

# Mind Ventures

## Our Mission...

About ten or fifteen years ago the writing of 'mission statements' seemed to consume a very large amount of time. This activity appears to have diminished somewhat – to be replaced, I suspect, by the writing of 'privacy policies'. (Our privacy policy, by the way, is very simple: we won't use or divulge any information that you give us for any other purposes than to send you occasional information about MindVentures.)

Our mission is pretty simple too. It's to provide opportunities for retired and semi-retired people to pursue and extend their interests by offering – in a range of formats and on different subjects – programs of lectures, presentations, discussions, field trips and other activities.

There's mounting evidence that keeping your mind active as you grow older is key to a longer, healthier and happier life.

We want you to be able to exercise the brain cells, and to learn and experience new things, while enjoying yourself at the same time. MindVentures programs, whether within the format of either our one-day programs or the more relaxed longer programs, allow you to do this without the commitment of time and money that is often associated with stimulating and enjoyable activities.

Programs over three or four days – all based at venues that provide pleasant facilities for meeting and socialising,

good food and, for those who require it, high quality accommodation – are held in a variety of locations. The next one coming up, in June, will be based in **Maryborough** while later in the year there'll be MindVentures programs in **Byron Bay** and **Warwick**.

We call these our 'people and place' programs. While each focuses on aspects of particular relevance to the location itself the programs themselves are based on the common premise that wherever you go there are interesting people to meet, interesting places to see, and important current issues in the region that are worth discussing.

We think of them as a personalised holiday for people who want to do more than simply look at the scenery!

Other programs are based on a diversity of subjects. Many of these are offered in a one-day format. Of those coming up most are in Brisbane and – because of different considerations – many are on a Saturday. (Our feedback tells us that Saturdays are convenient for most people... if that's not the case for you, tell us!)

Thus, for example, if you're interested in **writing** some autobiographical material you can spend a day under the guidance of experts working through a checklist of things you need to consider when 'writing your story'. Or you could explore the interaction of **architecture and the arts** by meeting with people involved in the design and management of Brisbane's cultural facilities – including the Millenium Arts Project currently under construction. Or learn about – and decide whether you should be concerned about – **climate change and global warming**. Or find out more about

SUMMARY	
JUNE	Heritage Maryborough <sup>PP</sup> Central Europe <sup>MT</sup>
JULY	Writing Your Story Buddhism
AUG	Italy: essence of 'la dolce vita' <sup>MT</sup> Byron Bay <sup>PP</sup>
SEPT	Vietnam <sup>MT</sup> Islam
OCT	Climate Change and Global Warming
NOV	Warwick <sup>PP</sup>
<sup>PP</sup> 'people and place' programs <sup>MT</sup> MindTravel programs... one-day programs on aspects of the history and culture of different countries/regions	
MORE DETAILS OVER PAGE...	

the principles and practice of **Buddhism** and **Islam** as religions and ways of life.

And then there's three 'MindTravel' programs where you can spend a day immersing yourself in the history and the distinctive contemporary culture – whether it's the customs, music, food, or architecture – of countries or regions of the world. Programs coming up are based on **Italy**, **Vietnam** and **Central Europe**.

If you're a MindVentures 'regular' we look forward to seeing you again in the coming months. If you haven't yet taken part in a program we hope that by joining us on one of these occasions we can demonstrate to you how the stimulation and enjoyment of participating in a MindVentures program can help you make more of life in the third age.

With best wishes

**Bill Richmond**

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## Traditional 'people and place' programs

Spend a few days getting to know and understand a locality and its people. Programs will all be based at high quality motels and other local venues, and include field trips in the town and region.

### MB466 – HERITAGE MARYBOROUGH

**6-10 June** (3-days/4-nights)

The history of Maryborough, its people and their activities. Guided visits to places of interest and examples of both private and public architecture. Presentations by members of the Maryborough District Family History Society; the study of genealogy.

**Cost: \$596\***

### BB471 – BYRON BAY: THE DEVELOPMENT DILEMMA

**15-18 August** (2 plus 2 half-days/3-nights)

Experience the natural beauty of the coast and hinterland around Byron Bay and the north coast of New South Wales. Meet members of the local community and find out about some current activities. Explore the implications of the growing popularity of the town and region for 'development'.

**Cost: \$688\***

### WK476 - WARWICK: ROSE CITY

**31 October – 4 November** (3-days/4-nights)

Be a 'deliberate visitor' to a city that has an important place in Queensland history and is today the centre of a diverse rural industry. Experience the beauty of both the built and natural environment. Meet members of the local community. And see why the city gets its reputation as 'the rose city'!

