the same way as a good governor does his criminal population. Our desire is a change of heart in the electorate reflected in Parliament and leading to a policy which will be different from that administered by our States. So far from divided control being allowed to retard our securing representation, we feel that our member should have the right to sit in every legislature, and any constitutional difficulty could be overcome by legislation. If our member were a member of the Senate, perhaps, as this is a States' Rights House, any difficulty might be more easily overcome.

Hoping to hear shortly of the granting of our requests.
I remain, etc. (Sd.) W. COOPER, Hon.

Letter from the Australian Aborigines’ League to Joseph Lyons, 1937. NAA: A431, 1949/1591
3 Australian Corps, 1942), Mrs Daisy Bates (an Anglo-Irishwoman deeply involved in caring for Indigenous Australians), and E D A Bagot (one of the founders of the Citizens’ League of South Australia, 1930).

Correspondence ‘C’, 21 December 1931 – 12 December 1932 CP 30/3, 15
This item includes the letter from Sir J Connolly congratulating Lyons on the UAP win at the 1931 election (quoted in Chapter 1, p. 13).

Correspondence ‘Y’, 22 September 1931 – 4 January 1933 CP 30/3, 95
This item includes correspondence with Miss B L S Young in response to her representation for employment (quoted in Chapter 1, p. 15), and with Major Radcliffe of the Young Nationalist Organisation (Melbourne), 18 March 1932. The reply to Major Radcliffe reads in part:

The Prime Minister discussed with Mr H P Brown recently the question of your obtaining a B-class Broadcasting Station for the Young Nationalist Organisation. There are very many difficulties in the way of this. For instance, there is already a tremendously long list of applications from people wanting Broadcasting Stations ... Mr Brown has, however, promised to go into this matter and see if anything can be done.

Correspondence ‘H’, 18 May 1932 – 14 December 1933 CP 30/3, 34
This item includes Lyons’ acceptance of the office of vice president of the League of Nations Union (New South Wales Branch), his message concluding, ‘There have been many attempts through the ages to foster international peace, but none … offers such prospects of success as the present League of Nations’.

Correspondence ‘H’, 9 September 1932 – 31 December 1933 CP 30/3, 35
This item includes correspondence about pensions, New Settlers’ League (a scheme which saw thousands of immigrants and returned soldiers settled on small blocks of farming land), the Hume Reservoir, trade commissioner appointments, the Hobart Rotary Club’s ‘Spend for Employment Campaign’, and the McCrudden machine gun. Correspondence with individuals such as politicians Billy Hughes and W A Holman is also included.

Personal correspondence of Prime Minister Lyons, 12 September 1932 – 21 May 1935 CP 30/3, 56
This item includes correspondence about invitations, travel arrangements, and family and birthday greetings.
Correspondence ‘A–Y’ – filing list, c1937

Imperial Conference 1937 – cable to Acting Prime Minister Dr Earle Page re foreign affairs, 1937–56

JOSEPH LYONS (LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION AND PRIME MINISTER), CORRESPONDENCE, 1931–39

Please see series description on p. 25.

Correspondence ‘A’, 6 December 1933 – 27 December 1934

This item includes correspondence on a number of matters, including the Australian Women’s National League of Tasmania, the cement industry, the canned fruits industry, the Australian Newspapers Conference, the Commonwealth Bank Board and the Agricultural Bureau of Tasmania.

Scrap iron for Japan – Sydney waterside workers’ strike, 14 May 1938 – 27 January 1939

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1921–32

Recorded by: Prime Minister’s Department (CA 12)

Quantity: 15 metres

Constitutional Conference, Prime Minister’s opening speech, 1934

HONOURS FILES (FOR SPECIFIC HONOUR, EVENT OR INDIVIDUAL), 1921–54

Recorded by: Governor-General (CA 1)

Quantity: 0.18 metres

Separate honours files were raised during this period for specific honours (eg Imperial Service Medal), or for individuals who had received high awards or whose case was detailed.

The Rt Hon. Joseph Aloysius Lyons, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth, appointed member of the Privy Council, 18 May 1932

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ALPHABETICAL SERIES, 1921–70

Please see series description on p. 24.

Chinese Consul-General: Deputation to Prime Minister, 1934

Speeches broadcast by Prime Minister, 1935–40

Statement by Prime Minister on return from Imperial Conference, 1937
NEW YEAR HONOURS FILES, 1 JANUARY 1921–

Recorded by: Governor-General (CA 1)

Quantity: 3.5 metres

These files contain correspondence relating to, and details of, the recommendation and conferment of various honours for the New Year Honours lists.

New Year Honours 1936 – correspondence with Secretary of State and Prime Minister, 1935–36 A2925, 1936/2

DEFENCE (NAVY) SERIES, 1923–38

Recorded by: Navy Office (III) (CA 2456)

Quantity: 50.6 metres (Melbourne)

This general correspondence series covers all activities of the Navy Office of the Department of Defence.

Lyons Government, 1932–36 MP124/6, 404/201/195

JOSEPH LYONS (LEADER OF THE UNITED AUSTRALIA PARTY AND PRIME MINISTER), PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1923–39

Please see series description on p. 24.

Campaign advertisement ‘Lyons leads the way’ (photocopy), 1936 M2270, 2

S M BRUCE – PAPERS, c1923–45

Recorded by: The Rt Hon. Viscount Stanley Melbourne Bruce PC, CH, MC (CP 23)

Quantity: 0.45 metres

This series consists of folders of cables and correspondence maintained by Bruce in London, including correspondence with Prime Minister Lyons. Most relate to the period when Bruce was Australian High Commissioner in London from 1933 to 1945.

Imperial Economic Conference, Ottawa, 1932 AA1970/559, 2

This item contains cables between Prime Minister J A Lyons and the Australian delegation to the conference. The delegation was led by Stanley Melbourne Bruce.

Memoranda and correspondence, Ottawa Agreement, 1932–33 AA1970/559, 5

This item contains copies of memoranda and correspondence on Articles 9–14 of the Ottawa Agreement. It also contains
correspondence between Stanley Melbourne Bruce and Prime Minister Joseph Lyons on topics such as the conversion of loans, the King’s Christmas radio message, civil air communications, Australian diplomatic representation to America and Bruce’s resignation from Parliament.

**Correspondence of Bruce with Prime Minister Joseph Lyons, 1933**

This item contains correspondence on topics such as conversion of loans, shipping, the appointment of Prince of Wales to the Royal Australian Navy, wireless communications, the dairy industry, the position of Australian High Commissioner in London, Dominion representation to the League of Nations and the Victorian centenary celebrations.

**MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS, 1925–39**

Recorded by: Prime Minister’s Department (CA 12)

Quantity: 0.09 metres

This series includes newspaper cuttings on unemployment during the Depression (1932–35); correspondence with, and newspaper cuttings on, the Boys’ Employment League; return of applications for Crown Lands in Western Australia (1939); the Privy Council appeal judgement re the Circassia and the Scindia; and the appointment of the Governor of New South Wales in 1935.

**Miscellaneous papers, 1925–35**

This item includes a letter from Attorney-General R G Menzies to Prime Minister Lyons about Commonwealth agreements and a letter from Dr Brodbeck to the Governor of New South Wales on the proposed formation of a Pan-Oceanic Bureau.

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1925–49**

Recorded by: Department of Health (CA 17)

Quantity: 82.7 metres

Files in this series deal with the general administration of the department. They cover such topics as diseases, quarantine, drugs, epidemics, laboratories, inspections, hygiene and staff matters.

**Miscellaneous correspondence on health matters, 1937**

This item includes a policy speech by the Rt Hon. J A Lyons, dated 28 September 1937.
CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1925-54

Recorded by: 1935-42 Department of Commerce (CA 28)
1942-43 Department of Commerce and Agriculture (CA 48)

Quantity: 17.8 metres

The series comprises files dealing with the registration of brands and trade marks; estimates of expenditure; trade delegations to India, Burma, Ceylon, China, New Guinea, Papua, Austria, the United States of America (USA) and other countries; exhibitions and fairs; and migration. It contains material dating back to 1925.

Record of Lyons Government, 1933-38 A601, 165/1/1
Record of the Lyons Government, nos 1 to 13, 1937 A601, 165/1/7

ATTORNEY-GENERAL SIR JOHN LATHAM – PERSONAL PAPERS, 1930-34

Recorded by: The Rt Hon. Sir John Latham PC, GC, MG (CP 148)

Quantity: 0.18 metres

This series includes papers from Latham’s second period as Commonwealth Attorney-General, from January 1932 to October 1934. The series also contains papers on the Ministry of External Affairs and notes on the subject filing system (1933-35). It includes information for general working purposes and representations from individuals and organisations asking Latham to exert influence in favour of various petitions, along with subsequent correspondence.

LYONS AND PAGE MINISTRIES, MINUTES AND SUBMISSIONS, 1932-39

Recorded by: Secretary to Cabinet/Cabinet Secretariat (I) (CA 3)

Quantity: 4.2 metres

Records in this series contain minutes of meetings, submissions (explanatory memoranda) and, in the early years, agenda papers. Within each volume, papers are arranged chronologically by date of Cabinet meeting. At this time only members of Cabinet could be present at Cabinet meetings and it was the practice for one Minister to act as ‘Secretary to Cabinet’, recording decisions informally. While some minutes have been typed, others are in their original draft form, sometimes written on scraps of paper. The Secretary to Cabinet was also responsible for circulating agenda papers and submissions before meetings, via officers of the Prime Minister’s Department.
RADIO ARCHIVES MASTER AUDIO TAPES, SUBJECT CLASSIFICATION
SYSTEM, 1933–71  
Recorded by: Australian Broadcasting Commission (CA 251)  
Quantity: 47.5 metres (Sydney)

The tapes in this series are master and working copies of gramophone discs in the ABC’s sound library, some of which date back to 1933. The discs are spoken word recordings and cover a wide variety of subjects. They were catalogued by a subject classification system, which was also used to control the tape copies. Among the subject classifications relevant to Lyons are broadcasting (personalities and occasions); education (personalities and events); features and/or documentaries; occasions (State and national); and political (Australian personalities, speeches and Parliament).

Lyons, J A, sound recording, 1934

CABLES BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER LYONS, DR EARLE PAGE AND
OTHERS, 1935–38  
Recorded by: 1935–38 The Rt Hon. J A Lyons PC, CH (CP 254)  
1937 The Rt Hon. Sir Earle Page PC, GCMG, CH (CP 715)  
1935–38 Prime Minister’s Department (CA 12)  
Quantity: 0.18 metres

These cables and related papers originated in the Prime Minister’s Office. They were primarily exchanged between Lyons and S M Bruce, then High Commissioner in London, and Dr Earle Page. The latter relate particularly to 1937 when Lyons was in London for the Imperial Conference and Dr Page was Acting Prime Minister. Subjects covered in the series include the 1936 International Sugar Conference, the Treaty of Locarno and the international situation, and national insurance.

Cables between Lyons, Dr Earle Page (Acting PM) and others, 25 March – 20 July 1937

These cables deal with the 1937 Imperial Conference, the 40-hour week, the Coronation contingent, the Royal Commission on Monetary and Banking Systems, the Commonwealth Grants Commission, Pacific shipping and government business.

PRIME MINISTERS LYONS, CORRESPONDENCE (BY SUBJECT), 1937–39  
Recorded by: 1937–39 The Rt Hon. J A Lyons PC, CH (CP 254)  
1937–39 Prime Minister’s Department (CA 12)  
Quantity: 0.36 metres

This series contains correspondence from the public and related ministerial representations with responses from
Lyons’ office. Most items relate to specific portfolios and have their original titles, eg Civil Aviation, Defence, Interior, Pensions, Repatriation, War Service Homes or Postal. Some folders are more personal and contain autograph requests, condolences, congratulations and letters of introduction.

Civil aviation, aerodromes at Devonport and Latrobe, Tasmania, 1931–39 CP167/2, 3

Federal elections 1937 and Prime Minister’s tour of Queensland (itineraries), 1937–38 CP167/2, 11

Interior, representations (C–W), 1938–39 CP167/2, 12

This item includes correspondence on entry into Australia, Japanese pearlers, Jewish migrants and naturalisation.

United Australia and Nationalist Organization of Tasmania and UAP Wentworth divisional conference, 1939 CP167/2, 17

**LETTER FROM KING GEORGE VI ON PRESENTATION OF AN OIL PAINTING OF THE 1937 ROYAL CORONATION, 1938** CP144/1

Recorded by: The Rt Hon. J A Lyons PC, CH (CP 254)

Prime Minister’s Department (CA 12)

Quantity: 0.09 metres

The series contains a typescript letter from George VI to Lyons concerning his role in the gift of an oil painting of the 1937 Royal Coronation. It also includes a photograph of the illuminated address (which was signed by the prime ministers of Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa) that accompanied the painting.

**JOSEPH LYONS, GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1938–39** CP167/1

Recorded by: The Rt Hon. J A Lyons PC, CH (CP 254)

Prime Minister’s Department (CA 12)

Quantity: 0.18 metres

Known as the ‘General Series’, this correspondence relates to the last 15 months of Lyons’ term as Prime Minister (from 1938 to early April 1939). It consists of personal representations, letters offering opinions or providing information and minor political correspondence. Several letters were addressed to Dame Enid Lyons rather than her husband. The correspondence was essentially all handled by Lyons’ prime ministerial staff. Main subjects include the personal situation of the writer or a member of his/her family, the imminence of war, H G Wells, radio broadcasts, social and political issues, and condolences offered on Lyons’ death.

