ABSTRACT:

‘Dark tourism’ and kindred concepts originated in the 1990’s, their timing significantly related to the end of the Cold War. The original association with very sombre and macabre sites has since been both diluted and widened, as more marginal cases have been argued and darkness potential has been recognised on the tourism consumption/demand side, i.e. ‘in the eye of the beholder’. The seminar outlines these developments, discusses three cases which variously illustrate the close proximity of ‘darkness’ to ‘normal’ tourism, and proposes further conceptual extensions that argue the potential ubiquity of darkness in tourism. In conclusion, the applicability of the arguments to TRC’s Australian concerns is queried.