

PART A

8 March – 12 April 2021

Dr. Vicki Stokes

9 00 – 10 30 am

NATIVE BIRDS AND THEIR HABITATS

Over the 5-week course you will discover the fascinating world of birds in Western Australia, in all their magnificent diversity. See where and how they live, and the role they play in maintaining the health of our unique WA environment. Learn about the different groups of birds and pick up practical tips on how to identify them in different lectures focusing on the major groups of birds, like waterbirds and bush birds. The course will also equip you with knowledge about the threats to our feathered friends, how they are adapting to the modern world and how you can contribute to bird conservation through involvement in citizen science programs and habitat restoration projects.

Dr Vicki Stokes works at the Birdlife Australia as the WA Program Manager

A/Prof Frank Dymond

11.00-12.30 pm

CATS, CROWS AND CRITTERS – DO THEY UNDERSTAND SCIENCE

You may have heard of the Archer Fish that seems to understand the laws of refraction of light, but there are many animals who also exploit these and other scientific principles. Come along and find out how Cassowaries seem to “know” about thermodynamics, how elephants use trigonometry to locate their herd and how so many critters can exploit Newton’s Laws of Motion; But how? Join the journey through the weird, wonderful, and whacky world of animal science.

A/Prof Dymond is a retired lecturer from ECU who has contributed to MALA for over nine years in various capacities, including delivering several lecture series and holding various Committee portfolios.)

Prof. Ian Reid

1.30 pm – 3.00 pm

MEMORY, IMAGINATION AND WRITING

This course is intended to appeal to those who are (or may want to be) writers as well as to those who simply enjoy reading.

Memory and imagination are basic sources for many kinds of writing. Sometimes one or the other may predominate — e.g. memory for autobiography and family history; imagination for certain forms of fiction. But the most engaging literary works usually blend the two in creative ways, and this blend is part of the secret of writing successfully. Ian will provide a range of examples and include practical tips drawn from his own wide experience as an author.

Ian Reid is an Adjunct Professor in Literature at UWA and an Emeritus Professor in Education at Curtin. He is the prize-winning author of 15 books fiction, poetry, and non-fiction). His work has been translated into 5 foreign languages.

PART B

3 May – 31 May 2021

Sebastian Jones

9 00 – 10 30 am

The Grandest Story of all - How Geology has Shaped our World.

Join Sebastian as he takes you on a journey around the world and through time to explain the geological story of the Earth. The first lecture includes adventures from this traveling geologist while he introduces you to minerals, rocks, and geological processes. The second lecture delves into deep time and the theory of plate tectonics. Western Australia has the oldest known minerals on Earth, and the oldest recognised fossils on Earth, find out more of ancient Western Australia in the third lecture. The fourth lecture covers the formation and break up of Gondwana and the story of the Australian ark. Finally, the last lecture looks at our local region from the ancient rocks in the Darling Range to the sediments, limestone, lakes, rivers, and coastline of the Swan Coastal Plain. This five-part lecture series starts from the worldwide scale and gradually focuses into our backyard.

Sebastian is a geologist and has worked as an exploration geologist for 12 years exploring for minerals throughout Western Australia, the NSW tablelands and the Northern Tundra of Canada. A career highlight includes discovering a major gold deposit. For the past 5 years Sebastian has worked as a specialist naturalist guide having the amazing opportunity of guiding in places such as the Arctic, Antarctica, Indonesia, Patagonia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, and Northern Australia. Sebastian is from the Peel region and is the owner and operator of local tourism business Salt and Bush Eco Tourism Company.

Jamie Van Jones

11.00-12.30 pm

Why We Need Wild Places: A perspective starting global and moving to local

As an expedition leader to remote and wild parts of our planet, Jamie Van Jones has travelled around the world from Antarctica to the Arctic and from the Kimberley, PNG and Costa Rica. Each wild place she visited, she learnt about the absolute value that wild and untouched parts of our planet hold. With the destruction of wild places happening around the globe this lecture series will share amazing stories from global travels and insights about how humanity needs intact nature more than we may realise.

Week 1: Why Humanity Needs Wild Places A look at what we have lost - a case study on Borneo and its impact on Orangutans.

Week 2: Dependency on our vast oceans - what remains? How Antarctica can provide a lesson for the world.

Week 3: Our Health and Nature. From global pandemics to treating mental illnesses.