**Correspondence ‘U’, 9 February – 2 March 1939** CP167/1, 21
REPRESENTATIONS RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT, 1938–39

Recorded by: 1938–39  The Rt Hon. J A Lyons PC, CH (CP 254)
1938–39  Prime Minister’s Department (CA 12)

Quantity: 0.36 metres

This series contains personal representations concerning employment made to Lyons in 1938 and early 1939. It also includes papers dating back to 1931. Some representations were made through Dame Enid Lyons, and often came from a parent, spouse or family friend on behalf of the person seeking employment. The correspondence usually provides details of employment history, war service, personal situation or family circumstances. Positions were mainly sought in the Commonwealth or State public services, Defence forces, munitions establishments, large companies or other organisations, including the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation and the Australian Broadcasting Commission.

The representations are in alphabetical order by correspondent, and associated papers usually include correspondence between Lyons and the appropriate Minister or organisation he approached on the person’s behalf. Some pre-1938 letters are also present. In other cases the final reply was made in the weeks following Lyons’ death in April 1939.


CORRESPONDENCE FILES (CLASSIFIED), 1950–

Recorded by: Prime Minister’s Department (CA 12) and subsequently by departments under prime ministerial control

Quantity: 829.5 metres

This series contains classified files on general and policy matters handled by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. Subjects range from departmental and domestic matters to foreign affairs, and reflect the functions of the department in the political, cultural, economic, industrial and defence fields.

Rt Hon. J A Lyons CH, MP – background papers on honours, 1934–39
DEATH AND MEMORIALS, 1939–71

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1901–50

Please see series description on p. 20.


A461, 700/1/354B

JOSEPH LYONS (LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION AND PRIME MINISTER), CORRESPONDENCE, 1931–39

Please see series description on p. 25.

Condolences, death of Prime Minister J A Lyons, 1939

CP103/19, 25

RADIO ARCHIVES MASTER AUDIO TAPES, SUBJECT CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM, 1933–71

Please see series description on p. 41.

Page, Sir Earle – announcement of death of Lyons (sound recording), 1939

C102, POL9

Curtin, John – speech on death of Prime Minister Lyons (sound recording), 1939

C102, POL10

Description of funeral of the Rt Hon. J A Lyons (sound recording), 1939

C102, POL11

Watt, Sir Alan – interview re Lyons Government (audio tape), 1966

C102, POL65

JOSEPH LYONS, GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1937–39

Please see series description on p. 42.

This series includes condolences offered to Dame Enid on Lyons’ death.

Correspondence ‘G’, 30 May 1938 – 15 April 1939

CP167/1, 7

PRIME MINISTERS LYONS, CORRESPONDENCE (BY SUBJECT), 1937–39

Please see series description on p. 41.

Condolences (B–W), 6 January – 6 June 1939

CP167/2, 5

This item includes condolence letters on the deaths of J A Lyons and others, and newspaper cuttings.
PHOTOGRAPHS AND PORTRAITS, 1927–73

FOLDERS OF EXHIBITS, 1900–46

Recorded by: 1943–46 Rural Reconstruction Commission (CA 245)

Quantity: 2.9 metres

The series consists of exhibits as submitted to the Rural Reconstruction Commission. Exhibits consist of reports, pamphlets, statistics, books, map and photographs. They were tendered in conjunction with evidence, or sent in by interested people.

Grave of former Prime Minister Joseph Lyons, Tasmania, 1973 A6184, 13/9/73/9

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, OCCASIONAL ‘G’ (GENERAL REPRESENTATIONS) INFIX, 1903–

Recorded by: 1907–13 Australian Industrial Property Organisation (AIPO) (CA 555)
1913–30 Copyright Office (II) (CA 556)
1930–69 AIPO (CA 555)

Quantity: 77 metres

This series consists of artistic copyright files. Copyright legislation included the requirement to submit an application for the registration of copyright to the Registrar, with the appropriate fee and a copy of the work in question.

APPLICATIONS FOR ARTISTIC COPYRIGHT (WITH EXHIBITS), 1907–69

Recorded by: 1907–13 Australian Industrial Property Organisation (AIPO) (CA 555)
1913–30 Copyright Office (II) (CA 556)
1930–69 AIPO (CA 555)

Quantity: 77 metres

This series consists of artistic copyright files. Copyright legislation included the requirement to submit an application for the registration of copyright to the Registrar, with the appropriate fee and a copy of the work in question.

MILDENHALL COLLECTION OF GLASS PLATE NEGATIVES, 1913–35

Recorded by: 1921–35 William James Mildenhall (CP 491)
1921–24 Department of Works and Railways (CA 14)
1925–30 Federal Capital Commission (CA 226)
1930–31 Federal Capital Territory Branch, Department of Home Affairs (II) (CA 756)
1932–39 Civic Administration Branch, Department of the Interior (I) (from 1935, Department of the Interior (II) (CA 757)

Quantity: 95 metres

This series consists of over 7 000 glass-plate negatives, mainly of Canberra and surrounding areas. Some images date back to
1913, but most were taken after 1921 by William Mildenhall who was employed as the Information Officer for the Federal Capital Commission. His duties in this position appear to have included recording photographically the growth of Canberra.

Delegates to the Imperial Press Conference, with Billy Hughes, Mrs Hughes and Joseph and Enid Lyons, 1927

Opening of the 16th Parliament – Hon. J A Lyons, 1929

Hon. J A Lyons and two other members of Federal Parliament, 21 October 1929

Newly-elected Labor members of the 16th Parliament, Scullin Ministry, 21 October 1929

Meeting of the Executive Council at Government House, Yarralumla, October 1932

This photograph is of Prime Minister Joseph Lyons and the Governor-General, Sir Isaac Isaacs, along with members of the Executive Council.

HRH Prince Henry with Prime Minister Lyons and Mrs Lyons, Canberra, 1934. NAA: A1861, 6590
Prime Minister Lyons, J A Scullin and other members of Parliament, Anzac Day 1933

Governor-General being received by Prime Minister Lyons at Parliament House, Anzac Day 1933

JOSEPH LYONS (LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION AND PRIME MINISTER), CORRESPONDENCE, 1931–39

Please see series description on p. 25.

Prime Minister Lyons addressing a crowd in Brisbane, 1934

Prime Minister Lyons addressing a crowd at the Albert Hall, Canberra, Anzac Day 1934

PHOTOGRAPHIC NEGATIVES AND PRINTS, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, ‘L’ (LIBRARY) PREFIX, 1945–71

Recorded by: 1945–50 Department of Information (CA 34)
1950–71 Australian News and Information Bureau (CA 219)

Quantity: 80.5 metres

This series, compiled largely by the Australian News and Information Bureau, shows all aspects of Australian life, including unique and varied views of individuals and scenes. Until 1954, photographs covered conferences and the visits of dignitaries. After that date, photographic records of such events were kept in separate series.

Joseph Aloysius Lyons, Prime Minister, 6 January 1932 – 7 April 1939

Dame Enid Lyons standing beside her husband’s portrait, 1949

TO ORDER RECORDS, PLEASE QUOTE NUMBERS IN RIGHT-HAND COLUMN
Records in other collections

After the National Archives, the National Library of Australia holds most of the records relating to Joseph Lyons. Material is also held in several other institutions across Australia.

The Manuscripts Section of the National Library of Australia holds some of Joseph Lyons’ papers, which deal mainly with his time as Prime Minister. These papers include official as well as personal papers, eg communications with governors-general. Substantial material on, and by, Lyons (including correspondence) can also be found in other papers held in the National Library, particularly in the papers of Dame Enid Lyons (see Chapter 4) and those of political colleagues and friends. Photographs and images of Joseph Lyons can be found by searching PictureAustralia at www.pictureaustralia.org/servlet/pa/search.

Australian Capital Territory

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA

Lyons’ series is listed first, followed by other series arranged alphabetically.

LYONS, J A (JOSEPH ALOYSIUS), 1924–39

Quantity: 1.5 metres (7 boxes)

Joseph Lyons’ papers consist of correspondence, notes, commissions, cuttings, cables, financial statements, speeches, photograph albums and scrapbooks. They refer to the Depression; the formation of the UAP; the choosing of the first UAP Ministry; trade, customs and the economy; the appointment of Lord Gowrie as Governor-General; financial relations with Great Britain; and the abdication of Edward VIII. Main correspondents include Lord Bruce, Lord Gowrie, John Latham, Robert Menzies, Earle Page, Sir George Pearce, J A Perkins, Staniforth Ricketson, James Scullin, Sir F Stewart and M M Threlfall (Lyons’ private secretary).

Correspondence, 1924–29

Box 1, folder 1

This folder mostly contains letters congratulating Lyons on his election to Federal Parliament in October 1929, with copies of some replies.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Records in other collections</th>
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- **Correspondence, 1930**
  - Box 1, folder 2
  - This folder contains correspondence mostly addressed to Lyons as Acting Treasurer, including from F M Forde, Professor Douglas Copland, Keith Murdoch and Henry Gullett.

- **Correspondence, 1931**
  - Box 1, folder 3
  - This folder contains letters and some replies to Lyons as Leader of the Opposition, from Nationalist Party branches, James Scullin and others.

- **Correspondence and memoranda, 1932**
  - Box 1, folder 4
  - This folder includes letters from the Commonwealth Tariff Board, S M Bruce, R Menzies, G F Pearce, B S B Stevens, H S Gullett, C L A Abbott, J Ramsay Macdonald and Sir H Lawson.

- **Country Party, October 1932**
  - Box 1, folder 5
  - This folder contains letters between Lyons and Earle Page and T Patterson.

- **Bank of New South Wales, 1931–32**
  - Box 1, folder 6
  - This folder contains correspondence between A C Davidson and Lyons.

- **UAP Subcommittee on Policy, 1931**
  - Box 1, folder 7

- **Formation of the UAP, 1931–33**
  - Box 1, folder 8
  - This folder contains letters, cuttings, copies of letters and drafts of agendas. It contains correspondence with organisations such as the Sane Democracy League, the All for Australia League, the Emergency Committee (South Australia) and the Citizens’ League.

- **Formation of Ministry, 1931–32**
  - Box 1, folder 9
  - This folder contains lists, correspondence and telegrams from individuals such as Dr Hornabrook and Dr Earle Page, and from various organisations, including the Graziers’ Association of New South Wales.

- **Trade and Customs, 1932–36**
  - Box 1, folder 10
  - This folder contains correspondence, minutes, summaries of phone conversations and cables.

- **Correspondence, 1933**
  - Box 1, folder 11
  - This item contains correspondence from a number of individuals, including M M Threlfall, S M Bruce, J H Starling, J G Latham, C L A Abbott and H S Gullett.
Correspondence, 1934–39

This item contains correspondence from a number of individuals, including Archdale Parkhill, S M Bruce, W M Hughes, C L A Abbott, Lord Gowrie, King George VI and L S Hartnett.

Financial and economic statements, 1930–31

These folders include statements, extracts from newspapers and cables, copies of letters, statistics, minutes, printed material. Correspondents include J Heathershaw, L F Giblin, R Gibson and J H L Cumpston.

Speeches and addresses, 1931–39

This folder contains correspondence (mostly by Lyons) on the 1931 Federal election, Jack Lang and James Scullin, the Royal Easter Show, federalism, budgets, broadcasting, national insurance, world peace, the Imperial Conference of 1937 and the conferral of the freedom of the City of London upon Lyons.

Miscellaneous papers, 1930s


Appointment of Lord Gowrie, 1935–36

Abdication of King Edward VIII, 1936

This folder includes a Proclamation poster, statements and cuttings.

Invitations, programs, menus, certificates, 1937

The contents of this folder mostly relate to Lyons’ visit to England in 1937.

Lyons’ death – tributes and funeral, 1932

Cuttings, 1914–38

These boxes contain 12 albums and two folders of cuttings mainly covering the years 1931 to 1938.
ANSTY, FRANK, PAPERS, 1930–39
Quantity: 0.01 metres

Frank Anstey was MHR for Bourke (ALP) and Scullin’s Minister for Health and Repatriation (1929–31). The papers include two items from Anstey’s memoirs of the Scullin Government (1931); two pages entitled ‘The Starvation Scheme’, referring to the plan submitted to the Premiers’ Conference by a Committee of Experts (6 February 1931); and four pages entitled ‘Great Conference of Commonwealth and States’ (6 February 1931), purporting to be a summary of the proceedings of the conference. A summary description is provided on RAAM.

AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY RECORDS, 1906–90
Quantity: 5.5 metres (39 boxes)

These ALP records include Caucus minutes from 1906 to 1989, which cover Lyons’ terms as an ALP Federal minister.

BAGOT, EDWARD DANIEL ALEXANDER, PAPERS, 1862–1967
Quantity: 1 metre (7 boxes)

Alec Bagot was a South Australian politician and one of the founders of the Citizens’ League of South Australia (1930). The collection mainly dates from 1862 to 1967, and includes letters from politicians including J Scullin, J A Lyons and N Makin about the Citizens’ League of South Australia. There are also pamphlets, letters, newspaper clippings and articles on Bagot’s years in politics. A summary description is provided on RAAM and a descriptive list is available.

