

Mind Ventures

Mind Over Matter

If you wondered how the rain and storms during the MindVentures program on Stradbroke Island a couple of weeks ago affected us... we 'arranged' for it all to happen at night after we were safely back in our motel units. (OK, it was more good fortune than good management but the result was that we were left with fine and mild days and were able to do everything that had been organised for us by the University of Queensland research station on the island.)

'I just loved it all and I don't want to go home', wrote one participant on the (anonymous) feedback form we get all participants to fill in on the final day.

And that's how we want everyone who participates in a MindVentures program to feel – that they've had a stimulating and enjoyable time.

This newsletter tells you about a few programs to be offered in the coming months.

Natural and Complementary Medicine will be the subject of a 3-day program at Southern Cross University in northern New South Wales next February. This is an opportunity to learn about the principles and practice of different

aspects of a field that is now widely accepted as part of mainstream medicine, and perhaps to evaluate how you may benefit from it. We'll also take the opportunity to have a look around this beautiful part of the country.

There are also several one-day programs in February and March – all in Brisbane as it happens. Sorry, yes, they're not so convenient for people who live some distance from the city, unless you can make them coincide with a visit for other reasons. But they're an opportunity to get a taste of what MindVentures offers.

Starting with a program on India in early December, the list includes several 'MindTravel' programs. These allow you to immerse yourself in the history and culture of different countries and regions. Whether you're planning to actually visit these places; or you've been there and wish you understood a little more about them; or are simply interested in other countries and cultures these are a great form of 'virtual' travel without leaving town!

While the one-day programs don't let us relax with a drink before dinner, and get to know other participants in the way

PROGRAMS COMING UP...

ONE-DAY PROGRAMS

DEC	INDIA*
FEB	SOUTH AMERICA*
MAR	FRANCE* JUDAISM: PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE HOMER AND THE TROJAN WAR

* MindTravel programs... on aspects of the history and culture of different countries/regions

LONGER PROGRAMS

FEB	NATURAL AND COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINE
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MORE DETAILS OVER PAGE....

that's possible in the longer programs, we still aim to make them enjoyable as well as stimulating experiences.

If any of the programs is of interest and you would like more details please return the form accompanying this newsletter – or give us a call at any time.

With best wishes
Bill Richmond



◀ **Discussion at a recent MindVentures program on the principles and practice of Islam. (The presenter has just been asked: 'what would you say to Ariel Sharon if you met him?')**

Mind Ventures

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IN459 – RELIGION AND SOCIETY IN INDIA

December 2; Brisbane (Goodearth Hotel, Wickham Terrace), \$89 (includes lunch/refreshments)

In this one-day program Professor Sarva-Daman Singh, Consul-General for India and formerly Professor of History at the University of Queensland will present a survey of Indian history together with a summary of the principles of Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism and the way that these philosophies are reflected in aspects of Indian society. This will be followed by a performance of both classical and contemporary Indian music by expert Indian musicians who will also discuss the nature of the music, and a meeting with a prominent broadcaster who will discuss aspects of Indian culture and customs, relating particularly to family and marriage.

NM460 – NATURAL AND COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINE (3-day program)

February 14-18; Southern Cross University (Lismore, NSW) – Invercauld Conference Centre \$575 (includes 4-nights accommodation and all meals/refreshments)

Staff and associates of School of Natural and Complementary Medicine at Southern Cross University in northern New South Wales will present, over three days, a series of lectures and practical sessions on different aspects of natural medicine, including herbal medicine; homoeopathy; nutrition (including therapeutic foods and dietary management); mental health and illness; aromatherapy and tactile therapy. This is an opportunity to learn about both the philosophical basis and the key elements of natural medicine.

The program will include guided visits to the School's Medicinal Plant Garden and Natural Medicine Clinic as well as some practical massage training. Also included will be a tour of the University campus and the surrounding region.

SO461 – SOUTH AMERICA: ASPECTS OF HISTORY, CULTURE AND SOCIETY

February 26; Brisbane (Women's College, University of Queensland) \$99 (includes lunch/refreshments)

Focusing particularly on the countries of Chile, Peru and Bolivia this program will consist of a number of presentations on aspects of history and culture aimed at enhancing participants' understanding of this part of South America and its people. Aspects covered will include the physical geography of the region, the major cities, the ethnology of the people, the impact of colonization, and culture, customs and art forms. Another *MindTravel* program aimed at enhancing a visit – or for anyone who is just interested in learning more about this part of the world.

FR462 – FRANCE

March 10; Brisbane (Alliance Francaise, George Street) \$99 (includes lunch/refreshments)

Have you been to France or are you planning to go? Are you a Francophile? Or just interested in the place and its people? Whatever the case, here is an opportunity to spend a day in France without leaving Brisbane. The day's program, to be presented for MindVentures by staff and associates of the Alliance Francaise, will let you immerse yourself in 'things French' including art, cinema and language (though you will not be expected to speak French!). Refreshments will have a French flavour and lunch will be prepared by a French chef who will discuss matters culinary. We'll also hear from a travel expert about why France is the world's most sought-after destination by visitors.

JD463 – JUDAISM

March 11; Brisbane (Women's College, University of Queensland) \$99 (including lunch/refreshments)

This one-day program will survey the evolution of Judaism from its origins as the way of life of an ancient people, and consider a number of aspects of contemporary Jewish life. In addition to some historical issues and controversies, a number of presenters will discuss topics including the concept of God in Judaism; the origins and place of the Torah; Judaism and nationality; conversion to Judaism; different movements in Judaism; matrilineal descent and the role of women; aspects of Jewish life; and the establishment and significance of Israel. The program will include a visit to a synagogue and meeting with the rabbi.

HT464 – HOMER AND THE TROJAN WAR

March 17; Brisbane (Women's College, University of Queensland) \$99 (including lunch/refreshments)

If you are interested in ancient history you'll know something about the Trojan War. The Iliad and the Odyssey of Homer deal with a part of the War and the struggle of one of the greatest Greek heroes to find his way home after the end of it. They are the first works of European literature (and, many would say, still the greatest). But was there really a Trojan War or is it all the creation of a poet's imagination? Presentations and discussions during this one-day program will look at such matters as the contents of the poems; the method of their composition and transmission; the societies depicted in the poems and how these relate to the finds of archaeology. Coordinator of the program will be Professor Bob Milns from the University of Queensland Department of Classics and Ancient History.