

Latest postgraduate scholarship recipients to shed more light on Australia's political history

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Joint postgraduate scholarships from the National Archives of Australia and the Australian Historical Association (AHA), launched in July this year, have been awarded to Laura Stanley from Victoria University and Claire Higgins from the University of Oxford.

They will use records from the National Archives to piece together accounts of two key periods in Australia's political history.

Laura Stanley will undertake the first dedicated study on the Australian Government's response to the Cuban Missile Crisis of October 1962. It will coincide with the fiftieth anniversary of the Cuban Missile Crisis in 2012, shedding light on Australian–American relations during the Cold War.

Claire Higgins will research the development of Australia's refugee policy under the Whitlam, Fraser and Hawke governments between 1975 and 1985. The study will use recently released Cabinet records from the National Archives and material from interviews with former Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser, former Immigration ministers and various departmental officials.

Both recipients will use their research to develop finding aids of use to other Archives researchers and the community, enriching the historical analysis around these two key political eras in Australian history.

The scholarships provide postgraduate scholars with \$500 worth of digital copies of records from the National Archives' collection.

'We're pleased to support talented postgraduate scholars by assisting with copying costs,' says Anne McLean, Director of Reference and Information Services at the National Archives.

'We're also delighted that the inaugural round of this scholarship has attracted more than 20 applications, which is a great outcome.'

The Australian Historical Association was very impressed by the very high quality of the applications, showing the real sophistication and originality of postgraduate research in Australian history, said the President, Professor Marilyn Lake.



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