BALL, WILLIAM MACMAHON, PAPERS, 1921–85
Quantity: 6.4 metres (46 boxes)

William M Ball was an academic and diplomat. This collection includes a letter from Lyons acknowledging a submission from Ball and other academics on foreign policy issues (1937).

BELL, SIR GEORGE, BIOGRAPHY, ND
Quantity: 0.02 metres

George Bell (1872–1944) was a member of the UAP. This item includes photographs. A summary description is provided on RAAM and a descriptive list is available.
BOYCE, SIR LESLIE, PAPERS, 1926–68

Quantity: 0.24 metres (14 folders)

Sir Leslie Boyce was a politician, businessman and Lord Mayor of London (1951–52). These papers include letters, speeches and notes on the 1937 Imperial Conference attended by Lyons. A summary description is provided on RAAM. For a descriptive list, see www.nla.gov.au/ms/findaids/8111.html.

BRADFIELD, J J C, PAPERS, 1908–43

Quantity: 2.42 metres (13 boxes + 9 large folios)

J J C Bradfield was an engineer. His personal documents include correspondence with Lyons about Commonwealth Government works (1935).

BRIGDEN, J P, PAPERS ON ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN AUSTRALIA, 1923–48

Quantity: 0.15 metres (1 box)

James Brigden was an economist. These papers relate to economic conditions in Australia (1928–39), the National Insurance Commission (1939) and other topics relevant to Lyons’ time as Prime Minister. Also included are radio talks, correspondence, parliamentary reports, cuttings and published works. A summary description is provided on RAAM and a descriptive list is available.

BROOKES, HERBERT AND IVY, PAPERS 1869–1970

Quantity: 25.6 metres

Herbert Brookes was a businessman and political activist. Ivy was Alfred Deakin’s daughter. The papers in this collection include correspondence, notes, diaries, minute books, photographs and cuttings. Main correspondents include Joseph Lyons and William Morris Hughes. A descriptive list is available at www.nla.gov.au/ms/findaids/1924.

BUCHANAN, ALFRED, ‘THE PRIME MINISTERS OF AUSTRALIA’, 1940

Quantity: 0.06 metres

Alfred Buchanan’s ‘The Prime Ministers of Australia’ is an unpublished manuscript comprising biographies of all prime ministers from Edmund Barton to Robert Gordon Menzies.
CASEY FAMILY, PAPERS, 1820–1978  MS 6150

Quantity: 10.4 metres (73 boxes)

Among the material in this collection are the cutting books of R G Casey (later Lord Casey), including from the time he was a minister in the Lyons Government (1933–39).

COMMONWEALTH NATIONAL LIBRARY (AUSTRALIA), RECORDS, 1926–54  MS 350

Quantity: 0.20 metres (1 folder)

These papers include speeches delivered at the laying of the foundation stone of the National Library building in Canberra on 23 November 1934 and a letter to Prime Minister Joseph Lyons dated 11 October 1935 from John Masefield (British Poet Laureate from 1930 to 1967). Masefield laid one of the foundation stones of the National Library of Australia building in Kings Avenue in 1934.

COPLAND, SIR DOUGLAS BERRY, PAPERS, 1920–70  MS 3800

Quantity: 16 metres

The collection includes photographs covering Sir Douglas Copland’s career as an influential economist. It also includes diaries, research notes, cuttings, correspondence, and material on the economic and political situation in Australia (1920–65).

CRISP, L F, PAPERS, 1878–1984  MS 5243

Quantity: 21 metres (140 boxes)

L F Crisp was a political scientist and public servant. Among his papers is a file on Lyons.

DENNING, WARREN, PAPERS, 1953–65  MS 5129

Quantity: 0.16 metres (6 folders)

Warren Denning was a journalist and author. The collection includes drafts of some of his writing on the ALP and biographical articles, including on Sir Earle Page, James Scullin, Joseph Lyons, Lord Bruce and Sir Robert Menzies. A descriptive list is available on RAAM.

DOUGLAS, R IRVINE, PAPERS, 1905–73  MS 3797

Quantity: 1.5 metres

Irvine Douglas was a journalist and newspaper executive. His collection includes English newspaper cuttings on Lyons.
DUMAS, SIR LLOYD, PAPERS, 1929–57  
MS 4849

Quantity: 1.25 metres

Lloyd Dumas was a journalist. His papers include correspondence and newspaper cuttings dealing with political subjects (1929–48), including correspondence with Bruce, Lyons and Chifley. For a descriptive list, see www.nla.gov.au/ms/findaids/4849.html.

EDWARDS, CECIL, PAPERS, 1962–67  
MS 4637

Quantity: 0.48 metres (3 boxes)

The collection includes approximately 150 letters between Stanley Melbourne Bruce and Cecil Edwards, his biographer, which refer to the UAP and Joseph Lyons.

EGGLESTON, SIR FREDERIC, PAPERS, 1911–54  
MS 423

Quantity: 5 metres (34 boxes)

Sir Frederic Eggleston was a politician, diplomat and scholar. His papers include correspondence written when he was Chairman of the Commonwealth Grants Commission (1933–41).

ELLIS, ULRICH RUEGG, PAPERS, c1900–72  
MSs 748, 55, 821, 941 and 1006

Quantity: 7.3 metres

Ulrich Ellis was political secretary to the Federal Country Party Leader Earle Page (1928–36) and an author. MS 821 contains notes on the origin and writing of Truant Surgeon (Page’s autobiography). MS 1006 includes Ellis’s writings, material on his career as a journalist in Canberra (1926–39) and as a political secretary, and references to various public figures, including Lyons. Also included in MS 1006 are notes on Ellis’ book, A History of the Australian Country Party, which was published in 1963. Lyons, Menzies and Bruce are mentioned as well as the formation of the UAP. Descriptive lists are available for some of these collections, including MS 1006.

GIBLIN, L F, PAPERS, 1885–1965  
MS 366

Quantity: 0.85 metres

L F Giblin was an economist and statistician. He was the Professor of Economics at the University of Melbourne from 1929–40. His papers include correspondence with Joseph Lyons.
GOWRIE, LORD ALEXANDER HORE-RUTHVEN, PAPERS, 1872–1955

MS 2852

Quantity: 54 boxes

Lord Gowrie (Sir Alexander Hore-Ruthven) had extensive experience as a Vice-Regal representative. He was Governor of South Australia (1928–34), Governor of New South Wales (1935) and succeeded Sir Isaac Isaacs as Governor-General (1936–1944, a record term). His papers include photographs, notebooks, memoirs and correspondence.

Governor-General of Australia, 1936–44

Series 4

General correspondence containing material relating to the Office of the Governor-General, with copies of some outgoing letters. Joseph and Enid Lyons were among Lord Gowrie’s correspondents.

GROOM, SIR LITTLETON ERNEST, PAPERS, C1880–1936

MSs 236, 1135 and 1452

Quantity: 7.14 metres (42 boxes)

Sir Littleton Ernest Groom was the MHR for Darling Downs and a UAP member. These papers include correspondence with Federal political figures and cuttings (1888–1936) on Federal politics, including articles on Joseph Lyons. A summary description of MS 236 is provided on RAAM and a detailed descriptive list is available.

GULLETT, SIR HENRY, PAPERS, 1889–1939

MSs 3078 and 5347

Quantity: 0.30 metres

Sir Henry Gullett was a member of Federal Parliament, a UAP member and a member of the Lyons Cabinet. These papers include MS 3078, photocopies of correspondence with Lyons, and MS 5347, which contains newspaper cuttings from 1923 to 1938.

Correspondence and papers relating to political career, 1926–40

MS 3078, series 3

GUY, JAMES ALLAN, PAPERS, 1931–65

MS 6405

Quantity: 0.01 metres

(James) Allan Guy was a Tasmanian politician, parliamentary colleague and a friend of Joseph and Enid Lyons. This collection includes correspondence and notes concerning his political career as Lyons’ deputy and as a member of Federal Parliament (1931–65).
HART, PHILIP R, PAPERS RELATING TO LYONS, 1964–74

Quantity: 0.09 metres (6 folders)

Philip Hart assembled these papers while preparing his doctoral thesis ‘J A Lyons: A Political Biography’ in 1967. They include correspondence (1964–74), newspaper cuttings, a photograph and the program of an ABC broadcast on Lyons. Correspondents include Dame Enid Lyons, James Allan Guy, F C Green, E J Holloway, Staniforth Ricketson, Ulrich Ellis, Sir Peter Heydon and Norman Makin.

HAWKER, CHARLES ALLEN SEYMOUR, PAPERS, 1904–38

Quantity: 1.25 metres

Charles Hawker was a South Australian pastoralist, MHR for Wakefield, UAP member and a member of the Lyons Cabinet. The papers consist of correspondence, speeches, parliamentary papers, cuttings and photographs. They cover such subjects as Indigenous Australians, Defence and the Ottawa Agreement. Correspondents include Lyons.

HUGHES, COLIN ANFIELD, PAPERS, 1966

Quantity: 0.01 metres

These are research papers compiled by Colin Anfield Hughes as adviser and coordinator of the ABC television series Mr Prime Minister (1966). Papers relate to Sir Robert Menzies, William Morris Hughes, John Curtin, Joseph Lyons and Harold Holt.

HUGHES, WILLIAM MORRIS, PAPERS, 1875–c1979

Quantity: 35 metres (224 boxes)

Former Prime Minister William Morris (‘Billy’) Hughes became a UAP member and later a minister in Lyons’ Cabinet. His papers, dating mainly from 1915 to 1952, include correspondence, diaries and notebooks, newspaper cuttings, photographs, and family and political papers. This collection contains a small amount of correspondence between Hughes and Joseph and Enid Lyons. It also contains the corrected typescript of L F Fitzhardinge’s biography of Hughes. The political papers include Hughes’ time as a backbencher (1923–34 and 1941–52) and papers relating to the UAP (1932–43), as well as his various ministerial positions (1934–41). There is a summary description on RAAM and a descriptive list is available at www.nla.gov.au/ms/findaids/1538.html.
ISAACS, SIR ISAAC, PAPERS, 1875–1966  MS 2755

Quantity: 1.30 metres

Sir Isaac Isaacs was a Federation Convention delegate, Federal Attorney-General (1905–06), a High Court Justice, Chief Justice (1930) and Governor-General (1931–36) during the Scullin and Lyons prime ministerships. His papers include correspondence, cuttings, photographs and the Government House visitor’s book for 1931 to 1935. A summary description is provided on RAAM and a descriptive list is available.

JENSEN, SIR JOHN, PAPERS (MANUSCRIPT), 1955–63  MS 935

Quantity: 4 folders

Sir John Jensen was a public servant. His papers include material by Sir Frederick Shedden on the economic depression of the 1930s.

KINGSMILL, SIR WALTER, PAPERS, 1926–27  MS 745

Quantity: 0.02 metres

Walter Kingsmill, a Western Australian senator, was President of the Senate from 1929 to 1932. These papers, found among records of the Public Accounts Committee, include his correspondence with Lyons.

LATHAM, SIR JOHN, PAPERS, 1868–1964  MS 1009

Quantity: 18.4 metres

John Latham was Leader of the Opposition (1929–31), Deputy Leader of the Opposition (1931–32), and founder, with Lyons, of the UAP (1931). He was also Attorney-General from 1925 to 1929 and again from 1932 to 1934. This collection of his papers contains a substantial amount of material on Lyons, including correspondence. The series most directly concerned with Lyons are listed below. A descriptive list is available.

General correspondence, 1896–1963  Series 1

Leader of the Opposition, 1929–31  Series 46

Formation of the UAP, 1931  Series 49

Federal elections, 1931  Series 50

United Australia Party, 1931–34  Series 51

Deputy Prime Minister, 1932–34  Series 52

Attorney-General, 1932–34  Series 53
Minister for External Affairs, 1932–34  
Minister for Industry, 1932–34  
Disarmament Conference, 1932  
Imperial Economic Conference, 1932  
Australian Eastern Mission, 1934  
Federal elections, 1934

**LAWSON, J N, PAPERS, 1938–40**  
Quantity: 0.02 metres

John Norman Lawson was a UAP member. This collection includes correspondence on his appointment as Parliamentary Secretary and his resignation from the office of Minister for Trade and Customs (1938–40), and photographs of Lawson and colleagues.

**MARR, SIR CHARLES WILLIAM CLANAN, PAPERS, 1912–59**  
Quantity: 0.96 metres

Charles Marr was a UAP member and a member of Lyons’ Cabinet, holding the portfolios of Health, Repatriation and Territories (1932–34). The collection includes correspondence, personal documents and texts of speeches (covers 1925, 1929, 1931 and 1935–43). It also contains newspaper cuttings (including on politics and elections) and typescript notes.

**MENZIES, SIR ROBERT, PAPERS, 1905–78**  
Quantity: 81 metres (578 boxes)

Sir Robert Menzies was a UAP member. From 1934 he was the MHR for Kooyong and Lyons’ Attorney-General and Minister for Industry. He later became Deputy Leader and Prime Minister after Lyons’ death. His extensive collection includes correspondence, including some with Joseph and Enid Lyons (1935–78); cuttings and speeches (1917–76); diaries (1935–63); and Liberal Party correspondence (1944–74), with emphasis on Australian politics and government (1939–65). A descriptive list is available at www.nla.gov.au/ms/findaids/4936.html.

