



MACQUARIE: THE FATHER OF AUSTRALIA

1 x Hour HD
History documentary

Many Australians hail Highland Scot, Lachlan Macquarie as the father of their nation - a proto-nationalist hero. In Scotland he's hardly known.

Macquarie arrived in New South Wales 200 years ago to rule over 10,000 criminals and colonists. His vision profoundly shaped the future nation – not least by nurturing Australia's egalitarian spirit and national belief in the right to 'a fair go'. He was even the first person to use, in an official document, the colony's future name - Australia.

But behind every great man is a great woman - and this film is her story too. We will reveal Elizabeth Campbell Macquarie's untold contribution to the Australian nation.

What forces forged Lachlan and Elizabeth Macquarie? How did a barefoot Scottish boy brought up in an earth floor hovel rise so high? Why did he set off with reforming zeal to transform the colony - which put him on a collision course with his elitist enemies in Sydney, his bosses in the Colonial Office and the British Government? Why did his life end in poverty and disgrace while the nation he nurtured grew and prospered?



BLOODY WINGS, BLAZING SKIES

2 x 60mins HD
History and Technology

The film follows the lives and deaths of two groups of pilots from opposite sides in World War 1 and through them, takes the audience through a revolution in technology that has changed the world.

In 1918, war took to the air and became an aerial battle rather than the artillery observation conflict it had been until then. For the first time, flocks of fighters staged enormous dogfights that could transform the course of the War to end all Wars.

Based on the best selling books *Bloody April* and *Aces Falling* by Peter Hart and the work of Australian historian, Michael Molkenntin and French aviation legend, Bernard Chabbert, this is the story of a turning point in history - when war in the air became a reality.

Made in association with McLachlan Media Australia and featuring Peter Hart, Michael Molkenntin, Bernard Chabbert and the flyers and crews of *The First World War*.



THE DAWN OF A NEW DAY

60 mins for film festivals, 52 mins for television
HDV
Documentary

This film focuses on issues of access to health care in Benin, West Africa.

After a brief volunteer trip to a hospital ship in West Africa, a South African plastic surgeon, Dr. Tertius Venter, decides to radically change his lifestyle in ways his wife Trudi never imagined – by giving up his private practice, downsizing his lifestyle and leaving his family behind to provide free surgeries in West Africa.

Meanwhile three Beninese, Hyacinthee (10), Ambroise (34) and Fadila (11), are struggling with severe burn contractures, tumors and congenital abnormalities of the nose and eyelid that, without access to funds and specialist physicians, will continue to cause physical and emotional pain.

Though Tertius' wife would love to join him and the ship can accommodate her, he firmly believes that he must do this alone. Trudi tries to make sense of only seeing her husband three months a year while he wrestles with the effect his decision is having on his family.

It is a film about restoration, healing and sacrifice.



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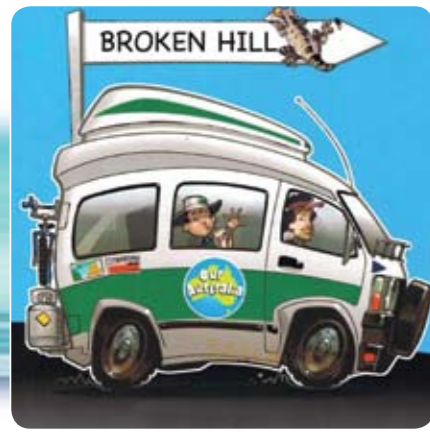
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DOCUMENTARY, FACTUAL ENTERTAINMENT, DRAMA DOCUMENTARY, FORMATS & CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING



OUR AUSTRALIA

13 x 30 mins HD
Children's Travel and Information
8 - 12 years olds.

Award winning children's writer, Phil Kettle's done heaps for kids. He knows what hooks them and he knows what they hate. And being lectured is top of the hate list. Now he's written Our Australia. A series of books that takes kids and their families across the wide brown land in a series part travel and part geography lesson.

In conjunction with the kids of Australia, Phil will explore the country and its people in a way that's miles different from any classroom talk. Phil take us into the homes, school and hearts of the people they come across.

