

Mind Ventures

BULLETIN

LIVE AND LEARN

MAR 09

MindVentures in 2009

Our year started with the short break in Lorne on Victoria's Great Ocean Road. Participants were able to experience both the beautiful coastline and the rugged hinterland – alarmingly dry though it was when we were there – as well as sampling a range of Lorne restaurants and cafes, meeting with a number of local identities and experiencing the local culture. The Sunset Drinks and BBQ at the Lorne Aquatic Club, out at the famous pier, was a memorable occasion.

The aim – as is the case with all MindVentures short breaks – was to allow participants to immerse themselves in the place and its people... to be, as our slogan puts it, a 'deliberate visitor'.

Programs on offer in the coming months are summarised later in this newsletter.

A range of one-day MindVentures will be held on Saturdays throughout the year and based at the University of Queensland Women's College – a delightful venue where (on this day of the week at least) the parking is easy. For those using public transport it's also surprisingly straightforward to access – if you're daunted by the University we'll give you detailed directions.

We've aimed to base programs on a variety of subjects to cater for a wide range of interests. Some of them are variations on popular programs offered previously, and will include the same well-received presenters and activities.

In April, for example, a program on the principles and practice of **Buddhism** will include a visit (for which transport will be provided) to the Langritangpa Buddhist Centre in Camp Hill after two sessions on the principles of Buddhism and lunch at the University.

In June we'll again meet Professor Bob Milns who, along with a colleague, will take us to ancient Greece and Rome, this time focusing on literature, art and sculpture.

Other programs will be offered for the first time. In July a MindTravel program will be based on the history and culture of **Cuba** – a nation with a unique character and fascinating recent history.

In May – for something quite different – the day will analyse different aspects of volunteering and introduce a number of Australians who will discuss their experiences as volunteers in overseas countries.

Later in the year MindVentures short breaks will be held in two iconic locations in inland Australia – **Longreach**, in central Queensland, and **Broken Hill**, in western New South Wales.

If this is a good year for you to find out more about your own country instead of taking that expensive overseas trip why not join us?

As with all MindVentures programs our aim will be to have you look back on the program as one which you have found stimulating and enjoyable.

SUMMARY OF PROGRAMS COMING UP

Short Breaks with a Difference	
JUN/JUL	LR524 – OUTBACK HERITAGE: LONGREACH
SEP	BH527 – SILVER CITY: BROKEN HILL
One-day Courses	
APR	BD522 – BUDDHISM: PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE
MAY	AV523 – AUSTRALIAN VOLUNTEERS ABROAD: SOME EXPERIENCES
JUN	GR525 – ANCIENT CIVILISATIONS: GREECE AND ROME
JUL	CU526 – THE HISTORY AND CULTURE OF CUBA

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Lunch at the QDOS Art and Sculpture Gallery in the hinterland just behind Lorne in program LN517

PROGRAMS COMING UP...

Short Breaks with a Difference in 2009

Longer programs providing an insight into the environment and the people of the region in which they are based. The cost of each program 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 (twin share, with single accommodation if desired 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.

LR524 – OUTBACK HERITAGE: LONGREACH (\$1090)

30 JUNE – 5 JULY

Spend four days/five nights in Longreach based 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 visit the School of the Air. See the pastoral industry in action by visiting working stations. Cruise the Thomson River. Take part in a personal guided walk around the town itself.

BH527 – SILVER CITY: BROKEN HILL (\$935)

25 – 29 SEPT

A three-day/four-night program in one of the great centres of the Australian mining industry. Learn about the history of Broken Hill and its role in the development of Australian mining. Visit places of interest (including nearby Silverton), explore the unique architecture and local environment, and meet with members of the community who have been and are connected with mining and the past and present activities of the city. Based at a high quality motel close to the heart 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 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.

BD 522 – BUDDHISM: PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE

18 APRIL

The day will consist of two sessions surveying both the principles and practice of Buddhism and lunch at the University of Queensland followed by an afternoon at the Langritangpa Buddhist Centre at Camp Hill, meeting with Buddhist nuns and members of the Centre to discuss their activities and life as Buddhists. (Transport will be provided from the University to Camp Hill and, for those requiring it, return to the University.)

AV523 – AUSTRALIAN VOLUNTEERS ABROAD: SOME EXPERIENCES

16 MAY

A number of presenters, including some who have served as volunteers in overseas countries through Australian Volunteers International, will discuss both the philosophical and practical aspects of volunteering. Thus will be a day where you can simultaneously discuss the concept of volunteering and find out about the nuts and bolts of acting as a volunteer.

GR525 – ANCIENT CIVILISATIONS: GREECE AND ROME

20 JUNE

Professor Bob Milns, formerly Professor of Classics and Ancient History at the University of Queensland and coordinator of a number of previous MindVentures programs, will be joined by colleagues to discuss aspects of ancient Roman and Greek civilizations, focusing on literature, art and sculpture.

CU526 – THE HISTORY AND CULTURE OF CUBA

18 JULY

A *MindTravel* program which will introduce a number of presenters, including Sue Monk of Griffith University and Anne Hudson of the Queensland University of Technology, who have first-hand experience of modern Cuba. Topics covered will range over the history and geography of Cuba and aspects of its culture and society including music, politics and education.

FURTHER INFORMATION

You can obtain further information on any of these programs by returning the Enquiry Form that is enclosed/attached or by phoning or emailing MindVentures (07 3878 4077; mindventures@uqconnect.net). Or visit the website: www.mindventures.com.au

SUBSCRIBE

You can pay for individual programs as you enrol in them, or alternatively **subscribe** to one-day programs. 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).

(But act quickly... our prices, which have been the same for some years, will have to be increased later this year to cover increases in our costs.)

PUBLICISING MINDVENTURES

In an effort to keep our costs and prices as low as possible we don't spend a lot of money on advertising and publicity.

But we still want more people to know about us and we're very happy to visit groups and talk about the philosophy of MindVentures and what we offer, or to place anyone on the free mailing list so they can receive (either by post or email) occasional newsletters and information about programs coming up.

You can help us by inviting any friends and colleagues who you think may be interested to find out more about MindVentures or by suggesting to a group of which you're a member that they invite Bill Richmond to speak to them.

If you do not wish to continue receiving information about MindVentures please let us know and we'll take you off the mailing list.