2020 AACTA AWARDS

DOCUMENTARY OR FACTUAL PROGRAM HANDBOOK



Contents

Ambulance Australia 3
Australia's Ocean Odyssey: A journey down the East Australian Current 5
Bear Koala Hero 7
Big Weather (and how to survive it) 9
Debi Marshall Investigates: Frozen Lies 11
Family Rules 13
Fight for Planet A: Our Climate Challenge 15
Filthy Rich & Homeless 17
Guy Sebastian - The Man The Music 19
Lindy Chamberlain: The True Story 20
Maralinga Tjarutja 22
MH370: The Untold Story 23
Miriam Margolyes Almost Australian 25
Murder in the Outback: The Falconio and Lees Mystery 27
Perspective Shift 29
The Pool 31
Quilty - Painting the Shadows 33
Revelation 35
Shaun Micallef's On The Sauce 37
Silent No More 39
Struggle Street 41
The Test: A New Era for Australia's Team 43
Waltzing the Dragon with Benjamin Law 45
Who Gets to Stay in Australia? 47
Wrongly Released: Free To Kill 50
WWII: The Battle of Crete 52

Ambulance Australia

Production Company: Endemol Shine Australia
Broadcaster: Ten

Candidate Summary

Best Documentary or Factual Program Candidates
Margaret Bashfield
Debbie Cuell
Matthew Tomszewski

Program Summary

Season: 3
Average Episode Duration: 50 minutes

Series Synopsis:

From the UK Bafta winning format, Australia's most loved, honest and unique, fly-on-the-wall documentary series is back! This time in the Sunshine State, QLD.
Narrated by Lisa Wilkinson, Ambulance Australia is the ground-breaking series which looks beyond the lights and sirens to the heart and soul of the men and women devoted to helping others on the toughest day of their lives.
With unrestricted access to the Queensland Ambulance Service, Ambulance Australia goes behind the scenes of Australia's busiest Ambulance Service, as they respond to over one million incidents per year, the highest of any state. The series follows each step of an emergency response, from the Emergency Medical Dispatchers who answer the Triple Zero (000) calls and manage the high-pressure logistics of prioritising the most urgent cases to the Paramedics who rush to an incident in the shortest possible time.
Arguably the toughest job of all emergency services, Emergency Medical Dispatchers and Paramedics are required to make split second decisions that can mean the difference between life and death. The QLD Ambulance Service receives more than 860,000 calls per year, for some of the most life threatening, dangerous and emotionally challenging situations. Ambulance Australia takes a courageous and honest look at the everyday demands on Emergency Medical Dispatchers and Paramedics.
During the series we follow cases including cardiac arrests, road traffic crashes, infant seizures, freak accidents, and the ever-growing issues of mental health, drug overdoses and the huge number of elderly patients requiring attention.

Target Demo:

While historically the 25-54 age group has been our most engaged audience, Ambulance Australia has a broad appeal and therefore a broad target demographic. We cover issues that affect people of all ages, backgrounds, gender, and socio-economic status, which gives us the ability to reach an incredibly diverse audience.

Popularity and Engagement:

Our audience engagement is overwhelmingly positive. Ambulance Australia's median rating including First Runs, Encores and BVOD hit 788,000, and achieved the #1 timeslot in Brisbane amongst Total People and Under-50s.
It achieved a commercial share of 22% amongst Under-50s, and reached 6million viewers in 2020.
Our 5 City Metro Consolidated ratings were 16% up on Series 2.
Ambulance S3's popularity and engagement with viewers is reflected through the series most watched social media post of Paramedics Jan and Andrew transferring an elderly patient to palliative

care. It had 3.7 million views, 67thousand reactions, 8.5 thousand comments, and 19 thousand shares.

Originality and Innovation:
In a first for Ambulance Australia we were given unprecedented and unguarded access to the operations of the Queensland Ambulance Service in Brisbane and surrounds, from the call-takers and dispatchers in the Operations Centre, to the paramedics in the field.
Ambulance Australia is a unique format as not only does it allow the stories of the QAS to unfold naturally, it's done with a distinct premium look and feel. This is achieved by using purpose shot aerials, our unique "lollipop" graphics and use of the raw audio from 000 calls, all intercut with tranquil moving shots of the Operations Centre.

Episode Summary

Episode A Number: 1
Episode A Title: Episode 1
Episode A Synopsis: Episode One shows the incredible and constant extremes of the life in the Ambulance service. From a sudden car crash in front of paramedic Pete and Phil's Ambulance as they rush to one scene - forcing them off one emergency and straight into another; to one of the most extraordinary resuscitations from a deadly heart attack ever captured on film. When a man's heart stops on the way to hospital the only thing keeping him alive is thirteen desperate shocks from the defibrillator and the astonishing grit and skill of the brave paramedics manually giving him CPR, all while he's still conscious. In the Operations Centre or "Op Cen", call takers skip from complaints of an ill-placed cyst to a woman in imminent labour and are exposed to some of the most delicate, absurd and dire moments in life. However, when a spike of overdoses of the drug MDMA hits after a dance festival on a busy Saturday night – both the EMD's in the Op Cen and the paramedics on the road will have to get savvy to stretch their resources in order to save their patients. But not every case is critical, as young paramedics Rachel and Ben visit a lonely man claiming to be suffering pain from doing one thousand squats in half an hour, we learn that in the ambulance kindness can be just as important as clinical skill when it comes to saving lives.

Episode B Number: 3
Episode B Title: Episode 3
Episode B Synopsis: This episode explores the realities of life between birth and death which paramedics are confronted with on a day to day basis. Our teams attend a newborn baby birthed in the front seat of a car, a triple zero call for an infant needing CPR tests a first time call taker in the Operations Centre, while a veteran colleague saves the day for a two-year-old boy struggling to breathe. A three-vehicle crash throws a screaming patient from the driver's seat into the passenger's side, and a paramedic couple tenderly assist a family to farewell a beloved mother. Across the episode, our paramedics must deploy not only their clinical training but their empathy.

Notes:

Australia's Ocean Odyssey: A journey down the East Australian Current

Production Company: Wild Pacific Media
Broadcaster: ABC

Candidate Summary

Best Documentary or Factual Program Candidates
Electra Manikakis
Nick Robinson
Peta Ayers
Jon Shaw

Program Summary

Season: 1
Average Episode Duration: 58 minutes

Series Synopsis:
Hidden in our oceans are great rivers of seawater called ocean currents. These are the arteries and veins of planet Earth - a life support system that has helped regulate the Earth's climate, atmosphere and biological diversity for millions of years.
This is the story of the East Australian Current. It flows from the Great Barrier Reef to Tasmania, bringing warm tropical waters to cold southern seas, and in doing so it transforms the lives of everything in the region.
Journey with migrating humpback whales as they travel the length of this marine river and explore the incredible diversity of Australia's submarine ecosystems. From the corals of the Great Barrier Reef, through the kelp gardens of the New South Wales coast, right down to the Southern Ocean, Australia's Ocean Odyssey reveals how ocean currents create life on our planet, and what we can all do to protect our planet's blue heart.

Target Demo:
The series was aimed at a family audience. Our vision was to strike a balance between science and awe to engage a broad age range and help people understand and appreciate the role that the ocean plays in our lives.

Popularity and Engagement:
The series received positive reviews and generated strong conversation across social media during the broadcast. It is the subject of a major impact campaign run by ABC Television, as well as an educational campaign developed in association with ABC and the Australian National Maritime Museum. There has been a strong take up by ocean advocacy organisations in the hope that the series will be a catalyst for a greater understanding of our ocean and a desire to better care for the sea, its creatures and the global system that holds our planet steady.

Originality and Innovation:
This series is an ambitious take on the natural history documentary: a sweeping journey that uses the East Australian Current as a vehicle to explore how the ocean supports life on earth. A visually challenging subject, as ocean currents are largely invisible. We worked over a two year period, only filming the various locations in 6-8K when the water, light and biological conditions were at their best. A combination of underwater cinematography, gyro stabilised and drone aerials, microscopic perspectives, timelapse and scientifically informed graphics allowed us to visually portray ocean currents and the pulse of planet Earth.

Episode Summary

Episode A Number: Episode 1
Episode A Title: The Tropics
Episode A Synopsis: The East Australian Current brings life to land and sea in the tropics as we explore the incredible connectivity that links all creatures on earth.
We begin our ocean odyssey on the Great Barrier Reef, where the East Australian current first meets the coast and begins its journey south. Here, we follow a clownfish hatchling on his maiden voyage on the current, where he will feed and grow until he is carried to his new home; scientists on the CSIRO research vessel the RV Investigator study phytoplankton as life-giving oxygen blooms; we get lost in a rainforest ecosystem that has thrived for millions of years in partnership with marine algae; and sea turtle hatchlings race to survive a dash to the ocean where they will begin their own ocean current journey.
Finally, a baby whale begins an epic migration in the current towards his feeding grounds in Antarctica.

Episode B Number: 3
Episode B Title: The Temperate Zone
Episode B Synopsis: The East Australian Current brings a warm change to cool temperate marine ecosystems as we follow our migrating whales on their journey south towards Antarctica. As we ride the current into cooler waters, we discover how it has shaped Australia's incredible temperate ecosystems, and how the effects of its warming influence are felt all along the coastline.
Our whales take a break in Sydney Harbour, where a team of scientists is working to rewild the coastline with a key species of seaweed; a team of specialist divers sets out to shine a light on deep coral reefs; and in Tasmania we discover an island nurtured by the warmth of the current.
As we reach the end of the East Australian Current, our whales finally leave Tasmania's temperate waters on their journey to Antarctica, where the planet's most important ocean current is born.

Notes:

Bear Koala Hero

Production Company: Butter Media
Broadcaster: Foxtel - Lifestyle

Candidate Summary

Best Documentary or Factual Program Candidates
Dan Walkington
Jerry Butterfield
Luke Williams
Lara Von Ahlefeldt

Program Summary

Program Duration: 50 minutes

Program Synopsis:
Presenter, blogger and wildlife activist; Tyson Mayr follows the amazing work of koala detection dog 'Bear' and his team, as they rescue and rehabilitate injured koalas from burnt-out bushland in southern Queensland and beyond. During the summer of 2020, the Australian bushfires burnt through an area the size of England and Wales combined. More than a billion wild animals perished. This is a story of courage in the face of fire, survival in the face of devastation and hope rising from the ashes.

Target Demo:
Broad target demo: family and co-viewing including 16-49+ aimed at all sectors of the population with a particular interest in heart-warming stories, ecology and conservation.

Popularity and Engagement:
Australians & the world fell in love with Bear when Tom Hanks & Leonardo DiCaprio tweeted about him.
It was the 4th most watched program on Foxtel platform for the day (March 18).
It was critically acclaimed:
"Bear – Koala Rescue had a happy dog and some gorgeous people saving sick koalas after the fires. More life-affirming shows like this, please"- Andrew Mercado - Media Week - March 20
And earnt a spot on GoogleBox.
https://www.buttermedia.com.au/bearongogglebox
The Program also helped directly raise (and continues to do so) much needed funds for Bear and his team at the University of the Sunshine Coast.