**MILLER, E MORRIS, PAPERS, 1907–71**  
Quantity: 0.08 metres

Edmund Morris Miller was a scholar. His papers include correspondence from Australian authors and with J A Lyons
(1934–35) concerning honours for Australian writers and a commentary on this by Miller. A descriptive list is available.

MURDOCH, SIR KEITH, PAPERS, 1915–52

Quantity: 1.75 metres

Sir Keith Murdoch was a journalist and newspaper executive. His papers include correspondence with Lyons (1934–38).

NEEDHAM, K LILIAS, PAPERS, 1914–73; 1922–72

Quantity: 0.60 metres (MS 4847); 0.98 metres (MS 6768 – 54 folders, 14 diaries and notebooks, 1 disc, 1 folio) (2 boxes)

Lilias Needham was Charles Hawker’s sister and his biographer. Charles Hawker was a UAP member and a member of Lyons Cabinet. These collections include material collected for her biography, published as Charles Hawker: Soldier – Pastoralist – Statesman (Adelaide, 1969).

PAGE, SIR EARLE, PAPERS, 1908–61

Quantity: 43 metres

Dr (later Sir) Earle Page founded and led the Country Party, and became Prime Minister (briefly) upon Lyons’ death. His papers include subject files of correspondence, cables, cuttings, personal documents, reports and speeches. They cover topics such as primary industry, taxation and banking, foreign affairs, national insurance, industrial relations, social services, immigration, trade, the formation of the Bruce–Page Government, and the Country Party. The correspondence includes 12 letters from Lyons. A chronological and subject list of files is available.

PARKHILL, SIR ARCHDALE, NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS AND CORRESPONDENCE, 1904–47

Quantity: 0.28 metres (1 box + 4 folios)

Sir Archdale Parkhill was Secretary of the Liberal and Reform Association of New South Wales and later a Federal politician. He held several portfolios in the Lyons Government, including Defence (1934–37). His papers include correspondence (1904–35), his speeches, newspaper cuttings (1914–47), and several group photographs of the Lyons Ministry (c1932–34). For a descriptive list, see www.nla.gov.au/ms/findaids/4742.html.
PEARCE, SIR GEORGE FOSTER, PAPERS

Quantity: 1.5 metres (10 boxes)

Sir George Pearce was a Western Australian senator. He was Minister of Defence (1932–34) and Minister for External Affairs (1934–37). MS 1827 includes correspondence, reports, memoranda and press cuttings relating to Australia’s defence and politics (1929–37); correspondence about his political career in the late 1920s and 1930s; and personal papers. Series 3 of MS 1927 deals with the UAP and includes correspondence with Lyons. Descriptive lists are available.

PERKINS, JOHN ARTHUR, PAPERS, 1891–1954

Quantity: 2.24 metres (13 boxes)

John Perkins was a member of Lyons’ Cabinet. The collection includes diaries (1892–1950) and other references to his political career. See his detailed list for the relevant time period.

Political material, nd

Diaries, nd

RISCHBIETH, BESSIE, PAPERS, 1903–67

Bessie Rischbieth was a feminist and President of the Australian Federation of Women Voters (1921–42). Her papers include extensive correspondence, written on behalf of various women’s organisations, to Joseph and Enid Lyons.

STEWART, SIR FREDERICK HAROLD, PAPERS, 1925–58

Quantity: 0.70 metres (4 boxes + folio items)

Sir Frederick Harold Stewart was a member of Lyons’ Cabinet. The collection includes letters, photographs and diaries documenting his political career.

STOREY, H M, PAPERS, 1929–87

Quantity: 0.14 metres (1 box)

Henry Mackintosh Storey’s papers include a draft manuscript book on Australian politics in the 1930s and Storey’s memoirs as a UAP activist.
THEODORE, EDWARD GRANVILLE, PAPERS, 1906–72

Quantity: c12 metres

Edward Granville Theodore was Treasurer in Scullin’s Government. These papers mostly relate to his business activities during the 1930s and 1940s, including letters about the Mungana Mines affair and his non-return to Parliament in 1931. Some of the files in the collection appear to relate to political matters. A descriptive list is available.

WHITE, SIR THOMAS WALTER, PAPERS, 1912–92

Quantity: 5.32 metres (37 boxes + 2 folio boxes)

Sir Thomas Walter White was a member of Lyons’ Cabinet (Minister for Trade and Customs, 1933–38). The collection includes photographs, reports, speeches, cuttings, official and personal correspondence relating to White’s role as Minister (and later roles). A descriptive list is available.

Audio and video

The material in this section is arranged chronologically.

INTERVIEW WITH FRANK STRAHAN BY J CUMPSTON, 1967

Quantity: 1 tape and transcript

Frank Strahan, a public servant, discusses the Prime Minister’s Department (1912–35) with references to Hughes, Bruce, Scullin and Lyons.

INTERVIEW WITH HENRY BAYNIGHT GULLETT BY M PRATT, 1970

Quantity: 2 tapes and transcript

Henry Gullett was a Federal MP, UAP member and a member of the Lyons Cabinet. In this interview he discusses his political career and political identities, including Joseph and Enid Lyons.

INTERVIEW WITH FRANCIS MICHAEL FORDE BY M PRATT, 1970

Quantity: 2 reels and transcript

Francis (Frank) Forde was Deputy Leader of the Labor Party for 14 years. He was a Cabinet Minister and deputy to James Scullin, John Curtin and Ben Chifley. He became caretaker Prime Minister after the death of Curtin in 1945. In this interview he discusses his political career and refers to Scullin, Lyons and Menzies.
INTERVIEW WITH J A ALEXANDER BY M PRATT, 1971

Quantity: 2 tapes and transcript

Joseph Alexander, a journalist, discusses political events and politicians (1931–44), including Scullin, Lyons, Bruce, Page, Hughes, Menzies and Curtin, and the formation of the UAP.

General political events, including UAP, 1931–44

INTERVIEW WITH SIR THOMAS PLAYFORD BY M PRATT, 1972

Quantity: 3 tapes and transcript

In this interview, Sir Thomas Playford, a former South Australian Premier, talks about Prime Minister Lyons and his successors.

INTERVIEW WITH DAME ENID LYONS BY M PRATT, 1972

Quantity: 2 tape reels and transcript

Dame Enid comments on Joseph Lyons’ background and his career in State and Federal politics. She also discusses Labor, the UAP and the Country Party, and Joseph’s relationships with various politicians, including Menzies.

INTERVIEW WITH IRVINE DOUGLAS BY M PRATT, 1972

Quantity: 1 tape and transcript

Irvine Douglas, a journalist, discusses the Great Depression and war, and prime ministers Lyons, Page, Menzies, Bruce, Curtin and Chifley.

INTERVIEW WITH SIR EDWIN McCarthy BY C SANTAMARIA, 1972

Quantity: 3 tapes and transcript

Sir Edwin McCarthy discusses his public service career, including his views on Earle Page and Joseph Lyons.

INTERVIEW WITH ALAN REID BY M PRATT, 1972–73

Quantity: 2 tapes and transcript

Alan Reid, a political journalist, discusses the Fenton–Scullin cables, Lyons, Page, Menzies and other prime ministers.
INTerview WITH Harold Cox By M PRatt, 1973

Quantity: 1 tape reel

Harold Cox, a journalist, discusses Canberra’s political life in the 1930s and Lyons and his Government.

INTerview With Thomas Shanahan By S Walker, 1974

Quantity: 2 tapes and transcript

Thomas Shanahan, former accountant, hotelier and chairperson of Wilton (Qld) Shire Council, refers to his association with Joseph Lyons.

Norman Makin, Recorded Monologue And Interview, 1974

Quantity: 2 tapes and transcript

An ALP Federal Minister, Norman Makin describes his political career, and refers to the Scullin Government, Lyons and other prime ministers.

Autobiographical Recording By J A Alexander, 1977

Quantity: 1 cassette and draft transcript

Joseph Alexander, a journalist, refers to Scullin’s Government and Lyons’ election tour.

Microfilm

The material in this section is arranged alphabetically.

Baldwin, Stanley, Papers, 1923–37

Quantity: 1 microfilm reel

Stanley Baldwin was British Prime Minister in 1923–24, 1924–29 and 1935–37. These records comprise microfilm copies of selections of Baldwin’s papers relating to Australia and New Zealand. They include correspondence on Australian defence; the economic mission to Australia (1927–29); letters from Australian prime ministers (including Lyons) about Dominion affairs (1925–37); letters about trade (1930–35); and general correspondence files (1923–37). A summary description is provided on RAAM and a descriptive list is available.
CRUTCHLEY, E T, PAPERS, 1928–40

Quantity: 2 reels

E T Crutchley was the British Government Representative for Migration in Australia (1928–31) and the Representative in Australia of His Majesty’s Government in the United Kingdom (1932–35). His diaries from this period refer to many political events in Australia and Britain (eg Federal elections, the 1931 Premiers’ Plan and the abdication of King Edward VIII) and to many individuals, including Stanley Melbourne Bruce, James Scullin and Joseph and Enid Lyons.

HUNTINGFIELD, WILLIAM VANNECK, FIFTH BARON, PAPERS, 1933–40

Quantity: 5 reels

William Huntingfield was Governor of Victoria from 1934 to 1939, and Acting Governor-General in 1938. His papers include speeches, cuttings, photograph albums and correspondence, including with Joseph Lyons (1938–39).

MELBOURNE, A C V, PAPERS, 1930–40

Quantity: 5 microfilm reels

The collection of historian Alexander Clifford Vernon Melbourne (1888–1943) includes correspondence with Lyons and Menzies on his visits to China and Japan, on Australian policy in the East, and eastern trade (1931–36). The original papers are held at University of Melbourne, Baillieu Library. There is a list of contents for all reels at the beginning of each reel.

Photographs and other images

The National Library holds a number of photographs of both Joseph and Enid Lyons. For further information, see the NLA’s online picture catalogue at www.nla.gov.au/catalogue/pictures. Some of these photographs can be found on the PictureAustralia website at www.pictureaustralia.org, by searching for Joseph, or Joe, Lyons. The following items are arranged chronologically as far as possible.

*The Morning After*, ink drawing by Stan Cross, nd

Prime Minister Lyons and his family on the lawn at The Lodge, Canberra, nd

Lyons talking to men on the wharves, Brisbane, c1924–39

Portrait of Lyons, c1930s

Portrait of Lyons, c1930s

Portrait of Joseph and Enid Lyons by Howard Harris, c1930s
Portrait of J A Lyons, watercolour by Les Reynolds, c1930s PIC R11266
Lyons, the Duke of Gloucester and Sir Isaac Isaacs, Parliament House, photograph by L J Dwyer, Canberra, 1934 PIC/6827
The Duke of Gloucester, Lyons and Sir Isaac Isaacs, Parliament House, photograph by L J Dwyer, Canberra, 1934 PIC/6830
First radio broadcast from Parliament House, with Prime Minister Lyons presiding, c1935 PIC/5875

SCREENSOUND AUSTRALIA
The following records are arranged chronologically under type of media.

Films

Scenes of unprecedented enthusiasm, 1929 (includes Lyons) Film 13133
Prime Minister and Mrs Lyons’ world trip, c1930 Film 53957
Speech by Joseph Lyons for the 1931 election Film 50203
Premiers’ Conference, 1931: Interviews with Scullin, Lyons and Theodore Film 130186
Prime Minister Lyons visits Gippsland, 1932 Film 208812
Speech by Lyons, 1932 Film 16547
New Lyons Cabinet meets at Canberra, 1932 Film 29652
United Australia Party: A party political speech by Joseph Lyons, 1932 Film 17499
Southern seas broadcast unites outposts on Empire Day, 1933 (includes Lyons) Film 41938
Prime Minister and Mrs Lyons enjoy sea trip, 1935 Film 136347
Royal Jubilee, 1935 (includes Lyons) Film 14776
Prime Minister Lyons back from tour, 1935 Film 137992
Cinesound review, Prime Minister Lyons interviewed, 1936 Film 78935
Prime Minister Lyons interviewed after victory at polls, 1937 Film 69864
The new Lyons Cabinet meets in Canberra, 1937 Film 14108
Prime Minister visits Snapper Island, NSW, 1938 Films 79267 and 128792
Lyons gives speech at opening of 2CA radio station, 1938 Film 263569
Lyons at giant new factory Adelaide, 1938
Empire Games open, Sydney (includes Lyons), 1938
Federal Cabinet meets in Hobart, 1939
Prime Minister Lyons’ speech, the Commonwealth Government’s views on the European conflict, 1939
J Lyons speaks on future development of Australia, 1939
Nation unites in mourning the Prime Minister (also recording of Mass), 1939
The Prime Minister passes (Sydney), 1939
Lyons laid to rest in his home State, 1939
‘A Year to Remember. 1937’ (includes Lyons), produced 1965
‘A Year to Remember. 1934’ (includes Lyons), produced 1966
‘A Year to Remember. 1935’ (includes Lyons), produced 1966

Radio recordings
New Year’s message for ABC from Lyons, 1934
Mr Baldwin’s relay; Mr Lyons’ relay, 1936
The Empire’s homage: Coronation Day, 1937
Speech by Lyons, c1938

Recordings
Prime Ministers of Australia: A compilation of speeches (includes Lyons), nd
Official opening of 3AK Studios by Lyons, nd
Words of devotion to King George VI, with announcement by Lyons, nd
Speech by Lyons on Japanese tariffs, nd
Lyons’ speech, 12 October 1935
Relay of speech of abdication by King Edward VIII, 1936 (also in National Library Oral History Collection)
The trading position with Japan by Lyons, 1936  RS 192588
Lyons’ New Year’s Eve message to Tasmanians, 1937  RS 180766
United Australia Party talks by Lyons, 1937  RS 388203, 388208, 388276, 388280, 388190, 388177 and 388186
Ernest Thomas Fisk and Joseph Lyons, c1937  Documentation 466708
Lyons’ speech on international situation, 1938  RS 245919
Speeches by Prime Minister Lyons, 1939 (also in National Library Oral History Collection)  RS 180775 and 180788
Mass for late Prime Minister Lyons, 1939  RS 198377
Prime Minister Lyons speaks, 28 March 1939  RS 180769

New South Wales

STATE LIBRARY OF NEW SOUTH WALES – MITCHELL LIBRARY

COX, C F, MAJOR-GENERAL, PAPERS, 1897–1942  A2566

Quantity:  1 volume

The collection includes a letter from Lyons congratulating Cox, a Federal politician, on the Senate figures for New South Wales, following the 1931 general election.

