MATURE ADULTS LEARNING ASSOCIATION (Inc)
Peel Branch

9th Annual Summer School

Patron: Professor Lyn Beazley AO, FAA, FTSE

Mandurah Performing Arts Centre

Monday 6th January - Friday 10th January 2025

9.15 am OPENING CEREMONY

Professor Lyn Beazley AO, FAA, FTSE

PROGRAMME Monday 6th January

9.30 - 11.30 am

The Hon. Bob Kucera APM JP

Cop That!
This is a tongue-in-cheek account of my 35-year policing career in Western Australia, the largest single policing jurisdiction in the world. As a "Ten Pound Taffy", I emigrated from Wales in the 1960s and joined the WA Police Force as a Constable. Over the next 35 years, 20 of which were as a Detective investigating some of our State's most notorious crimes, I rose to the rank of Assistant Commissioner before retiring in 2000. In the 2001 State Election I contested and won the seat of Yokine / Mount Lawley. Following my 20 years as a Detective and as a Winston Churchill Fellow working in Police Jurisdictions across the world, I now present a personal perspective on Crime, Criminals and the Justice system in Western Australia. In doing so, I will compare some of the investigation practices then, with modern techniques of today.

1.00- 3.00 pm

Dr Kevin Smythe

Breaking the Japanese Air Blockade: How USN and Qantas Catalina Seaplanes Defended Perth from 1942-45.
In 1941 Japan entered WW2. By 1942 Singapore was invaded and Australia's air link with Great Britain was cut. In 1942 Japan had bombed Western Australia's coastal towns and Perth was threatened. The United States Navy's Patrol Wing 10 deployed to Perth and by March 1942 was operating long range patrols from the Swan River. In 1943 Qantas had also established a base in Perth operating long range flights to Ceylon. By 1944 the Americans had moved to New Guinea. Qantas finished operations when the War ended in 1945. Both outfits flew Catalina seaplanes and defeated the Japanese air block that was imposed after early 1942 on Perth and Western Australia.

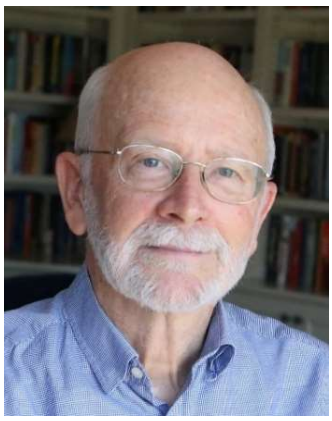
Tuesday 7th January

9.30 - 11.30 am

Dr Jasmine Day

King Tut's Curse and the "Truth" About Ancient Egypt.
Who owns the "truth" about the past? Today's power struggle between scientific and sensational interpretations of ancient Egypt began with the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb a century ago. In recently rediscovered private letters, psychics and tabloid journalists challenged Howard Carter's authority with dire warnings about the supernatural vengeance that awaited him. The invention of "King Tut's Curse" reveals the eccentric personalities and toxic rivalries that gave birth to a legend.

1.00 - 3.00 pm



Adjunct Professor Mark Beeson

"Saving the planet" for beginners.
It's not controversial to suggest that the natural environment is not in good shape and is rapidly getting worse. António Guterres, Secretary General of the UN, suggests that civilisation itself is threatened by unaddressed climate change. Why don't our leaders respond to the greatest challenge the human race has ever faced? This presentation provides an analysis of the obstacles and some suggestions of what might be done to "save the planet".

Wednesday 8th January

9.30 - 11.30 am

Emeritus Professor Alan R Harvey MA (Camb) PhD (ANU)

Music-Related Activities Are Good For Your Health.
There is considerable debate about the evolutionary origins of music and why it continues to exist as a universal communication system alongside language. After briefly addressing these questions, Professor Harvey will summarise recent research findings on the importance of music as part of the school curriculum. He will discuss how music-related activities can benefit processing in the brain and improve physical health, even in older participants. The diverse and beneficial effects of music therapy on human health are also briefly considered.

