Sir Joh and Lady Florence Bjelke-Petersen collection

Accession number 32627

Date ca 1930 - 2020

Author / Creator
Bjelke-Petersen family

Scope and content Items from the estate of Sir Joh and Lady Florence Bjelke-Petersen and include: a briefcase; posters; recipe; diary; Patent; cake tin; coaster sets; commemorative plate; two original oil paintings ; family photographs; visitors book.

System of arrangement Arranged into 5 series

Description 5 boxes of mixed items

Additional format Digital copies available for selected items.

Administrative / Biographical history Sir Johannes Bjelke-Petersen KCMG (13 January 1911 - 23 April 2005) was an Australian conservative politician. He was the longest-serving and longest-lived Premier of Queensland, holding office from 1968 to 1987, during which time the state underwent considerable economic development. He has become one of the most well-known and controversial figures of 20th-century Australian politics because of his uncompromising conservatism. Florence Isabel Bjelke-Petersen (ne?e Gilmour; 11 August 1920 - 20 December 2017) was an Australian politician and author. She was a member of the Australian Senate from 1981 to 1993, and was the wife of Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen. She was styled as Lady Bjelke-Petersen upon her husband's knighthood, and was also known informally as Lady Flo.

Copyright status Multiple copyright statuses.

Preferred citation
32627, Sir Joh and Lady Florence Bjelke-Petersen collection, John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland

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Series 1: Manuscripts, papers (1937-1988)

Series number 1

Series title Manuscripts, papers

Date 1937-1988

Scope and content
Items in this series include: a handwritten diary by Lady Florence Bjelke-Petersen for the year 1988; patent certifications and agreement for a 'peanut planter'; Sir Joh's visitors book 1968-1978 and a ballot card containing a recipe for 'Little cakes'.

Description

Description   1 folder (diary, visitors book, recipe, papers)

Locate   OMOSBOX Box 22961O/S

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status Multiple copyright statuses

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Items in this series:

Diary (1988)
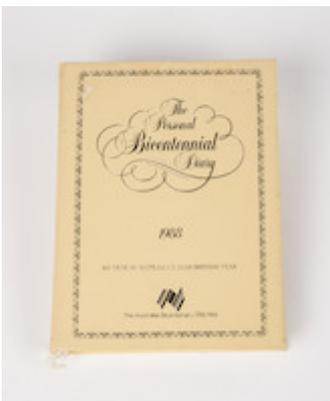
Unit ID 32627/4

Date 1988

Scope and content

This personal diary kept by Florence Bjelke-Peterson was for the bicentennial year of 1988. Lady Flo has kept detailed entries covering her busy life - at home, duties in Parliament, radio interviews, the opening of Expo 88, attending church services and many social gatherings. These entries show the energy and enthusiasm she brought to her family and public life at age 68. Included with the diary is the pen she supposedly used; a Christmas card sent to Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen in 1990 from Alex Waryk; a handwritten itinerary for a holiday in 1989; and a photocopied brochure printed by Bentours, Melbourne, titled "The coastal voyage from Bergen to Kirkenes and back, 2500 miles in eleven days".

Author / Creator

Bjelke-Petersen, Lady Florence Gilmore, 1920-2017

Description

Description   1 diary (pen, and Christmas card)

Additional format Digital copy available

View the items

View the item

Visitors book (1968-1978)

Unit ID 32627/14

Date 1968-1978

Scope and content

Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen's official visitors book, with signatures which date from 1968-1978. Only 15 pages of the volume have been annotated, the majority by international visitors and distinguished guests, Ambassadors, High Commissioners, Consul Generals and several 'Miss Australia's'.

Description   1 book

Additional format Digital copy available

View the items

View the item

Patent specification (1937-1939)

Unit ID 32627/5

Date 1937-1939

Scope and content

Patent specification documents and an agreement with the manufacturer H.V. McKay Masey Harris P/L known as 'Sunshine' for a peanut planter or 'apparatus for sowing plants in the shell' devised by Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen, signed and executed in June 1939.

**Author / Creator**

Bjelke-Petersen, Sir Johannes, 1911-2005

Description

Description   1 folder

View the items

View the item

Recipe (Undated)
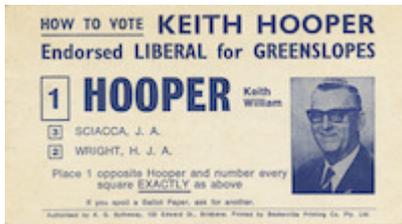
Unit ID 32627/3

Date Undated

Scope and content

Handwritten recipe for 'Little Cakes' noted on the back of a Liberal ballot card. The recipe was originally devised by Betty Florence Hooper (nee Ball) who married Keith Hooper in 1947. The how-to-vote ballot card was for Keith Hooper, the then candidate for Greenslopes, a seat he held from 1966 until his resignation and death in 1977. Keith Hooper was a member of the 2/10th Field Regiment during the Second World War, he was captured by the Japanese and taken to Changi prison in 1942. The following year he was transferred to Japan and held at Kobe House and Nomachi prison camps until the end of the war.

Author / Creator

Hooper, Betty Florence, 1923-1986

Hooper, Keith William, 1919-1977

Description

Description 1 card

Additional format Digital copies available

View the items

View the item

(4 digital)

Series 2: Realia (1980-1990)

Series number 2

Series title Realia

Date 1980-1990

Scope and content
This series is a collection of sentimental and commemorative items relating to the lives of Sir Joh and Lady Florence Bjelke-Petersen, including a cake tin, briefcase, commemorative coasters and plate.