Week 4: The Wild West - how Western Australia has changed since European Settlement. A showcase on the Kimberley region of WA

Week 5: What individuals can do to address the loss of nature: a focus on solutions from global to local

Jamie Van Jones is a passionate Environmentalist and Sustainability Practitioner and a Professional lecturer. She is an Expedition leader on small cruise ships to visit remote wilderness destinations. Jamie and her husband Sebastian have also recently launched a local Eco Tourism Company in Mandurah called Salt and Bush Eco Tours; trips include a Thrombolite discovery tour to Lake Clifton.

MATURE ADULTS LEARNING ASSOCIATION INC. PEEL 2021

Carl Altmann

1.30 – 3.00 pm

WHAT PAINTINGS SAY Part 1

This series of Art lectures explains how to use the various elements and principles of Art to interpret particular works. This helps to understand the deeper meaning within the work going beyond the superficial meaning. Lines, colours, tonal values and placement convey messages once the viewer knows what to look for in a painting. Consequently, the artworks viewed will be from a very wide range of time and Art periods.

Many artworks have meanings beyond our contemporary comprehension. For example, what is the significance of a dovecote or what is *The School of Athens* all about? In this coming course of lectures on Art History we will be looking at Art from the days of the *Bayeux Tapestry* (it is about William the Conqueror), *The Third of May* (by Goya), *Sunday Afternoon on the Island of la Grande Jatte* (by Seurat) and many more. The mysteries and the meanings of the symbols used by the old and modern masters are revealed. Art appreciation is fun and more rewarding when we see below the surface. It is there for all to enjoy.

Carl has a master's degree in Art Education and Art History. For over twenty years he was a full-time lecturer of tertiary Art. Before that he was an advisory Art teacher for the Education Department specialising in the program for gifted children. He lectures in Art History for MALA and for the Friends of the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery (UWA).

He has become recognized as a judge for city and regional Art Exhibitions from Morawa in the north to Kalgoorlie in the east and down south. He has been a judge for the Black Swan Art Prize (\$50,000) and the Collie Art Prize (\$50,000).

Carl has frequently exhibited his own artworks which are in collections locally, nationally and internationally.

PART C

21 June- 19 July

Emeritus Prof. Robert Mead

9.00 – 10.30 am

THE DNA DETECTIVES

This five-lecture course will lead you down the remarkable path of the evolving role of DNA analysis in identifying the perpetrators of serious crime. After exploring the first homicide case ever to be solved by the early technique of DNA fingerprinting, we will progress to the development of DNA STR profiling and to the latest technologies, genetic phenotyping and genetic genealogy. Each technique will be clearly explained and illustrated with a range of fascinating cold cases, most of which were solved only within the past 12 months. We will explore the building of family trees to identify relatives of the offender and how that approach is used to reveal the name of the perpetrator. We will uncover miscarriages of justice along the way, and in one local case reach an unexpected and shocking conclusion!

For those who have attended my previous MALA courses, the cases presented in this series will be different, but some of the techniques will be familiar to you

Prof Bob Mead is a Forensic Toxicologist who established the forensic degrees at Murdoch University. (He is also a National Teaching Excellence Award winner.)

Jan Altmann

11.00 – 12.30 pm

WHAT IS WRONG WITH CONTEMPORARY ART?

Why is a dead shark, or a dead sheep, considered to be an art object? Why did a room with the lights going on and off win the 2001 Turner prize? Is a diamond encrusted skull a work of art, or just a conspicuous display of wealth? And why did a live Asian elephant painted pink with gold patterning and standing in a make-believe living room, create a stir in Los Angeles in 2006? Why did Banksy shred an artwork moments after it sold for \$1.8 million, and why was the purchaser still happy to pay that price for it. There are no simple answers, but the questions themselves are worth asking. Art reflects its own time as well as its own history, and there are ways to place such works and events in the broader context of Western Art and Culture so that at least some response is possible.

Jan Altmann has a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from Murdoch University. She spent many years teaching English, Literature, Art History, Art Theory, Women's Studies and Cultural Studies. She has written many art reviews and catalogue essays, and has co-authored a book on Western Australian women's art of the colonial era. Her most recent publication is Wisdom and Wildness, Two Creations of Eve.

Carl Altmann

1.30 – 3.00 pm

WHAT PAINTINGS SAY Part 2

These 5 lectures follow on from Part 1 although if you haven't attended, Part 1 you will still find this interesting.