

Invites you to the

Curtin Family Home Lecture 2016

Seventy-five years after he became Prime Minister Assoc Prof Deborah Gare will explore how John Curtin's actions against conscription in the First World War shaped his approach to Australia's involvement in the Second.

1916: Curtin's war against the state

In 1916 the Commonwealth government waged a secretive war against dissidents on the home front. Parliament's disbandment on the eve of the first conscription referendum enabled Prime Minister Bill Hughes to control power unilaterally. Around the country, armed thugs broke up anti-war rallies and opposition politicians were beaten. Eleventh-hour measures were put in place to control the outcome of the vote, while eligible conscripts were put in uniform and marched through the streets of Australia's large cities. It was during this emergency that John Curtin bravely led the anti-conscription movement. Moving from house to house to avoid arrest, Curtin rallied dissent and--in a stunning electoral upset--derailed the government's plan for forced enlistments. The secret events of this period in Australia's war history are only now becoming clear. One thing is certain: Curtin's time as prime minister in the Second World War was shaped by his war against the State in 1916.

Assoc Prof Deborah Gare, University of Notre Dame
Hosted by Josh Wilson MP, Federal Member for Fremantle

The Grove Library, cnr Stirling Highway and Leake St,
Peppermint Grove

Thursday 17 November, 2016

5.45pm for a 6pm start

\$25 members, \$30 non members

RSVP: rsvp@ntwa.com.au