Description

Description 2 boxes

Locate OMOSBOX Box 22961 O/S   OMOSBOX Box 22960 O/S

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status Out of copyright

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Items in this series:

Cake tin (Undated)

Unit ID 32627/6

Date Undated

Scope and content
Silver aluminium square cake tin 230 x 230 x 70 mm high, used and dented.

Description

Description 1 cake tin

Additional format Digital copy available

View the items

View the item

Brief case (Undated)

Unit ID 32627/1

Date Undated

Scope and content
Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen's brown leather briefcase [empty] still with baggage tags attached for a flight on Ansett Australia Airlines, Brisbane to Melbourne [no date].

Description

Description 1 briefcase

Additional format Digital copy available

View the items

View the item

Coasters (1985)

Unit ID 32627/7

Date 1985

Scope and content
Coasters commemorating the Holland Park Jubilee 1985. Two gold, embossed, square coasters, felt backed, 95 x 95 mm, featuring the emblem for the Uniting Church, an open book and the numbers 50.

Description

Description   2 coasters
95 x 95 mm

Additional format Digital copy available

View the items

View the item

Coaster set (1984)

Unit ID 32627/8

Date 1984

Scope and content
Boxed coaster set commemorating the Grand opening of the Sheraton-Brisbane Hotel and Towers, Turbot Street, Brisbane. Manufactured by Photoprint Products Company, Redbank Plains.

Author / Creator
Photoprint Products Company

Description

Description 1 set

Additional format Digital copy available

View the items

View the item

Plate (16 February 1987)

Unit ID 32627/9

Date 16 February 1987

Scope and content
Earthenware plate issued to commemorate the Kingaroy Shire Council, State Cabinet visit, decorated with a stylised image of the Kingaroy peanut silos.

Description

Description 1 plate

Additional format Digital copy available

View the items

View the item

(5 digital)

Series 3: Artworks (1986, undated)

Series number 3

Series title Artworks

Date 1986, undated

Scope and content
Two original oil paintings presented to Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen, relating to his service to the State of Queensland.

Description

Description 2 artworks

Locate OMTILL To be assigned

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status In copyright

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Items in this series:

Cape York (1986)

Unit ID 32627/10

Date 1986

Scope and content
Oil on board by William Boissevain, title 'Cape York' dated 1986, showing an aerial view of the tip of Cape York Peninsula. The mounted and framed artwork was presented to Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen on the occasion of the official opening of the Cape York Wilderness Lodge, 12 May 1986. The framed work which measures 920 wide 540 high was framed by Raintrees Galleries, Cairns and includes a silver coloured plaque attached to the frame, lower centre.

Boissevain was born in New York in 1927, the son of a Dutch diplomat, the family were

evacuated to England as diplomatic prisoners during the Second World War. He studied at l'Academie des Beaux Arts, Paris and at the Central School of Arts and Crafts, London. Boissevain has resided in Western Australia since 1947 and in 1978 was awarded an Order of the British Empire (OBE) for his services to the advancement of art.

Author / Creator

Boissevain, William, 1927-

Description

Description   1 artwork

Locate   OMTILL BOX 22965

Bethany (1968?)

Unit ID 32627/11

Date 1968?

Scope and content

Oil painting on board by Val Mulcahy, titled 'Bethany' which depicts the Bjelke-Petersen property 'Bethany' located near Kingaroy. The mounted and framed artwork was presented to Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen by the Kingaroy Shire Council, Barambah Electorate Council of the Australian Country Party and citizens of the Barambah electorate, on the occasion of his appointment as Premier of Queensland, 8 August 1968.

Author / Creator

Mulcahy, Val

Description

Description   1 artwork

Locate   OMTILL BOX 22966

Series 4: Photographs (2015-2017)

Series number 4

Series title Photographs

Date 2015-2017

Scope and content
Four large format colour prints of Florence Bjelke-Peterson with members of her family, taken at a birthday celebration. Several have duplicate copies, the sizes range from 300 x 420 to 420 x 590 mm. [Item 12]

Description

Description   4 photographs (colour)

Additional format Digital copy available for selected item

Locate   MAPCABINET

View the items

View the item

(1 digital)

Series 5: Posters (Undated, 1983)

Series number 5

Series title Posters

Date Undated, 1983

Scope and content

Two large format posters, one of Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen used for his 1986 election campaign, the other a panorama of Ray Bay.

Description

Description 2 posters

Locate MAPCABINET

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status In copyright

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Items in this series:

Poster (Undated)

Unit ID 32627/13

Date Undated

Scope and content
Panoramic colour aerial poster of Raby Bay waterfront and Moreton Bay.

Description

Description 1 poster (panorama)
1000 mm wide x 400mm high

Poster (1983)

Unit ID 32627/2

Date 1983

Scope and content
Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen's 1983 campaign poster, copies of which were later sold to raise funds for the 'Help Joh Campaign' in 1991. Printed with the words 'Joh and Queensland', it reflects the patriotic colours of Australia, green and gold.

Description

Description   1 poster (600 mm wide x 900 mm high)

Additional format Digital copy available

View the items

View the item

(1 digital)