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Fukushima

Airs Monday December 19 at 9.30pm on ABC & iview

ABC Correspondent Mark Willacy was one of the first journalists on the scene after the double headed tsunami and nuclear disaster in 2011 and has reported on it extensively since.

Fukushima is a one hour ABC News special that follows on from his award-winning report on Foreign Correspondent earlier this year.

It's like a postcard of rural Japan... lush forests, waterfalls and bubbling streams; quaint villages where pink cherry blossoms festoon the streets.

But there's a grotesqueness here. Houses that rang with the sounds of life and laughter are being swallowed by weeds and vines; inside they are choked by cobwebs and dust.

This is the countryside of Fukushima. Five years after the nuclear meltdown dozens of 'ghost towns' surrounding the stricken nuclear plant remain full of radiation and are virtually empty of people.

In contrast, the stricken Fukushima plant itself is thronging with activity. About 6500 courageous workers toil to contain the radiation but, as former Japan Correspondent Mark Willacy reports, it could scarcely be said that they are winning.

Fukushima is an unmissable forensic investigation into this century's worst nuclear disaster and a personal journey in which Willacy returns to visit the people he has met during his five years of reporting the issue.

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