

FAMOUS AUSTRALIANS

<http://www.australia.com/about/culture-history/famous-australians.aspx>

<http://www.australiance.com/about-australia/culture/people/business>

<http://en.wikipedia.org>

<http://imdb.org>

Cate Blanchett



Cate Blanchett (b. 1969) is an Australian actress of screen and stage. She is known for films such as *Elizabeth: The Golden Age*, *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, *The Hobbit* trilogy, *The Aviator*, and recently *Blue Jasmine*. She has won two Oscars so far.

Hugh Jackman



Hugh Jackman (b. 1968) is an actor famous for his acting roles in films such as *X-men*, *Wolverine*, *Paperback Hero* and *Australia*, but also for his musical talent, for example in his role as Peter Allen in the Broadway Musical *The Boy from Oz*.

Nicole Kidman



Nicole Kidman (b. 1967) is one of Australia's most famous actresses. Some of her more famous films include *The Hours*, *Moulin Rouge*, *Eyes Wide Shut*, *The Portrait of a Lady*, and *Australia*.

Heath Ledger



Heath Ledger (1979 – 2008) was an Australian actor and director, known for films such as *10 Things I Hate About You*, *A Knight's Tale*, *The Brothers Grimm*, *The Dark Knight* and *The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus*. He died tragically at the age of 29 from an accidental intoxication from prescription drugs. He was awarded a posthumous Oscar for his performance as the Joker in *The Dark Knight*.

AC/DC



They are widely considered as the pioneers of heavy metal/hard rock, and few people realise that this band is Australian. Since their debut during the 1970s, they have remained one of the most popular rock bands of all time, having many number one hits, including 'Back in Black', 'Thunderstruck', 'Highway to Hell', and 'It's a Long Way to the Top'.

Kylie Minogue



Even though she began her career in the famous Australian soap opera, *Neighbours*, Kylie Minogue (b. 1968) has risen to international pop-stardom, with over two decades of pop hits on the music charts. Some of her famous hits include 'I Should Be So Lucky', 'Spinning Around', 'Fever' and 'Can't Get You Out of My Head'.

Steve Irwin



Steve Irwin (The Crocodile Hunter, 1962 – 2006) is famous for his work with Australian reptiles, in particular, crocodiles, as well as many other animals all over the world. His TV show, *The Crocodile Hunter*, and his Australia Zoo made him a very unique Australian who truly appreciated what nature has to offer.

Sadly, in 2006, he passed away, killed not by a crocodile as one could expect considering his work, but by a stingray which wounded him while he was filming off the coast of North Queensland. His family continues his tradition of respect for all animals, as well as his work at the Australia Zoo.

Ian Thorpe



Ian Thorpe (b. 1982) is an Australian Olympic swimmer who currently holds the biggest number of gold medals ever won by an Australian during the Olympics : 5 gold medals. At the age of 15 years old, he became a world swimming champion, the world's youngest swimmer to do so.

During his career, he has set many world records and made his mark in sporting history.

Cathy Freeman



Cathy Freeman (b. 1973) was the first female of Aboriginal origin to win a gold medal in an international sporting event, the 1990 Commonwealth Games. She is a fantastic female role model for many aspiring athletes, particularly within Australia.

Rupert Murdoch



Rupert Murdoch (b. 1931) is a famous Australian media mogul who owns many high profile companies such as 20th Century Fox, NewsCorp, and Harper Collins Publishers. His media empire has grown from a small local newspaper in Australia, to a multi million-dollar industry leader.

Elle Mcpherson



Elle Macpherson (b. 1964) is a famous Australian supermodel, well known for her covers of Elle Magazine. Her professional nickname is 'The Body.'

Famous Australians scientists

Pharmacologist and pathologist **Howard Florey** shared a **Nobel Prize in 1945** for his work extracting penicillin (together with Sir Ernst Boris Chain and Sir Alexander Fleming).

Famous Australian inventors and famous Australian inventions

Australia's Aboriginal people invented **the aerodynamic boomerang** and a spear thrower called **the woomera**. Famous Australian inventors include Alfred Traeger, who built **a radio for the Royal Flying Doctor Service** in 1929, and David Ronald de Mey Warren, who invented **the flight data recorder** and **cockpit voice recorder**.

Famous Australian explorers

Following Captain Cook's 1770 landing, and the arrival of the First Fleet in 1788 a number of early explorers set out to discover Australia. These included the duos **Bass and Flinders**, who charted Tasmania, the ill-fated **Burke and Wills**, and **Hume and Hovel**, who walked from Sydney to the Victorian coastline. In the 20th century **Sir Douglas Mawson** led a series of important scientific expeditions to Antarctica.