

Alex McDermott – work biography

Feb 2015

A research fellow at the State Library of Victoria, since 2005 Alex McDermott has worked full-time as historian, producer, research scholar and consultant on a range of projects in television, academic research and mainstream publishing. He has provided historical expertise for a range of organizations – Screen Australia, State Library Victoria, La Trobe University, ABC, Channel 7, SBS, Australian Unity and the Museum of Australian Democracy. Author of *Australian History for Dummies* (John Wiley & Son, 2011), his constant endeavour throughout is to create history, which ordinary people can both understand and enjoy, regardless of medium, genre or format.

Employment History

2013-2014 –

‘Australia – the Story of Us’ – for Channel 7 broadcast March-April 2015.

Associate Producer, Head of Research, Series Historical Consultant.

Supervising a team of ten researchers for an 8-part historical documentary series for prime time mass audience television. Historical consultant across series.

Contact – Alan Erson, Head of Factual Production, Essential Media, Sydney.

2013 –2014

‘The Great Australian Race Riot’ –SBS broadcast January 2015.

Senior Researcher and series historical consultant for three part historical documentary, produced by Essential Media.

Contact – Sally Aitken, Series Producer, Essential Media, Sydney.

2012 –

Race Riots in Australian History – original series concept and research for SBS.

Development of series concept, historical thesis, research and analysis for SBS (subsequently in production with Essential Media – see above.)

Contact – Joseph Maxwell, Commissioning Editor of Documentaries, SBS, Sydney.

Jacinta di Mase Management
jacintadimase@ozemail.com.au
<http://jacintadimase.com.au>

2012 –

‘Waltzing Matilda and the Sunshine Harvester Factory: the early history of the Arbitration Court’ – Presenter and Historical Consultant for Fair Work Australia historical documentary.

On-screen presenter and historical consultant for a documentary produced by Fair Work for secondary schools.

Contact – R.S. Hamilton, Deputy President, Fair Work Australia, Melbourne.

2010-2011

Alfred Deakin biography – research scholar.

Researcher for Judith Brett’s political biography of one of Australia’s most significant Prime Ministers.

Contact – Emeritus Professor Judith Brett, La Trobe University.

2011 -

‘Dirty Business – How Mining Made Australia’ – broadcast SBS, Jan 2013

Background historical research for Renegade Factual.

Contact – Alex West, Head of Factual, Renegade Films, Melbourne. (Currently Executive Producer, Serendipity West Productions).

2009-2010 –

‘Immigration Nation’ – broadcast SBS, Jan 2011 (short-listed for the Prime Minister’s Prize for Australian History).

Senior historical researcher, series historical consultant for Renegade Factual.

Contact – Alex West, Head of Factual, Renegade Films, Melbourne.

2008 –

‘Immigration Nation’ – original series concept and research for SBS. (Subsequently produced by Renegade Factual, see above).

Contact – John Godfrey, Senior Commissioning Editor for Documentaries, SBS, Sydney.

2007-2009 –

‘Who Do You Think You Are?’ – broadcast SBS, 2008-9

Research for series’ 1 and 2.

Contact – Celia Tait, Artemis Productions

2005-2008 –

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'The Making History Initiative' – Screen Australia

Research Scholar and Historical Consultant for Screen Australia's co-production of a slate of documentaries of national historical significance, broadcast on ABC1. Documentaries include: 'Monash – the Forgotten Anzac' (2008); 'Menzies and Churchill at War' (2008); 'Rogue Nation' (2009) and 'Infamous Victory – Ben Chifley's Battle for Coal' (2008).

Contact – Mark Hamlyn, Senior Development and Production Executive, Screen Australia, Sydney. (Currently Senior Development and Production Executive, Screen NSW).

All contact details available upon request.

Publication History

Of no personal influence: how people of common enterprise unexpectedly shaped Australia, (Australian Unity Limited, 2015)

A commissioned history of the part played by Australian friendly societies in forming our national culture political and economic life.

Australian History for Dummies, (Wiley and Sons, 2011)

A 90,000 word history of Australia for general readers, from first indigenous settlement to the 2010 federal election.

The Jerilderie Letter, (Text Media, 2001)

Edited and introduced Ned Kelly's autobiographical-cum-manifesto outlaw letter of 1879.

The Battle for Australia, (Z Beach True Comics 2013)

An historical comic of the early phase of the Pacific conflict between Australia, United States and Japan during the Second World War.

'Who said the Kelly Letters? The question of authorship and the nature of wild language in the Cameron and Jerilderie Letters', *Australian Historical Studies*, vol.33, no.118, 2002

Introduction for *Who Brought the Luck to the Lucky Country?* (Red Dog Press, 2011)

An essay of historical context introducing a NAB-sponsored book of interviews with migrant entrepreneurial success stories.