

On the Road in 2007

It's time to start planning for 2007.
Where to go? What to do?

Visiting new places is always stimulating. But you don't have to go very far or spend a lot of money to 'disconnect yourself from the everyday' – a saying that sums up one of the joys of travel.

In fact you don't necessarily have to go somewhere *new*. Even if you're visiting a place you've been to before you can enjoy the experience by being a 'deliberate visitor'.

In the words of French writer Marcel Proust: 'The real voyage of discovery lies not in seeing new landscapes but in having new eyes'.

So what's on offer?

There are three traditional *MindVentures* programs early next year which you can register for now, each in a different but congenial part of the country:

- **Heron Island**, one of the idyllic Barrier Reef islands;
- **Stanthorpe**, centre of diverse and interesting country and activities in the Granite Belt; and
- **Lennox Head**, on the northern New South Wales coast with its beautiful beaches and lush hinterland.

In later months there'll be further *MindVentures* programs for those who have an enquiring mind and enjoy seeing people and places with new eyes. They'll be held in a similar

diversity of places, including the **Bunya Mountains** on the Darling Downs and **Charters Towers** in north Queensland.

If you haven't been on a *MindVentures* 'people and place' program before, what can you expect?: a short break in pleasant surroundings; high quality accommodation, facilities and meals; a stimulating but relaxed schedule of lectures, meetings and field trips; a small group of interesting people; a nightly pre-dinner get-together for drinks and a review of the day's activities; and the support throughout of experienced *MindVentures* hosts.

MindVentures offers 'learning + leisure' experiences in other formats too.

For example there are two one-day '*MindTravel*' programs coming up very soon. These let you immerse yourself in the history and culture of different countries without leaving home. If you would like to go to **Greece** or **India** for a day, the details are over the page. But you must act now!

There'll be more *MindTravel* programs next year plus some 'Days of Discovery' on a wide range of subjects. Watch for our newsletters.

MindVentures are a way to make your life more interesting. We hope you can join us soon.

Bill Richmond

SUMMARY

AUG	GR489 – Greece*
OCT	IN490 – India*
FEB07	HE491 – Heron Island: a Break on the Reef
MAR07	ST492 – Stanthorpe: Exploring the Granite Belt
MAY07	LH493 – Lennox Head: Coast and Hinterland
*one-day <i>MindTravel</i> programs	
more details over page...	

Further information about

MindVentures programs on offer can be accessed from the website (where you can also see the format of some previous programs). Or you are welcome to telephone *MindVentures* and we'll send printed information.

If you know of friends or family who may be interested in *MindVentures* please pass this newsletter on to them and invite them to put their name on the free mailing list.

Mind Ventures

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**Very soon – one-day
'MindTravel' programs**

**GR489
GREECE: HISTORY AND CULTURE**

Saturday 26 August – Brisbane (Hall of the Greek Orthodox Church, Mt Gravatt)

\$99, includes lunch and refreshments

A day of presentations by members and friends of the Brisbane Greek community on both the ancient and modern history of Greece, and language, customs, music and dance of Greece. Includes lunch and refreshments of authentic Greek cuisine and a discussion of Greek food and cooking. Presenters include Professor Bob Milns, Anna Efstathiadou and Steve Floratos.

**IN490
INDIA: HISTORY AND CULTURE**

Saturday 7 October – Brisbane ('Yungaba', Kangaroo Point)

\$99, includes lunch and refreshments

A day of presentations on aspects of Indian history and culture. Includes lunch and refreshments of authentic Indian cuisine and a presentations on Indian food and cooking. Presenters include Professor Sarva-Danam Singh (Indian Consul-General in Brisbane), Shamim Ishaq and Mrs Manju Jehu.

TO SECURE PLACES IN THESE PROGRAMS, ACT NOW

Traditional programs in 2007

for the 'deliberate visitor' who is looking for a deeper appreciation and understanding of what they see

**HE491
HERON ISLAND: A BREAK ON THE REEF**

11-15 February 2007

\$1245 per person

A unique opportunity to visit an idyllic Great Barrier Reef island, obtain discounted accommodation in the luxurious island resort and spend your time taking part in a relaxed but stimulating program of presentations and activities coordinated by the University of Queensland Heron Island Research Station.

Cost includes: *return travel on the ferry from Gladstone to the island (approx. two-hour trip);*three nights twin share

accommodation in the resort; *all meals and refreshments; *sunset drinks every evening; *a program of presentations and interpretive walks based on the island's land, beach and reef environment; *three boat trips; *star watching one evening; *experienced MindVentures hosts.

Optional extras (additional cost)

- single occupancy of resort room
- accommodation in Gladstone with MindVentures hosts on the evening prior to transfer to the island (pre-dinner drinks, dinner, bed and breakfast)

**ST492
STANTHORPE: EXPLORING THE GRANITE BELT**

21-25 March 2007

\$755 per person

Three days-four nights in Stanthorpe, centre of Queensland's Granite Belt, staying at *The Vines* motel – superior accommodation and an ideal base for a short break and a comprehensive but relaxed program of presentations, meetings and field trips.

Cost includes: *four nights twin share accommodation; *an exclusively arranged MindVentures program that includes visits to Girraween National Park and other places of interest in the town and region; *all meals and refreshments; *pre-dinner drinks every evening; *experienced MindVentures hosts

Single occupancy of motel room available (additional cost)

**LH493
LENNOX HEAD: COAST AND HINTERLAND**

2-6 May 2007

\$775 per person

Spend four nights in the luxury of the *Headland Beach Resort* at Lennox Head on the northern New South Wales coast and fill your days taking part in a MindVentures program of lectures, meetings and field trips based on the region and its people and activities.

Cost includes: *four nights accommodation; *a stimulating and enjoyable program of activities that will allow you to be a 'deliberate visitor' to this diverse and delightful part of the world; *all meals and refreshments; *pre-dinner drinks each evening; *experienced MindVentures hosts.

Alternative accommodation arrangements (including single occupancy of resort unit) available

Longreach – June 2006

The Venture into the Outback a few weeks ago was another typical MindVentures program and gives an indication of what you can expect.

You can view the itinerary on our website, or ask us and we'll send you a copy.

No visit to Longreach is complete of course without visits to the iconic Stockman's Hall of Fame and Qantas Founders Museum. So we included them in our itinerary.

But we also had an exclusive tour of the former Powerhouse by local identity Gary Deakin together with walks around the town's main business district and the cemetery. These backed up Gary's comprehensive lecture on the town's history.

And we heard from experts on the Great Artesian Basin and plant life in the arid zone as well as visiting a number of station properties in the area, sitting in on a 'live' lesson at the School of the Air and going on a sunset cruise on the nearby Thomson River.

All before getting together as a group every evening before dinner for a drink and a chat about the day's activities.

'A great four days', remarked one of the participants on the feedback form. 'We did things which I'm sure the normal visitor doesn't.'

Travel and accommodation

Participants generally make their own arrangements for travel to the venue of programs (or to a set starting point), both in the case of one-day and longer programs.

In this way you can travel by your preferred mode and at a pace of your choosing, utilising any concessions that you may have. And decide on a program that may be 'just around the corner' or further afield from where you live.

All transport that is *part of a program itself* (including, for example, ferry travel to an island venue) is *included* in the cost of the program.

In the case of MindVentures held over more than one day participants may also arrange their own accommodation but still take part in the program of activities.

If you wish to discontinue your association with MindVentures and not receive information about programs in the future please let us know and we'll take you off the mailing list.