

# Mind Ventures

BULLETIN

LIVE AND LEARN

JULY 2010

## I can Google it...

Whatever the topic, there's very little information you can't find very easily by accessing the vast amount of factual data that's readily available to anyone with a computer and an internet connection.

But can we gain more beyond just finding out facts?

Educational institutions offer formal courses of study which convey information and ideas in a more coherent way. But these generally require a substantial commitment of time.

Mind Ventures programs sit somewhere in between – and aim to offer more.

The key objective of Mind Ventures is to bring together those who are interested in ideas with the many people – be they from universities, government or the community in general – who are keen to communicate the results of their study and experience. And in the process to make life more interesting.

The one-day program held earlier in July, for example, introduced two former Heads of the University of Queensland Department of Classics and Ancient History to discuss the ancient Persian empire and its place in history.

In Mind Ventures short breaks, held recently in places as diverse as Longreach, Newcastle and Maryborough, participants were also brought together with members of the local community to hear about and discuss a range of human endeavour as well as experience the very different natural and built environments of these centres.

In all cases the programs allowed a small group of like-minded people to have a stimulating experience and enjoy themselves.

Short breaks scheduled for later this year and early in 2011 – to be held in **Canberra, Kangaroo Island** and **Rockhampton** – are listed elsewhere in this newsletter. Our aim on these occasions is to let you spend a few days in a place and – whether you have been there before or not – explore its history and current activities by meeting a number of informed locals. You will also be given a comprehensive overview of the city and its region. (The program in Canberra will be held in early September. So if you would like to take part, and haven't already told us, it would be appreciated if you could make contact as soon as possible.)

One-day programs for the rest of the year (held in Brisbane on Saturdays at a venue at the University of Queensland) will let you immerse yourself for a day in subjects ranging from the **history and culture of Russia**, the **science of Nutrition**, **Christianity** and the **art and architecture of Tuscany and Venice**.

In all cases the programs will be presented by authoritative and entertaining presenters.

Please let us know if you would like further information.

Whether you're a regular Mind Ventures participant, or you would like to 'try out' a program on a subject (or in a place) of particular interest, we look forward to your company in the coming months.

Bill Richmond

### SUMMARY OF PROGRAMS COMING UP

Short Breaks with a Difference	
SEP 2010	CB541 – THE NATIONAL CAPITAL: CANBERRA
FEB 2011	KD542 – 'AUSTRALIA'S GALAPAGOS': KANGAROO ISLAND
MAY 2011	RN546 – ROCKHAMPTON AND THE CAPRICORN COAST
One-day Courses	
AUG 2010	RU540 – THE HISTORY AND CULTURE OF RUSSIA
SEP 2010	NT543 – 'WE ARE WHAT WE EAT...': THE SCIENCE OF NUTRITION
OCT 2010	CX544 – THE HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY
NOV 2010	IT545 – ART AND ARCHITECTURE IN VENICE AND TUSCANY

### Mind Ventures

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### SUBSCRIBE

Whilst there is no cost associated with simply being on the Mind Ventures mailing list – you simply pay for individual programs as you enrol in them – in the case of one-day programs it is possible to reduce the cost of participating by subscribing.

A subscription of \$267 entitles you to participate in any three one-day programs in a two-year period (plus claim a \$30 discount on any one short break that you enrol for during that time).

## PROGRAMS COMING UP...

### Short Breaks with a Difference

Programs over 3 to 5 days providing an insight into the environment and people of the region in which they are based. The cost of each includes a stimulating program of presentations and field visits, all meals, and the support throughout of a MindVentures host, in addition to high quality accommodation (single accommodation if desired is generally available at an additional cost). And yes (as always) we'll celebrate each day's activities with a get-together and a few drinks before dinner each night.

