



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

043967

2026 Robert O'Neill War Studies Lecture The Transformative War: Australia in the War of 1939–45

Professor Emerita Joan Beaumont

**Strategic and Defence Studies Centre
Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs
ANU College of Asia and the Pacific**



The dominance of the Anzac legend has relegated World War II to a secondary place in Australia's national memory, a status compounded by the ambiguity of the 1940–45 overseas deployments — few of which were decisive in defeating the Axis powers. Yet shifting our focus to the mobilisation of the post-Depression economy for war production and Australia's support of US troops through reciprocal Lend Lease, tells a different story: one of domestic transformation unmatched by World War I. Australia's war cannot be fully understood without bringing these economic and financial narratives into the mainstream of military historiography.

Details

Wed, 28 October 2026,
5:30pm - 7pm AEDT
China in the World Lotus
Theatre, ANU Building 88

Register



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