



Speaker Biographies

Anne Maria Nicholson

Anne Maria Nicholson is a senior journalist with ABC TV News and Current Affairs.

She specialises in covering all aspects of the arts - from opera to theatre and dance; visual arts to the film industry. For many years, Anne Maria has brought the arts to a mainstream audience around Australia....from an exclusive interview in Majorca with the late Joern Utzon, architect of the Sydney Opera House, to hundreds of interviews with international and local trailblazers in the world of arts and entertainment.

"I particularly enjoying doing stories about new Australian work and have always pushed to have the arts as a prominent part of TV news along with politics, business and sport," she said.

Anne Maria also reports for *Foreign Correspondent*, *Lateline* and the *7.30 Report*. Locations she has filed from include the Vatican, the slopes of Mt Vesuvius, New York, Vietnam, Egypt and Israel.

Anne Maria files regularly for ABC Online and has a new show, *the Arts Quarter*, on 24/7.

She is the author of two novels, 'Weeping Waters', published in 2006, and 'Pliny's Warning', published in 2009.

Her journalism career began on newspapers in New Zealand then as a scriptwriter and producer at Visnews, the international television agency in London, now known as Reuters. She reported for Channel Seven in Sydney and Canberra, the Sydney Morning Herald and the Australian.

Simon Palan

Simon has been a journalist with the ABC in Sydney since 2005. He works mainly for the 7pm TV News, but also contributes to *AM*, *PM* and *The World Today*.

Simon covers a wide range of issues, and has a particular interest in business reporting. He enjoys the challenge of making complex financial issues palatable and interesting for all.

Before joining the ABC, Simon spent three years reporting for SBS TV news, where he completed his cadetship in 2001. He's also written for several newspapers, including *The Sydney Morning Herald*. He has a Bachelor of Business Degree, and a Journalism Diploma, both from the University of Technology, Sydney.

In his time off, Simon enjoys playing soccer and painting.



Sue Stephenson

Sue Stephenson is an Executive Producer with ABC News 24.

She is a Logie winning journalist with 26 years experience as a reporter and producer.

Sue began her career in regional newspapers and television, before moving to Channel 7 Sydney where she spent 15 years as a senior news bulletin producer.

Sue specialises in live and breaking news. Since joining the ABC in January 2010, she has been instrumental in the development of ABC News 24's bulletins and news production process.

Tim Palmer

Tim Palmer, senior journalist and foreign correspondent for the ABC, was the first foreign correspondent in the world to enter Aceh after the Boxing Day tsunami in 2004, for three days providing the only television coverage of the catastrophe from the devastated province. Tim also covered the earthquake in Nias, and reported extensively on Indonesia's military campaign in Aceh.

He covered the Bali bombing and the hunt for the bombers through to their convictions. Tim won a coveted Gold Walkley award for his reports.

From 1999 to 2002 Tim was the ABC's Middle East correspondent based in Jerusalem and Amman. He reported across the region from Lebanon and Syria to the Gulf states and Iran.

Tim is also the winner of a UN Media Peace Prize.

Tim has also been EP of *Media Watch*, *Lateline* & *Lateline Business* and currently works as a senior reporter for the *7.30 Report*.