

Ray Martin AM

The honorary degree of Doctor of Letters was conferred upon Ray Martin by the Chancellor, Ms Belinda Hutchinson AM at a special honorary award ceremony in celebration of excellence in journalism in Australia at 5.00pm on 5 August 2017.

Citation

Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present Ray Martin AM to you for admission to the degree of Doctor of Letters (honoris causa).

Ray is one of Australia's most eminent television journalists. His career has spanned more than fifty years, during which he has made an extraordinary contribution to current affairs journalism, covering the news in politics, sports, entertainment, science, religion and foreign affairs.

Ray is an alumnus of the University of Sydney. Originally studying engineering on scholarship, he changed to English and History and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in 1967.

Ray's lifetime in journalism began as an ABC cadet in Sydney in 1965. After working in Perth and Canberra, he was posted to New York for a decade as the ABC's North American correspondent. During this period he covered the 1972 and 1976 US Presidential campaigns, the Watergate saga and America at war in Vietnam. He also interviewed Presidents Nixon, Carter and Ford, soon-to-be Presidents Reagan and Bush and Secretary of State Dr Henry Kissinger.

In 1978, Ray moved to Channel 9 to launch *60 Minutes* with George Negus and Ian Leslie. In the following decades he launched, and then hosted for ten years, his own daily variety show *Midday*. He also hosted *A Current Affair* for more than eight years, a role he has come to define. He left the regular host position at *A Current Affair* to present *Our Century*, one of the network's millennium projects and the biggest undertaking of its kind in Australian television history. The series, which screened throughout 1999, charted a nostalgic journey of the people and events that have shaped our nation.

Over the course of his career, Ray has hosted countless television specials, from Carols by Candlelight, the Logie Awards, Commonwealth Games, World Cup Cricket, the 1988 Bicentenary Spectacular and Federal and State Election nights to the aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attacks.

From September 2007, Ray took over as co-host of *Sunday*. In March 2008, he led the official international broadcast of the Catholic World Youth Day event in Sydney. In the same year, he was invited to give the annual Andrew Olle Media Lecture.

In 2014 and again in 2015, Ray was presenter for the award winning SBS series *First Contact*, which explored the cultural divisions that exist between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. In 2016 he reported, again for SBS, the provocative series "Is Australia Racist?"

For his television journalism, Ray has won five Gold Logies, more than twenty Silver Logies and an unmatched number of People's Choice Awards.

He was awarded the Centenary Medal in 2001 for service to Australian society in journalism. He was awarded an Order of Australia in 2011 for his journalism, his work with indigenous Australians and his long involvement with charities, particularly as Chairman of the Fred Hollows Foundation and the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation; and Patron of the Humpty Dumpty Foundation and the Aboriginal Employment Strategy. From 1991 through 2000, he was a full-term member of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation.

His best-selling autobiography, *Ray: Stories of My Life* was published in 2009. A second best-seller, *Ray Martin's Favourites: The Stories Behind the Legends*, was published in 2011, along with a Melbourne University publication in 2014 of his lifetime of personal photographs *Ray Martin's World*.

He is a life-long supporter, former board member, and honorary Life Member of the South Sydney Rabbitohs NRL team. Ray still reports on special assignment for *A Current Affair*.

Chancellor, I present Ray Martin AM for admission to the degree of Doctor of Letters (honoris causa), and I invite you to confer the degree upon him.