



Mature Adults Learning Association (Inc.) - Perth

Note: Proof of vaccination /masks / social distancing may be required at time of attendance

POST: 46 WARATAH AVENUE, DALKEITH, WA 6009 (for return of enrolment forms)

WEBSITE: <https://www.mala.org.au> ENROLMENTS: enrol.perth@mala.org.au

LOCATION: Perth Campus: **George Burnett Leisure Centre**, Manning Rd (opp. Elderfield Rd)
Karawara/Bentley (between Freeway and Curtin University)

VOLUNTEER CONTACTS: Patricia (Enrolments) 0400 511 519 Suzanne (General enquiries) 9444 4902

IMPORTANT INFORMATION – PLEASE READ!

ENROLMENT & PAYMENT (\$45 per course, plus a once-per-semester enrolment fee of \$10)

- **PAYMENT:** Please complete the enrolment form and mail it with Cheque/Money Order OR mail/email with evidence of Direct Credit to: ♦ Westpac Bank ♦ BSB: 036-000 ♦ Account: 98-3937
❖ If paying by Direct Credit - please use your surname OR phone number in the Reference/Payer box ❖
- **PROVIDE YOUR DETAILS:** Please include your details on the enrolment form every time you enrol:
Name | Address | Postcode | Phone Number | Email address (preferred for sending information)
- **CHOICE OF COURSES:** Please clearly indicate your first and second choice for your enrolment in each session. Some courses may fill early or be cancelled, and we may not be able to provide your first choice each time.
- **ENROL EARLY:** Get your enrolment application in early (preferably by **18 February 2021**) to avoid disappointment and allow timely processing.

*Consider yourself enrolled in your first choice unless you hear otherwise and
KEEP A RECORD of the classes you select and their START DATES AND TIMES*

- Confirmation emails will NOT be sent UNLESS you are a new member. If you are a new member, we will provide general orientation information and a map showing our location. Your name badge will also be waiting for you at the information desk in the reception area on the first day of classes.

LECTURE ROOM ALLOCATIONS: Check the notice board near the information desk on the first day of classes.

TELL SOMEONE ELSE ABOUT MALA: You are our best advertisement – please pass along the attached spare enrolment form to someone who may also enjoy MALA courses. **Everyone needs a separate Enrolment Form!** Additional forms can also be downloaded from the website: <https://www.mala.org.au>

DATES FOR SEMESTER ONE 2022

| | |
|---------------|---|
| PART A | 11 March to 8 April (inclusive) (5 weeks – Fridays only) |
| <i>BREAK</i> | <i>9 April to 5 May</i> (no classes during this time) |
| PART B | 6 May to 3 June (inclusive) (5 weeks – Fridays only) |

- **LECTURE TIMES:** Session One: 10:15am to 11:15am Session Two: 11:45am to 12:45pm
- **ADDRESS:** George Burnett Leisure Centre, Manning Road (Opp. Elderfield Road lights)
Karawara/Bentley (between Freeway and Curtin University).
- **PARKING:** is abundant and free for those travelling by car.
- **PUBLIC TRANSPORT:** is available, very regular, and stops right outside the Centre.
Phone Transperth - 13 62 13 - for update on information.
- **WEAR YOUR NAME BADGE EVERY WEEK:**
Kindly write your **Emergency Information** on the back for the paramedics should you be unable to speak.

MALA – SHARING LIFELONG LEARNING AND FRIENDSHIP



PERTH COURSES SCHEDULE - SEMESTER ONE 2022

PART A – 11 March to 8 April

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--|---|--|
| Start 10:15am | <i>Jan Altmann</i> What's wrong with contemporary art? | <i>Dr Fiona Panther</i> How we 'know': making discoveries in modern physics | <i>Mike Murray</i> DNA and Genetic Genealogy |
| Start 11:45am | <i>Carl Altmann</i> Sculpture through the ages (part 1) | <i>Prof. Byron Lamont</i> Adaptations of the unique Western Australian flora | <i>Michael Prince</i> What is 'social justice'? |

BREAK: 9 April to 5 May (no courses run during this time)

PART B – 6 May to 3 June

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--|---|---|
| Start 10:15am | <i>Hilary Silbert</i> The Life and Times of Edith Dircksey Cowan: Facts, Figures and False News | <i>Daniel Midgley</i> Current Issues in Language | <i>Emeritus Prof Alan Harvey and Dr Ronniet Orlando</i> The neuroscience of music and mature wellbeing |
| Start 11:45am | <i>Carl Altmann</i> Sculpture through the ages (part 2) | <i>Roz Hart</i> Fascinating Fungi | <i>Prof Charles Oxnard</i> More on Science and Medicine |

We suggest you mark on this sheet the courses you enrol in as a reminder when classes start, as MALA no longer sends out Confirmations of Enrolment.

