

A marble bust of Plato, showing a bearded man with curly hair, looking slightly to the right. The bust is set against a background of green foliage.

Melbourne School of Philosophy presents  
The sixth of the

*Lifestyle & Culture  
Lectures*

Plato's Five Forms of  
Government?

Who will rule us now?

*by Mr. David Horan*

"Entertaining and impressively well read,  
knowledgeable speakers."

Fairfield Amphitheatre  
Heidelberg Road, Fairfield  
Sunday, January 3rd 2010 at 5pm

\$20 per ticket

Melways Ref. 30 J12

Book online at  
[www.lifestyleandculturelectures.org](http://www.lifestyleandculturelectures.org)  
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In Plato's great philosophic masterpiece – the Republic – Socrates describes five forms of Government which differ in their form and structure and in the nature of their rulers and he makes the provocative suggestion that we should allow ourselves to be ruled by Philosopher Kings.

It was typical of Socrates to use extreme propositions, in order to focus attention upon a vitally important issue. Important as this question was, 2,500 years ago, its urgency for us today is inescapable. As materialism and greed increase and eternal realities are often regarded with scorn, the question may not be “who will rule us?” but “what will rule us?” – wisdom and justice or entirely different forces?

This lecture will consider the meaning of wisdom and self-knowledge and their place in dealing with the ills which afflict our world.

**Can we blame those who govern us for the problems we face?  
Is there a political or economic solution to the ills of the world?  
What part can philosophy play in relieving the suffering  
of humanity?**

*“It was fantastic, practical and motivational!”*

*“The content, presentation, clarity of the speakers was excellent!!”*

*“More!...I could have sat through another hour it was so relevant and interesting.”*

### *About the Presenter*

David Horan is a senior member of the Dublin School of Philosophy and in conjunction with Irish universities he has organized the public “Day With Plato” event for the past 21 years, introducing thousands to the works of Plato.

He has produced dramatisations and three film versions of Plato's dialogues. David has run Plato Study Weeks since 2004 in Ireland, Italy and Melbourne and has lectured extensively on the dialogues in England and Holland.

He has been conducting group tours to Greece for 12 years combining the study of Plato with visits to the sites of the ancient world. This year he led a 2 week seminar on Plato's Timaeus at the European Cultural Centre in Delphi, Greece.

He is currently producing a new translation of the *Complete Dialogues of Plato*. This work is being conducted at the Centre for the Study of the Platonic Tradition in Trinity College, Dublin.

During his 2009-10 visit to Australia he has been invited to facilitate events in Perth, Brisbane, Sydney and in Wellington and Auckland NZ.