

U3A

Dunedin Charitable Trust

A LEARNING OPTION FOR THE RETIRED

in association with



Series 1 2010

ASPECTS OF AUSTRALIA

Dates: Tuesday, 2 March – Tuesday, 13 April 2010

(No session Tuesday, 6 April)

Time: 2.15 pm - 4.15 pm

Venue: Salmond College, Knox Street, North East Valley

Enrolments for this course will be limited to 50

Course Fee: \$30.00

Tea and Coffee provided

Course Organiser: Sue Cathro (467 5474)

Course Assistant: John Burton (477 7371)

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You may apply to enrol in more than one course in each series (subject to numbers). If you wish to do so, you must indicate your choice preference on the application form, and include payment of the appropriate fee(s).

All applications must be received by noon on Wednesday, 10 February 2010, and you may expect to receive a response to your application on or about 19 February.

Any questions about these courses after 19 February should be made to the Secretary, U3A Dunedin, telephone 471 9913 or on email at <graysinn@clear.net.nz>

Please keep this brochure as a reminder of venue, dates, and times for the courses for which you apply.

ASPECTS OF AUSTRALIA

Australia is our neighbour and many New Zealanders have chosen to make their permanent home there. Yet, in general, our knowledge of Australia is fragmentary and selective. This course presents some aspects of Australia that may not be familiar, beginning with the geology, the fauna, the geography and the Aborigines.

The Programme

2 March This lecture will review the features and origins of the Australian fauna, with a particular focus on the freshwater fish communities of the Australian continent.
(Dr Gerry Closs, Senior Lecturer, Department of Zoology)

9 March "A Short Account of the Very Long History of Australia"

Australia is home to the Earth's oldest grain of sand, as well as vast deposits of iron, diamonds and gold. These, and many other features help tell the 4.4 billion year geologic history of New Zealand's nearest, but quite different, continental neighbor.

(Dr Michael Palin, Senior Lecturer, Department of Geology)

16 March "The First Australians"

The early Australian archaeological record has important global implications for how and when early modern humans colonized the world. This lecture will examine the who, where, when and how early modern humans moved in Sahul (Australia and Papua New Guinea) and how this can inform us on the behavioural modernity of these early colonists.

(Anne Ford, PhD student, Department of Anthropology)

23 March "No Treaty for the Aborigines"

This lecture will address the question of why the Aborigines of Australia did not get a treaty at the same time as Maori. Three main reasons will be put forward: first, the nature of the colonizers: second, the nature of the indigenous people: third, the fact that treaties were considered 'inexpedient' by leading humanitarians in the late 1830s.

(Dr Sitarani Kerin, Lecturer, Department of History)

30 March "Geomorphic and ecological diversity of the coastlines of Australia"

(Dr Michael Hilton, Senior Lecturer, Department of Geography)

6 April **No session**

13 April "Flora, fire, orchids and ants"

In terms of biological diversity, Australia is classed as one of only 12 mega-diverse nations of the world. The flora contributes significantly to this diversity not only due to the spectacular radiation of typically Australian groups like Eucalyptus, but also due to the many relictual, primitive plants. This talk will provide an overview of the composition of the Australian flora, factors that have influenced its evolution and some unusual features of Australian plant-animal mutualisms.

(Dr Janice Lord, Senior Lecturer, Department of Botany)