Originality and Innovation:
Getting the story to the Australian public in a timly manner was key. From sign off to on-air was 8 weeks. This enabled donations to flow quickly and directly to Bear and his team to keep up their work.
Filming was undertaken in difficult circumstances - following in the wake of devestating fires.
The film captures the input of many stakeholders from Indiginous landowners and rescue organisations to universities and government agencies, but the real hero is a dog who rescues koalas - making it a truly distinctive story.

Notes:

Big Weather (and how to survive it)

Production Company: DMA Creative and Northern Pictures
Broadcaster: ABC

Candidate Summary

Best Documentary or Factual Program Candidates
Daniel Marsden
Chris Thorburn
Karina Holden
Mick Angus

Program Summary

Season: 1
Average Episode Duration: 55 minutes

Series Synopsis:
From the frontlines of Australia's Black Summer of 2019-20, three-part series **BIG WEATHER (and how to survive it)** delivers an urgent message of how our weather is changing and what we can do to survive it.
Presenter Craig Reucassel charts the season as oppressive heatwaves set temperature records and lead to Australia's worst fire season on record. Over 18 million hectares of forest go up in flames: a fifth of the continent's forest and an area twice the size of Belgium. Then in a violent contradiction, catastrophic fire is followed by severe storms and flash floods.
Sharing stories from frontline disaster crews, experts and communities dealing with the effects of our escalating climate emergency, **BIG WEATHER** seeks to answer the big questions: Why are these events becoming less predictable and more intense? And what can we do to prepare, survive and adapt into the future?
BIG WEATHER is a dynamic and emotional roller coaster ride showcasing nature at its most destructive and spectacular. Fusing harrowing tales of tragedy and triumph with provocative and enlightening stunts, **BIG WEATHER (and how to survive it)** brings the lived experience of an historic summer into every living room, to help communities adapt, survive, and thrive in the new era of climate extremes.

Target Demo:
The series has broad audience appeal for people of all ages and demographic. It's been designed as a prime-time Tuesday night factual series with the ABC.

Popularity and Engagement:
Big Weather combines observational and archive footage with a series of experiments and survival scenarios to highlight practical steps audiences can take to be better prepared to respond and recover from extreme weather events. Fundamental to this preparation is to "Know thy Neighbour" which forms the corner stone of the ABC Impact Campaign running parallel to the series itself. Using the #readytogether hashtag (promoted throughout), communities can replicate the "Big Weather Get Together" from the series to create their own extreme weather recovery networks.

Originality and Innovation:
Big Weather (and how to survive it) draws from events during the catastrophic Black Summer fires of 2019/20 to construct practical and life saving scenarios that help prepare families and communities for the devastating effects of future natural disasters. The series incorporates data, science and frontline experience to formulate strategies to adapt to a changing climate for a wide ranging audience, whilst maintaining a cinematic style in tone and approach. It balances the

requirement to be accessible, informative and engaging format whilst remaining empathetic and respectful to the devastation and loss experienced by so many people across the season.

Episode Summary

Episode A Number: 1
Episode A Title: Summer is Here
Episode A Synopsis: With a record early start to the season, amid fires breaking out in the rainforests and coastal marshlands of South East Queensland and with the prospect of months ahead without rain, Craig joins fire chiefs and emergency commissioners in Tasmania as they plan ominously for the summer ahead.
As fires rage in the East, Craig heads west to conduct fire ground car safety exercises, before returning to check the readiness of communities putting their bushfire plans to the test. Just how prepared are we? Craig gives two families ten minutes to pack their essentials, with the chaos and laughter providing a welcome relief from the serious nature the event, but the takeout message is well made.
Meanwhile, at a school in Western Sydney, sweltering students decide to put citizen science into action to cool their school and plot a strategy to see a nationwide rollout for their devised solutions.

Episode B Number: 2
Episode B Title: Into The Firestorm
Episode B Synopsis: With fire exploding across the country, towns cut off and highways closed, Australia experiences the largest peacetime evacuation in its history.
In Victoria, Craig visits communities who have lost everything and meets others who have been miraculously spared and learns that whilst these extraordinary events were unprecedented in nature, that weren't unpredicted.
Retired Fire Commissioner, Greg Mullins, provides sobering insights into the changes we're experiencing and as records continue to tumble, Craig learns what's required to become a volunteer fire fighter.
When a military helicopter accidently sparks a wildfire known as "The Monster" and it bears down on the small town of Michelago, Craig helps residents who have decided to stay and defend. What happens next will result in the ACT's worst environmental disaster.

Notes:

Debi Marshall Investigates: Frozen Lies

Production Company: Media Stockade
Broadcaster: Foxtel – Crime + Investigation

Candidate Summary

Best Documentary or Factual Program Candidates
Debi Marshall
Rebecca Barry
Madeleine Hetherton-Miau
Howard Myers

Program Summary

Season: 1
Average Episode Duration: 50 minutes

Series Synopsis:
Investigative crime journalist Debi Marshall explores one of Australia's most sensational murders - the case of the Lawyer in the Freezer. Did baby-faced David Szach shoot his lover, criminal barrister Derrance Stevenson, and seal his body in the deep freeze? Or, is this case as David claims, a gross miscarriage of justice and murky dealings led to the lawyer's execution, for which David was the fall guy? With the help of FBI-trained criminal profiler Kris Illingsworth, Debi embarks on an investigation that stretches from the Australian outback to the Adriatic coast, leading her into a terrifying web of abductions, serial killings and cover-ups.

Target Demo:
Our core audience demographic is women 40+ who were 55% of our audience. However, Debi Marshall Investigates also achieved a strong male audience demographic of 45%.

Popularity and Engagement:
• Number 2 Crime Show on Foxtel on release
• Program reached a total of 514,000 unique individuals on first release. Figures are continuing to grow.
• Podcast Number 1 Podcast on release on Apple Podcast store
• Podcast has received 5 star average on Apple Podcast

Originality and Innovation:
The degree of difficulty in creating Debi Marshall Investigates Frozen Lies was significant. Many true crime stories are told retrospectively, however, this production was a live investigation that took Debi and the team over two years.
The crew set a high bar in seeking truth and justice including lifting decades old court suppressions orders on 5 previously hidden names. The series may also catalyse a Royal Commission in South Australia over new revelations.
Another twist in the investigation lead Debi to confront Family killer Bevan Spencer von Einem in prison and conducting the first interview with him in over 20years.

Episode Summary

Episode A Number: 3
Episode A Title: A Double Life
Episode A Synopsis: Debi is working hard to solve Derrance Stevenson's murder but after reading Wordley's memo, the case has significantly expanded. She realises they are dealing with a much bigger web of intrigue and a corrupt system. But how far to the top does it go?

Dick Wordley's son Mick gives Debi access to his father's precious archival material. This material has never been seen before. As Debi and Cas sift through boxes of articles, handwritten notes and cassettes, they turn up scores of articles on Derrance and Gambardella. Everything about Gambardella's involvement in the case is suspicious. Not only was the chiropractor's car seen in the driveway on the night of the murder, he turned up again with an unknown man the following day, after the police had established a crime scene. Gambardella was initially charged as an accessory after the fact, but the charges were dropped.

Episode B Number: 5
Episode B Title: The Circle Closes
Episode B Synopsis: Debi and Cas are in the thick of the investigation… and the threads are starting to come together. Based on her experience in the case against her partner's Ron's killer, Steven Sandage, this is the most critical point in the investigation. After extensive research, Debi and Cas learn that a Maria Hisshion was murdered and thrown into Sydney Harbour in 1976 in connection with Terry Clark's Mr Asia Drug Syndicate. Her death was not investigated until 1983.
Debi has made major breakthrough's. She's found a Deep Throat who has never spoken out in public before about being a victim of the family. As a teenager he was drugged and abused at the infamous sex parties by Doren Storen, Dunstan's entertainment manager and the magistrate Richard Dutton Brown. He says many high profile men attended the parties, including the then SA premier Don Dunstan, who was secretly escorted from one party before it was raided by the police. He also saw Von Einem and other family members 16– who he names - at the same parties, as well as corrupt cops. These names marry up with O'Shea's allegations. Debi also finds a man who speaks for the first time about being drugged by Von Einem and who miraculously escaped before he became another victim.

Notes:

Family Rules

Production Company: Metamorflix & Karla Hart Enterprises
Broadcaster: SBS

Candidate Summary

Best Documentary or Factual Program Candidates
Renee Kennedy
Karla Hart

Program Summary

Season: 3
Average Episode Duration: 26 minutes

Series Synopsis:
Members of the Rule family are celebrating important milestones – including a new baby and Daniella's 50th birthday. After having three sons, "daughter number two", Shenika, gives birth to a daughter. Daniella, the matriarch of the Rule family, turns 50 and decides to go away on her own for a week, accepting an invitation to visit a remote Aboriginal community in the Western Australian Central Desert. Sharna discovers her inner strength through fitness and Kiara takes her daughter Bindi home to NoongarCountry. Aleisha explores working as a wedding planner and Jessica stretches her wings as she turns 18.

Target Demo:
Women aged 18 - 55

Popularity and Engagement:
Family Rules has touched Australian viewers and received outstanding critical success. The average audience for each episode is twice the average for NITV programs in the same period. It also had very strong demographic success bucking trends in the key demographics of gender and age by going significantly against channel averages. Both season 1 and 2 are the highest rating NITV programs on the SBS OnDemand platform and the same is expected of season 3 which was first broadcast on 5.7.2020.

Originality and Innovation:
Family Rules is a truly unique television offering. The cultural legacy extends well beyond its pride of place on Australia's only Indigenous channel but into the hearts and minds of young Australian women everywhere. In this series we have painstakingly developed and grown a contemporary urban Australian story told through the eyes of an Indigenous family of women. It takes audiences into the worlds inhabited by First Australians by seamlessly blending contemporary female stories with insight into culture and heritage. This original Australian series is produced entirely in WA by a team of female creatives from Indigenous and non-Indigenous backgrounds.

Episode Summary

Episode A Number: 1
Episode A Title: Shenika
Episode A Synopsis: A new baby is on the way and after three sons, the big news is that Shenika is finally having a girl. A professional model, she decides to capturewhat she believes will be her last pregnancy with a maternity photoshoot. Shenika and her loving husband Trent consider making a seachange to Bunbury. Proud of their Indigenous heritage, they are won over by Bunbury's Noongar warrior sculpture on the waterfront.

Episode B Number: 6
Episode B Title: Daniella
Episode B Synopsis: Daniella celebrates her 50th birthday at a dinner with her girls and reveals she wants to mark the milestone by going somewhere she has never been before. She is invited to visit the remote community of Warakurna in the Central Desert in Western Australia. Together with the local women, she goes hunting for honey ants and is surprised how sweet they taste. Daniella is also invited to join the world-renowned women artistsas they paint. On the way home to Perth, she visits Uluru and says she is proud to have reached 50 and be thriving.