GAME FAMILY PAPERS, 1924–63  ML MSS 2166

Quantity:  0.22 metres (5 volumes); also available on microfilm (CY 3269–CY 3272)

Sir Philip Game was appointed Governor of New South Wales in 1930. In 1932 Premier Lang refused to make payments on his State’s overseas loans. The Commonwealth stepped in and made the payments, but then sought to obtain the outstanding money from New South Wales. Lang refused to pay the Commonwealth and Sir Philip Game then dismissed the Premier and his Cabinet. The collection includes a telegram from Lyons to Lady Game (1932). See www.sl.nsw.gov.au/mssguide/game.rtf.
SIMPSON FAMILY PAPERS, 1852–1963

Quantity: 6 volumes, 2 boxes, 3 folders

Edward Telford Simpson was a solicitor and company director in Sydney. The collection includes three letters from Lyons to Simpson (1939), mainly on political matters, with a memorandum by Simpson on measures to be taken by the Government in view of the threat to Australia.

Queensland

UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND LIBRARY

MR PRIME MINISTER SERIES: JOSEPH LYONS (VIDEO RECORDING), 1966

Quantity: 1 video cassette (VHS, b&w, 30 mins)

This video is part of a series dealing with prime ministers. This particular item deals with the life and political career of J A Lyons, shown in contemporary film and stills. It was originally shown on ABC Television in 1966. Copies are also held at Matheson Library, Monash University, Melbourne.

Tasmania

LYONS COTTAGE, STANLEY, AND HOME HILL, DEVONPORT

The Lyons Cottage Historic Site at Stanley and Home Hill at Devonport in Tasmania are both on the Register of the National Estate. Lyons Cottage was Joseph Lyons’ birthplace and Home Hill was Joseph’s and Enid’s family home. The building of Home Hill is now owned by the City of Devonport and its contents are owned by the National Trust (Tasmania). It contains many historic mementos. Information on both houses can be found at www.ahc.gov.au/heritage/register. Further information and images of Home Hill can be found at www.devonport.tco.asn.au/homehill.

ARCHIVES OFFICE OF TASMANIA

Education Department, Tasmania

The following series were recorded by the Tasmanian Education Department (TA 63), from 1885 onwards. For more information about them, contact the Archives Office of Tasmania at www.archives.tas.gov.au/guides-to-holdings. Some records in these series contain information about Joseph and Enid Lyons. The records are listed chronologically.

General correspondence – teachers’ files, 1862–1905

Quantity: 4 metres
Teachers’ personal history cards, c1886–c1945
Quantity: 0.17 metres

Register of the payment of salaries and allowances to teachers, 1895–1939
Quantity: 2 metres

Indexes to general correspondence (boards of advice, teachers and schools), 1905–16
Quantity: 17 metres

Correspondence relating to teachers’ resignations, 1905–24
Quantity: 0.6 metres

Personal files of teachers, 1908–68
Quantity: 11 metres

Index to references to teachers in correspondence (ED9), c1910–16
Quantity: 0.2 metres

UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA LIBRARY

COSGROVE, SIR ROBERT, PAPERS, 1898–1959
Quantity: 0.75 metres

Sir Robert Cosgrove was President of the Tasmanian Parliamentary Labor Party and Labor Whip in the Lyons Government. He was later Premier of Tasmania (1939–47 and 1948–58).

Group photo, includes J A Lyons, 1917
House of Assembly, includes J A Lyons (image not located), 1925

WALKER, SIR EDWARD RONALD, PAPERS, nd

Sir Edward Ronald Walker was an economist who advised both the New South Wales Treasury (1933–39) and the Tasmanian Government on economic matters (1939–42).

Title unknown, 1933
This item contains Lyons’ correspondence on Loan Council matters.
Victoria

AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR THE MOVING IMAGE

‘THE PRIME MINISTERS’, 1983  
Recorded by: A Boland and Assistants television production for Regional Television  
Quantity: 1 video cassette  
The Prime Ministers television series, episode 2 (1914–39) discusses Australia’s prime ministers from World War I until 1939.

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

HARTNETT, SIR LAURENCE, PAPERS, 1938–81  
Quantity: 0.01 metres  
Sir Laurence Hartnett was Managing Director of General Motors Holden from 1934 to 1947. He founded the Melbourne-based Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation in 1935 and was its Director until 1947. This collection includes a testimonial dated 26 April 1938, signed by J A Lyons, Prime Minister. See www.lib.unimelb.edu.au/collections/archives/muasearch.htm.

WERE, J B, COLLECTION, 1925–1964  
This series contains copies of scrapbooks compiled by Staniforth Ricketson, a stockbroker in the firm J B Were, and one of Lyons’ main correspondents.

MONASH UNIVERSITY

Two photographs of Lyons campaigning in 1931 and in the late 1930s can be found at www.arts.monash.edu.au/ncas/resources/soundscapes/lyonpic.htm.
Western Australia

STATE LIBRARY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

J S Battye Library of Western Australian History

FEDERAL LEAGUE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA RECORDS, 1930–33  ACC 439A–613A

This series contains documents relating to the Federal League of Western Australia’s campaign against secession before the referendum, April 1933. It includes the text of manifesto, and speeches by Prime Minister J A Lyons and W M Hughes.

Photographs and other images

Lyons and Sir Charles Nathan speaking for the Federal League (photograph), 1933  Battye Library 000944d

Lyons speaking in Perth on secession (photograph), 1933  Battye Library 000778d

Political cartoon – ‘Tonight West Australians will be thrown to the Lions’, 1933  PR10563/10

This is a pro-secession pamphlet, featuring a family (‘WA’) cowering before lions bearing the faces and names of Lyons, Senator Pearce and Sir Charles Nathan, with Billy Hughes as a tethered donkey.
Enid Muriel Lyons (1897–1981) was born at Duck River (Smithton) in Tasmania to William Charles and Eliza Burnell. She received her early schooling in Burnie, showing some dramatic talent, before entering the Hobart Teachers’ College at 14.

She was a 17-year-old trainee teacher when she married Joseph Lyons in 1915. Their son Desmond was born in 1916, followed by Sheila (1918); Enid (1919); Kathleen (1920); Moira (1922); Kevin (1923); Garnet (1924), who died as a baby; Barry (1926); Brendan (1927); Rosemary (1928); Peter (1931); and Janice (1933).

At Desmond’s birth Enid broke her pelvis, and although often causing crippling pain, this was not diagnosed until after she had borne all 12 children.

**Family and political life**

Despite this affliction and the heavy demands of motherhood, Enid ‘carried on from election to election, moving the family from home to home, packing and unpacking’.18

Joseph actively encouraged Enid’s public involvement in politics. ‘It was not I who influenced Joe, but Joe who encouraged me to arouse in women a sense of their own power and wider responsibilities.’19 This was a recurring theme in Enid’s subsequent political speeches and actions, both as the Prime Minister’s wife and as a Federal politician in her own right.

Even her honeymoon was spent at a Premiers’ Conference. Enid delivered her first political speech in 1920, accompanied Joseph to ALP conferences, and in 1925, when the mother of six young children, stood as a Labor candidate for the seat of Denison, losing by

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only 60 votes. By then, however, she enjoyed an established public role and was her husband’s closest political ally. Enid, however, denied the general assumption that she was privy to all Joseph’s political decisions and prompter of his political actions. ‘Neither my public activities, my family responsibilities nor the state of my health would have permitted it.’

Those were indeed the three main elements of Enid’s life while Joseph was Prime Minister, as illustrated in the records described later in the guide.

She was the first prime minister’s wife to engage directly in a public political career. Although suffering chronic pain and frequent illness, she campaigned actively on his behalf, including in the 1931 election which brought him to office as Prime Minister. She gave public speeches and broadcasts, both when travelling with him and independently, on such topics as women’s rights, buying Australian goods, and defence. She was passionately involved in the anti-secessionist campaign in Western Australia, as demonstrated in the National Archives file ‘Western Australia secession campaign – Mrs Lyons’ notes’, prepared for her address to a women’s rally held in Perth in March 1933.

Enid accompanied Joseph to the Royal Jubilee celebrations for King George V and Queen Mary in England in 1935 and to the Coronation of King George VI in 1937. Typically, on her return, when describing her experiences to an ‘enthralled’ audience of nearly 3 000 people in the Melbourne Town Hall, she compared the lack of opportunity for the mass of people in England with Australia, praised local efforts to wipe out slums, and urged other action to eradicate ‘the worst of the best’ and make Australia a land of achievement. Her compassionate, confident and practical personality also found expression in her response to direct requests for help, her wifely role as sympathetic conduit to the Prime Minister being fully called upon in the dire circumstances facing many unemployed families.

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20. Enid Lyons, Among the Carrion Crows, prologue, pp. iv and v.
Separated from her family and often ill and tired, Enid did not always enjoy her public responsibilities, but her later political prominence owed much to the recognition of her earlier political influence. As for family life, its heart was ‘Home Hill’ built for Joseph and Enid Lyons in 1916 in Devonport, Tasmania, but children and parents were often separated.

Sometimes the Lyons children lived in The Lodge in Canberra – they were the first children to do so – and Joseph combined prime ministership with childcare while Enid was in hospital. However, for most of the time, the elder children went to boarding schools. The longest continuous period Enid herself spent at The Lodge was five weeks, but images of the Prime Minister’s family in residence provided ‘a unifying and comforting symbol for the many seeking security in those years’.23

**Federal politics**

In 1943, four years after Joseph Lyons’ death, Enid Lyons was elected the first woman member of the House of Representatives. ‘I was fully aware of the mass of prejudice against them [Australian women in public office], and on that account was the more sensitively conscious of the burden of responsibility devolving upon me as a pioneer.’24 Her maiden speech was widely applauded, including by the ALP Prime Minister, John Curtin, who told her that if she continued to make speeches in that vein she would have little opposition from the Labor Party.

Dame Enid held the Tasmanian seat of Darwin for the United Australia Party (from 1944, the Liberal Party) through three general elections, until her retirement in March 1951 because of ill health. The seat had been contested unsuccessfully by her husband as a Labor candidate in 1919.25

Dame Enid was the first wife of a State Premier, and the first (and so far, the only) Prime Minister’s wife, to enter Federal politics. When the Menzies Government came into power in December 1949, she was the first woman to be appointed to a Cabinet post, as Vice-President of the Federal Executive Council, a position that she wryly recognised as ‘toothless’.26 However, she introduced welfare payments for mothers and equal training allowances for women and men. Her role as Prime Minister’s wife may well have carried greater weight than that of her later official positions, an impression lent some support by the greater variety and extent of records of that earlier period held at the National Archives.

**Later years**

After leaving politics, Dame Enid retained her interest in women’s issues and public affairs. She was chair of the Jubilee Women’s Convention in 1951, which was established by the Women’s Subcommittee of the Commonwealth Jubilee Celebrations Council, and a member of the governing board of the Australian Broadcasting Commission (1951–62). Dame Enid was a columnist for the Melbourne Sun (1951–54) newspaper and the

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25. ibid., p. 20.
Woman’s Day (1951–52), and she published two autobiographies, *So We Take Comfort* (1965) and *Among the Carrion Crows* (1972). She also gifted ‘Home Hill’ to the Australian people. It is now a house museum owned by Devonport City Council and managed by the National Trust of Tasmania.

Dame Enid was affectionately known as ‘Australia’s Greatest Mother’. She was created a Dame Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire (GBE) in 1937, an honour conferred personally by His Majesty King George VI, and a Dame within the Order of Australia (AD) in 1980. She was also an Honorary Fellow of the Australian College of Nursing. She died in Ulverstone on 2 September 1981 and is buried beside her husband in Devonport.

Portrait of Joseph and Enid Lyons, c1933. NLA: PIC/6631
Records in the National Archives

As a prime minister’s wife, Enid Lyons was unusual. She was Lyons’ active political partner and a popular public figure in her own right. She was the first woman elected to the House of Representatives and the first female Cabinet member. The volume of records that exist about her and her activities reflects her personal prominence. The records listed below are arranged chronologically. A section on photographs and portraits is also included.

