Speaker Biographies

Misha Ketchell

Misha Ketchell is managing editor of The Conversation, a news and analysis site written by researchers and academics. He’s also been editor of Crikey, founding editor of The Big Issue Australia, editor of The Melbourne Weekly and a reporter and feature writer on The Age. More recently he’s worked on Media Watch, The 7:30 Report and The Drum at the ABC.

Adrian Robb

Before assuming the role of Chief Executive Officer at Bayside City Council in June 2008, Adrian was the Chief Executive Officer at Mount Alexander Shire Council.

Adrian has approximately 30 years experience in local government and the community sector. This includes more than two decades of experience in senior management roles across a range of metropolitan and regional local government authorities. Adrian’s career interests include improving quality of life and creating opportunities for people in local communities and a commitment to build the abilities of councils to serve and represent their diverse communities.

Adrian's undergraduate studies included media and journalism and creative writing. An interest in clarity of communication has been a continuing emphasis in his approach to effective public sector governance and accountability.
Mark David

I got my degree in graphic design before working for more than 20 years as a professional cartoonist. My cartoons appeared regularly in The Sydney Morning Herald and also in The Australian Financial Review, The Australian, The Bulletin and various other newspapers, in lots of languages, around the world.

My illustrations and cartoons have appeared in more than a hundred books.

In 1991, I was the president of The Australian Black and White Artists Club (now known as the Australian Cartoonists Association). I’ve taught cartooning to thousands of people of all ages, in schools and seminars around Australia and have appeared on television, spoken on radio and appeared in many newspaper articles in my capacity as a cartoonist.

I’ve won awards for my cartoons and 3D illustrations. I’ve also served as a judge in major cartooning awards (not in the competitions I won because that would be cheating) and was once even selected as one of Australia’s most eligible bachelors in a top-selling Australian women’s magazine (Cleo).

My proudest moment was being photographed juggling three tennis balls while sailing a windsurfer.

I live with my girlfriend in rural Queensland, Australia — writing and illustrating, building websites and selling photos of wildlife.