**Cost: \$626\***

\* the cost for each program is per person and includes: accommodation (based on twin share); all meals; refreshments and pre-dinner drinks; and transport associated with field trips. (Single accommodation is available in all cases, at additional cost).

\*\* While open to anyone interested in the history and culture of this part of the world, the program on Central Europe has been timed especially for people participating in a forthcoming tour of selected parts of the region. This fully-escorted tour (departing on 8 October 2005) has been devised for the experienced European traveller and will be conducted by **Seniors Holiday Travel**, an agency specialising in travel by retired people. To obtain more information about the tour contact Maurice Avila, International Groups Coordinator at Seniors Holiday Travel, on 3211 8599 or 1800 300 999. If you speak to Maurice, mention MindVentures.

## MindTravel programs

These are all one-day programs, to be held at different locations in Brisbane on Saturdays. The programs will consist of a series of presentations and discussions about aspects of the history and culture of the different countries/regions, with emphasis on those aspects that are of particular interest. The cost of these programs is \$99 per person (includes lunch and refreshments)

### EU467 – CENTRAL EUROPE: ASPECTS OF HISTORY, PEOPLE AND POLITICS\*\* (see below)

**25 June** (Women's College, University of Queensland)

### IT470 – ITALY: THE ESSENCE OF 'LA DOLCE VITA'

**6 August** (Dante Alighieri Society, Newmarket)

### VN473 – UNDERSTANDING VIETNAM

**10 September** (University of Queensland)

## Other one-day programs

These will all be held in Brisbane unless indicated. The cost of these programs is \$99 per person (includes lunch and refreshment)

### WS468 – WRITING YOUR STORY

**9 July (Saturday)** – Women's College, University of Queensland

Experienced writers, editors and publishers will lead participants through a comprehensive checklist of issues that those engaged in or contemplating writing autobiographical material should consider.

### BD469 – BUDDHISM: PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE

**23 July (Saturday)** – Women's College, University of Queensland

Presentations and discussions about the history of Buddhism and the principles and practice of Buddhism both as a religion and a way of life. The program will include a hosted visit to, and lunch at, the Chung Tian Buddhist Temple.

## AA472 – ARCHITECTURE AND THE ARTS

**29 August (Monday)** – on-site at Queensland Cultural Centre and Southbank  
An opportunity to meet and hear from people involved in the design and management of both the existing facilities of the Queensland Cultural Centre and the Millenium Arts project, currently under construction. Explore the interaction of architecture and the arts.

## IS474 – ISLAM: PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE

**17 September (Saturday)** – Women's College, University of Queensland  
Presentations and discussions on the history, principles and practice of Islam; political implications of adherence to the faith; and the role of women in contemporary Islam. The program will include a visit to the Kuraby Mosque and a meeting with the Imam.

## CG475 – CLIMATE CHANGE AND GLOBAL WARMING

**1 October (Saturday)** – University of Queensland

What are the indicators of change in the world's climate? What are the causes of change? What is meant by the 'greenhouse effect' and 'global warming'? Are these matters that we should be concerned about? We will ask a number of experts to address these and related questions.

## On the drawing board...

(let us know if you are interested in programs on these subjects and we'll keep you informed).

- Brisbane Houses: the aesthetics and practicalities of residential architecture
  - Parks and Gardens in Brisbane
  - Music and Popular Culture: from broadsheets to Broadway and beyond
  - Argentina <sup>MT</sup>
  - Turkey <sup>MT</sup>
- <sup>MT</sup> MindTravel programs

## More Information?

If you are interested in any of the programs scheduled for the coming months you can use the enclosed form either to enrol or to request more information about one or more of the programs mentioned.

In response to a request we will send you further details, keep you informed about arrangements as they are finalised, and – while there's no obligation of any sort – guarantee a place for you should you subsequently wish to enrol.

It's easy ... simply fill in the form and post it... no envelope and no postage stamp required. Think of it as applying for a passport to a more interesting life. As the saying goes: just do it!

## Bring a Friend... Tell a Friend

The different groups of people who make up the participants in any MindVentures programs are invariably an interesting and friendly lot! But it often adds to the experience if you participate with a friend or friends, particularly if you're taking part for the first time.

So why not bring someone along with you, even if they haven't heard about MindVentures before.

And if you have friends, acquaintances or family members who you think would like to know about MindVentures, tell them about us. We'll be happy to make them members. There's absolutely no obligation involved but it would mean that we could put them on our mailing list and keep them informed of programs on offer in the coming months.