And Phil and his friends don't have to rely on memory for every answer. He's got his own Oripod... bit like an iPod but cleverer. Whenever Phil or his friends are stumped for an answer, they call up the Oripod and ask. And it knows stuff!!! "If I walked all the way round Australia sticking to the coast, how far would I walk?" As if...

Well the Oripod just pinged a bit and then "25,760 kms" Wow. And then it pinged again and said "and 150 pairs of shoes." I didn't think Oripods could crack jokes but this one can.

And the Oripod's online too. So any of the viewers can just go on the Our Australia website and ask questions and the Oripod gives the answers. And the YouTube and Facebook sites help that too. Phil and his friends have a Facebook site and they upload pictures into albums of each place. And notes too. So if anyone missed the TV show, they don't miss altogether because it's there online.



RED SOUL

2 x 58 HD
Culture and Social
Family

1960s Australia, and while the civil rights movement rages in far away USA, a young indigenous boy escapes from the troubles of his own life and community by immersing himself in the Afro- American soul music of Sam Cooke, Otis Redding, Aretha Franklin and James Brown.

In the 60s the 'change music' coming from America's segregated South was giving indigenous Australia a musical voice. The civil rights movement and the musicians demanding change in their songs was inspiring a whole new movement thousands of miles away...

Indigenous vocalist and community leader Tony Minniecon was this young boy, and many years on embarks on a journey to the deep South of the USA, to meet, play and record with the musicians and characters that shaped the music that nurtured and inspired him and so many of his people.

Taking musical cues from the era of Change Music, Tony and his producers write a brand new album's worth of material In Australia, with lyrics that speak of his vision for his people. Tony then travels to Ardent Studios in Memphis with basic tracks in hand to complete recording 'Red Soul' with legendary Grammy-winning engineer John Hampton, who introduces him to some of the amazing Afro-American musicians who were at the centre of some of these landmark recordings. Together they blend the sounds of Soul with the instruments, and the spirit of Aboriginal Australia

On completion of the album, some of these incredible musicians travel to Australia with Tony to be shown the ochre earth of the heart of Australia to meet indigenous Australians, share stories, and discover first hand just what their music meant to a people and a place another world away.



LOST IN FLANDERS

1 x HOUR Digi Beta
History and Science

Uncovering the secrets of Australia's missing soldiers.

Almost a century after the last shots were fired, a young historian embarks on an emotional journey of the First World War battlefields that will teach him much about himself, and what it means to be Australian.

Michael Molquentin, a history teacher, joins battlefield guide Mat McLachlan in an exploration of Australian battlefields in Belgium. The two young men visit iconic sites from Australia's fighting in 1917, and join an archaeological excavation of trenches captured by Australians in the thick of the fighting. But nothing can prepare them for what is about to occur.

Not far from where Michael and Mat are digging, a working team uncovers five sets of Australian remains while laying a gas pipe. The discovery will spark a unique investigation that will bring science and military history together, and give Michael and Mat a taste of the reality they are seeking. Through DNA testing, used here for the first time on First World War remains, two of the bodies are ultimately identified.

As Michael and Mat follow the investigation and trace the stories of the missing soldiers, they learn more about the cost of Australia's involvement in the war than either of them had imagined. By speaking with the families of the soldiers, visiting the towns where they grew up, walking the ground where they died and finally standing by their grave sides as the men are laid to rest, Michael and Mat discover a history more vivid than anything written in the text books, and the true sacrifice of the thousands of Australians who were lost in Flanders.



DRIVING TO D-DAY

1 x 60 Digi Beta
History and Travel

The film follows the journey of thirty slightly eccentric Australians who, in June 2009, travelled 5,000 kilometres across Europe to Normandy in their restored vintage WWII military vehicles to commemorate the 65th anniversary of D-Day.