Notes:

Fight for Planet A: Our Climate Challenge

Production Company: Lune Media
Broadcaster: ABC

Candidate Summary

Best Documentary or Factual Program Candidates
Jodi Boylan
David Galloway

Program Summary

Season: 1
Average Episode Duration: 60 minutes

Series Synopsis:
In a brand new three part ABC series, presenter, prankster and passionate advocate, Craig Reucassel is tackling one of our planet's biggest challenges, climate change. Most Australians now accept that climate change is real, but very few of us know what we can do about it. In the three-part series Fight for Planet A: Our Climate Challenge, Craig delves into the climate crisis to understand where our energy comes from, how transport and travel emissions affect our health and just what is the carbon footprint of the things we eat?
Fight for Planet A will entertain, inform and challenge our thoughts on climate change. Craig will showcase how we, as individuals, families, schools and businesses can help reduce our carbon footprint by making practical day-to-day changes. We'll meet five very different Aussie households, who will take on Craig's 'climate challenge' to reduce their energy, transport and food carbon emissions. Highlighting small inexpensive changes everyone can make to reduce our carbon footprint, especially in our homes.
Far from taking the pressure off businesses, Craig will check in to see if they are doing all they can to make the changes we need and challenge them to do better. He'll question our politicians and meet some inspiring Australians who are working toward solutions for the future of our planet.
Small actions can lead to big changes, so it's time for Australians to collectively change the way we think about climate change and join the Fight for Planet A.

Target Demo:
The tone and approach of this series is a deliberate attempt to reach a broad cross-section of Australians, across free-to-air broadcast, iView and social media platforms.
We hope it will attract big viewer numbers overall, and bring new audiences to factual programming on the ABC.

Popularity and Engagement:
The 7 day consolidated metro ratings figure for Ep 1 was 671K (16% increase) and for Ep 2 578K (20.8% rise) Overall, Episode 1 and 2 tracked 66% above the timeslot average. On Facebook the food footprint clip is the second top post of the campaign with 29.9K engagements and 149.1K views, 5 times the ABC median. #FightForPlanetA trended overnight (including at #1) with close to 700 tweets mentioning the hashtag. Craig (host) image had 1.5K engagements (double ABC median). The Ep 3 clip (Food Footprint) had 1.5K engagements on IGTV and 37.8K views (double ABC median).

Originality and Innovation:
The series was created and developed in house by Lune Media

Episode Summary

Episode A Number: 1
Episode A Title: Energy
Episode A Synopsis: Last year Australia created an astounding 532.5 million tonnes of carbon emissions. We are one of the highest emitters per capita in the world but do Aussie know about this? Craig with 4 helpers, shows people how high our carbon emissions are when compared to countries like China and the U.S. Craig invites 5 different Australian households to our Planet A HQ to show them how much carbon they are creating every 2 hours. They join our climate challenge to see what changes they can make in their own lives to reduce their carbon footprint starting with energy they use in their homes. Some find simple DIY solutions, while others make adjustments to their home appliances and some invest in solar. All have surprising results.
To learn how long carbon has been increasing in our atmosphere Craig travels to the furthest tip of Tasmania to meet a straight talking scientist. To find out if we can power a community with renewable energy Craig heads to the forward thinking town of Daylesford to find out how they've led the way through the community working together.
Craig visits the Hunter Valley and learns about the shocking impact of coal mining on the health of the people who live there, increased respiratory issues from the black dust covering people's homes.
Craig heads to Parliament House to speak to the Minister for Emissions Reduction about reducing Australia's emissions but first he has to get past Parliament security with a bunch of black balloons

Episode B Number: 2
Episode B Title: Transport
Episode B Synopsis: The carbon we emit in Australia is contributing to rises in global temperatures and melting ice around the world. To show the impact that each and every one of us is having on the environment Craig, with the help of professional ice sculptors, creates a six and half tonne wall of ice made from recycled water.
Transport makes up around 19% of Australia's total carbon emissions 60% of that from the cars we drive. So what if we made the move from petrol guzzlers to electric vehicles? Craig drag races the fastest car in Australia with shocking results. Our five households focus on reducing their transport emissions in various ways; some ride and walk to work and school, others test drive electric vehicles while others carpool and catch public transport.
How many cars does an average bus take off the road? 60 volunteers join Craig in a experiment to find out.
Craig with 100 black balloons, representing an hour of our carbon emissions, tracks down Scott Morrison but gets tackled by his tight security team.
A school invites Craig to help them do an audit to calculate their carbon emissions and together they devise a low cost plan to make some changes to reduce not only their electricity, gas, water and waste costs but bring their total emissions down. Acutely aware of how rising water temperatures have affected the Great Barrier Reef, Craig goes deep diving to see the devastation for himself….this experience has a profound effect on him.

Notes:

Filthy Rich & Homeless

Production Company: Blackfella Films
Broadcaster: SBS

Candidate Summary

Best Documentary or Factual Program Candidates
Jacob Hickey
Darren Dale

Program Summary

Season: 3
Average Episode Duration: 52 minutes

Series Synopsis:
There's a crisis in Australia. And it's getting worse.
One in 200 of us are homeless on any given night.
Five high profile Australians swap their privileged lives to discover what life is like for the nation's 116,000 homeless people

Target Demo:
Primetime SBS stripped broadcast over 3 nights. 35+ gender neutral demographic plus complementary channel programming to more broadly engage audience.

Popularity and Engagement:
High rating third season of acclaimed series. Excellent reviews and feedback from all sources including social media channels.

Originality and Innovation:
Immersive, non-judgemental and heartfelt series exploring the homelessness crisis in Australia. By placing 5 high profile Australians in a range of challenging homeless experiences over ten days they, and the audience, gain an insight into the circumstances that can trigger homelessness, leading them to engage with possible solutions to the this crisis.

Episode Summary

Episode A Number: 2
Episode A Title: Episode 2
Episode A Synopsis: The five high profile Australians have spent the past two days and nights sleeping rough in Sydney and regional New South Wales - For the next 48 hours, they'll live side by side with those who experience homelessness every day – a buddy.
They'll discover what it's to sleep in the back of car in a park, in a children's playground in the heart of Sydney and in a tent in the bush. They'll hear stories of grief and loss and trauma and gain a remarkable insight into what it truly feels to have no place to call home.

Episode B Number: 3
Episode B Title: Episode 3
Episode B Synopsis: So far, the five have found out how it feels to sleep rough in the city and regional Australia. Their journey now continues in Crisis Accommodation. Before they discover what life's like on the bottom rung of Australia's housing ladder.

Notes:

Guy Sebastian - The Man The Music

Production Company: GuyTunes
Broadcaster: Nine

Candidate Summary

Best Documentary or Factual Program Candidates
Mike Cardillo
Guy Sebastian
Jennifer Fontaine
Lauren Stamper

Program Summary

Program Duration: 83 minutes

Program Synopsis:

Go behind the scenes and delve deep into the life of one of Australia's most successful and esteemed solo artists in Guy Sebastian: The Man The Music, on Monday, June 29, at 9.00pm after The Voice on Nine.

Viewers will get the best seat in the house as Guy sings some of his greatest hits, from Battle Scars to Before I Go and the ARIA 2019 Song of the Year hit single Choir, all filmed live on his recent "Ridin' With You" Australian tour.

This special will take us backstage and into his home as we explore the man behind the music, meet his family and collaborators, go through the highs and lows and heartbreaks, and see the humour and passion that drives the career of one of Australia's all-time favourite singer-songwriters.

Target Demo:

Mutli generation demographic, all genders , new generations from 10 - 65+.

Popularity and Engagement:

TBA

Originality and Innovation:

TBA

Notes:

Lindy Chamberlain: The True Story

Production Company: Easy Tiger Productions
Broadcaster: Ten

Candidate Summary

Best Documentary or Factual Program Candidates
Ian Collie
Rob Gibson
Mark Joffe
Francine Finnane

Program Summary

Season: 1
Average Episode Duration: 90 minutes

Series Synopsis:
Lindy Chamberlain's story has figured in Australia's collective conscious since 1980, when a wild dog took her defenseless baby in a random horrific attack. But it quickly became much more than that. The intrigue of the mostly unknown and untamed outback, of parents – particularly mothers - not behaving to conventional expectations; ruthless media, self-serving politicians and cowboy police, and the "trial of the century" all combine to make this a universal story that still resonates today.

Target Demo:
The target demographic is Gender Neutral, 35 - 50+ years, with a secondary audience 18 - 34 years

Popularity and Engagement:
Lindy Chamberlain's tragic story is an iconic tale in Australia history, with a substantial overseas reach. A sensationisaled global scandal in it's day, Lindy Chamberlain's story of unimaginable loss and unjust persecution still resonates today, and as the first series to interview Lindy in a long-form capacity, the series will reach a vast local and international audience.

Originality and Innovation:
Lindy Chamberlain's story has figured in Australia's collective conscious since 1980. The intrigue of the outback, of mothers not behaving to conventional expectations; ruthless media, self-serving politicians and cowboy police make this a universal story that still resonates today. Lindy Chamberlain presents a unique opportunity to look at the miscarriage of justice. A story that transcends national borders, cultures, social boundaries and prejudices. With unprecedented access to Lindy Chamberlain, now 72 and finally ready to share her full story with the world – we connect 1980 with today and ask: How far have we really come?

Episode Summary

Episode A Number: 1
Episode A Title: Episode 1
Episode A Synopsis: April 2019, Fraser Island. News of a father wrestling his baby from the jaws of a dingo flashes around the world. With the horrific news, each news story pivots back to 1980 to re-tell the most notorious case of a dingo taking a baby, Azaria Chamberlain. It is a story of a body never recovered, her mother, Lindy, being disbelieved and convicted of her murder, and of a family forever stigmatised by this tragedy. Forty years later, still there are doubters.
1980. Lindy and Michael's love of the outdoors sees the family go on a camping trip to Uluru. When Michael hears Azaria cry, Lindy sees a dingo coming out of her tent, shaking its head as it makes off into the night. Lindy rushes out crying "A dingo's got my baby".

A massive search gets underway. Campers are joined by Indigenous trackers, dingo experts, and park rangers. Tracks of a dingo carrying a baby are identified. Police arrive from Alice Springs. Reporters arrive. Lindy's account that a dingo took the baby goes unchallenged.
Lindy and Michael turn to prayer. Their acceptance that they are only likely to see Azaria again in heaven is noted by police. As the search continues, the family are criticised for leaving the scene too early. Police share doubts as to whether a dingo could carry a baby of Azaria's weight. A hungry media realise the worth of the story and cast doubts on Lindy's version of events. Police gather evidence for an inquest.

Episode B Number: 2
Episode B Title: Episode 2
Episode B Synopsis: In an attempt to placate the febrile media, Lindy agrees to an interview with a leading women's magazine, who print a salacious article suggesting that Azaria's disappearance was a premeditated act by her mother. The Chamberlains begin to receive abusive phone calls and mail. As police continue gathering evidence, they interrogate Lindy about discrepancies in the magazine interview. When Lindy learns through the television news Azaria's jumpsuit has been found, but not the matinee jacket, it becomes clear police are leaking to the media. Guileless, she and Michael continue to cooperate, believing truth will win out.
Forensic testing is in its infancy in Australia. Testing of the jumpsuit is conducted by a forensic dentist, who concludes the tears in the jumpsuit collar were made by a blade. Lindy realises she is an official suspect.
Michael Chamberlain's workplace is staked out by photographers. The Coronial Inquest is held. Media scrum criticises Lindy's behaviour. Television ratings dramatically increase when the Chamberlain story is featured.
A bomb threat is made against the hotel where the Chamberlains are staying. Lindy is given a bodyguard.
Coroner Barritt takes the unprecedented step of televising his findings. He is highly critical of the police for their incompetence in gathering evidence and for the failure of the NT government to act on a warning about the danger dingoes posed at Uluru.
Concerned about the impact on tourism, NT Chief Minister establishes a secret police taskforce to pin the blame for Azaria's disappearance on Lindy.