#### **CB541 – THE NATIONAL CAPITAL: CANBERRA (from \$1095)**

**3-7 SEPTEMBER 2010**

This program will allow you to spend a few days in Canberra and take part in a program of visits and meetings to experience both the natural environment of Canberra and what it offers as the centre of the nation's political and cultural life. Based in a heritage hotel close to the city centre the program will include visits to the Australian War Memorial, the National Gallery, National Museum, both the Old and New Parliament House and other locations to give a comprehensive appreciation of Canberra in 2010 and how the city has developed. The program is in the week immediately prior to the city's Floriade Festival.

#### **KD542 – 'AUSTRALIA'S GALAPAGOS': KANGAROO ISLAND (from \$1045) 21-25 FEBRUARY 2011**

A land mass approximately 150km long, located about 45 minutes off the Australian mainland 110km south-west of Adelaide, Kangaroo Island allows the visitor one of the most diverse and spectacular experiences of Australian wildlife, flora and natural beauty. Based in a quality motel right on the waterfront in Kingscote, the island's main community, this program will let you experience the island's natural environment along with its rich history and culture, and the wide variety of natural produce for which the island is becoming increasingly famous. Transport to and from Adelaide is included.

#### **RN546 – ROCKHAMPTON AND THE CAPRICORN COAST (from \$1095)**

**3-7 MAY 2011**

With a population of approximately 60,000 Rockhampton city is located just north of the Tropic of Capricorn, about 7-8 hours by road from Brisbane. Known as the 'Beef Capital of Australia' the city is the focus of the beef industry and the major centre servicing Central Queensland. In this program you can spend a few days based at one of the major landmarks in the Quay Street heritage precinct, right on the Fitzroy River and close to the city centre, exploring the region and finding out more about this important part of Queensland. The program will include visits to the former mining town of Mount Morgan (Queensland's 'Heart of Gold') just to the west of Rockhampton, scene of one of the world's richest gold discoveries and the basis of much of Rockhampton's early wealth; and to the towns and beaches of the Capricorn Coast, just to the east of the city.

### One-day Courses...

One-day programs, generally held in the congenial surroundings of the University of Queensland's Women's College and led by expert presenters, which allow you to explore a wide range of subjects in the company of a small group of people who enjoy learning and discussion.

These programs are generally on the third Saturday of each month (unless otherwise indicated). The cost for each is \$99, which includes a substantial buffet lunch and refreshments. A saving on this price can be made by subscribing (any three programs for \$267).

#### **RU540 – THE HISTORY AND CULTURE OF RUSSIA**

**21 AUGUST**

An overview of the history of Russia from 988 to 1917 will be followed by a closer examination of the 'Golden Age' of Russian culture in the nineteenth century and a review of Russia in the twentieth century, concluding with an exploration of Soviet and post-Soviet society and culture. Presentations by **Dr John McNair** and **Dr Lyndall Morgan** from the University of Queensland School of Languages and Comparative Cultural Studies

#### **NT543 – 'WE ARE WHAT WE EAT...': THE SCIENCE OF NUTRITION**

**18 SEPTEMBER**

Spend a day learning about how the food we eat affects our life and activities. In addition to discussion of some general nutritional issues, presenters (all qualified health scientists) will address some specific aspects of nutrition including allergies/intolerances, food and specific disorders, and weight control issues.

#### **CX544 – THE HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY**

**16 OCTOBER**

Presentations focusing on the problem of history in the Bible and on figures such as Moses, David and Solomon, and Jesus, in the context of the more general study of the development of Christianity as a religion. Principal presenter is **Revd Dr Gregory Jenks**, Academic Dean, St Francis Theological College.

#### **IT545 – ART AND ARCHITECTURE IN VENICE AND TUSCANY**

**13 NOVEMBER**

A virtual tour of Venice, both by water and land, to explore its art and architecture, and a visit to major towns and cities in Tuscany, also focusing on art and architecture together with an exploration of the palaces and treasures of the Medici. Presented by **Susanna de Vries, AM**, author and art historian.

**MORE INFORMATION** about these programs is available via the website ([www.mindventures.com.au](http://www.mindventures.com.au)) – go to 'What's On Offer' – or by giving us a call on 07 3878 4077