



## Professor Peter Edwards, AM DPhil, FAIA

**Peter Edwards** is a writer, historian and biographer, who has published extensively on Australian and international history and politics. He is currently an Adjunct Professor at Deakin University, Melbourne and has in recent years held professorial appointments at Flinders University in Adelaide and the University of New South Wales, Canberra. As a contractor or consultant, his major clients have included the University of Melbourne, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Department of Defence, the Office of National Assessments, the Australian War Memorial, the National Library and the National Archives.

A graduate of the Universities of Western Australia and Oxford, where he was a Rhodes Scholar, Peter Edwards has held visiting professorships and fellowships at several universities and research institutions in Australia and overseas, including a Harkness Fellowship based at Duke University (US), a Harold White Fellowship at the National Library of Australia, and a Visiting Scholar's position at the John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library.

Peter Edwards is probably best known as the Official Historian of Australia's involvement in Southeast Asian conflicts 1948-75 (Malaya, Borneo and Vietnam). He was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for his work as general editor of the nine-volume series and author of the volumes dealing with strategy and diplomacy, *Crises and Commitments* (1992) and *A Nation at War* (1997). *A Nation at War* won the Colin Roderick Award and HT Priestley Medal for the best book of the year on any Australian topic. In 2009 Peter Edwards was made a Fellow of the Australian Institute for International Affairs in recognition of his 'outstanding contribution to Australia's international relations'.

Peter Edwards's book *Arthur Tange: Last of the Mandarins* (2006) won the Queensland Premier's Literary Award for history and the Western Australian Premier's Book Award for non-fiction and was short-listed for the National Biography Award. He edited Sir Arthur Tange's memoir, *Defence Policy-Making* (2008), and arranged the Tange papers for the National Library of Australia. He is also the author of *Permanent Friends? Historical Reflections on the Australian-American Alliance* (2005), and *Prime Ministers and Diplomats* (1983); the co-editor of *Facing North* (vol. 2, 2003); the editor of *Australia Through American Eyes* (1977); and one of the founding editors of the series of *Documents on Australian Foreign Policy*.

A former editor of the *Australian Journal of International Affairs* and longstanding member of the Research Committee of the Australian Institute of International Affairs, Peter Edwards has held a number of senior positions and consultancies with universities and government agencies, including Executive Director of the Australian Centre for American Studies at the University of Sydney, and is a member of historical advisory committees in the Department of Defence and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. From 2002 to 2009 he was a Trustee of the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne.

Peter Edwards's research interests include Australian foreign, defence and strategic policies, with particular emphasis on the Australian-American alliance, Australia's relations with Southeast Asia, and the policy-making process.