PEEL MATURE ADULTS LEARNING ASSOCIATION: SEMESTER 2 PART D 2024

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12 August – 09 September 09.00 am – 10.30 am Kay Hinnrichsen et. al.

Researching your Family History

Family history is one of the fastest growing pursuits in Western society, widely promoted through TV shows like "Who Do You Think You Are?" and advertisements for DNA testing sites. In this series of presentations, participants will learn about the differences between genealogy and family history, the development of the study of genealogy, the use of modern technologies such as databases, DNA and Artificial Intelligence, as well as more practical help with where to begin your research and record your results, some of the pitfalls and brick walls you are likely to encounter on your journey, and how to share your findings with family members.

This course will be presented by a group of experienced family history researchers who are members of Mandurah Family History Society, established in 1986. All of them volunteer at our research rooms to help beginners find their family lines and all have been researching their own family trees for many decades. Each will focus on their own area of interest and expertise. Sessions will cover an introduction to Family History, the history of genealogy and our motivations for researching our family, research tools and using a database, using DNA to trace relatives, researching in non-English speaking countries, and writing our stories.

12 August – 09 September 11.00 am - 12.30 pm Geoffrey Higham and Philippa Rogers

Rail Heritage of WA

Whether you are a dedicated rail enthusiast or a curious train traveller, this course has plenty to offer. It provides an overview of railways throughout the history of our State, in the light of WA's development, politics and demographics. Learn how we have carried people by rail and how the Trans-Australian Railway has held Australia together since 1917, though not without its problems! Hear about the role of railways in wartime, particularly WWII, and how important the railways were for both transport and for their workshop facilities. Finally share some thoughts on Australian Railways today and how Rail Heritage WA fulfils its mission to "provide access to, and promote understanding of, the history of railways in Western Australia".

Geoffrey has been a member of Rail Heritage WA since 1959. He has served as Vice-President, as editor of their journal "The Westland", as purchasing officer, webmaster and remains a regular front-of-house volunteer. He has written and edited several books published by the society on rail history. Philippa is a professional historian with a special interest in WA history and its railways. Her publications include 'Memories of the Trans-Australian Railway', Memories of the Midland Railway Co. of WA', 'Troops, Trains and Trades', 'Travelling like Royalty', 'First Government Railway – Geraldton to Northampton' as well as being a contributing author to 'Marble Bar to Mandurah' and to the Premier's History prize winning 'The Workshops'.

12 August – 09 September 1.30 pm - 03.00 pm Brianna West

From Farm to Fork – an Introduction to Australian Agriculture

As one of Australia's most significant industries, Agriculture accounts for over half of Australia's land use and is valued at roughly $60 billion, contributing around 3% of our GDP. This course will cover the basics of Australian agriculture, focusing on the main production sectors of cropping (cereals and oilseeds) and livestock (cattle and sheep). We will also explore various topics regarding pre- and post-farm gate aspects within supply chains such as fertiliser, grains, red meat-eating quality, and technology.

With two degrees in agriculture and varied experience in the fertiliser, red meat, and grains industry, as well as an equally strong background in education and mentoring, Brii is excited to share her knowledge and passion about All Things Ag!

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30th September – 28th October 09.00 am – 10.30 am Michael Day

Primary School Education in WA

In the latter half of the twentieth century, when most of us entered school, Government-sponsored Primary education consisted of a preparatory year followed by the six grades with which we are familiar. This course will examine this public system of primary education in WA Government schools from the 1960s until the present decade. Learn of the changing regulations, politics, fashion, fads and evidence (or lack, thereof) and how these changes have affected not only our lives but also those of our children and grandchildren.

Michael is a retired primary school administrator with extensive front-line teaching experience in both rural WA and the metropolitan area. Spanning seven decades, his long career began in 1963 as a two-year trainee bonded to the WA Education Department, he saw in the advent of the Australian National Curriculum in the 1990s and retired as a Principal in 2022.

30th September – 28th October 11.00 am - 12.30 pm Richard Offen

Heroes, Villains and Vagabonds

This course looks at some of WA's more famous and infamous characters. First meet some of our intrepid explorers who roamed our arid interior, mapping the unique features of half a continent. Chart the history of gold from its discovery in the Eastern States and later as an eleventh-hour saviour of the WA economy. Hear of the transportation of convicts to WA beginning surreptitiously as early as the 1830s and ending abruptly in 1868 with the arrival of the last convict ship to dock in an Australian port. The history of Perth, alone, is littered with wonderful mavericks such as Eliza Shaw and her writings on the joys, sorrows and hardship of early colonial life or Moondyne Joe, the infamous 19th century Houdini. Were they mad, bad or just totally eccentric? Come and judge for yourself!

Richard is a historian, teacher, author, broadcaster, and authority on heritage matters around the world. During his decades on staff with the UK National Trust he has worked with Heritage organisations in Europe and the USA and for the National Trust in Australia (WA) in Perth. In retirement he is President of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society

30th September – 28th October 1.30 pm - 03.00 pm Bob Maumill

Do We Need Radio in our Lives?

In this 100th Anniversary year of Australian Radio, join one of WA's best loved media presenters, Bob Maumill, to reflect on the role this industry plays in our lives. Looking back to the coming of radio, Bob will explain the three pillars of Australian broadcasting and the radio day. We will look at our media, the formation of networks and ask whether we have created a monster. What is the role of talkback radio and the process for dealing with offence and complaints? Does radio journalism exist, and do we need the ABC in all its forms? Do we need radio in our lives at all?

WA born and bred, Bob Maumill has been a racehorse trainer, racing journalist, current affairs and talkback radio host. After a 40 year long media career, much with Radio 6PR Perth, Bob turned his hand to writing. Having written the script for the 1977 film, "Blue Fire Lady", he later wrote and narrated stories about his Fremantle childhood, serialised on Curtin Radio FM. More recently in 2021, while recovering from facial cancer surgery, Bob wrote and published a historical fiction novel titled, "Letters from a Hard Country". In 1992, he won a Radio Industry Award for Best Current Affairs Programme.