Notes:

Maralinga Tjarutja

Production Company: Blackfella Films
Broadcaster: ABC

Candidate Summary

Best Documentary or Factual Program Candidates
Darren Dale
Jacob Hickey

Program Summary

Program Duration: 52 minutes

Program Synopsis:
The Maralinga people have lived on their lands for over sixty thousand years. This deep relationship with their country was challenged by the arrival of a colonising force that lead to the institutionalisation of the Maralinga people in the Ooldea Mission in the 1920s. This attempt to dispossess was intensified as Maralinga land was used for the British Nuclear Test Program between 1953 and 1963. The Maralinga people never relinquished their connection to and responsibility for their country. They fought for the clean-up of the radioactive and other contamination, for compensation and for the handback in 2009 of the Maralinga Village and Test Sites. What has been achieved is a rebuilding of traditional communities into vibrant, creative cultural communities that will ensure Maralinga custodianship of their lands for the next sixty thousand years.

Target Demo:
Primetime ABC boradcast Sunday evening - 35+ demographic

Popularity and Engagement:
Excellent ratings, reviews and feedback from all sources, including on social media channels and from members of the broader Aboriginal community.

Originality and Innovation:
Explores the history of the Maralinga people through collaboration with the community, using interviews, observational footage, archive and animation of original artworks. In capturing their strength and resilience the story of colonisation and the reclaiming of land and culture becomes one where the Maralinga people are victors, not victims.

Notes:

MH370: The Untold Story

Production Company: Sky News Australia
Broadcaster: Foxtel – Sky News

Candidate Summary

Best Documentary or Factual Program Candidates
Sky News Australia Team

Program Summary

Program Duration: 80 minutes

Program Synopsis:
In a Sky News Australia exclusive, the two-part series MH370: The Untold Story broadcast on February 19 and 20 2020 and were the #1 programs on Foxtel both nights.
Not only did Sky News top the ratings on Foxtel, but revelations from the documentary also broke major international news with former prime minister Tony Abbott's revelations picked up around the world.
The compelling investigative documentary examined the greatest aviation mystery of all time, the disappearance of flight MH370.
MH370: The Untold Story revealed shocking allegations and startling new information about what actually happened during the disappearance of flight MH370, what the authorities both locally and in Malaysia really knew and exactly where experts believe the plane could be found.
On the night of March 8, 2014, a Malaysia Airlines Boeing 777 carrying 239 passengers, including six Australians, vanished without a trace while on a routine flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing.
Now, six years on and following the most expensive sea search the world has ever seen that galvanised Malaysian, Australian and Chinese authorities, Sky News investigative reporter Peter Stefanovic anchored the investigation stretching across four continents. Working alongside Ean Higgins, The Australian's award-winning reporter and author of The Hunt for MH370, Peter and the Sky News team pieced together the clearest picture yet of the most pressing mystery in aviation history.
Following the success of Sky News Australia's first locally produced documentaries in 2019 Bad Blood/New Blood and Lawyer X: The Untold Story, the two-part television event has been the most successful documentary series to date for Sky News.
Part 1 and 2 have reached a total combined 597,000 unique viewers on Foxtel. Additionally, MH370: The Untold Story has been the most successful documentary on regional free-to-air channel Sky News on WIN, reaching over 202,000 viewers.
Part 1 also delivered the highest audience for the channel ever, outside of the 2019 Federal Election and the 2013 Labor Leadership Spill.
It currently holds the year's #1 and #2 program positions on Sky News for the year to date.
Source:
• OzTAM National STV, Linear data, Live, Same Day Playback & 7 Day Playback, Average Audience, Overnight Reach, 0200-2559, Total People.
• OzTAM Set-Top-Box Linear Viewing includes viewing across all box types as they are recruited onto the OzTAM panel – includes iQ4, iQ3, iQ2, iQ1.5 and legacy boxes.
• Source; RegionalTAM data; overnight data 19/2/2020; average daily reach 1 minute; total people; aud; commercial share.

Target Demo:
All 18+.

Popularity and Engagement:

This two-part television event has been the most successful documentary series and currently holds the year's #1 and #2 program positions on Sky News for the year to date.
Across the Foxtel platform on entertainment, Part 1 is the highest rating individual telecast, while Part 2 is the third highest individual telecast year-to-date.
Source:
• OzTAM National STV, Linear data, Live, Same Day Playback & 7 Day Playback, Average Audience, Overnight Reach, 0200-2559, Total People.
• OzTAM Set-Top-Box Linear Viewing includes viewing across all box types as they are recruited onto the OzTAM panel – includes iQ4, iQ3, iQ2, iQ1.5 and legacy boxes.

Originality and Innovation:
Not only did Sky News top the ratings on Foxtel, but revelations from the documentary also broke major international news with former prime minister Tony Abbott's revelations picked up around the world.
The compelling investigative documentary, stretching across four continents, pieced together the clearest picture yet of the most pressing mystery in aviation history. It revealed shocking allegations and startling new information about what actually happened during the disappearance of flight MH370, what the authorities both locally and in Malaysia really knew and exactly where experts believe the plane could be found.

Notes:

Miriam Margolyes Almost Australian

Production Company: Southern Pictures
Broadcaster: ABC

Candidate Summary

Best Documentary or Factual Program Candidates
Ross Wilson
Laurie Critchley
Aline Jacques

Program Summary

Season: 1
Average Episode Duration: 60 minutes

Series Synopsis:
This 3-part observational documentary series follows celebrated actor, self-proclaimed fat lesbian and well-known busybody, Miriam Margolyes on the adventure of a lifetime: a 10,000 kilometre journey around the nation to explore what it means to be Australian today. For Miriam, becoming an Australian citizen six years ago at the age of 71, was “a day of supreme happiness and real joy”. But it also made her realise how little she knew about the place she could now call home – despite having come and gone from Australia for nearly 40 years. As Miriam sees it, she “lives in a silly little bubble of people who talk like me, and sound like me”. So the Hollywood star is leaving the home she shares with her life partner, Heather, in the Southern Highlands of NSW – and embarking on a 2-month journey around the country to test her understanding of Australia against the people she meets. Armed only with some wit, a little wisdom, a lot of chutzpah, and a lifetime of natural inquisitiveness, Miriam ventures far out of her comfort zone to dissect myth from reality. The result is a surprising, sometimes confronting, funny, unexpected, often joyous and utterly enlightening exploration of the Australian identity in the 21st century – as Miriam takes the pulse of the nation as we’ve never seen it before.

Target Demo:
Miriam Margolyes Almost Australian was commissioned by the ABC as a prime time landmark programme to bring in new viewers under 50, plus retain the older, more traditional ABC demographic.

Popularity and Engagement:
The series won its primetime ABC TV 8.30pm Tuesday time-slot, with a consolidated national audience of over 1million per episode, virtually no drop-off between episodes. Around one-quarter of viewers were under 50. Conversations were sparked around Australia, trending on Twitter and social media. Some Facebook posts reached over 4million views. Sold to the BBC, its Friday night broadcast on BBC2 was amongst the highest rating of the night (climbing to 4million unconsolidated, beating BBC1 and tying with Gogglebox). As audiences embraced the series, it won critical acclaim as providing some of the “most profound moments on television this year” (Times).

Originality and Innovation:
The series reinvents the travel genre, and has been praised by reviewers and the public alike for its unique and innovative look at Australian social issues. "The great comic actress smashes her own stereotype.. before turning her jolly wit and keen eye on some of our national ones” SMH 16.5.20. "Well-researched and clear-eyed, Almost Australian is the best kind of travelogue, one that surprises and delights but isn’t afraid to dismay now and then.” Glasgow Herald UK 18.7.20. On Twitter, the

series received thousands of tweets from viewers including: "Miriam is a treasure, asking uncomfortable questions, learning uncomfortable truths."

Episode Summary

Episode A Number: 1
Episode A Title: The Australian Dream
Episode A Synopsis: Miriam feels extraordinarily lucky to have been given a second chance at life in a new country at the ripe old age of 78 years old. But becoming a citizen has also made her question how much she really knows about the place she can now call home. The Australia she knows and loves is a sunnily optimistic place, but has she been looking at Australia through rose-coloured glasses? Miriam wants to know what the Australian Dream means for people today – and embarks on a journey of exploration that takes her from her home near Sydney through drought-stricken NSW, metropolitan Victoria, and beyond!

Episode B Number: 2
Episode B Title: Mateship
Episode B Synopsis: As she heads along the vast empty highway through central Australia, Miriam ponders the Australian concept of "mateship" and what it means to people today. Australia is the only country in the world that enshrines "mateship" in its culture – but how deep does it run? Miriam thinks the whole thing might be blokey and outdated... So from Alice Springs to the back of beyond and Darwin, she's off to find out more!

Notes:

Murder in the Outback: The Falconio and Lees Mystery

Production Company: CJZ
Broadcaster: Seven

Candidate Summary

Best Documentary or Factual Program Candidates
Andrew Farrell
Matt Campbell
Bethan Arwel-Lewis
Sophie Meyrick

Program Summary

Season: 1
Average Episode Duration: 60 minutes

Series Synopsis:
Murder in the Outback: The Falconio and Lees Mystery is a blockbuster True Crime series that investigates the 2001 disappearance of British backpacker Peter Falconio in outback Australia. In a detailed re-investigation of the Falconio case, this four part series dives into the details and the dramas that have surrounded this extraordinary case from day one. Murder in the Outback: The Falconio and Lees Mystery will deliver the powerful first-hand accounts of many people impacted by this event and will use new and exclusive access to the original defence case documents to re-examine the evidence put forward at the trial of the man convicted of Falconio's murder - Bradley John Murdoch.

Target Demo:
This series was created to reach a broad commercial audience in both the UK and Australia. While it was commissioned by Channel 4 UK, Channel 7 Australia was a significant acquisition investor so the series had to play to both audiences.

Popularity and Engagement:
Murder In The Outback is one of the most successful documentary series in Australian television history - reaching a total audience per episode of around 5 million in the UK and Australia. It has completely reset the boundaries of what is possible with a documentary in a highly competitive commercial market.
The ratings in the UK were extraordinary - it was their highest rating new factual series since March 2015. The consolidated numbers were 3.4 million per episode.
In Australia, on Channel 7 it rated 1.6 million nationally and was Seven's biggest new series launch in over 2 years across all genres.

Originality and Innovation:
Murder In The Outback was a very technically difficult hi-wire act to pull off. The true crime genre works best when it is a gripping slow burn, keeping audiences glued to their seats while leading them on a compelling journey. Our ambition was to have the tone, pacing, storytelling and high production value of a drama series with documentary content. This style rarely - if ever - gets wheeled out in prime time on a commercial network. But it worked.
That is a gamechanger for factual tv makers in Australia, showing programmers what's possible with the right story and style of production.

