

Scala Seminar Series

Hosted by the disciplines of Landscape Architecture & Architecture, Unitec Institute of Technology



invites you to bring your lunch and attend a free public seminar on Thurs 24th May, 2018, 12.30-1.30pm

The 'Mad' of Madagascar: Place, plants, people

by **Sue Wake**

Senior Lecturer, Landscape, Unitec Institute of Technology

4th largest island in the world, Madagascar has almost mystical status - an island jewel nestled in the Indian Ocean & a biological ark full of strange specimens like the legendary lemurs, found nowhere else. Like New Zealand it has a very high degree of endemism (approx. 90% of plants compared to NZ's 80%) due to long geographical isolation. However, in Madagascar's case, much of the wildlife blew, flew or swam across the Mozambique Channel and then developed into very divergent species from what is now found in Continental Africa. NZ's development of species was instead one of isolated evolution. Another big difference is wealth - Madagascar is regularly listed as one of the 10 poorest nations. Because of political unrest following the end of French colonial rule, education, health & infrastructure are all in poor condition. Destructive farming techniques such as slash and burn and grasslands overburn are killing native species and causing huge erosion problems, so the rivers run brick-coloured with the soil of the 'Red Island'.

Sue Wake achieved a long-held desire to visit for 3 weeks in July 2017 and she will share the colour and beauty of the parts she visited - focused on plants although bewitched by the animals.



CPD:

NZILA CPD 0.5 points (category 3d). NZRAB CPD 10 pts (register to sign at seminar). ADNZ CPD 2 points. For further seminar information or to join mailing list contact swake@unitec.ac.nz

Work Experience points available for attending BLA students (10)

Directions:

Building 1, Room 2075 (Lecture Theatre 1, level 2) Unitec Institute of Technology, Entry 1, Carrington Rd, Mt Albert. Parking adjacent to Entry 1, around Bdg 1 or behind Bd 12. Refer campus map www.unitec.ac.nz/aboutus/campuses-and-maps/maps/maps.cfm & room location map www.unitec.ac.nz/sites/default/files/public/documents/unitec_buildingone_floorplan.pdf