Information about COVID requirements will be provided as issued by the Government, and we are required to comply

PART A: 11 March to 8 April (5-week courses)

WHAT'S WRONG WITH CONTEMPORARY ART?

**With Dr Jan Altman (Jan has a PhD in Comparative Literature from Murdoch University. She is now retired, but spent many years teaching English, Literature, Art History, Visual Literacy, Cultural Theory and Women's Studies.)*

Why is a dead shark 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? Why did Banksy shred an artwork moments after it sold for \$1.8 million, why was the purchaser still happy to pay that price for it and has since sold it for even more. There are no simple answers, but the questions themselves are worth asking; 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.

11 March to 8 April: 10:15am to 11:15am \$45

HOW WE 'KNOW': MAKING DISCOVERIES IN MODERN PHYSICS

**With Dr Fiona Panther (Dr Fiona Panther is a physicist at the University of Western Australia. She received her PhD from the Australian National University and previously worked as an associate lecturer at the University of New South Wales Canberra. With expertise in gamma-ray astronomy and gravitational wave discovery, Fiona is fascinated by how we process data and apply statistical methods, and come to a scientific consensus)*

The last decade has been a time of unprecedented discovery in modern physics: gravitational waves, the Higgs boson, thousands of exoplanets and more. Every discovery in modern physics is written in the language of statistics and probability. Understanding the statistical methods used in modern science is also the key to a deeper understanding of today's issues, including key modern challenges in epidemiology and climate change. In this course I provide a minimally-mathematical overview of techniques used to make unprecedented discoveries and manage our modern world's greatest challenges.

11 March to 8 April: 10:15am to 11:15am \$45

DNA AND GENETIC GENEALOGY

**With Mike Murray (Mike Murray is a professional genealogist with TimeTrackers. He lectures extensively on DNA and genealogy.)*

The recent explosive growth in consumer DNA testing for genealogy has been a major boost for family historians. With something like 30 million people's DNA profiles in the major test sites' data bases you are almost certain to find relatives (known and unknown).

The course will cover the basics of DNA and heredity, and how you share DNA with your relatives. We will work through the various available tests and testing companies, their pros and cons, how to analyse results, and the use of third-party tools to explore results in depth. Mike will examine potential issues with DNA testing, such as the revelation of family secrets kept hidden for years. Finally, we will explore some of the potential risks and controversies associated with DNA testing.

11 March to 8 April: 10:15am to 11:15am \$45

SCULPTURE THROUGH THE AGES: PART 1

**With Carl Altmann (Carl Altmann has been a lecturer of Art History for several decades. He is also a practicing artist and Art judge.)*

Sculpture can be a very physical artform and has been practiced down through the centuries from paleolithic times to the present day. Through sculpture scientists have gained an understanding of our ancestors by studying their idols and weapons. This course will cover sculpture from the Palaeolithic Age, the Egyptians, Greek Art and the Romans. Sculpture during these periods was subtractive meaning that the artist carved away the unnecessary material or incised into animal bones. Works are both realistic and expressive, massive or hand size.

An artist of sculpture has 'to see' the finished work in three dimensions which means visualising it in three dimensions...from front and back as well as from above and below and every other angle. Their work is inspiring, creative and touchable.

11 March to 8 April: 11:45am to 12:45pm \$45

ADAPTATION OF THE UNIQUE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN FLORA

**With Prof. Byron Lamont (Byron retired in 2010 as Distinguished Emeritus Professor at Curtin University. He became a Member of the Order of Australia that year for services to Australian botany. He was listed among the top 0.03% of researchers in the world on fire ecology in 2021.)*

To begin with, we will examine the geological history of Western Australia from when it was attached to Antarctica 150 million years ago. The climate has oscillated between tropical paradises to bleak deserts but the Mediterranean climate, commencing 10-20 million years ago, is the most notable. No other group of plants than ours is better adapted to extreme summer droughts or dry-season fires, to the world's most impoverished soils and to our unique pollinators and herbivores. The outcome is a unique flora that currently accounts for one-third of all species in Australia, within an area that covers just 4% of the continent.

11 March to 8 April: 11:45am to 12:45pm \$45

WHAT IS 'SOCIAL JUSTICE'?

**With Michael Prince (Michael Prince was for many years lecturer in and the Academic Chair of the Australian Indigenous Studies program at Murdoch University.)*

In this series of five lectures, we explore the concept of 'social justice' as we currently seem to make sense of it. We will discuss how we tend to focus most often on issues of representation (e.g. in terms of separate categories like 'race', 'gender' and 'sexuality'), and less so on how these categories might intersect with each other in complicated ways in real people's lived experiences and interactions, as well as with the often-overlooked issue of distribution of wealth (e.g. in terms of 'class'). Along the way, we may investigate topics such as 'race' and the recognition of First Australians in the Constitution, Queer theory and what it tells us about same-sex marriage, and something called 'homonationalism' and its relationship to Trumpism and the idea of 'western civilization.'