Episode Summary

Episode A Number: 1

Episode A Title: Episode 1
Episode A Synopsis: On July 14th, 2001, British Backpackers, Peter Falconio & Joanne Lees are attacked as they drive through the night on a remote highway in the Australian outback. Falconio is missing presumed dead and Lees escapes into the scrub. She is later rescued by a passing truck driver. Her story becomes global news. A nationwide manhunt runs for 16 months, and ends when Bradley John Murdoch is charged with Falconio's murder. Murdoch denies it all, but the jury in his trial disagrees and finds him guilty. But the case didn't close there. Many have wondered if there is more to this story. One person with questions about the case is Andrew Fraser, once one of Australia's foremost criminal defence barristers. Bradley Murdoch has given Fraser access to the police files used by his defence team in his case and asked him to take a fresh look at them. On a visit to the outback crime scene Fraser begins to think that some evidence doesn't seem to add up. And a top forensic scientist reveals that the blood found on the road is not consistent with the amount you would expect from a fatal gunshot. Fraser then visits the truck driver who picked up Joanne Lees that night and hears something that never came out in court. Just before he saw Lees, the driver saw two men bundling a third man into the car. Who were these men?

Episode B Number: 3
Episode B Title: Episode 3
Episode B Synopsis: In any murder trial, establishing the identity of the killer is crucial. Is the accused, definitely the one who committed the crime? Bradley Murdoch was found guilty of killing Peter Falconio, but debate remains about whether he was correctly identified. Did the police get the right man?
Former criminal defence barrister Andrew Fraser finds witnesses that could put other people in the picture. One reports seeing Falconio and Lees with a different man, matching the description of the attacker, on the day of the event. Another witness tells of meeting an unusual character at a pub close to the crime scene hours after it occurred. This "Person of Interest" was eliminated by police, but should he have been? Andrew Fraser decides to track him down. The fact that Peter Falconio's body has never been found has previously led to speculation that he's still alive. In a remote outback town, two eyewitnesses tell a compelling story about seeing Peter Falconio at their service station in the days after the attack. They remain convinced that Bradley Murdoch is innocent.
One of the key pieces of evidence that helped convict Murdoch was CCTV footage of a man in a service station on the night of the attack. Police were convinced he committed the crime. Expert testimony at trial identified Murdoch as the man in the video, and therefore the attacker. But a new expert in video identification re-analyses the footage with surprising results.

Notes:

Perspective Shift

Production Company: Taste Creative
Broadcaster: SBS

Candidate Summary

Best Documentary or Factual Program Candidates
Genevieve Clay-Smith
Leah James

Program Summary

Season: 1
Average Episode Duration: 83 minutes

Series Synopsis:
Perspective Shift is a three-part documentary series which explores the triumphs and trials of three of Australia's top practitioners in the arts industries, who also happen to be people with disability. Each 30-minute episode focuses on one individual excelling in an area of the Arts and explores their craft and their life experiences, including actor Daniel Monks, artist Prue Stevenson and dancer Jana Castillo.

Target Demo:
25+ gender neutral, interest in arts, documentaries, advocacy and human interest stories.

Popularity and Engagement:
Perspective shift's success was measured through it's reach to audiences through SBS broadcast and SBS On Demand, it's popularity secured it a second season which is currently in production. It was also heralded by the low vision and vision impaired community as an outstanding success due to it's use of audio description being factored in during the edit - not dubbed over the top as an afterthought. It is the first television show to be audio described for the SBS On Demand platform.

Originality and Innovation:
Perspective Shift was created in an effort to drive a change in attitudes toward disability in Australia by sharing stories of high achievers with disability, told by people with disability themselves. The series highlights the challenges for people with disability including experiences of marginalisation and discrimination and the unique perspectives people with disability bring to their chosen industry. The messages shared in Perspective Shift are the tools that society needs to move forward on the path to inclusion. The show became a groundbreaking model for SBS's Audio Description process, it's first show made with AD factored into the script.

Episode Summary

Episode A Number: 1
Episode A Title: Daniel
Episode A Synopsis: Daniel Monks is the first Australian filmmaker to have received the Busan Bank Award at the Busan International Film Festival for his acclaimed independent feature film, Pulse - a story about a gay, disabled teenager who undergoes a body swap procedure to try to make his best friend fall in love with him.
Told at 13 that his career as an actor would be limited due to his physical impairment, Daniel was nervous to pursue his dreams. He boldly took on the risk to write the script of Pulse and rose to the occasion in the lead role, earning himself a nomination for Best Lead Actor at the 2018 AACTA Awards.

Through Daniel's journey, we discover what it takes to resurrect and see through a dream long believed unattainable and impossible.

Episode B Number: 2
Episode B Title: Prue
Episode B Synopsis: Prue Stevenson is one of Australia's top emerging visual artists, having exhibited and performed her artwork nationally, including notably at Sydney's Museum of Contemporary Art. Prue's art practice was birthed from her identity as an autistic woman and is an integral way that she connects with the world around her. Many of her art pieces invite audiences into her autistic culture, sharing and celebrating her unique "Prue version of Autism".
We too are invited into Prue's story, travelling through the triumphs and the trials, on her journey to becoming a leading artist in Australia.

Notes:

The Pool

Production Company: Mint Pictures
Broadcaster: ABC

Candidate Summary

Best Documentary or Factual Program Candidates
Dan Goldberg
Adam Kay
Sally Aitken
Caitlin Yeo

Program Summary

Season: 1
Average Episode Duration: 57 minutes

Series Synopsis:
The Pool is a blue-chip documentary series for the ABC that explores the story of how Australian identity has, in part, been forged through our intrinsic relationship with the pool. Whether it's the backyard pool, community pools, ocean pools, Olympic pools or Outback billabongs, unlike any other nation, Australians converge around the pool.
But it's not just a hedonistic playground, or a way to get fit – beneath the surface there's a surprising and untold story about the pool as a battleground where feminism was fashioned, racism, gender and sexuality swept away, and sporting heroes born.
If you think about the above-ground plastic pools that scattered our suburbs in the '60s and '70s – remember the sting of chlorine?! – to the amount of homes that now have fancy in-ground pools now...they also tell the story of our economic success.
Over two consecutive weeks, this prime-time series told the story of Charlie Perkins' Freedom Rides to end segregation at the Moree Pool, and revealed how and why some ocean pools use anti-discrimination laws to let women in, but keep men out.
And we explored the pool as the Australian version of the European promenade or village square – where what you wore reflected huge social changes going on outside the pool fence.
Written by Christos Tsiolkas, directed by Sally Aitken and produced by the award-winning team behind Streets of Your Town and Brilliant Creatures -- The Pool is a compelling documentary that explains how this humble body of water has helped shape who we are.

Target Demo:
We knew that the pool holds a special place in the memories of most Australians so we expected a big audience, and got one. We hoped it would get a significant regional, and we got one! And we suspected it would be gender neutral, and it was. See stats below.

Popularity and Engagement:
It rated with 735,000 averaged across both episodes, with ep1 reaching 783,000. The social media campaign reached 3.9 million people! 55% of the TV audience were female. It generated a huge amount of old and new media coverage across all mediums – TV, radio, online, social...

Originality and Innovation:
1. We hired one of Australia's best writers, Chritos Tsiolkas, who had bona fide connections to the pool.
2. It was composed by Caitlin Yeo and narrated by Richard Roxburgh.
3. It was shot on an Alexa by Jay Hanrahan, exploiting high frame rates and epic backdrops.
4. This was the first ever commission by ABC Regional & Local, featuring pools across the nation.

5. ABC R&L launched a pan-ABC campaign that included 50 radio packages, 19 online articles, 19 shortform videos, 215 social media posts, 12 outside broadcasts, 10 pool parties, and a partnership with Royal Lifesaving Australia ...

Episode Summary

Episode A Number: 1
Episode A Title: Our Playground
Episode A Synopsis: We are the world capital of pools – Australia boasts more than 100 ocean pools, 1000 public pools and one million backyard pools. The pool is where we splash around as kids, chase Olympic-sized dreams as teens, and keep fit as adults and gather as a multicultural community of equals.
'The Pool: Our Playground' features pools with surprising stories – the famous guitar-shaped pool in Tamworth; the synchronised swimmers at Spring Hill Baths in Brisbane; the iconic Bondi Icebergs, whose members still toss ice in the water; the spectacular Yapulpa and Ilpara billabongs in the Northern Territory; the Harold Holt Memorial Centre in Melbourne; the Lightning Ridge Bore Baths in NSW and their therapeutic properties; and the Newcastle Bogey Hole – thought to be the first constructed pool in Australia.
The roots of our love affair with the pool date back to our success in Melbourne in 1956. Australia has hosted two Olympic Games, where we stared down and defeated the rest of the world.
Episode One also explores our success as swimmers and spotlights Shane Gould, who took on the world in Munich in 1972 at just 15, and Ian Thorpe, who dominated the pool in the Sydney Olympics in 2000.
While episode one focuses on the pool as our playground, it end with the pool as a battleground, and we experience the anger of locals in Parramatta, who are up in arms because their pool has been demolished – we fight for it because the pool is intrinsic to our cultural identity.

Episode B Number: 2
Episode B Title: Our Battleground
Episode B Synopsis: The Pool: Our Battleground looks beneath the seductive, aqua-coloured waters of the pool to unearth the hidden history of how the pool has been at the centre of battles over race, gender, sexuality and religion.
For women, the pool was originally a battleground in the fight for the right to swim. Today, the last remaining women's-only pool has had to fend off a battle to keep its sisterhood of swimmers male-free.
Women's dress code at the pool has also undergone a revolution – from cumbersome pantaloons to Annette Kellerman's trademark one-piece to the bikini, which debuted to the world in Paris in 1946 – poolside, of course. Its successor is the burqini, invented by an Australian in 2004.
For Indigenous Australians a colour bar was in force at public pools across much of the continent until Charlie Perkins's Freedom Ride of
1965 famously broke through the turnstiles at Moree. This revolution didn't take place in Canberra; it played out at the pool.
And for diver Matthew Mitcham, the pool was where he became our first openly gay Olympic hero. For more than 100 years, the pool has been at the frontline of our protests and progress as a nation. This is the surprising untold story of the pool.

Notes:

Quilty - Painting the Shadows

Production Company: Catherine Hunter Productions Pty Ltd
Broadcaster: ABC

Candidate Summary

Best Documentary or Factual Program Candidates
Catherine Hunter
Bruce Inglis
Shelley Maine
John Muldrew

Program Summary

Program Duration: 60 minutes

Synopsis:

As a national survey exhibition is taking place, Ben Quilty reflects on the motivations of his artistic practice and the challenge of painting Australia's colonial history.

Quilty - Painting the Shadows follows Quilty, one of Australia's leading contemporary artists, as he completes one of his most challenging art works. The film documents the most recent shift in Quilty's art which is a growing interest in Australian national history and the dark corners of our past. With the permission of the Gamilaraay Elders, he travels to Myall Creek in Northern NSW. On the afternoon of Sunday 10 June, 1838, 12 stockmen brutally slaughtered a group of 28 Aboriginal men, women and children who were camped peacefully at the station of Myall Creek. This massacre had special significance because it marked the only time in the colonial period that white men were, arrested, charged and hung for the massacre. The film follows Quilty's exploration of the subject over many months.

An artist with a profound commitment to social activism fuelled by a boundless curiosity about the human condition, Quilty won the Doug Moran National Portrait Prize in 2009 and the Archibald Portrait Prize in 2011 with his remarkable portrait of Margaret Olley. Later that year, he went to Afghanistan as an official war artist, commissioned by the Australian War Memorial. What followed was a remarkable series of portraits of the soldiers that addressed the emotional and psychological impact of their service.