Wednesday 8th January continued

1.00 - 3.00 pm

Associate Professor Bobbie Oliver

Smash the Draft! - Resistance to Conscription during the Vietnam War.
In modern day Australia, it may be hard to believe that a man could be sent to jail for two years because he refused to be conscripted into the army. Or that, once in uniform, a conscript was subjected to barbaric punishments in military correctional establishments, including solitary confinement on bread and water and being woken up every half hour. Beyond training lay the possibility of being forced to fight and kill in an undeclared war in Vietnam. Only half a century ago, young men who refused to be conscripted for National Service faced these prospects. Today, some will still not speak of their stand against conscription because they fear public rejection.

Thursday 9th January

9.30 - 11.30 am

Dr Krystyna Haq

Earth, soil, life.
"The nitrogen in our DNA, the calcium in our teeth, the iron in our blood, the carbon in our apple pies were made in the interiors of collapsing stars. We are made of star stuff". Carl Sagan
In the vastness of the universe, our Earth is the only planet known to sustain life. Soil is a medium that connects the process of planetary formation with processes leading to the development of life. In this presentation we will consider the important role that soil has played in allowing complex life to develop and flourish on earth, and its role in maintaining the earth as a habitable planet for us.

1.00 - 3.00 pm

Chris Frame

The Evolution of the Passenger Ship.
Have you ever wondered what the difference is between an Ocean Liner and a Cruise Ship? Have you marvelled at how modern-day cruise ships got so big - clocking in at multiple times the size of the famed Titanic? In this image packed and engaging lecture, we journey back to 1838 and explore the origins of modern passenger shipping. From the very first transatlantic paddle steamers to today's modern cruise ships, this presentation traces the ever-changing shape and design of the passenger ship.
Witness the evolving use of passenger liners from mail steamers to floating resorts and discover how the era of modern cruising was born out of the ashes of the ocean liner industry. Discover why liners built for the Australian passenger service were able to transition into cruising easier than their famed transatlantic cousins and explore the creation of the largest liner ever built, *Queen Mary 2*!

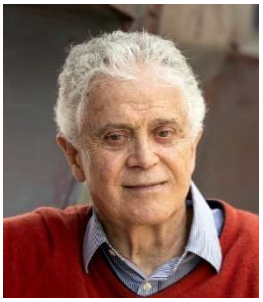
Friday 10th January

9.30 - 11.30 am

Dr Andrew Broertjes

Fear of an Elective King: the American Presidency in Theory and Practice.
Today the president of the United States is described as “the leader of the free world" and as “the most powerful office on Earth", titles that would bemuse and dismay the Founding Fathers. How did the creators of the American republic conceive of the executive office, and how did it turn out in practice? In the first part of this session, we will examine the origins of the American presidency, and the fight over what powers he would have and how he would wield them. In the second part, we will look at the presidential election of 1800, still regarded as one of the nastiest elections in US history, as former friends and later embittered rivals John Adams and Thomas Jefferson battled for the presidency.

1.00 - 3.00 pm



Dr Ian D. MacLeod AM

Conservation and Corrosion of Western Australian Rock Art
Ian MacLeod has been working on Australian rock art for over 40 years. Rock paintings are easily damaged by natural elements like water, minerals and lichens and by humans when we touch the artwork or graffiti the sites.
At Wave Rock, Ian and colleagues developed a method of converting water-borne phosphates and acidity from guano into new, stable minerals. Studying Wandjina paintings in the Kimberley discredited the long-held premise that deterioration occurs only in the wet season. The Napier Ranges, once a Devonian coral reef system, and Mitchell Plateau with its sandstone substrates, shed new insight into the role that water adsorption/desorption and plant metabolites have on surface exfoliation. Electrochemical studies of the Murujuga engraved rocks have shown that the rock surfaces are alive and responsive to changes in moisture and sea salts.
Thanks to these studies the protection methods and preservation techniques developed in Australia are now helping us to conserve our ancient rock art for generations to come.

3.00 pm - Close - followed by refreshments in the Foyer overlooking the beautiful Mandurah estuary

BOOKINGS CAN BE MADE AT MANPAC BOOKING OFFICE PHONE: 95503900

COST: $12.50 EACH LECTURE or $100.00 FOR ALL 10 LECTURES

Peel MALA wishes to acknowledge the generous support of our sponsors.

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MANDURAH PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

Summer School is presented by:
Mature Adults Learning Association (Inc.) – Peel Branch
PO Box 1791, Mandurah WA 6210
Website www.mala.org.au email: SummerSchool@mala.org.au

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