Many records about Enid Lyons have been digitised and are available for viewing online through the National Archives RecordSearch database.

‘SHEDDEN COLLECTION’, 1901–71  A5954
Recorded by:  Department of Defence (CA 19)

Quantity:  201 metres (Canberra); smaller quantities in all State offices of the National Archives

Sir Frederick Geoffrey Shedden was the Secretary of the Department of Defence from 1937 to 1956. This series contains records collected by Shedden during his career within the department. For a more detailed description, see p. 22.

Broadcast address by the Prime Minister and Dame Enid Lyons: ‘Campaign to increase the strength of the militia forces to 70,000’, 4 December 1938  A5954, 1949/4

Correspondence about book, ‘H’ to ‘Q’, box file no. 2, Dame Enid Lyons, 1959–66  A5954, 1179/4

CABINET PAPERS (FOLDERS OF COPIES), 1901–  A6006
Recorded by:  1976–81 Australian Archives (CA 1720)
1981–94 Australian Archives (CA 3196)
1994 National Archives of Australia (CA 7970)

Quantity:  9 metres (Canberra); microfilm in each State office of the National Archives

Please see pp. 18 and 19 for a brief description of the method of recording Cabinet decisions and the creation of A6006.

A6006 item numbers are the date of the Cabinet meeting. In some cases, items have the same item number because they relate to the same meeting. When citing items from this series, the series number, item number and title need to be quoted.

Conveyance of wife of Prime Minister, 1937  A6006, 1937/12/31

Provision for Dame Enid Lyons and family, 1939  A6006, 1939/04/17
CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1901–

Recorded by: c1929– Attorney-General’s Department (CA 5)
1958 Deputy Crown Solicitor’s Office (CA 832)

Quantity: 2 046.6 metres (Canberra); 352.6 metres (Sydney)

This is the department’s main file series and commenced in 1929, replacing the existing systems. It contains material top-numbered from those previous series, including papers dating back to 1901.

Query re constitutional position of Enid Lyons as MHR for the Darwin (Tasmania) electorate, 1943

SIR JOSEPH COOK – ASSORTED LETTERS, TELEGRAMS AND CARDS, c1910–40

Recorded by: 1910–40 The Rt Hon. Sir Joseph Cook PC, GCMG (CP 611)
c1919–38 Dame Mary Cook GBE (CP 937)
1910 Department of Defence (I) (CA 6)
1913–14 Prime Minister’s Department (CA 12)
1917–20 Navy Office (II), Department of the Navy (I) (CA 13)
1920–21 Department of the Treasury [I) (CA 11)
1923–27 Australian High Commission, UK (CA 241)

This series contains various personal papers accumulated by Sir Joseph Cook during his political life and as High Commissioner to the United Kingdom.

Acknowledgment from Dame Enid Lyons of condolences on the death of her husband, Joseph Lyons, 1939

JOSEPH LYONS (LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION AND PRIME MINISTER), CORRESPONDENCE, 1931–39

Recorded by: The Rt Hon. J A Lyons PC, CH (CP 254)
Hon. Dame Enid Muriel Lyons AD, GBE (CP 928)

Quantity: 2.34 metres

Most of the material in this series relates to Lyons’ first term as Prime Minister (1932–34). The series also contains some subject files relating to broadcasting, conversion bonds, iron ore in Western Australia, the sale of scrap iron to Japan, Mrs Enid Lyons and condolences on the death of Lyons in 1939.

Western Australia secession campaign, Mrs Lyons’ notes, 1933

CP103/19, 105

Mrs Lyons, correspondence received in hospital, 1934

CP103/19, 59
JOSEPH LYONS (LEADER OF THE UNITED AUSTRALIA PARTY, ACTING TREASURER AND PRIME MINISTER), CORRESPONDENCE, 1932–34 CP30/3

Recorded by: 1932–34 The Rt Hon. J A Lyons PC, CH (CP 254)
1932–34 Hon. Dame Enid Muriel Lyons AD, GBE (CP 928)
1932–34 Prime Minister’s Department (CA 12)

Quantity: 2 metres

This series mainly relates to Lyons’ first term as Prime Minister. It includes personal representations; papers on broadcasting, political associations, industry and pensions; and correspondence from community organisations, friends and political associations. Other items deal with the 1937 Imperial Conference, The Lodge and a tour of Queensland. Some files contain personal correspondence of Enid Lyons.

Personal correspondence of Mrs Enid Lyons, 13 January – 12 December 1932 CP 30/3, 48

This folder includes ‘get well’ wishes from the Governor-General Sir Isaac Isaacs; correspondence with the Child Welfare Association (Hobart) and other women’s organisations; and a request (complied with) from Mrs R A Lindner, asking Mrs Lyons to add her initials and those of her husband and children on a name cloth embroidered with the new (Sydney Harbour) Bridge. The folder also contains letters pleading for help, usually from the wives or mothers of unemployed men. One of Mrs Lyons’ replies, dated 24 June 1932, reads in part:

The delay in answering has been due to the fact that Mrs Lyons has been attempting to interest some charitable institutions in your case, but, unfortunately, without success. She herself is unable personally to assist owing to the numerous demands made on the Prime Minister and herself in connection with the many cases of dire distress in his own electorate.

(See also example on p. 82.)

Personal correspondence of Mrs Enid Lyons, 21 November 1922 – 2 February 1934 CP30/3, 51

This folder contains correspondence between Joseph and Enid Lyons.

Personal correspondence of J A Lyons, 12 September 1932 – 21 May 1935 CP 30/3, 56
UNREGISTERED CORRESPONDENCE FILES – ABC CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONERS, 1932–73

Recorded by: Australian Broadcasting Commission (ABC) (CA 251)

Quantity: 3.42 metres (Sydney)

Dame Enid Lyons – correspondence as an ABC Commissioner, 1951–64

RADIO ARCHIVES MASTER AUDIO TAPES (BY SUBJECT CLASSIFICATION), 1933–71

Recorded by: ABC (CA 251)

Quantity: 47.5 metres (Sydney)

The tapes in this series are master and working copies of gramophone discs in the ABC’s sound library. The discs are spoken word recordings and cover a wide variety of subjects. They were catalogued and controlled by a subject classification system. Among the subject classifications relevant to the Lyons are broadcasting (personalities and occasions); education (personalities and events); features and/or documentaries; occasions (State and national); and political (Australian personalities, speeches and Parliament).

Lyons, Dame Enid (sound recording), 1940

Lyons, Dame Enid – talk – guest of honour (audio tape), 1943

Lyons, Dame Enid (audio tape), 1966

JOSEPH LYONS, GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1938–39

Recorded by: The Rt Hon. J A Lyons PC, CH (CP 254)
Prime Minister’s Department (CA 12)

Quantity: 0.18 metres

Known as the ‘General Series’, this correspondence relates to the last 15 months of Lyons’ term as Prime Minister (from 1938 to early April 1939). Several letters were addressed to Dame Enid Lyons rather than her husband. The correspondence was essentially all handled by Lyons’ prime ministerial staff. Main subjects include the personal situation of the writer or a member of his/her family, the imminence of war, H G Wells, radio broadcasts, social and political issues, and condolences offered on Lyons’ death.

Correspondence ‘C’, 3 January – 11 May 1939

This item includes details of Dame Enid Lyons’ annuity, and telegrams from John Curtin.
GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1939–46
Recorded by: Department of Information (CA 34)

Quantity: 13.7 metres

This series consists of general correspondence files of the Press Division of the Department of Information. The files mainly relate to the supply of photographs to various authorities and newspapers and the functions of the division which included the photographic coverage of all major newsworthy events and the censorship of the photographs.

Mission to America – arrangements for lectures by Dame Enid Lyons, 1940

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1939–82
Recorded by: ABC (CA 251)

Quantity: 13.9 metres (Sydney)

This series consists of files raised and maintained by the ABC’s central registry.

Members of the ABC – Hon. Dame Enid Lyons, part 2, 1956–71

TALKS SESSIONS CORRESPONDENCE, c1940–45
Recorded by: ABC, Victorian Division (CA 2056)

Quantity: 1.44 metres (Melbourne)

Dame Enid Lyons, 1944

These files contain correspondence and some scripts of two special talks sessions, ‘Nations Forum of the Air’ and ‘The Watchman’, mainly concerned with the preparation of the program and lines of discussion. Each file contains correspondence between the controller of the program and the person who has been asked to take part.

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1943–51
Recorded by: Department of the Army (CA 36)

Quantity: 177.4 metres (Melbourne)

This series consists of files relating to the administration of Australian military forces.

Letter from Dame Enid Lyons to Minister for the Army re withdrawal of prisoner-of-war labour from rural industry, 1945
Italian prisoners-of-war – letter from Mrs Geo (George) Shaw to Dame Enid Lyons, 1946

MP742/1, 255/15/1534

This letter to Dame Enid expresses the writer’s concern at the delay in repatriating Italian prisoners-of-war, and suggests that prisoners-of-war who wish to do so may remain in Australia.

RT HON. H E HOLT (TREASURER AND PRIME MINISTER), CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1959–67

M2606

Recorded by: 1959–67 The Rt Hon. Harold Edward Holt PC, CH (CP 27)
1959–66 Department of the Treasury (CA 11)
1966–67 Prime Minister’s Department (CA 12)

Quantity: 3.6 metres

This series was maintained by Holt as Treasurer and subsequently as Prime Minister. The files cover a number of subjects, and include general and personal correspondence.

Correspondence ‘L’, 1966–67

M2606, 97

This item includes papers concerning Dame Enid Lyons.

The Menzies Cabinet, with Dame Enid standing directly behind Menzies, Canberra, 1949. NAA: A1200, LI2817
In the depths of the Great Depression, many people made personal representations to Enid Lyons seeking assistance. NAA: CP30/3, item 48
RT HON. JOHN GREY GORTON (PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR DEFENCE), SUBJECT FILES 1968–71

Recorded by: 1968–71 The Rt Hon. Sir John Grey Gorton GCMG, AC, CH, PC (CP 136)
1968–71 Prime Minister’s Department (CA 12)
1971 Department of Defence (III) (CA 46)

Quantity: 2 metres

This series consists of subject files maintained by the Rt Hon. John Grey Gorton while he was Prime Minister (1968–71) and then Minister for Defence (1971–72).

Correspondence with Treasurer (Hon. L H E Bury), 1969–70

This item includes papers on pensions payable to wives of former prime ministers (Dame Enid Lyons and Mrs Elsie Curtin).

RADIO ARCHIVES LIBRARY, TAPES – ORAL HISTORY RECORDINGS, c1968–80

Recorded by: ABC (CA 251)

Quantity: 7.2 metres (Sydney)

These are tapes that form part of the oral history program carried out by the ABC Radio Archives.

Dame Enid Lyons (oral history recording), 1969

Photographs and portraits, 1934–73

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, OCCASIONAL ‘G’ (GENERAL REPRESENTATIONS) INFIX, 1903–

Recorded by: Prime Minister’s Department (CA 12) and subsequently by agency under the control of prime minister

Quantity: 542.6 metres (Canberra); 184 metres (Sydney)

Although this series contains material dating back to 1903, it was raised in 1956 to deal with general and policy matters handled by a department directly under the control of the prime minister. Subjects covered vary, reflecting the coordinating function of the department. Political, social, cultural, economic, industrial and defence matters are all dealt with in this series. Other matters include the administration of the Commonwealth Government, immigration, honours, international conferences and diplomatic relations with other countries.

Photograph of painting of Dame Enid Lyons by Mary Edwards, 1945
APPLICATIONS FOR ARTISTIC COPYRIGHT (WITH EXHIBITS), 1907–69

Recorded by: 1907–13 Australian Industrial Property Organisation (AIPO) (CA 555)
1913–30 Copyright Office (II) (CA 556)
1930–69 AIPO (CA 555)

Quantity: 77 metres

This series consists of artistic copyright files. Copyright legislation included the requirement to submit an application for the registration of copyright to the Registrar, with the appropriate fee and a copy of the work in question.

HRH Prince Henry with Prime Minister Lyons and Mrs Lyons, Canberra, 1934

TELEVISION, RADIO, AND CONCERT PERSONALITIES (PHOTOGRAPHS), 1940–68

Recorded by: ABC (CA 251)

Quantity: 25.5 metres (Sydney)

This series consists of publicity material compiled by the Australian Broadcasting Commission. The material includes images of television programs produced overseas and broadcast in Australia on the ABC; images created for locally produced television programs; and photographs of prominent artists from both Australia and overseas.

Dame Enid Lyons, politician (box 108), c1950

PHOTOGRAPHIC NEGATIVES AND PRINTS, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, ‘L’ (LIBRARY) PREFIX, 1945–71

Recorded by: 1945–50 Department of Information (CA 34)
1950–71 Australian News and Information Bureau (CA 219)

Quantity: 80.5 metres

This series, compiled largely by the Australian News and Information Bureau, shows all aspects of Australian life, including unique and varied views of individuals and scenes. Until 1954, photographs covering conferences and the visits of dignitaries were included in the collection. After that date, photographic records of such events were kept in separate series.

