

Friday 4 August, 2017

## Ian 'Macca' McNamara celebrates 35 years behind the mic of *Australia All Over*

He's the man with the big voice and booming personality, and each Sunday thousands of Australians tune in to hear ABC presenter and host of *Australia All Over*, Ian McNamara chat with everyday people from Broome to Burnie.

This Sunday marks a special occasion for 'Macca', as he is affectionally known, as he hosts *Australia All Over* from Blackall in Queensland to celebrate his 35th anniversary hosting one of ABC Radio's most popular programs.

The Director of ABC Regional, Fiona Reynolds, describes it as an important milestone for Macca, the ABC and audiences.

"Thirty-five years hosting *Australia All Over* is a tremendous achievement, and a testament to the connection Macca has with Australians from all walks of life, who continue to listen to his show each week and follow him on social media."

Each week Macca talks with people from across the country and overseas as they share the stories of their lives with the much-loved presenter. Callers range from farmers, to young children, to those in the medical profession.

The production team has spent countless hours on the road, criss-crossing the country, and has hosted more than 200 outside broadcasts – under a gum tree in Fitzroy Crossing, beside a railway line at Uranquinty, outside the War Memorial Museum in Auckland, and with the Oak Valley Aboriginal Community in the Simpson Desert.

Macca says he has noticed an increase in callers from overseas, with a significant number of his audience listening via the internet.

"People listen for the essential 'Australianness.' They just want to hear other Australians talk about their lives and to feel connected to other people," Macca said.

*Australia All Over* airs on Sunday from 5.30 - 10.00 EST on ABC Radio. To listen to previous episodes [click here](#).

## **IAN McNAMARA BIOGRAPHY**

Ian was born in Sydney and graduated from Sydney University with an economics degree, but left the city to become a jackeroo.

His career then took a major turn when he joined Col Joye and the Joye Boys as a singer/guitarist. Ian is also a songwriter and producer, and still occasionally manages to perform.

Ian first joined the ABC in 1974, in the Industrial Relations department but moved to the Rural Department two years later as a Rural Reporter.

He then spent 12 months in television, working on *A Big Country* and *Countrywide*, before returning to Rural Radio in 1980 as a reporter and eventually, presenter of *Australia All Over*.

Ian started presenting *Australia All Over* in late 1981, and in 1984 he was appointed Executive Producer of the current affairs program *City Extra* (a 2BL current affairs show), but late in 1985 he returned to the Regional Radio Unit as Executive Producer of programs including *Morning Extra*, *Australia All Over*, and *Resources*.

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