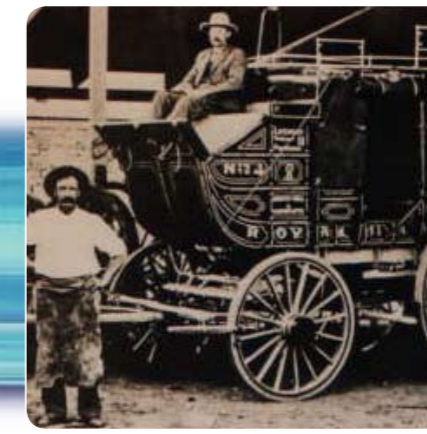
These history enthusiasts retrace the ANZAC journey and visit the battlefields of Europe, beginning in Istanbul and continuing across the continent of Europe, and concluding in Normandy.

The two-month journey is seen through the eyes of this group of everyday Australians and is a moving tribute to the ANZACS, as they visit the battlefields that meant so much to our brave servicemen and gain a deeper understanding of the battles that liberated Europe.

After shipping their beloved collection of veteran vehicles across the world to take part, the convoy starts in Istanbul, the furthest point of Europe from Normandy. From there the journey takes them to Gallipoli, across Turkey and the Mediterranean to Greece.

The journey continues to Italy, then up through Switzerland and France and finally reaches its climax in Normandy on the anniversary of D-Day, where the adventurers drive onto the very beaches where the Allies came ashore on June 6, 1945.

Featuring a visual diary of events and extensive archive footage, DRIVING TO D-DAY is the story of this determined group's incredible quest through time and place.



WILD RIDE

3 x hours or 13 hour drama series
History Drama and Documentary

Perhaps the greatest Australian saga of history. In 1853 a small group of immigrant Americans established a business in Victoria called the American Telegraph Line of Coaches. It was to become the biggest company in colonial Australia and the foundation of a legend called Cobb and Co. For a hundred years it grew, flourished and finally perished in the face of changing technology that its owners refused to embrace. Think The Man From Snowy River, Dynasty and Gone with the Wind, but as real living history as we bring to life the story of an empire that changed the face of a nation.

Cobb & Co was setup in Melbourne, Victoria in 1853 by a small group of immigrant Americans - Freeman Cobb, John Murray Peck, John B Lamber and James Swanton - and originally was called the American Telegraph Line of Coaches. The company's first passenger coach left Melbourne for Forest Creek (now Castlemaine) and Bendigo on 30 January 1854; the list of routes was expanded shortly thereafter to link the newer goldfields and settlements with the Victorian capital. Soon, mail contracts were awarded to the business and the Cobb & Co operated a gold escort, passenger and mail service based on reliable and efficient schedules.

In May 1856, the company was sold for 16,000 pounds to Thomas Davies and changed hands again five years later when it was bought for 23,000 pounds by a consortium headed by James Rutherford, William Franklin Whitney and Alexander William Robertson (others in the initial lineup included Walter Russell Hall, John Wagner, B Robertson, Colin Robertson and Charles Pollock). Rutherford became the General Manager and both he and Whitney were to become the driving forces behind Cobb & Co's success.



TITANIC RESUNK

1 x 90 or 2 x 60 HD
History Docu-Drama

The sinking of the Titanic shocked the world. She was considered to have been so well constructed she could sustain any amount of damage and still remain afloat. But late on the night of April 14, 1912 this idea was proved horribly wrong.

Now we will sink a ship in exactly the same way all over again, but this time cameras will take viewers directly into the experience as we record every moment of the death of the ship and replicate the last hours of Titanic.

We replace the live passengers with crash test dummies and record the physical environment they are plunged into... the shock, the cold, the pressure, the noise. We show the steel plates being ripped apart, the bulkheads buckling, the watertight compartments filling.

For nearly a hundred years, film makers, scientists and storytellers have been fascinated by the story of Titanic. Now on the centenary of the sinking, we do it again. With the aid of modern electronics we will take the audience on the journey and allow them to experience the sinking as if they were on board.

This is not a recreation with props and computer graphics. Titanic 2 is a real ship.

It will hit a real replica iceberg and be damaged in exactly the same way as its illustrious forebear.

And cameras will be all over the ship and outside it to record the reality as it happens. The physical FX will be created and directed by veteran Tad Pride (Babe: Pig in the city, The Piano, Farscape etc) Tad sinks ships for a living (among other things). Recently slated to supervise the VFX on Green Lantern before it went from Australia to Canada, he is the leading Effects Supervisor in Australia.