Dame Enid Lyons standing beside her husband’s portrait, 1949

Group photo of the Menzies Cabinet after being sworn in, Government House, Canberra, 1949

Dame Enid Lyons with Prime Minister Ben Chifley at the Australian National University, nd
POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL LIFE (NEGATIVES AND PRINTS), 1971–

Recorded by: 1971–73 Australian News and Information Bureau (CA 219)
1973–87 Australian Information Service, Canberra
(from 1986, Promotion Australia) (CA 1578)
1987–94 Australian Overseas Information Service (CA 6785)
1994– Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (CA 5987)

Quantity: 43.8 metres

This series documents a wide range of Australian subjects and themes (eg the political, economic and social life of the country and its people).

Dame Enid Lyons presents a box to Mrs Tammie Fraser, c1970 A6180, 2/7/79/5-6

Dame Enid’s acknowledgement of condolences received on the death of Joseph Lyons, 1939. NAA: M3603, 7
Records in other collections

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA

The Manuscripts Section of the National Library of Australia contains many collections relevant to Dame Enid, including a collection of her papers. This is listed first, followed by other collections listed alphabetically.

LYONS, DAME ENID MURIEL, PAPERS, 1931–74  MS 4852

Quantity: 5.6 metres (30 boxes)

The collection consists mainly of correspondence, but also holds photographs, newspaper cuttings, speeches, broadcasts, manuscripts of Dame Enid’s books *So We Take Comfort*, *The Old Haggis* and *Among the Carrion Crows*, invitations and programs. The correspondence consists largely of condolence letters following J A Lyons’ death in 1939. The remaining letters are from politicians, Tasmanian friends, women’s groups, religious organisations, and the Liberal Party. This material covers topics such as maternal and infant welfare, social services and abortion law reform.

Prime Minister Lyons, Dame Enid Lyons and their family on the lawn at The Lodge, Canberra, nd.  
*NLA Pic 06*
ABBOTT, C L A AND H, PAPERS, 1906–71

Quantity: 2.1 metres

Charles Lydiard Aubrey Abbott was a Federal politician and later Northern Territory Administrator (1937–46). Hilda Abbott was an author and broadcaster. The bulk of the papers comprise Hilda Abbott’s drafts of books, articles, broadcasts and correspondence, including letters from Enid Lyons.

Daly, Fred, Papers, 1938–95

Quantity: 20 metres (142 boxes)

Fred Daly was an ALP politician and minister. His papers contain cuttings, notes and letters on political personalities, including Dame Enid Lyons.

HARDS, MARY CAMERON, PAPERS, 1909–83

Quantity: 0.06 metres (2 folders + 1 volume)

Mary Cameron Hards was the granddaughter of Sir James Grady, Governor of Tasmania (1924–30) and later Governor of the Falkland Islands. This collection includes letters to her mother (Mrs Ken Cameron) from Enid Lyons.

HARRISON, Sir Eric John, Papers, 1931–64

Quantity: 0.80 metres

Sir Eric John Harrison was a Federal politician. His papers include correspondence with Enid Lyons (1937) and Robert Menzies.

HART, Philip R, PAPERS RELATING TO J A Lyons, 1964–74

Quantity: 0.09 metres (6 folders)

Philip Hart assembled these papers while preparing his doctoral thesis ‘J A Lyons: A Political Biography’ in 1968. They include correspondence (1964–74), newspaper cuttings, a photograph and the program of an ABC broadcast on Lyons. It includes correspondence with Dame Enid Lyons.

Latham, Sir John, Papers, 1868–1964

Quantity: 18.4 metres

John Latham was Leader of the Opposition (1929–31), Deputy Leader of the Opposition (1931–32), and founder, with Lyons, of the UAP (1931). He was also Attorney-General from 1925 to 1929 and again from 1932 to 1934. This collection of his papers includes five letters from Enid Lyons. A descriptive list is available.
McGUIRE, PAUL, PAPERS, 1878–1987  MS 6453

Quantity:  11 metres (78 boxes)

Paul McGuire was a novelist, journalist, political commentator and Federal minister. He was later the Australian Ambassador to Italy (1954–59). His correspondence includes letters from Enid Lyons.

MENZIES, SIR ROBERT, PAPERS, 1905–78  MS 4936

Quantity:  81 metres (578 boxes)

Sir Robert Menzies was a UAP member. From 1934 he was the MHR for Kooyong and Lyons’ Attorney-General and Minister for Industry. He later became Deputy Leader and Prime Minister after Lyons’ death. His extensive collection includes correspondence with Joseph and Enid Lyons (1935–78), and a typescript copy of Enid Lyons’ diary for 1937. A descriptive list is available at www.nla.gov.au/ms/findaids/4936.html.

RAPKE, JULIA, PAPERS ON VARIOUS AUSTRALIAN WOMEN, nd  MS 842

Quantity:  0.05 metres

Julia Rapke was the first president of the League of Women Voters (Victoria), formed in 1945. Her papers comprise manuscript drafts of biographical papers, including one for Dame Enid Lyons (17 pages).

RISCHBIETH, BESSIE MABEL, PAPERS AND OBJECTS (MANUSCRIPT), 1900–67 MS 2004

Quantity:  7.5 metres

Bessie Rischbieth was a feminist and President of the Australian Federation of Women Voters (1921–42). Her papers relate to Australian and international women’s suffrage and her 1935 appointment as Australian delegate to the League of Nations, and include material relating to Enid Lyons. A guide is available.

TANGNEY, DOROTHY, PAPERS, 1938–86  MS 7564

Quantity: 4.3 metres (38 boxes)

Dorothy Tangney was an ALP senator. Her papers include correspondence, speeches, photographs, cuttings and subject files, including one on Enid Lyons.
WHITINGTON, DON, PAPERS, 1957-76

Don Whittington was a journalist with various metropolitan newspapers and founder of the Australian Press Services. His papers include drafts of *The Witness Men* and correspondence and newspaper cuttings relating to the compilation of this book, including correspondence with Enid Lyons. They also include an extract from proofs of *John Curtin – An Atypical Labor Leader* by Kim Beazley.

Audio and video

The material in this section is listed chronologically.

INTERVIEW WITH HENRY BAYNTON GULLETT BY M PRATT, 1970

Henry Gullett was a Federal MP, UAP member and a member of the Lyons Cabinet. In this interview he discusses his political career and refers to Joseph and Enid Lyons.

INTERVIEW WITH DAME ENID LYONS BY M PRATT, 1972

Enid Lyons comments on Joseph’s background, his career in State and Federal politics and her own; the Australian Labor Party, the United Australia Party and the Country Party; relationships with politicians, including Menzies; and attitudes towards women in politics.

INTERVIEW WITH ERIK BIERRE, 1978

Erik Bierre, a photographer, discusses photographing Enid Lyons.

INTERVIEW WITH MARGARET WHITLAM BY A McGrath, 1979

Margaret Whitlam, wife of former Prime Minister Gough Whitlam, discusses her life and gives her impressions of Enid Lyons and Pattie Menzies.

DAME ENID LYONS – A TRIBUTE (ABC SOUND RECORDING), c1981

This is a compilation of radio interviews with Enid Lyons.
INTERVIEW WITH H B GULLETT BY C HERMES AND P SHAW, 1984–88  
Quantity: 15 cassettes and transcript

Henry Gullett discusses his political career from 1946 and refers to Enid Lyons.

Photographs

The National Library holds a number of photographs of both Joseph and Enid Lyons. See its online picture catalogue at www.nla.gov.au/catalogue/pictures. Some of these photographs are reproduced on the PictureAustralia website at www.pictureaustralia.org, and can be found by searching for Enid (or Mrs) Lyons.

- Portrait of Dame Enid Lyons, nd  
- Portrait of Enid Lyons, nd  
- Joseph and Enid Lyons and their children on the lawn at The Lodge, Canberra, nd  
- Enid Lyons in her kitchen, photograph by Alexander Collongridge, c1930  
- Enid Lyons using a treadle sewing machine, photograph by Alexander Collongridge, c1930  
- Portrait of Joseph and Enid Lyons by Howard Harris, c1930s  
- Portrait photograph of Dame Enid Lyons by Antoine Kershaw, c1950  
- Dame Enid Lyons, Lady Gullett and Dame Mary Hughes, Parliament House, Canberra, c1955

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

The material on Dame Enid Lyons held at the Australian War Memorial is listed chronologically under media format.

Transcript

- Department of Information – Broadcasting Division: Talks by Dame Enid Lyons (transcripts), July 1940  

Films

- 20,000th WAAAF, 1939–45  
  Induction ceremony of 20 000 WAAAF (Women’s Auxiliary Australian Air Force) recruits attended by Air Commodore Lukis and Dame Enid Lyons during World War II (silent, b&w film).
Duke of Gloucester at Parliament taking Oath of Office as the Governor-General of Australia  
Ceremony held on 30 January 1945 witnessed by MPs and guests, including Dame Enid Lyons (silent, b&w film).

Photographs

The following images have been digitised.

- Portrait photograph of Dame Enid Lyons, c1939–45  
  Neg 015731

- Dame Enid Lyons buys a tin hat from a button seller in aid of the Returned Services League service fund, Melbourne, 17 September 1943  
  Neg 139671

- W M Hughes greets Dame Enid Lyons, the newly elected member for Darwin electorate (in Tasmania), Canberra, 24 September 1943  
  Neg 139707

- Senator Dorothy Tangney and Dame Enid Lyons entering the House of Representatives, Canberra, 24 September 1943  
  Neg 139712

- Members of the Opposition (including Enid Lyons), in UAP committee room, House of Representatives, 24 September 1943  
  Neg 139711

SCREENSOUND AUSTRALIA

The following material is listed chronologically under media format.

Films

- Prime Minister Lyons visits Gippsland (includes Enid Lyons), 1932  
  Film 208812

- Prime Minister and Mrs Lyons enjoy sea trip, 1935  
  Film 136347

- Prime Minister and Mrs Lyons back from tour, 1935  
  Film 137992

- Sloop HMAS Swan launched at Cockatoo Island: Mrs Lyons, 1936  
  Film 78871

- Enid Lyons speaks on the world crisis, 1938  
  Film 88578

- Eucharistic Congress at Newcastle (includes the Lyons in the congregation, 1938  
  Film 78638

- Nation unites in mourning for Lyons, 1939 (includes Enid Lyons), 1939  
  Films 116561 and 127197

- Lyons laid to rest in his home State (includes Enid Lyons), 1939  
  Film 127193
Australia at war, 1940: Women learn tractor driving, Victoria (inspection by Enid Lyons) Film 264827

Speech for the UAP by Enid Lyons, c1943 Film 15242

Dame Enid Lyons introduces Senator Dorothy Tangney to Movietone News with a message for women to be more involved in national politics, 1943 Film 317059

New Cabinet sworn in: Menzies speaks (includes Enid Lyons), 1949 Film 118344

Personalities (Enid Lyons), 1949 Film 91904

**Sound recordings**

Enid Lyons voice test (poetry reading), nd Recorded sound (RS) 188518

Enid Lyons: Three speeches, nd RS 339208, 339215 and 339220

Dorothy Tangney’s maiden speech (includes Enid Lyons), 1942 RS 483102

Enid Lyons’ first speech in the House of Representatives, 1943 RS 483285

Enid Lyons’ speech to Lyons Primary students, 1968 RS 273487

**STATE LIBRARY OF NSW – MITCHELL LIBRARY**

**GAME FAMILY PAPERS, 1924–63** ML MSS 2166

Quantity: 0.22 metres (5 volumes); also available on microfilm (CY 3269–CY 3272)

This collection includes a letter from Enid Lyons to Lady Game (dated 22 May 1934).

**SIMPSON FAMILY, PAPERS, 1852–1963** ML MSS 498

Edward Telford Simpson was a solicitor and company director in Sydney. These papers include a letter from Enid Lyons (dated 25 May 1939). See also p. 68. A descriptive list is available.
### Appendix 1  Timeline

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1879</td>
<td>Sep</td>
<td>J A Lyons born in Stanley, Tasmania.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1897</td>
<td>July</td>
<td>Enid Burnell born at Duck River (Smithton), Tasmania.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1901</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lyons employed as a teacher.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1909</td>
<td>Apr</td>
<td>Lyons elected to the Tasmanian Legislative Assembly as ALP member for Wilmot.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1914</td>
<td>Apr</td>
<td>Tasmania’s second Labor administration formed, with Lyons as Treasurer, Minister for Railways and Minister for Education.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1915</td>
<td>Apr</td>
<td>Lyons marries Enid Burnell.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1916</td>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>Lyons becomes Leader of the Tasmanian ALP. The Lyons build ‘Home Hill’. Their first child, Desmond, is born.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1919</td>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>Lyons is Tasmanian Opposition Leader. He contests but fails to win the Federal seat of Darwin (later Braddon).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1923</td>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>Lyons becomes Tasmanian Premier.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1925</td>
<td>Jun</td>
<td>Enid Lyons contests but fails to win the State seat of Denison.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1928</td>
<td>Jun</td>
<td>Lyons replaced as Premier.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>Aug</td>
<td>Federal Treasurer, E G Theodore, resigns from Cabinet. Prime Minister Scullin attends Imperial Conference in London (overseas from August 1930 to January 1931). J E Fenton is Acting Prime Minister with Lyons as Acting Treasurer (August).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1931</td>
<td>Jan</td>
<td>Scullin reinstates Theodore as Treasurer, despite Lyons’ objections.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>Fenton and Lyons resign their Cabinet positions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>No-confidence motion: Fenton, Lyons and three other Labor members cross the floor to vote with the Nationalist Opposition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>May</td>
<td>Lyons becomes Leader of the newly formed United Australia Party. He is Leader of the Opposition from 7 May 1931 to 6 January 1932.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>Lang Labor crosses the floor to vote with the UAP Opposition in a no-confidence motion. Scullin Government defeated and Parliament dissolved.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>UAP decisively defeats ALP Government in the Federal election.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1932</td>
<td>Jan</td>
<td>Lyons Ministry takes office with Lyons as Prime Minister and Treasurer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>May</td>
<td>Lyons appointed a member of the Privy Council.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jul</td>
<td>Australian Broadcasting Commission (ABC) inaugurated on-air by Lyons.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1933</td>
<td></td>
<td>The Commonwealth Grants Commission established. Enid gives birth to Janice, the Lyons’ last child, and the first baby born to a prime minister in office.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Apr Western Australian referendum supports a proposal to secede from the Federation.
Nov Federal Budget hailed as the ‘restoration’ Budget.

