

Mind Ventures

MindVentures 2006

As this will be the first newsletter that many of you will receive – and even if you have been on our mailing list for some time – we thought that it may be useful to begin by recapping the objectives of *MindVentures*.

We are an independent organisation, not affiliated with any group. Our sole purpose is to provide, through the variety of programs we offer, a means for retired and semi-retired people (and that typically means people from 50-something to 80-something) to keep their minds active, to pursue and extend interests and to interact with like-minded people in small groups.

We don't, however, have any age limits – up or down. And we cater to couples, singles, friends and groups alike. You need only to be the sort of person who is stimulated by ideas, places and other people. You can choose to take part only in those programs that interest you and fit in with other commitments.

Our main aims are:

- to bring you into contact with authoritative presenters and with others who share an interest in learning and exchanging ideas; and
- to ensure that the venues used for *MindVentures* programs provide high quality facilities and refreshments and that field trips are conducted in a way so as to ensure that participants have a comfortable and enjoyable experience.

MindVentures 'people and place' programs let you spend a few days in

a town or region and gain an insight beyond that available to the 'casual traveller'

Our next people and place program, in June, will be held in **Longreach**. Join us if you can for an informed celebration of 2006 as Year of the Outback.

Also on offer are some more of the *MindVentures* one-day ('Days of Discovery') programs on widely-ranging subjects selected from those that you have identified as being of interest.

In the coming months programs held in Brisbane will let you explore subjects as diverse as **Australian Art, Middle East Politics and Policy, Social Issues and Social Workers, Australia in the Second World War, and the Research and Writing of Family History.**

We have also implemented our plan of making these days available in places other than Brisbane, with three programs to be offered in Toowoomba in the coming months. These will include a study of the principles and practices of **Buddhism**; a '*MindTravel*' program on **France**; and a repeat of the program on family history.

In addition, two 'Discover Brisbane' programs will offer the opportunity to go behind the scenes of the city's façade and understand and appreciate more about its environs. In forthcoming programs you can tour the city's principal public **Parks and Gardens**, or visit the campuses of the three main **Brisbane Universities**,

SUMMARY	
APRIL	Buddhism: Principles and Practice*
MAY	Australian Art The Language and Culture of France* Brisbane Parks and Gardens Middle East Politics and Policy
JUNE	Insight into the Outback: Longreach (4-day/5-night 'people and place' program)
JULY	Social Issues and Social Workers Researching and Writing Family History* Australia in the Second World War
AUGUST	Brisbane Universities Researching and Writing Family History
SEP/OCT	'MindTravel' programs on Greece and India
* offered in Toowoomba	
more details over page...	

both with expert tour guides who will help you to understand more about these landmarks.

And finally, two '*MindTravel*' programs will be held in Brisbane later in the year – one on **India**, the other on **Greece**. These aim to give you a greater understanding of the cultures and customs of these countries, and an opportunity to sample the food and music that is identified with them.

Forthcoming programs are summarised over the page and further details are on the website (www.mindventures.com.au). You can enrol, register your interest, or ask for more information by returning the form accompanying this newsletter or by phoning or e-mailing us.

People and place

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

LR483 – INSIGHT INTO THE OUTBACK: LONGREACH, QUEENSLAND

21-26 June (4 days/5 nights)
[\$890, including 5 nights accommodation and all meals/refreshments]

Spend four days based in Longreach (in a high-quality motel) and gain an insight into the Queensland Outback. Meet local pastoralists, scientists and historians. Learn about water supply and plant life in the arid zone. Discuss education in the outback and participate in a lesson given at the School of the Air. Visit the Stockman's Hall of Fame and the Qantas Founders Museum and be taken on a personal guided walk around the town itself. See the pastoral industry in action by visiting working stations. Experience a campfire dinner by the Thomson River following a special sunset river cruise.

Days of Discovery

'Days of Discovery' – one-day programs on a variety of subjects that let you broaden your horizons; the price of programs includes lunch/refreshments and all other costs associated with the program

In Brisbane (at Uni. of Qld, St Lucia)...

AH479 – AUSTRALIAN ART

Thursday 4 May [\$99]

For those who have an interest in Australian art and its place in Australian history. Program will consist of several liberally illustrated presentations by a number of experts – all members of staff or associates of the University of Queensland Department of Art History.

ME482 – MIDDLE EAST POLITICS AND POLICY

Thursday 25 May [\$99]

An opportunity to interact with a number of experts on the Middle East and inform yourselves better about one of the main subjects of every current news bulletin. Presenters will include Dr Renee Worringer (UQ School of History) and Halim Rane (Griffith University). Is there a formula for a future based on peace and prosperity rather than conflict?

SW484 – SOCIAL ISSUES AND SOCIAL WORKERS

Saturday 1 July [\$99]

You told us that you were interested in 'social issues'. So here's an opportunity to hear from people whose daily life is involved in the human stories behind 'issues'. How do social workers themselves regard their work? Informal presentations and discussions with a number of practitioners and academics.

HT486 – AUSTRALIA IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR

Saturday 29 July [\$99]

A general overview of Australia's participation and role in the Second World War followed by presentations and discussions on different aspects of the impact of the war on Australians. Presenters include Dr Russell Cowie and Dr Martin Crotty (University of Queensland). Participants will be encouraged to share experiences and participate in discussion.

FH488 – RESEARCHING AND WRITING FAMILY HISTORY

Thursday 17 August [\$79]

The practicalities of researching family history together with some of the larger questions and issues that need to be addressed. Presented by Syd Ryder, executive member of the Queensland Family History Society and experienced researcher and lecturer. The program will be tailored to the needs and interests of participants. (Also offered in Toowoomba.)

In Toowoomba...

BD478 – BUDDHISM: PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE

Thursday 6 April [\$99]

Presentations and discussions about the history and the principles and practice of Buddhism both as a religion and a way of life. Exploration of the contrasting Asian and Western traditions of Buddhist practice.

FR481 – THE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE OF FRANCE (a 'MindTravel' program)

Thursday 18 May [\$99]

Spend a day immersing yourself in 'things French'... language, music, art, culture. Lunch will be a *dégustation* with commentary from our chef about French food and cooking.

FH485 – RESEARCHING AND WRITING FAMILY HISTORY

Thursday 6 July [\$79]

See details above for Program FH488. This program will also include input from the Toowoomba Family History Society and a guide to locally available resources and support for family history researchers.

Discover Brisbane

'Discover Brisbane' programs – see, experience and learn more about different aspects of Brisbane as a city

PG480 – BRISBANE PARKS AND GARDENS

Thursday 11 May [\$99]

A day touring the major public parks and gardens of Brisbane with informed commentary on the history, design and horticultural/botanic features of each by Ray Steward, former BCC Director of Parks and Recreation.

BU487 – BRISBANE UNIVERSITIES

Thursday 10 August [\$99]

A guided tour of each campus to explore the unique characteristics of the buildings and landscaping in the context of the history and role of the university.

MindTravel

And, finally, two one-day 'MindTravel' programs on GREECE and INDIA

Here's an opportunity to immerse yourself in these cultures... learn about and experience the food, music and the social and religious customs and practices that define these nations.

The programs will be held in September and October. If you would like to be kept informed about details and the dates of the programs, register your interest now by returning the enclosed form.

MindVentures

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