

KERRY O'BRIEN BIOGRAPHY:

Kerry O'Brien is one of Australia's most distinguished and respected journalists with six Walkley Awards for excellence in journalism including the Gold Walkley, and the Walkley for Outstanding Leadership. Other industry awards include a Logie for public affairs coverage.

He has been a journalist for 49 years covering print, television and wire service, as a reporter, feature writer, columnist and foreign correspondent. He has specialised in national politics for the ABC, as well as the Ten and Seven networks, and was press secretary to Labor leader Gough Whitlam.

For ABC-TV he was the editor, presenter and interviewer for the 7.30 Report over 15 years, the presenter and interviewer at Four Corners for five years and at Lateline for six years. He has interviewed many world leaders including Barack Obama, Nelson Mandela, Mikhail Gorbachev, Margaret Thatcher and Tony Blair, as well as many influential figures in the arts, science and business. For 20 years he was also the face of the ABC's election night coverage.

Kerry's acclaimed four-part interview series with former Prime Minister Paul Keating was broadcast on the ABC in 2013, and his book expanding on those conversations was published in 2015.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Senior reporter on Australia's first daily current affairs program, This Day . Tonight (ABC TV) 1972-75

Senior Reporter on Australia's first weekly investigative current affairs program Four Corners (ABC-TV) 1975-77, 1985-86 and as presenter-interviewer 2011-15

First presenter-interviewer Lateline (ABC-TV) 1990-1995

Editor and first presenter-interviewer National 7.30 Report (ABC-TV) 1995-2010

Political columnist Time Magazine 1993-94

First US Correspondent (Seven Network) 1983-84

Political Correspondent (ABC-TV) 1987

Political Editor (Ten Network) 1988-89

Founder and presenter Face to Face (Ten Network) 1988-89

Federal and state election night anchor (ABC-TV) 1987-2013

Feature interviews with Paul Keating (four-part series) 2013 and Clive James (2013)

Author 'Keating', published by Allen & Unwin 2015

AWARDS

WALKLEYS

1982 Best Television Current Affairs Report 'Circle of Poison' Seven Network

1982 Gold Walkley Best Piece of Journalism 'Circle of Poison' Seven Network

1991 Best Coverage of a Current Story Soviet Coup Lateline ABC-TV

2000 Broadcast Interviewing 7.30 Report ABC-TV

2010 Broadcast Interviewing 7.30 Report ABC-TV

2010 Journalistic Leadership

LOGIE AWARDS

1991 Most outstanding Achievement in Public Affairs Soviet Coup Lateline ABC-TV

HONORARY DOCTORATES

2009 Queensland University of Technology

2011 University of Queensland

OTHER AWARDS

2001 Centenary Medal for Contribution to Australian Society

2011 Queensland Great Award for Lifetime Achievement