1934 Prime Minister Lyons invites the States to form a national plan to relieve distress caused by unemployment, by sharing the costs of public works.
Jun Western Australian Secession Act 1934 passed. The Commonwealth Government opposes secession but provides Western Australia with additional aid.
Dec UAP wins a second election, in coalition with the Country Party. R G Menzies elected member for Kooyong and appointed Attorney-General and Minister for Industry.

1935 Feb Prime Minister Lyons leads a delegation to Britain and the USA (accompanied by Enid Lyons).

Dec R G Menzies elected Deputy Leader of the UAP. John Curtin succeeds Scullin as Opposition Leader (ALP).

1936 Commonwealth relief works in 1935–36 provide employment for approximately 55 000 of the 300 000 jobless.
The Commonwealth allows entry of a restricted number of Jewish refugees from Germany.

1937 Oct The Commonwealth Government refuses to send a petition to the King, signed by Aboriginal people from all over Australia, requesting parliamentary representation.

Oct Lyons wins third term as Prime Minister at the general election.
Dec Lyons (with Enid) returns to Britain (for the Coronation of George VI) and visits the USA. Enid is awarded the Dame Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire.

1938 Lyons Government places an embargo on export of iron ore to Japan.

1939 Mar R G Menzies resigns from Cabinet; W M Hughes appointed as Attorney-General.
Apr Lyons dies in office of a heart attack. After a State funeral, he is buried in Devonport, Tasmania.

Sep Outbreak of World War II.

1943 Aug Enid Lyons elected to the House of Representatives as member for Darwin (Tasmania) in the UAP.

1944 Oct Liberal Party formed with R G Menzies as its leader.

1949 Dec Liberal Party wins the general election and Menzies becomes Prime Minister. He appoints Enid Lyons Vice-President of the Federal Executive Council (19 December 1949 – 7 March 1951).

1951 Mar Enid Lyons resigns as MHR and leaves politics. Appointed to the ABC (a member until December 1962).

1981 Sep Dame Enid Lyons dies.
Appendix 2  Bibliography

Books and articles


Carroll, Brian, *From Barton to Fraser: Every Australian Prime Minister*, Cassell Australia, NSW, 1978.


Hughes, C A, *Mr Prime Minister. Australian Prime Ministers, 1901–1972*. (The related ABC television series, including the episode on Lyons, and Hughes’ research papers are in the National Library of Australia.)


**Theses**


Internet sources

Australian Heritage Commission, Register of the National Estate

Website: www.ahc.gov.au/heritage/register

Joseph Lyons’ birthplace, now the Lyons Cottage historical site, and Joseph and Enid Lyons’ family home, Home Hill, are both on the Register of the National Estate. Further information on them can be found by searching on Lyons cottage historic site, Stanley and Home Hill, Devonport.

Discovering Democracy: Dame Enid Lyons

Website: www.curriculum.edu.au/democracy/biographies/lyons.htm

This site was developed by Curriculum Corporation for the Department of Education, Science and Training under the Discovering Democracy Program. It includes biographical information on Enid Lyons. More information on Enid Lyons is included on the Stories of Democracy CD-ROM, which is available from the Curriculum Corporation.

Home Hill, Devonport, Tasmania

Website: www.devonport.tco.asn.au/homehill/

This site includes photographs of Joseph and Enid Lyons’ family home, showing the house and interiors, its location and contact details. See also the National Trust site at www.tased.edu.au/tasonline/nattrust/homehill.htm.

Monash University, Soundscapes: A Social History of Australia in Sound

This is an experimental site developed for the Monash University Multi-Mediality Project. It includes text, photographs and sound recordings relating to Joseph Lyons. Some examples are listed below.

- Joe Lyons – biographical data
  Website: www.arts.monash.edu.au/ncas/resources/soundscapes/lyonbiog.htm

- Political structures and processes in the 1930s
  Website: www.arts.monash.edu.au/ncas/resources/soundscapes/poltic1.htm

- Newspaper reactions (to the Depression in 1934–35)
  Website: www.arts.monash.edu.au/ncas/resources/soundscapes/react1.htm

This site contains images and text of Lyons’ New Year message 1935, and commentary from newspapers the Argus, the Age and Labor Daily. The speech was delivered on ABC Radio on 12 December 1934. The sound recording of
the speech can be heard at www.arts.monash.edu.au/ncas/resources/soundscapes/occasion.htm (ABC Radio Cassette, ‘The Big Broadcast 1932–39’).

- Sounds and culture – Voices: cues, codes and aural postures

Website: www.arts.monash.edu.au/ncas/resources/soundscapes/culscpe4.htm

Contains a sound recording of Prime Minister Joseph Lyons’ New Year message broadcast on ABC Radio on 12 December 1934.

- Australia in the 1930s

Website: www.arts.monash.edu.au/ncas/resources/soundscapes/polchron.htm

A year-by-year chronology of major political events in the 1930s in Australia, Europe, Asia and the USA, including reference to Lyons and his Government.

**Women Tasmania: Significant Women on the Web Project**

- Enid Lyons

Website: www.women.tas.gov.au/significantwomen/search/enidlyons.html

Women Tasmania is a division of the Tasmanian Department of Premier and Cabinet. The site includes biographical information about Enid Lyons.
Appendix 3  Australian Historic Records Register

Records relating to some Australian prime ministers and their wives are held in private collections. Details about these collections are held in the Australian Historic Records Register, which is located on the National Library of Australia’s website at www.nla.gov.au/ahrr.

Joseph and Enid Lyons

Sheila Lyons, personal records, 1927–37

In 1927 the Duke and Duchess of York visited Tasmania. Sheila Lyons, the eldest daughter of the Tasmanian Premier Joseph Lyons and his wife Enid, presented them with a miniature blackwood bedroom suite for Princess Elizabeth’s first birthday and made a short speech that was widely reported in the British press. In 1937, Joseph Lyons, in his capacity as Prime Minister of Australia, was invited to attend the Coronation of the Duke and Duchess of York as King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. Sheila Lyons accompanied her parents so that she could deputise for her mother if and when necessary as Mrs Lyons was unwell at that time. Not only did Sheila attend the coronation, but she was presented as a debutante at Court, attended a Court ball and, with her parents, spent a weekend at Hyde Hall, Essex, with Ramsay MacDonald, and another at Chequers with Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin. This collection contains a scrapbook, newspaper clippings, photographs and a diary kept during the trip to England. For more information, please see AHRR, Sheila Lyons, personal records, register number 1011.
### Appendix 4   Addresses of archives

**National Archives of Australia**

**Reference inquiries**  
Email: ref@naa.gov.au  
Website: www.naa.gov.au

Postal address:  
PO Box 7425  
Canberra Business Centre  ACT  2610

**Reading Room addresses**

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<th>Location</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Tel.</th>
<th>Fax.</th>
<th>Email: <a href="mailto:ref@naa.gov.au">ref@naa.gov.au</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Canberra**   | Quean Victoria Terrace Parkes ACT 2600  
                Tel: (02) 6212 3900  
                Fax: (02) 6212 3999 |      |      |                       |
|                | Postal address:  
                PO Box 7425  
                Canberra Business Centre  ACT  2610 |      |      |                       |
| **Sydney**     | 120 Miller Road  
                Chester Hill NSW 2162  
                Tel: (02) 9645 0110  
                Fax: (02) 9645 0108 |      |      |                       |
|                | Email: ref@naa.gov.au  
                TTY: (02) 9743 8419 |      |      |                       |
|                | Postal address:  
                Locked Bag 4  
                Chester Hill NSW 2162 |      |      |                       |
| **Sydney Records Centre** | 2 Globe Street  
The Rocks |      |      |                       |
| **Melbourne Archives Centre** | Casselden Place  
2 Lonsdale Street  
Melbourne VIC 3000  
Tel: (03) 9285 7999  
Fax: (03) 9285 7997 |      |      |                       |
|                | Email: ref@naa.gov.au |      |      |                       |
|                | Postal address:  
                PO Box 8005  
                Burwood Heights VIC 3151 |      |      |                       |
| **Brisbane**   | 996 Wynnum Road  
Cannon Hill Qld 4170  
Tel: (07) 3249 4226  
Fax: (07) 3399 6589 |      |      |                       |
|                | Email: ref@naa.gov.au  
Postal address:  
PO Box 552  
Cannon Hill Qld 4170 |      |      |                       |
| **Perth**      | 384 Berwick Street  
East Victoria Park WA 6101  
Tel: (08) 9470 7500  
Fax: (08) 9470 2787 |      |      |                       |
|                | Email: ref@naa.gov.au  
Postal address:  
PO Box 1144  
East Victoria Park WA 6981 |      |      |                       |
| **Adelaide**   | 78 Angas Street  
Adelaide SA 5000  
Tel: (08) 8409 8400  
Fax: (08) 8409 8499 |      |      |                       |
|                | Email: ref@naa.gov.au  
Postal address:  
PO Box 6536  
Adelaide SA 5000 |      |      |                       |
| **Hobart**     | Ground Floor  
85 Macquarie Street  
Hobart TAS 7000  
Tel: (03) 6230 6111  
Fax: (03) 6230 6134 |      |      |                       |
|                | Email: ref@naa.gov.au  
Postal address:  
GPO Box 309  
Hobart TAS 7000 |      |      |                       |
| **Darwin**     | Kelsey Crescent  
Millner NT 0810  
Tel: (08) 8985 0300  
Fax: (08) 8985 0399 |      |      |                       |
|                | Email: ref@naa.gov.au  
Postal address:  
PO Box 24  
Nightcliff NT 0810 |      |      |                       |
Other Archives

**CANBERRA (ACT)**

Australian War Memorial  
Trelowar Crescent  
Campbell ACT 2612  
Tel: (02) 6243 4211  
Fax: (02) 6243 4325  
Website: www.awm.gov.au

National Library of Australia  
Parkes ACT 2600  
Tel: (02) 6262 1111  
Fax: (02) 6257 1703  
Website: www.nla.gov.au  
(includes the Australian Historic Records Register, at www.nla.gov.au/ahrr)

ScreenSound Australia  
Canberra Headquarters  
McCoy Circuit  
Acton ACT 2601  
Tel: (02) 6248 2091  
Fax: (02) 6248 2222  
Website: www.screensound.gov.au

Postal address:  
GPO Box 2002  
Canberra ACT 2601

**NEW SOUTH WALES**

State Library of NSW  
- Mitchell Library  
- Dixson Library  
Macquarie Street  
Sydney NSW 2000  
Tel: (02) 9273 1414  
Fax: (02) 9273 1255  
Website: www.sl.nsw.gov.au

**TASMANIA**

Archives Office of Tasmania  
77 Murray Street  
Hobart TAS 7000  
Tel: (03) 6233 7488  
Fax: (03) 6233 7471  
Website: www.archives.tas.gov.au

University of Tasmania Library  
Hobart (Sandy Bay) Campus  
Churchill Avenue  
Sandy Bay TAS 7001  
Tel: (03) 6226 2229 (Morris Miller Library)  
(03) 6324 3299 (Launceston Campus)

Postal address:  
GPO Box 252-25  
Hobart TAS 7001  
Website: www.utas.edu.au

**VICTORIA**

Australian Centre for the Moving Image  
3 Treasury Place  
East Melbourne VIC 3000  
Tel: (03) 9651 0600  
Fax: (03) 9651 0606  
Website: www.acmi.net.au

University of Melbourne Archives  
3rd Floor, Baillieu Library  
University of Melbourne  
Parkville VIC 3010  
Tel: (03) 8344 6848  
Fax: (03) 9347 8627  
Website: www.lib.unimelb.edu.au/collections/archives/archgen

**WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

State Library of Western Australia  
J S Battye Library of Western Australian History  
Alexander Library Building  
Perth Cultural Centre  
Perth WA 6000  
Tel: (08) 9427 3111  
Fax: (08) 9427 3256  
Website: www.liswa.wa.gov.au/battye  
(see also www.liswa.wa.gov.au/federation)
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This guide describes records on Joseph and Enid Lyons held by the National Archives of Australia and other institutions.

Prime Minister Joseph Lyons led Australia through some of the worst years of the Great Depression. His wife Enid became the first woman elected to the House of Representatives, and later the first woman appointed to a Cabinet post.

Susan Marsden is a historian and author. She is co-author of Our First Six: Guide to Archives of Australia’s Prime Ministers and Federation: The Guide to Records, also published by the National Archives of Australia.

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