

2018 Public Lecture Series

26 February - Julie Marshall - "Sri Lanka: Wildlife and Culture"

This talk is about a trip made to Sri Lanka by Julie and Alan Marshall, during which time they visited a number of wildlife reserves and some historical ruins. Sri Lanka's diverse landscapes range from rainforest to dry plains to highlands and sandy beaches. Although the country is small in size, it has the highest biodiversity density in Asia.

26 March - Professor, The Honourable Nahum Mushin AM - "Law, Justice and Society"

The Courts have a fundamental role in our parliamentary democracy. Judicial decision making requires expertise beyond the strict application of the law. It requires judgement about people and their rights. Those judgements involve decisions about values which in turn require the application of society's standards and a consequent awareness of ethical behaviour.

23 April - Don McQueen - "The Bush Balladeer" [*\$5 pay on the day*]

Don McQueen's Bush Poetry recitals have become a feature of many guest speaking engagements throughout Australia. He has been acclaimed as the Bush Poet of the Year now on five different occasions. Don's passion for Australian history and poetry recitals has given rise to his invitations to perform at Australia Day, Anzac Day, ceremonies, conferences, dinners and other celebratory events for some years now.

28 May - Julian Meagher - "Managing Emergencies and Disasters in Victoria"

Black Saturday, floods, heatwaves and the Hazelwood Mine fire are recent examples of challenges where the arrangements for managing them and their impact on the community were the subject of extensive inquiry. This has led to a range of reforms in the emergency management sector to ensure that emergencies can be better coordinated and managed into the future; importantly, this places a greater emphasis on the community being at the heart of planning. This talk will look at some of the changes that have taken place to improve the management of emergencies in Victoria.

25 June - Peter Wiltshire - "Darebin Parklands"

Peter, Head Ranger of Darebin Parklands, will talk about the Parklands discussing its history, its future, its ecology and the issues confronting it. Peter is very passionate about the Parklands - a 'not to be missed' session.

23 July - Lowilla Olak Okello - "Our Humanitarian Refugees in Eltham"

Lowilla Olak Okello, a Senior Settlement Worker, has been working with refugees from Syria and Iraq in Eltham. St Vincent's Care Services in Eltham have been providing accommodation and education programs. There are many difficulties for refugees, their workers and volunteers in this situation. The provision of accommodation must end in September this year. We anticipate this will be an interesting, informative and heart-warming presentation.

27 August - Katherine George - "Escalating Energy Costs – How to Get on Top"

Victorian Energy Compare is the Victorian Government's independent energy price comparator. It is the only independent comparison tool in the market that has every generally available energy offer. More than half of the visitors to Victorian Energy Compare have found they can save \$330 off their annual energy bill by making the switch to a better offer. Katherine George will teach you how to read your bills and use Victorian Energy Compare to shop around and save.

24 September - Rev Glenn Loughrey – "Indigenous Art as Storytelling"

Reverend Glenn Loughrey will give an update from last year's forum. A year on, are we any closer as a nation to acknowledging the Traditional Owners of Australia? Glenn will also share his insights on the role of Indigenous Art, both traditional and contemporary, as a vehicle for conveying cultural history and self-journey.

22 October - Nick Gadd – "Law Reform in Victoria"

The Victorian Law Reform Commission advises the Victorian Government on changes to the law. This presentation by Nick Gadd, will explain how the Commission helps to reform Victorian Law and how the community can be involved. In particular, the presentation will cover recent changes to the laws of medical treatment planning, and also the Commission's review of the laws of guardianship.