In March 2019, a major retrospective of Quilty's work began touring the country. Catherine Hunter first filmed Quilty more than ten years ago. Using the assembly and hanging of the exhibition as a fluid framework for her film, she explores the journey of the artist from that of a young man obsessed with Holden Toranas to the one who brought, through his art, the full spectrum of the Afghanistan tragedy to public consciousness.

But his career to date has been kaleidoscopic – while people are aware of certain facets of his life and causes, there has been little attempt to understand him as a painter. This film seeks to bring the fractured portrait of the man and the painter into sharper view.

Target Demo:

12 years and over - especially those interested in art and Australian history

Popularity and Engagement:

Quilty - Painting the Shadows was well reviewed by The Sun Herald and The Age, Fox Arts Screen Program, The Daily Telegraph, The Newcastle Herald and Graeme Blundell chose it for First Watch in The Australian Review, and it was reviewed in many regional newspapers. The composers, Amanda Brown and Damien Lane, also received many great reviews.

Originality and Innovation:

It is the story of Quilty's painting – the process, the paint and the subjects. The films follows the making of a major work over a number of months from its beginnings as a series of drawings to the creation of one of his signature Rorschach paintings (where an original painted image is both damaged and duplicated by pressing one panel onto another while the paint is still wet).

Notes:

Revelation

Production Company: IN FILMS
Broadcaster: ABC

Candidate Summary

Best Documentary or Factual Program Candidates
Nial Fulton
Sarah Ferguson
Tony Jones

Program Summary

Season: 1
Average Episode Duration: 85 minutes

Series Synopsis:
In a world television first, Revelation takes cameras into the criminal trials of notorious Catholic priests accused of sex crimes against children.
Through a series of extraordinary interviews filmed during the trials, Revelation uncovers the secret lives and motivations of some of the most reviled men of modern times.
How does a man of God become a predator of children? What dark psychology enables a priest to go from administering the sacraments to sexually assaulting an altar boy?
Revelation culminates in the Vatican with the story of a high ranking Cardinal accussed of abusing boys in an orphanage in Australia.
Across three compelling episodes Revelation presents the deepest portrayal of the culture and system that protected perpetrators of heinous crimes against children.
Abuse was not a failure of the system. It was the system.

Target Demo:
ABC Television national prime-time audience. The series had a wide appeal, with a very active online community continuing to engage with the production beyond broadcast.

Popularity and Engagement:
Revelation was broadcast on ABC in March/April 2020, as COVID-19 broke. Despite this, 979,000 watched Episode 1 across television and iView. Ratings held across the series.
Discrete assests were created for social media, provoking an intense social debate, prompting new victims to come forward.
A Revelation podcast was produced to coincide with the series, providing deeper analysis and production methodology.
Engagement with the audience reached a pitch with the release of Cardinal Pell and the swift re-editing of Episode 3 to reflect the new circumstances.
In July, Revelation premiered on Apple TV+ and further intentational distribution is being negotiated.

Originality and Innovation:
In a world television first, Revelation takes cameras into the criminal trials of two of the world's most notorious Catholic priests accused of sex crimes against children.
Through a series of extraordinary interviews conducted during their criminal trials, for the first time anywhere in the world Sarah Ferguson gets paedophile priests to reveal their double lives and motivations.
Ferguson interviews one of the world's most prolific child abusers in a maximum security prison, the first time such access has been granted in Australia.
Across all three episodes, victims break decades of silence to share their harrowing stories.

Episode Summary

Episode A Number: 1
Episode A Title: The Children Have Been Used By The Devil
Episode A Synopsis: One of the Catholic Church's first paedophile priests to be convicted anywhere in the world, Father Vincent Ryan faces new criminal charges.
Revelation follows Ryan to court and in a world television first, films the trial of a clerical child abuser as Ryan's victims search desperately for justice.
In a shocking interview on the eve of trial, Sarah Ferguson confronts Ryan about his double life and prolific offending, Ryan reveals how he used confession and the brotherhood of the clergy to conceal his crimes.
Marked out by his superiors as a future prince of the church, Ryan was sent to study in Rome. Ordained by the Pope in St Peter's Basilia, Ryan describes how the Church instructed him to believe he was untouchable.
Police open their files of the original investigation of Ryan, revealing how the notorious priest was moved from parish to parush, sexuallty abusing children in every location.
The episode's stunning conclusion reveals that despite multiple convictions and decades as a paedophile, Vincent Ryan is still a Catholic priest.

Episode B Number: 3
Episode B Title: Goliath
Episode B Synopsis: The unmissable final chapter of *Revelation* transports you to the centre of power in the global Catholic Church. Cardinal George Pell was one of the Pope's closest advisors and a divisive figure in Australia.
Bernie breaks decades of silence saying Pell groomed and repeaatedly abused him in the Ballarat orphanage where he grew up, in a swimming pool and in the preysbytery of St Patrick's Cathedral in the 1970's.
Bernie kept his secret hidden, intimidated by Pell's growing power and authority in the church.
An investigation unfolds in the remote parishes of the vast Victorian outback, searching for evidence of Bernie and Pell's parallel histories. Former residents of the orphanage come forward, some with their own stories of abuse.
Ballarat priests talk bluntly about the institutional cover-up of paedophilia in their church.
Steve Blacker tells how that cover-up put him in harms way as a nine-year-old boy. His parish priest, the brutal and notorious Father Gerald Ridsdale, raped him in the confessional. Steve brings a civil case against the church which results in a landmark decision for victims of clerical abuse.
Bernie has the final word, asking for the shame he and other victims have carried for decades to be taken away.

Notes:

Shaun Micallef's On The Sauce

Production Company: CJZ
Broadcaster: ABC

Candidate Summary

Best Documentary or Factual Program Candidates
Andrew Farrell
Shaun Micallef
Paula Bycroft
Matt Campbell

Program Summary

Season: 1
Average Episode Duration: 60 minutes

Series Synopsis:
Shaun Micallef drank too much in his University days & hasn't touched a drop since. Now his sons are hitting drinking age and it's got him thinking. What kind of national drinking culture are they about to dive into? In this timely documentary series Shaun takes a physical and personal journey around the nation to discover the new face of alcohol in Australia. He is confronted by the highs and lows of alcohol consumption, and witnesses the changing shape of our national pastime. Where are we heading as a nation? Is there a looming shift in our attitude to alcohol?

Target Demo:
Shaun Micallef's On The Sauce was aimed at a broad audience - it had an important message for all Australians. Alcohol touches a wide demographic in Australian society - crossing many boundaries of age, ethnicity and socio-economic status. That is what made it such a relevant and powerful story to tell.

Popularity and Engagement:
On The Sauce was one of the highest rating documentary series on the ABC in 2020. The 5-city 7 day consolidated figures for eps 1, 2, & 3 were 783k, 673k and 615k.
Ep01 was #1 in it's timeslot at 8:30 up against reality franchises on commercial networks. The audience demographic skewed younger than the ABCs usual audience.
There was an extraordinary response on social media. Clips posted prior to broadcast averaged around 100 thousand views each doubling the ABCs average engagement levels.
#onthesauceTV trended on twitter whilst episodes went to air sparking many questions and conversations about our alcohol consumption.

Originality and Innovation:
In an Australian television landscape of factual documentary formats sourced from overseas Shaun Micallef's On The Sauce is a beacon of local originality and innovation. A series entirely conceived and executed by Shaun Micallef and the creative team at CJZ.
We feel we innovated a style that threaded together diverse chapters of immersive documentary scenes to tell a broader, cohesive narrative with a storytelling ease. We balanced the lighter tone of Shaun with the often serious nature of the subject matter and Shaun's sometimes very personal connection to it.

Episode Summary

Episode A Number: 1

Episode A Title: How did we get here? Why do Australians drink the way they do?
Episode A Synopsis: Shaun reveals his own origins with alcohol - from his self-combusting drunken grandfather to passing out at University & becoming a teetotaller. Then he explores why drinking is so ingrained in Australian culture. From the rum rebellion to sport and the movies. Following a wild night at a country B&S ball he comes to understand the social bonding drinking brings, but after meeting an alcoholic with a transplanted liver he wonders if it's worth the cost.

Episode B Number: 2
Episode B Title: Where are we now? What does Australia's relationship with alcohol look like today?
Episode B Synopsis: Shaun takes a snapshot of how Australia is drinking today, with interesting results. Overall we are drinking less than in the past, and the rise of wine has seen us become more sophisticated in our drinking. But many of us are still drinking a lot. Retirees are drinking more and women also – especially busy mothers. This comes as doctors establish strong links between alcohol and cancer which are even higher for females. But first Shaun gets drunk for the first time in decades, under strict medical supervision, as part of a university research project ... and yes, his first hangover in decades follows the next morning.

Notes:

Silent No More

Production Company: Southern Pictures
Broadcaster: ABC

Candidate Summary

Best Documentary or Factual Program Candidates
Southern Pictures

Program Summary

Season: 1
Average Episode Duration: 44 minutes

Series Synopsis:
When television journalist Tracey Spicer sent out a tweet asking Australians if they had their own #MeToo stories in the wake of the Harvey Weinstein revelations, little did she know it would become the biggest challenge she'd ever taken on. People from every kind of workplace around the country began contacting her with their untold stories of sexual harassment and assault. And as the number of messages grew from the hundreds into the thousands, Tracey became an accidental advocate, passionately committed to helping their stories be heard. Now this three-part series follows Tracey as she explores how #MeToo is changing Australia. She tackles the confusion and backlash #MeToo has caused; speaks to everyday Australians brave enough to share their experiences; shines a light on how the system can and must be reformed; and looks at how #MeToo can be the catalyst for positive change for men and women, today and in future generations.

Target Demo:
Silent No More was designed to engage a primetime general audience in the national conversation around #MeToo and sexual harassment. It was important the series was equally accessible to men and women. The documentary represented Australians across all ages and backgrounds. Since broadcast, it has been downloaded by 127 schools.

Popularity and Engagement:
Silent No More debuted to a 5-metro audience of nearly 500k, eliciting strong proactive commentary around #MeToo and sexual harassment across platforms. From Oct – Dec 2019, 4.83k individual entries were recorded across social media in response to the series and #MeToo. This was a 200% increase in conversation compared to Oct – Dec 2018. During broadcast, there were 52 news articles published throughout Australia. One article on Mamamia reached 1.8m and had a strong echo. There were also 4.83K social media entries on #MeToo and the series across the release. Significantly, men as well as women were part of the conversation.

Originality and Innovation:
This is an original format which can now be applied to every country that experienced its own #MeToo moment. The series shared the untold stories of ordinary people, not celebrities, revealing their lived experiences through a blend of unfolding actuality and 2-camera interviews, designed to highlight this issue impacted not just "victims" but families. The series innovatively blended real-time first-person investigation with the national picture. High-end graphics embedded in stylistically-filmed everyday landscapes underscored the shocking statistical reality behind our stories. Embedded archive (sound and vision), tweets, and firsthand opinions created a rich-bed of how the nation felt about #MeToo.

Episode Summary

Episode A Number: 1

Episode A Title: Shining The Light
Episode A Synopsis: Accidental advocate, Tracey Spicer embarks on a quest to explore the true stories behind #MeToo and tackle the confusion it's stirred up. She discovers that despite being illegal for more than 30 years, sexual harassment is still rampant in workplaces across Australia – and what can, and must, be done to address this.

