

off the fence.

Australia In Colour (Series 2)

4 x 1 hr Series

EPISODIC BREAKDOWN

1. Family

Marriage and family are the foundation to build a prospering federated nation. This episode charts the changing dynamics from the turn of the 21st century when white men's and women's traditional roles are set in stone to the gradually shift to include interracial marriage, single parents, step children and working wives in the 1960's. Through the changing decades the concept of family radically transforms with WW2, more inclusive divorce laws for women and birth control shifting the power balance giving women more freedom and power. But Indigenous families across the country are torn apart through the Stolen Generations where children are forcibly taken to orphanages or fostered out to white families with the intention of assimilating them into society.

2. Australians At Play

Sporting victories and creative triumphs forge Australia's distinct identity. This episode reveals the unique conditions that turn Australia into a sports-mad nation. It tells the story of the unlikely cultural export who is the country's first global superstar, and how Australia's pioneering film industry rivals Hollywood's. It explores why a racehorse becomes a national icon, how the surf life-saving movement changes the nation's image, and how successive waves of newcomers – ballet dancers, American GIs and European immigrants - transform the country. It also reveals how Indigenous Australians have no place in this white world of sport and play, until a young dancer from Arnhem Land and a champion boxer from the backblocks, win world acclaim and pave the way for a radical shift in race relations.

3. Crime

This episode examines our love affair with gambling and lawbreakers. As a nation born of convicts dumped at the bottom of the world, crime has always been a part of modern Australia's DNA. It looks at crimes that shocked the nation from the Pyjama Girl Murder Mystery (1934) to the American serial killer stalking women during WW2 and the Graeme Thorne kidnapping (1960). We investigate grave miscarriages of justices like the case of Arrente man Stuart Maxwell in Ceduna South Australia (1959) who was sentenced to hang for murder. Stuart's case is a catalyst for the campaign to abolish the death penalty and helps Australia to shine a light on Indigenous rights.

4. Australian Made

Work and industry transform Australia, its workforce and identity. This episode shows how in 1900, Australia's identity is firmly fixed to the land, until mechanical advances, driven by the Industrial Revolution, transforms farming. It explores the landmark labor case that gives Australian workers the basic minimum wage, and how a Russian born Jewish immigrant revolutionizes Australia's retail industry. It looks at why an airline becomes a national icon, and how a daring air race helps bridge the tyranny of distance. It tells the story of early Indigenous business enterprise, and the tragic demise of Australia's most famous Aboriginal painter. It reveals the racist attacks directed at Australia's early southern European migrant farmers, and the role postwar migrants play in the suburban housing boom. It examines why Vegemite and Ugg Boots become Aussie icons, how the boomerang is appropriated as a marketing tool, and why Australians love their cars and shopping centers.