



AUSTRALIAN  
INTERNATIONAL  
DOCUMENTARY  
CONFERENCE

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## **AIDC 2019 RECORDS FOURTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR OF GROWTH – MORE THAN 750 DELEGATES ATTEND MELBOURNE EVENT**

Reflecting a resurgent engagement by the documentary and factual sector in learning and discussion, AIDC 2019 has capped four years of successive growth by welcoming a total of 757 delegates – a 27% increase since its move to Melbourne in 2016.

“What this year’s conference demonstrated is that there is a healthy and vibrant community of storytellers here in Australia who are excited to come together for global conversations that will strengthen our industry and build connections with each other,” said **AIDC CEO & Conference Director, Alice Burgin**.

Ms Burgin noted that AIDC 2019 unlocked more than \$250,000 AUD in commissions and professional development funding, across its marketplace, pitching and industry development initiatives.

A highlight of AIDC 2019 was the diversity reflected in the program and among the delegates. Under AIDC’s philanthropic Leading Lights program, 41 emerging, Indigenous and culturally and linguistically diverse practitioners were introduced to the sector. 58% of registered delegates were women, and there were more than 50 participants in the Indigenous Creators Program, which was designed to target information and skills around pitching, storytelling, funding, legal considerations and distribution.

AIDC’s forward-thinking approach to an evolving industry saw successful initiatives and sessions such as Raw Data, Real Stories; Sound It Out Audio Documentary Pitch and the Reel Smart Academic Pitch. Capacity sessions included those given by Tea Uglow from Google Creative Lab, and Jess Fuselier, who runs the Creative Distribution Initiative at the Sundance Institute.

Other stand out sessions at AIDC 2019 included Masters: Producing with Diane Weyerman (Participant Media, USA), Masters: Cinematography with John Brown (UK, cameraperson for David Attenborough); Ask Me Anything: Burning Questions for Industry Heavyweights (a who’s who of the Australian industry tackling the tough questions); Documentary Scriptwriting with Jennifer Peedom, and A Survivor’s Guide to Surviving R. Kelly, with Tracey Spicer and *Surviving R. Kelly* series executive producer Tamra Simmons.

Ms Burgin said that an energetic suite of Marketplace activities saw international interest in several of the 10 projects pitched at The FACTory pitching forum. The bespoke pitching program Cut to the Chase curated 288 meetings between producers and decision makers. Beyond Cut to the Chase, there were 46 new project pitches across the Meet Your Maker: XR Marketplace, Pitch Australiana, Untold Australia, Reel Smart Academic Pitch, Raw Data Real Stories, and The FACTory International Pitching Forum initiatives.

New Zealand's Doc Edge awarded their FACTory pitch prize to *A Place to Stand* (**Tess Hutson, Jane Robertson**), a deeply personal exploration of family violence.

Other initiative and prize recipients announced at AIDC were:

- The BBC Studios and Create NSW Unscripted International Producer Placement initiative was awarded to **Max Bourke**. This is a \$50,000 grant to support a NSW-based documentary maker as to work alongside the BBC Studios documentary team in the UK for up to six months);
- The ACCESS Mentorship Program Prize - two paid Internships with Beach House Pictures in Singapore – awarded to **Anthony Frith** and **Abby Dunn**;
- The ACCESS Mentorship Program runner-up prize of a complimentary festival pass to the Sheffield Doc/Fest, awarded to **Sarah Steel**;
- The Raw Data, Real Stories Pitch Prize awarded to Producer **Elle Marsh** and Director **Nicole Precel** from *The Age* for their project *The Invisible Crime*. The prize is \$40,000 in development funds provided by Google News Initiative for a data journalism project;
- Previously announced was the Stanley Hawes Award for Outstanding Contribution to Australian Documentary, awarded in 2019 to **James Bradley**.

In addition, seven projects pitched at the SBS *Untold Australia* pitch were awarded \$10,000 each, totalling \$70,000 to further develop projects for Season 5 of the acclaimed series.

AIDC also announced Board Changes following the AGM which was held during the Conference. After six years of loyal service, Frank Filosi, General Manager Adelaide, Perth and Operations for Network Ten, resigned as AIDC Treasurer and, after three years on the Board, Denise Eriksen decided not to re-nominate.

The new Board appointee voted in at the AGM is Kate Pappas, a Creative Producer responsible for Producing, Co-Producing, Series Producing and Line Producing over 30 hours of television; operates production house Wilding Pictures, and works regularly with Genepool Productions (most recently on *Vitamania*), Wildbear Entertainment, Chemical Media and Renegade Films.

In addition, AIDC and ACMI's Non-Fiction documentary showcase profiled AIDC's international and local guests to a public-facing audience for the first time, with sold-out

sessions including the screening of the Victorian premiere of Travis Beard's *Rockabul*, and a live-score performance of Sari Braithwaite's [*Censored*].

"We've been heartened to see how audiences come out to really show their support for both Australian and international documentaries" said **ACMI's Director of Film, Kristy Matheson**.

The Non-Fiction Documentary Showcase screening program will continue until 16 March 2019.

[www.aidc.com.au](http://www.aidc.com.au)

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For AIDC 2018

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