Episode B Number: 3
Episode B Title: Changing The Culture
Episode B Synopsis: In Episode Three, Tracey is invited by Dr Arne Rubenstein (CEO, Rites of Passage) and the Principal of De La Salle College (Melbourne) to join a workshop they've initiated with some of their Year 9-10 students to help them navigate the messages that society is sending them about men and women — and to explore how #MeToo is changing the conversation amongst younger Australians. This workshop features across the episode with extraordinary and eye-opening transparency. As a result, we discover many of the students haven't even heard of #MeToo. We also discover that many of the messages young men are receiving from wider society are outdated and restrictive. But as this experience makes clear, there is also great cause for hope — because some schools are now guiding their students and helping drive positive change. As we witness the impact of this workshop on its cohort, we see the real potential in these young students for a better future. As Arne points out, we need to have conversations like these in schools and homes around the country because it is only by talking to and guiding the young people of tomorrow that we will create true and lasting change.

Notes:

Struggle Street

Production Company: Lune Media
Broadcaster: SBS

Candidate Summary

Best Documentary or Factual Program Candidates
David Galloway
Ashley Davies

Program Summary

Season: 3
Average Episode Duration: 52 minutes

Series Synopsis:
In the 3rd season of this landmark documentary series, the focus is on the struggles facing Australians in the Riverina region of New South Wales - from the regional centre of Wagga Wagga to smaller country towns.
The Riverina is often described as the 'food bowl' of southern Australia, and has a rich history of agriculture and farming. But in recent decades, changes in global agricultural markets and the consolidation of infrastructure to larger regional centres - like Wagga Wagga - has seen declines in population in smaller country towns, and a consequent increase in social and economic problems.
The impact of a prolonged drought is also a strong narrative thread woven through the series. As the series opens, we meet dairy farmers Barry and Rosey, who run 350 head of cattle near the town of Deniliquin. A perfect storm of low milk prices and no rain has meant they're now contemplating the prospect of not only selling their cows, but eventually the farm. It's a story repeated on family farms right around Australia.
The series also explores issues of unemployment, access to healthcare, homelessness, the effects of drugs and alcohol, and the challenges facing those with mental health issues and physical disabilities.

Target Demo:
The series was aimed at all sectors of the population, and its impact was huge. SBS was inundated with offers of help for people featured in the series and SBS research shows that 7/10 viewers changed their perception of people living in regional Australia after watching the series.

Popularity and Engagement:
During the primary broadcast period (Oct 9 - Oct 30, 2019) the series averaged 459,000 viewers per episode (40.8% above slot average) and attracted a large 25-54 audience averaging 175,000 per episode (the 2nd highest of any commissioned series in the previous 12 months).The series reached over 2.3 million total individuals and was SBS's highest rating factual show of the year on SBS On Demand, with a total of 1.7 million chapter views.
(Source: Oztam/SBS)

Originality and Innovation:
In the four years since SBS broadcast Struggle Street (Series 1) and sparked a national conversation about social disadvantage and hardship, poverty in Australia has increased by 20%. Today, more than 3 million Australians live below the poverty line and for people living outside our capital cities, disadvantage is even more prevalent.
In Series 3, we wanted to shine a light on the lives of these Australians whose struggles are often ignored by mainstream media. Apart from short bursts of interest during the drought, we believe the broader issues facing regional Australia are rarely given the media attention they deserve.

Episode Summary

Episode A Number: 1
Episode A Title: Episode 1
Episode A Synopsis: In Episode One, we meet individuals and families from different parts of the New South Wales Riverina area who are facing a range of challenges – from homelessness to drought, and a crime wave that's swept through parts of Wagga Wagga.
Mason and Katherine live in the Wagga suburb of Tolland with their two-year-old daughter Suzianna. After returning to their house after a night away with friends they find their house has been ransacked and valuables stolen. Will they be able to find trust in the community again or will they seek a better life elsewhere for their daughter?
Barry and Rosey are dairy farmers in Deniliquin. They haven't seen decent rain on their farm in four years. It's the worst drought in living memory and it means they'll soon have to make some tough decisions. Will they be forced to sell their herd of cattle - or even the farm – before the rains finally come?
Seventy two year old Bob has been on the road cycling from town to town for over 40 years, working in a variety of jobs from fruit picking to general labouring. In that time Bob has lived in his trusty tent and never had a home to call his own. But eight months ago Bob came off his bike. Doctors have told Bob he needs to stay put to receive medical attention. Can he re-adjust to a life in town, in a house and off the open road?

Episode B Number: 2
Episode B Title: Episode 2
Episode B Synopsis: In Episode Two, Wagga residents Katherine and Mason are recovering from the break-in that left their Housing Commission home trashed. Determined to make their home a safe haven, they've opened their doors to other young Wagga residents facing struggles of their own.
In Deniliquin, time is running out for dairy farmers Barry and Rosey. They still haven't had decent rain, and to make matters worse there are now problems with the bore - their only remaining source of water. Can negotiations with the dairy company on milk prices provide some relief?
In North Wagga, seventy two year old Bob's medical condition is going from bad to worse. Having already had a cataract removed, he now needs further surgery, and it looks like his days on the road - and his bike - may be numbered.

Notes:

The Test: A New Era for Australia's Team

Production Company: Cricket Australia / Whooshka Media
Broadcaster: Amazon Prime Video

Candidate Summary

Best Documentary or Factual Program Candidates
Adrian Brown
Richard Ostroff

Program Summary

Season: 1
Average Episode Duration: 53 minutes

Series Synopsis:
Australian Cricket is in crisis. A captain, a vice-captain and an opening batsman have been banned for cheating. The team's coach has resigned. With a nation's faith in its cricket team shattered, former Test batsman Justin Langer is appointed head coach and is charged with leading the team out of the darkness and into a new era.

Target Demo:
Our core audience is cricket fans (aged 18-55, male skew) – interested in the team's journey, and the unprecedented behind the scenes access to the inner workings of their favourite sport. Our secondary audience is fringe fans 18+, (slight female skew) who will be attracted to the story of redemption.

Popularity and Engagement:
The Test was the most watched show on Amazon Prime Video Australia in March and April 2020. The docuseries has been watched by millions of people worldwide and has an 86% positive sentiment in social media comments. It has a 9/10 rating on IMDb. Throughout the campaign period, The Test engaged die hard cricket fans as well as drama fans on social media. One of the most successful promotional videos from The Test generated over 1.3MM organic video views and was picked up by both national and international press.

Originality and Innovation:
The Test offers viewers unprecedented access into the inner sanctum of the Australian Men's Cricket Team. This is the first time that level of access has been granted for international cricket. Production techniques included the use of remote and isolated cameras and microphones which ensured maximum coverage whilst being unobtrusive, which was vital within an intimate team environment. Cinematographer Andre Mauger's innate sense of timing, expert camera and microphone placement and keen navigation of coach and player relationships has delivered a uniquely Australian story whose production quality rivals anything produced in this country or abroad.

Episode Summary

Episode A Number: 7
Episode A Title: Under Siege
Episode A Synopsis: The stage is set, the key players are primed and international cricket's greatest contest is underway. Amid deafening boos, Steve Smith leads Australia out of deep trouble in the First Ashes Test, notching a century in both innings to singlehandedly haul his side over the line in the series opener. But England have a secret weapon for the next Test – Jofra Archer. The volatile quick rips through Australia's top order, with Smith playing a lone hand in defiance of the young

tearaway. A misjudged Archer short ball, however, fells the star batsman, and Smith is forced to retire hurt with a suspected concussion. Staring down the barrel of a heavy defeat, and without their best player, Australia turn to fringe number three Marnus Labuschagne to replace the injured Smith. Belying his lack of experience, and the size of the shoes he's asked to fill, Labuschagne plays the innings of his career to force a draw and maintain the tourists' series lead.

Episode B Number: 8
Episode B Title: A New Legacy
Episode B Synopsis: The absence of Steve Smith from the Third Ashes Test proves a moot point early, as the Australian bowlers cut a swathe through England's line-up to bowl the home side out for 67. Solid contributions from the touring batsmen ensure England are set a massive total to win and Australia enter the final day's play unbackable favourites to extend their series lead. With everything to play for, missed opportunities and an all-time incredible innings from Ben Stokes sees Tim Paine's men fall in the most devastating fashion. The next morning, shattered and emotionally drained, Justin Langer forces his team to sit through the Test's heartbreaking final moments – and take ownership of the mistakes that were made. Boasting a sharpened resolve, the Australian side welcomes back Steve Smith to the XI for the Fourth Test. Untroubled by the England attack, Smith scores a double century and Australia seal victory in fading light to retain the Ashes. The Fifth Test proves a bittersweet victory lap for Langer and Australia, as questionable tactics see England claim a series-levelling win. Despite the drawn series, Langer remains proud of everything his side has accomplished – and Australian cricket leaves England one step closer to regaining the respect lost 18 months earlier in Cape Town.

Notes:

Waltzing the Dragon with Benjamin Law

Production Company: WildBear Entertainment
Broadcaster: ABC

Candidate Summary

Best Documentary or Factual Program Candidates
Alan Erson
Benjamin Law

Program Summary

Season: 1
Average Episode Duration: 57 minutes

Series Synopsis:
Waltzing the Dragon is a two-part documentary series for ABC television presented by writer Benjamin Law about one of the biggest issues of our time. Law explores the vital, but often tense China-Australia relationship today as well as the long and deep overlapping histories of the two countries. Through the lens of his own family story, Ben asks the question: “as we become increasingly dependent on China, what does our history teach us about how we face our fears and live with this dragon of the north? Road-tripping with his amazing Mum and Dad, Ben also investigates his own Chinese-Australian heritage - much of it little known to him before the making of these films. As he is confronted by, saddened and delighted to learn the secret history of his own family, so are viewers surprised by the many ways the push and pull of China has shaped and continues to shape Australia, its people and its destiny.

Target Demo:
The series is intended for a broad audience (all peoples). Tracing the history of Chinese immigration to Australia is relevant to people of all ages, particularly the 1.2 million Australians of Chinese background to whom the project will appeal.

Popularity and Engagement:
Ben Law’s take on our times is increasingly broad and influential. This subject intersects richly with his own life, his family history and his ideas about who we might become. His wit and skewering insight are compelling. Using his social media platform and influence Ben continues conversations sparked by the program after its broadcast – hooking that discussion into the frequent stories about China and Australia’s relationship.

Originality and Innovation:
Waltzing the Dragon explores the vital issue of Australia’s current relationship with China through the epic history of the Chinese in Australia. Across the weight, power and significance of that story darts smart, funny, passionate Benjamin Law. Journeying from the personal to global power and politics this series is a road movie with an engaging character at the wheel.
Fast paced, witty, provocative and profound, *Waltzing the Dragon* combines its presenter’s flash and verve with the gravity of its subject to entice, engage and invite viewers to reimagine Australia and China as they have been – and how they might become.

Episode Summary

Episode A Number: 1
Episode A Title: Homecoming
Episode A Synopsis: Ben looks for the ties of blood that bind China and Australia today - and have kept its people at odds in the past. He and his wonderfully outrageous mother Jenny travel from

Caloundra to Canton in search of her mysterious family roots. Above their former Chinese restaurant they recall a tough but iconic Australian family life. For Ben it was shattered by Pauline Hanson's election in 1996 - but Jenny was too busy to notice! In rural Queensland they bust some of the myths of colonial Australia, discovering Chinese shearers and farmers who transformed the state as well as Chinese miners who beat discriminatory laws to marry and start proud Australian dynasties. In China Jenny and Ben discover, ironically, their Australianness, as well as their place in a vast family they had no idea they had.

