



IAN KIERNAN BIOGRAPHY

Ian Kiernan AO* - Chairman and Founder of Clean Up Australia and Clean Up the World

Before Clean Up Australia began...

Ian Bruce Kiernan was born near the shores of Sydney Harbour, Australia, in 1940 and grew up learning to swim, fish and sail on his favourite waterway.

Educated at The Armidale School in Northern NSW, Ian became a builder in the construction industry, specialising in historic restorations.

Throughout his life, Ian has also been a passionate yachtsman, sailing competitively for more than 40 years.

He has represented Australia at the Admiral's, Southern Cross, Dunhill, Clipper, Kenwood and Trans Pacific Cup competitions.

In 1986/87 Ian fulfilled a long-held dream by representing Australia in the BOC Challenge solo around-the-world yacht race. He finished 6th out of a fleet of 25 yachts from 11 nations, setting an Australian record for a solo circumnavigation of the world.

It was during the BOC Challenge that Ian saw and was appalled by the amount of rubbish choking the world's oceans. He committed himself to do something about it on his return, starting in his own backyard - Sydney Harbour. With the support of a committee of friends, he organised a community event - Clean Up Sydney Harbour on Sunday 8 January 1989.

Ian was overwhelmed by the response from Sydney residents, with 40,000 volunteers turning out to lend a hand to clean up. The huge success of the first Clean Up event in 1989 sparked national interest in the simple but effective community-based idea.

In 1990, the first Clean Up Australia Day took place on Sunday, 21 January. Again, the response of Australians was astounding. More than 300,000 Australians volunteered their time to help make a difference to the health of their local environment.

and then went global ...

In June 1991, Ian and his team were invited by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to meet at their Headquarters in Nairobi to discuss Clean Up Australia's proposal for a global Clean Up campaign.

Ian signed an agreement with UNEP to manage and promote Clean Up the World, commencing in September 1993, based on the concept of 100 cities around the globe participating at the same time.

The results were staggering. During three days (17-19 September 1993), more than 30 million people in 80 countries participated in the Australian initiative. The campaign has grown each year since, making it one of the largest community based environmental campaigns in the world attracting an estimated 35 million people annually from 120 countries including from Micronesia to India in Asia Pacific; from Argentina to Venezuela in Latin America; from Turkey to the United Arab Emirates in West Asia; from Aruba to Zimbabwe in Africa; from Greece to Poland in Europe; and USA and Canada in North America:

The campaign's flagship event: **Clean Up the World Weekend**, celebrated on the 3rd weekend of September, continues to attract thousands of communities across the globe whom take to the streets, beaches, river banks and parks to 'think globally and act locally' as part of the Clean Up the World campaign. However, in recent years the campaign has come to be recognised as a year round campaign,

Clean Up the World Pty Ltd

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with participants conducting activities all throughout the year, addressing a variety of environmental issues including waste and water management, and climate change.

and after 20 years of "cleaning up" ...

Ian is now the Chairman of Clean Up Australia Ltd, a national non-profit organisation that co-ordinates Clean Up Australia Day and Clean Up the World. Clean Up Australia Ltd also runs Clean Up Australia Projects, which are long term community-based environmental programs that address the need for ongoing care for and restoration of environmental assets.

These projects represent an evolutionary process for Clean Up Australia to include "Fix Up" projects as well as Clean Up activities.

Ian holds the Chairmanship of the Lord Howe Island Museum Trust. He is a Patron of the Enviro-Finance Association of Australia, Australasian Chapter of the International Erosion Control Association and the Sydney Agricultural, Rural and Public Land Trust, the Sapphire Coast Marine Discovery Centre, Charles Sturt University Institute for Land, Water and Society and a member of their Advisory Board.

along the way ...

Ian's environmental efforts were originally recognised in 1991 when the Australian Government awarded him the Order of Australia Medal (OAM).

In the same year, he was also named Communicator of the Year by the Public Relations Institute of Australia and was the recipient of an Advance Australia Award the same year.

In 1993, Ian was made a United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Global 500 Laureate for his work and leadership in the local and global environment.

In recognition of his leadership in the environment and the community both in Australia and internationally, Ian was named 1994 Australian of the Year. Ian was made an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) on Australia Day, 1995 and was awarded the prestigious Banksia Foundation Fellowship that year.

In August 1995 the then Prime Minister, Paul Keating, launched Ian Kiernan's autobiography (co-authored by Phil Jarratt) titled 'Coming Clean'.

In 1997/98 he was named among 100 other leading Australians as a 'National Living Treasure' and was inducted as a Rotary Paul Harris Fellow. He also became a Vice-President of the international organisation, ACOPS (Advisory Council on Protection of the Seas).

Ian is the recipient of Toastmaster's International Communications and Leadership Award and the Berger-Sullivan Tourism Award from the International Federation of Women's Travel Organisations.

In 1998, Ian was awarded the prestigious United Nations Environment Programme Sasakawa Environment Prize. This honour was awarded for "mobilising tens of millions of people around the globe to take responsibility for their own environment." The highly regarded award was presented to Ian at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on November 16.

The following year, Ian was honoured for his international work through the 1999 Building World Citizenship Award, judged by the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS).

In 2003 he was awarded the Centenary Medal, and in 2004 was made a NSW Ambassador for the Year of the Built Environment.

In 2005 Ian was admitted to the Companions of the Order of the Smile, an international award voted for by children.

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As an avid sailor and Ambassador for the Great Barrier Reef Ian maintains his love for the sea as Patron of a number of sailing groups including ASPECT Sailors with Disabilities, SCEGGS Redlands and Scotts College Youth Sailing Programs. Ian is also President of the Australian Association of Greater Public Schools and a member of Maritime Australia.

Ian has also been honoured as Chairman of the Lord Howe Island Museum Trust, in recognition of his fundraising activities and personal construction work of the new museum.

He was made honorary life member of the Lord Howe Island Historical Society in 2000, and was subsequently appointed to the Society.

He is also an honorary Golden Circle member of the Slocum Society, as well as being a member of the Cape Horners-Australia and League of Ancient Mariners.

For the first four years of Clean Up Australia Ian worked as a volunteer. However, due to increasing commitments with Clean Up Australia and Clean Up the World, Ian closed his building business and now works full-time as Chairman of Clean Up Australia and Clean Up the World.

Ian is Patron of the Australian Association of Combined Greater Public Schools, Chairman of The Spirit Sports and Leisure Group, and Patron and President of the Central Coast Mariners.

He is married to Judy and has two daughters, Sally and Pip, from his first marriage and five grandchildren.

* AO Order of Australia awarded for distinguished service of a high degree to Australia or to humanity at large.

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