11 March to 8 April: 11:45am to 12:45pm \$45

PART B: 6 May to 3 June (5-week courses)

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF EDITH DIRCKSEY COWAN: FACTS, FIGURES AND FALSE NEWS

**With Hilary Silbert (Hilary Silbert is the Founder of the Edith Dircksey Cowan Commemoration with the support of Edith's grandson and biographer, Peter Cowan)*

Edith Dircksey Cowan, OBE., JP., achieved a unique position: she became Australia's first female parliamentarian. Twenty-two years from gaining the vote, she stood for parliament at the first opportunity. Granddaughter of early colonial families and born on a property outside Geraldton, Edith rose above adversity to contribute to the society of the day in an extraordinary capacity. A diverse range of organisations recognise her as a founder, which she fought for whilst being a wife, mother of five children, well read and an extensive traveller. The centenary of her election to parliament was celebrated on 12th March 2021.

6 May to 3 June: 10:15am to 11:15am \$45

CURRENT ISSUES IN LANGUAGE

**With Daniel Midgley (Daniel is a linguist and host of the Because Language podcast. He is also the voice of the Speakeasy on ABC Radio Perth.)*

Language reveals a lot about ourselves and our society. It's what we use to communicate, build and maintain our social relationships, and tell others who we are. That means we can use language as a window to understand a lot

about what's going on. This course will use language as a way of understanding the times we live in. Every week, Daniel will show how language has come up in recent news and explain the linguistic principles behind the scenes.

6 May to 3 June: 10:15am to 11:15am \$45

THE NEUROSCIENCE OF MUSIC AND MATURE WELLBEING

**With Dr Ronniet Orlando & Emeritus Prof Alan Harvey (Ronniet is a violinist and researcher. Her PhD explored the therapeutic use of live music. Alan Harvey is an Emeritus Professor at UWA. He is a neuroscientist, but also passionate about music and its impact on humanity. His book 'Music, Evolution, and the Harmony of Souls' was published by OUP in 2017.)*

In the first week Alan Harvey will share his expertise about the human brain's structure and function. He will expand on this introduction to neuroscience in the second lecture, with a journey through music, the brain and evolution, explaining why we need music as well as language. The importance of musical activity for social harmony and cooperation will be emphasised.

Ronniet will then talk about the prevalence, symptoms and implications of dementia and some other age-related conditions. In week four her focus will be on music and memory, and in the final lecture she will talk about the empirical evidence for other interventions, such as exercise, in improving outcomes and mature wellbeing.

6 May to 3 June: 10:15am to 11:15am \$45

SCULPTURE THROUGH THE AGES: PART 2

**With Carl Altmann (Carl Altmann has been a lecturer of Art History for several decades. He is also a practicing artist and Art judge.)*

Sculpture can be a very physical artform and has been practiced down through the centuries from paleolithic times to the present day. An artist of sculpture has 'to see' the finished work in three dimensions which means visualising it in three dimensions...from front and back as well as from above and below and every other angle.

In this second part of the course, Carl brings us up to date, covering sculpture right up until the late 20th century.

6 May to 3 June: 11:45am to 12:45pm \$45

FASINATING FUNGI

**With Roz Hart (Roz is a Biologist with a keen interest in fungi, who has been involved in fungi education for over 20 years and is currently President of Fungimap Australia Inc.)*

The course will be presented using PowerPoint, with many colourful and engaging photos as well as plenty of fun props. It will raise awareness of the importance and relevance of fungi in the modern world. Roz will cover the roles fungi play in the environment—what they do and why do it, why they are so fascinating, how and where to find them as well as partnerships between fungi and other creatures and also those enigmatic creatures, the "slime moulds". Roz will include a section on how to continue your interest in fungi, with information on how to engage with Fungimap Inc. and iNaturalist Australia.

6 May to 3 June: 11:45am to 12:45pm \$45

MORE ON SCIENCE AND MEDICINE

**With Prof Charles Oxnard (Charles is a Professor Emeritus, physician, and scientist whose experience ranges across three continents, four universities, and over 70 years.)*

Charles will present a series of five lectures:

Week 1: Stories Patients Tell

Week 2: New Parts for Old: Medical Transplantation

Week 3: Pain: If You Can Bear It

Week 4: Lies, Damn Lies, and Statistics

Week 5: Some Ideas on Human Evolution

6 May to 3 June: 11:45am to 12:45pm \$45