Episode B Number: 2
Episode B Title: Fortune
Episode B Synopsis: Ben's father, entrepreneur Danny Law, was seldom around when Ben was young: he was always working, making deals and careering between fortune and bankruptcy. Danny is part of a more than 300 year old tradition of Chinese seeking their fortunes in Australia - as he says, he came for the money, not the wildlife! Danny and Ben begin their journey in the hot kitchens, sex-shops and suburban mall developments of Danny's early days as a migrant to Queensland. They go all the way back to the fascinating pre-colonial trepang or sea cucumber trade between Indigenous Australians of the north coast, traders from Indonesia and Chinese merchants - an industry whose legacies in language, customs and art remain highly visible and valued today. Father and son explore their connections to the tradition of Chinese market gardeners in Australia, the banana trade and the economic forces that shaped Australia's antipathy to Chinese people for most of the 20th century. In Young, NSW Ben witnesses a poignant and funny about face by a town now keen to draw Chinese tourists but that until recently commemorated anglocelt rioters who drove Chinese miners from their diggings and ultimately, the country. Danny and Ben also travel to booming southern China where Danny is deep in a deal Ben knows little about. In the village of Danny's birth Ben sees his father in new lights and finds a nexus between China's and his own family's pursuit of wealth, the call of duty and love.

Notes:

Who Gets to Stay in Australia?

Production Company: ITV Studios Australia
Broadcaster: SBS

Candidate Summary

Best Documentary or Factual Program Candidates
Beth Hart
Ben Ulm
Elle Gibbons

Program Summary

Season: 1
Average Episode Duration: 60 minutes

Series Synopsis:

Every three minutes someone gains permanent residency in Australia, but every year more than 40,000 are rejected. For the first time, a documentary series captures the life changing moments when men, women and families are told whether they can call Australia home, or whether they have to leave.

Who Gets to Stay in Australia? follows the lives of 13 migrants and their families as they try to navigate their way through Australia's complex, opaque, expensive immigration process. They've come here for love, family, work or for safety.

In an Australian television first, cameras gained access to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal where applicants (in some cases) literally fight for their lives.

Some of the most extraordinary moments in Australian documentary history were captured on camera as applicants learnt their fate (including the desperate plight of an Australian wife who made an attempt on her own life while the camera continued to roll). The producers and SBS handled the highly sensitive content with the guidance of Mental Health advisory body MindFrame who stated that the program made an important contribution to public education and awareness. Michael Lallo from The Age called this "One of the best Australian documentary series in years."

As well as the individual journeys of the 13 applicants, the series features interviews with Amanda Vanstone (former Immigration & Multicultural Affairs Minister), Abul Rizvi, (former Immigration Department official), Jan Redfern (Deputy President of the AAT) and Migration Sociologist Dr Shanthi Robertson from Western Sydney University.

Narrated by Brooke Satchwell.

Target Demo:

The series spoke to SBS's core audience, as well as drawing in the much sought after younger demographic. The series achieved 90% of SBS's ratings target after just one episode. It was particularly strong in the 25-54 demographic. The series was aimed at public interest co-viewing, families of all ages,

Popularity and Engagement:

After just one episode, SBS was up more than 50% on their overall ratings targets in the 25-54 age range and 90% of its ratings targets for the whole series. The social campaign delivered 3.7 million reach, over 1.7million video views and 20,000 social engagements across Facebook and Twitter. The critic sell promo had half a million views.

Additional to the Michael Lallo quote (above), the media universally applauded the series, including this from Eddie Cockrell from The Australian

"*This is essential viewing that humanises the faces behind the numbers of the increasingly complex immigration process in great detail*."

Originality and Innovation:
This series captured the jeopardy, high stakes and heart of a world that has never been portrayed on Australian television in such an intimate, authentic manner. It put a human face to immigration statistics and policy and, in doing so, gave Australia a unique insight into the complexities and dilemmas of our system. Key moments were captured (in what is an opaque, elongated process) after careful relationship building and consultation with those at the forefront. Privileged access was secured to the appeals tribunal, another television first, with a fixed rig unit installed inside the AAT to record proceedings.

Episode Summary

Episode A Number: 1
Episode A Title: Episode 1
Episode A Synopsis: American Jessy met an Aussie called Thom and fell hopelessly in love and the two married.
Follows the plight of an American woman, married to an Australian only to have her world turned upside down by a change to Immigration law. A tragic road accident resulted in Thom receiving a mandatory gaol sentence. Under the new law, Australian citizens have to pass a character test in Partner Visa applications. If Thom fails that test, his wife Jessy may be deported. Thom wouldn't be able to live with her in the United States due to his conviction record.
Stephanie is fighting to keep her French husband Fares in Australia after he overstayed his visa by ten years. Can a 10-year overstayer find redemption?
Australian citizen Satinder struggles to deal with a long distance relationship imposed by the Department Of Immigration. Husband Sumit has waited in India for three and a half years while Immigration determined whether they are in a legitimate relationship.
With her first application rejected by the Department, Satinder grows increasingly desperate. Satinder has hired a lawyer to help her make the case that they are in a legitimate relationship and her husband should be allowed to join her. A decision finally arrives….with devastating results. This is a case where the camera crew became part of the story, as a desperate woman made a shocking impulsive decision. ITV Studios and SBS were guided by MindFrame in the portrayal of a woman making an attempt on her life on camera.

Episode B Number: 3
Episode B Title: Episode 3
Episode B Synopsis: The Lund family came to Australia from England, chasing the Great Aussie Dream. Both parents picked up senior jobs in Sydney, with the three children attending the local school. It was only when they applied for permanent residency that they discovered that they might be deported due to the medical condition of son Ciaran. The Department is saying that their son with Downes Syndrome will cost Australia's Health and to Education systems too much to accept their application. Mother Anita is determined to prove that her son is more than a number.
A Sydney lawyer represents a mysterious man who claims to be a Rohingyan refugee. Ziabul says he escaped a violent military campaign n Myanmar. He arrived by boat, before the policy changed to reject anyone arriving by boat. After waiting for six years, decision time has arrived.
In an Australian television first, cameras are allowed inside the Administrative Appeals Tribunal to record the case of Peruvian man Luciano. He is appealing the Departments decision to send him back to his home country while his partner visa is assessed. But if that happens, he won't receive the medical treatment he needs to stay alive. In front of the presiding Member (judge) Luciano is literally fighting for his life.

Notes:

Wrongly Released: Free To Kill

Production Company: TitleRole
Broadcaster: Foxtel – Crime + Investigation

Candidate Summary

Best Documentary or Factual Program Candidates
Jim Buchan

Program Summary

Season: 1
Average Episode Duration: 45 minutes

Series Synopsis:
Highlighting an issue that remains in the public eye. Male violence against women in Australia and the lack of meaningful action from the legal system.
This series focuses on two tragic cases highlighting the failings of the Australian justice system that allowed two vicious repeat offending predators to roam the streets and ultimately led to the deaths of several innocent women. With emotional interviews with friends and relatives of the victims, along with insightful analysis by legal experts involved in both cases, the series shines an uncomfortable light on a justice system and asks how it failed the public and why?
The episodes focus on the murder of two young women - Laura and Colleen Irwin, brutally stabbed to death in Melbourne's western suburbs by parolee William Watkins. Following the murders, Watkins went on the run, eventually being shot and killed by a WA Police Officer. And, the death of Sarah Cafferkey – killed by Steven Hunter - a man who had already murdered and who was released to kill again. Sarah's death, just weeks after the brutal murder of Jill Meagher, helped start a tidal wave of pressure on the justice system that led to lasting reform and real change.

Target Demo:
Target demographic is women 40+

Popularity and Engagement:
Wrongly Released: Free To Kill captured a cume linear average audience of 150,000 viewers.
It is the highest rating series for C+I 2020 YTD
• Reached a total of 291,000 unique individuals across linear, equivalent to 4% of all Foxtel Subscribers.
Delivered a gender split of F – 51% / M – 49% against the crime + investigation average of F – 58% / M – 42%.
People 55+ accounted for 45% of the total audience.
Social reaction was strong

Originality and Innovation:
A timely topical production as it looks at male violence against women that continues in Australian society. This issue coupled with the reoccurring problem caused by the legal system continually re-releasing violent offending men on parole who only go on to commit worse crimes that often result in murder.
A straightforward classic true format with great access to families of victims, investigators and journalists who covered the crimes.

Episode Summary

Episode A Number: 1
Episode A Title: William Watkins
Episode A Synopsis: Exposes the failings of the Australian justice system that allowed two violent predators to roam the streets and ultimately led to the deaths of innocent women. With an extensive criminal record, why was William Watkins set free to ultinatley kill innocent sisters Colleen and Laura Irwin?

Episode B Number: 2
Episode B Title: Steven Hunter
Episode B Synopsis: Exposes the failings of the Australian justice system that allowed two violent predators to roam the streets and ultimately led to the deaths of innocent women. With an extensive criminal record, why was Steven Hunter set free to murder Sarah Cafferkey?

Notes:

WWII: The Battle of Crete

Production Company: Pilot Productions
Broadcaster: Foxtel – History

Candidate Summary

Best Documentary or Factual Program Candidates
Ian Cross

Program Summary

Season: 1
Average Episode Duration: 60 minutes

Series Synopsis:
This 3x1 hour documentary tells the story of the famous WWII battle and the four-year German occupation of the Greek island of Crete that followed. With the help of documentary footage from the day, CGI, expert contributors, and survivors revisit the island of Crete and its battlefields to tell the story of this unique and bloody battle and its aftermath.

Target Demo:
Men 40+

Popularity and Engagement:
Executive Summary – Set-Top-Box Linear Viewing (OzTAM: Live and Playback)
WWII: Battle of Crete captured a cume linear average audience of 96,000 viewers, the #1 series on the History Channel YTD.
WWII: Battle of Crete reached a total of 317,000 unique individuals across linear, equivalent to 4% of all Foxtel Subscribers.
Melbourne (18%) overperformed versus the History Channel YTD average (12%).
• WWII: Battle of Crete delivered a gender split of M – 64% / F – 36% against the History Channel average of M – 68% / F – 32%.
Men 50+ accounted for 50% of the total audience.

Originality and Innovation:
The Australian and New Zealand involvment in the Battle of Crete is a little known story that bis important to the history of World War II. This is the most comprehensive series made with interviews shot in both Australia as well as Crete. A most contemporary account from all sides of the conflict.

Episode Summary

Episode A Number: 1
Episode A Title: Invasion
Episode A Synopsis: Tells the story of the famous WWII battle and the four-year German occupation of the Greek island of Crete that followed. With the help of documentary footage from the day, CGI, expert contributors, and survivors revisit the island of Crete and its battlefields to tell the story of this unique and bloody battle and its aftermath.

Episode B Number: 2
Episode B Title: Evacuation
Episode B Synopsis: Tells the story of the famous WWII battle and the four-year German occupation of the Greek island of Crete that followed. With the help of documentary footage from the day, CGI,

expert contributors, and survivors revisit the island of Crete and its battlefields to tell the story of this unique and bloody battle and its aftermath.

Notes: