

Speakers

Jeannette McGill

Jeannette has climbed mountains and lead groups all over the world, including USA, New Zealand, South Africa, Peru, Bolivia, China-Tibet and Kyrgyzstan. She has been to Kilimanjaro/Meru five times, in 2018 was the first South African female to summit Manaslu and in 2019 became the first South African to climb Dhaulagiri reaching 7400m before bad weather turned her around.

Jeannette is a respected global leader supporting people to achieve personal goals either as a 20 year global executive focused on the technology sector or in the outdoors where she guides teams and climbs mountains herself.

Jeannette is passionate about leading individuals and teams to achieve things they never thought possible.

Sarah Brindley

Cycling Above the Clouds: Riding the Andes by Bicycle

Sarah does not consider herself to be an adventurer and is definitely not an athlete. Yet three years ago she set out on her dream to cycle the length of South America.

Sarah believes that cycle-touring is one of the most accessible 'adventure' activities, and that anyone could make this kind of trip. So if it's something on your bucket list, come along and hear about both the things Sarah thought you needed to know to make a trip like this, versus what she actually learned through this life-changing experience.

Michael Dillon

For almost fifty years so far, whenever Australians or New Zealanders have undertaken an epic or crazy adventure, Michael has usually accompanied them.

He filmed the First Australian Everest expedition, Tim Macartney-Snape's Everest Sea to Summit Expedition, and with Lincoln Hall filmed a father and his 15 year old son attempting Everest. He's filmed two Everest ballooning expeditions, a Base Jump altitude record attempt, a three month camel race, sections of Tim Cope's epic horse journey from Mongolia to Hungary, the world's highest formal dinner party on a peak in the Andes, and a London Taxi Journey from Buckingham Palace to the Sydney Opera House.

Returning to the Film Festival Michael will premiere his new multi-award winning film Ocean to Sky about Sir Edmund Hillary's near fatal attempt to climb the River Ganges by jetboat and foot.

Jessica Zahra

Jessica is an Australian influencer, business owner and film producer in the motorcycle adventure travel space. She is sponsored by Royal Enfield and over the past six years, she has ridden over 30 countries and hundreds of thousands of kilometres by motorcycle.

She is the owner of OpenRoads Rally VIC - Australia's first affordable training camp and adventure rally for amateur motorcycle riders, and OpenRoads Travel - a Melbourne based company which facilitates international motorcycle tours.

She is best known for her films, where she invites members of her community to join her on long-distance international adventure rides, and documents their experiences.

Eibhlin Fletcher

If your idea of the perfect holiday is taking a family of four to live in one room house in Northern Mongolia in winter then you need to go and listen to Eibhlin. She is a one women marketing campaign for Mongolia.

-35 degrees celsius, long drop dunnys at least a 20 m dash from the residences, sharing rooms with hunting eagles and drinking hundreds of litres of warm salty tea seasoned with rancid butter are some of the highlights of the trip. Now of course many people have travelled to Mongolia in winter, not many have taken two young girls and a husband with weak lungs on the trip with them nor had to deal with a Chinese spy.

Eibhlin has a passion for getting a grip of the grind, adventuring and having no regrets in life. Did she have any regrets about Mongolia, will you'll have to ask her. She did have plenty of adventures.

Shane McLachlan

Shane is a Sydney based Director, DOP and Editor with over 35 years' experience in corporate, TV commercials and documentary filmmaking. He is also an experienced CASA-certified drone pilot. Shane's passion for motorcycles and adventure started from the age of 18, winning various state Enduro titles, a solo around-Australia record on a Honda 350 and a world record on a Kawasaki 900 at Sydney's Oran Park Raceway. After retiring from bike racing, he entered the Wynn's Safari, a 7,000 km Dakar-style Sydney to Darwin off-road event, finishing 6th outright in a Toyota Landcruiser.

This story of how 'Made Like A Gun' evolved is made up of two seemingly unrelated events. Six years ago, whilst travelling through Rajasthan in Northern India, Shane had a chance meeting with a local man from Jaisalmer, who encouraged him to take his brand-new Royal Enfield Bullet for a ride around the Fort. The second part of this fascinating story involves a promise Shane made to his 12-year-old son Max, 18 years ago. What followed was a roller coaster journey on the search to discover why this bike has the legendary reputation of being 'Made Like a Gun'.

Stan Meissner

Stan is an Australian adventurer turned photographer / filmmaker becoming known for his ability to capture high quality images across a multitude of adventure sports in remote high-risk environments.

In 2018 Stan led an unsupported kayaking and climbing expedition from the Australian mainland to Tasmania. During the 27 day crossing, their team of four established a number of first ascent rock climbs on spectacular 120m+ granite sea cliffs, and collected micro-plastic samples for the marine debris database. They became one of the youngest teams to ever cross Bass Strait via kayak, which is often referred to as Australia's Everest of Sea Kayaking. Stan's passion and enthusiasm for exploration, adventure and storytelling started from a very young age and continues to drive him in new pursuits on land, sea, and even in the air via paragliding. He has more annual expeditions planned, while continuing weekly adventures close to home in Victoria's High Country. His ability across multiple sporting disciplines combined with his passion for photography provides unlimited opportunities to film and document in high-risk, difficult to access environments in remote corners of Australia and the globe.

FILMS

12000km

There is a new trend for DIY snowboarding adventure and this film is at the vanguard. The prevailing climate threat makes a bunch of Swedish extreme skiers/snowboarders reject airplanes to travel with trains and boats instead, from Stockholm all the way to Japan. They search for deep powder snow and the adventure of a lifetime. Along the world's longest train ride they make various stops in Siberia's remote forests, to explore unriden mountains and getting to know the special Russian culture from the inside. A great amount of humour, hectic meetings and world class riding sums up this epic journey.

8000+

In July 2016, the paraglider Antoine Girard set off on a three-week hike-and-fly tour to explore the Karakorum mountains in Pakistan - alone. From the town of Skardu, he heads for the highest peaks of the Karakorum mountain range. The Frenchman has already twice failed in his attempts to climb the 8,051-meter-high Broad Peak and then paraglide from the summit down into the valley. His new idea is not to walk to the top but to fly! He hopes that the upwinds will carry him and his chute to the summit - and possibly beyond. If he succeeds, he will set a new altitude record in paragliding, but the air is too thin between the 8,000-meter peaks, and take-offs and landings are extremely tricky. Especially when you only have one person to rely on - yourself.

Apurimac

From the furthest sources of the Amazons to the calm water of the Peruvian jungle, six French kayakers embark upon a 17 unsupported descent on the Rio Apurimac. This is a difficult stretch of water so they all wear garish Hawaiian style shirts. With these good luck charms they set off into the frothing gorges and torrents. A journey along the tormented sacred Inca waters, this trip is about living off little, united, in a pristine environment, unexploited by mankind. This is an utterly perfectly constructed film. Watch this if interested in how good a film can be without any crew or TV paraphernalia.

Changing Tides

Lucy Graham and Mathilde Gordon's passion led them to kayak 2042km down the coast of Alaska & Canada in 2018, raising awareness of marine plastic pollution. Having never completed a multi-day kayaking journey before, the three month expedition through the Inside Passage was an entirely new challenge. They completed the trip single-use plastic-free, demonstrating that if it can be done in a damp, rainy, salty and cramped environment, then it can surely be done in the average household. Follow them on a journey of adventure, challenge, friendship and a deep love of the oceans blue. This is such a lovely film.

From New Lands To Old

Lawrence Thaw was extremely wealthy and in June 1939, arrived in Le Havre from his native USA. Here, he and his wife Margaret connected with a convoy of trucks and cars especially supplied by General Motors. Their mission: to drive to Bombay. Rather than have the ignominy of a support crew, the Thaws travelled with six Indian manservants, a chef, mechanic and their own camera crew (who had their own car!). This retinue was filmed in COLOUR as it made its way across a Europe on the brink of war (SS officers escort them across Austria), into Turkey and across Iran and Afghanistan. The quality of the footage is extraordinary and until you have seen this film, you could reasonably not believe that it exists.

Home

On 1 April 2011, rower and adventurer Sarah Outen set off in her kayak from Tower Bridge for France. Her aim was simple: to circle the globe entirely under her own steam - cycling, kayaking and rowing across Europe, Asia, the Pacific, North America, the Atlantic and eventually home. A year later, Sarah was plucked from the Pacific ocean amid tropical storm Mawar, her boat broken, her spirit even more so. But that wasn't the end. Despite ill health and depression, giving up was not an option. So Sarah set off once more to finish what she had started, becoming the first woman to row solo from Japan to Alaska, as well as the first woman to row the mid-Pacific from West to East. She kayaked the treacherous Aleutian chain and cycled North America, before setting out on the Atlantic, despite the risk of another row-ending storm...

Home is more than an adventure story. It is a story of the kindness of strangers and the spirit of travel; a story of the raw power of nature, of finding love in unexpected places, and of discovering your inner strength. It is about trying and failing, and trying again, and about how, even when all seems lost, you can find yourself.

India – With All The Senses

Mikal is a real-life internet sensation. Every year he does a fairly massive long-distance motorcycle ride in a place far away from his Czech homeland. This year, he's all over India. Not content with the arduous of solo-travel, Mikal shoots (astonishingly well) and produces a broadcast quality travel doco. Totally unfunded and independent, this film is yet again, another bafflingly high benchmark of how good independent travel films have now become. This is a proper, colourful and informative documentary, not home-made rubbish. Aspiring film-makers, come and learn. India-philes, come and enjoy!

Inflated Ambitions

In 2015 Jonathan Rider and Edmund le Brun became the first people to raft down the Oxus River in Afghanistan. High in the Pamir Mountains, they travelled 200 km through one of the World's last true wilderness areas. With plans afoot to build a highway through this region, their expedition provides a unique glimpse into an often-misunderstood country. Yet, with no previous rafting experience, this was truly a case of inflated ambitions. What's this? Bungling amateurs 'having a go' at the nexus of Afghanistan, Pakistan and China?

Made Like a Gun

Ride with an ageing ex-champion motorcycle racer and his son on a Himalayan odyssey, as they attempt to conquer the world's highest navigable roads and discover what makes the iconic brand they're riding so revered by millions on the Indian sub-continent. This isn't just a grueling physical and emotional journey, but the fulfillment of a fifteen-year promise made by a father to his son.

My Midsummer Morning

Seasoned adventurer Alastair Humphreys pushes himself to his very limits – busking his way across Spain with a violin he can barely play.

In 1935 a young Englishman named Laurie Lee arrived in Spain. He had never been overseas; had hardly even left the quiet village he grew up in. His idea was to walk through the country, earning money for food by playing his violin in bars and plazas.

Nearly a century later, the book Laurie Lee wrote – *As I Walked Out One Midsummer Morning* – inspired Alastair Humphreys. It made him fall in love with Spain – the landscapes and the spirit – and with Laurie's style of travel. He travelled slow, lived simply, slept on hilltops, relished spontaneity, and loved conversations with the different people he met along the hot and dusty road.

For 15 years, Alastair dreamed of retracing Laurie Lee's footsteps, but could never get past the hurdle of being distinctly unmusical. This year, he decided to go anyway. The journey was his most terrifying yet, risking failure and humiliation every day, and finding himself truly vulnerable to the rhythms of the road and of his own life. But along the way, he found humility, redemption and triumph. It was a very good adventure.

Ocean to Sky

For the people of India, it was a pilgrimage led by a hero of almost god-like status and millions lined the river to watch him pass in his 'miraculous' jet boats. For Ed and his 22-year-old son, Peter, it was a healing journey too, as they came to terms with the recent loss of Ed's beloved wife, Louise and daughter Belinda. For Ed's team of friends it was a thrilling ride through the heart of India aboard three of New Zealand's iconic Hamilton Jet Boats. Driven by the son and grandson of the inventor, and Hillary's friend and Hindu scholar, Dr Jim Wilson, they navigated the Ganges' tiger infested delta, crossed its vast, fertile flood plains, struggled up gorges guarded by fearsome rapids towards its sacred origins among the peaks of the Himalaya. Then, near the Ganges' snowy source the unthinkable happened. The first man to climb the world's highest mountain succumbed to severe altitude sickness. The story of the desperate race by his friends and son to save his life has never been told.

Opinci – My Father's Shoes

A short animation based on a true story about a record-breaking globetrotter and widowed father, who uses his extraordinary past to teach his young daughter lessons about life. Bring hankies, you'll be blubbing like a baby.

Rios Patagonicos

For several years, the association Regard sur L'Aventure has been organising scientific exploration and sportive expeditions. In 2018, the "Rios Patagonicos" expedition took 15 canyoneers to stride the immensity of Chilean Patagonia, in search for rivers and waterfalls. Their goal: explore untouched territories, spot and open over 30 canyons, on a unique territory, where canyoneering discipline is close to non-existent. For some, "Rios Patagonicos" is the opportunity to go on an expedition for the first time. For others, more skilled canyoneers, the occasion to share their experience, at times on a difficult terrain. In the heart of Patagonian glacier valleys, all gather around a same desire: share a sportive and humane adventure.

Roving Across Three Continents

Definitely the best quality 'print' of a vintage 16mm film that this festival has ever seen. A premier for an extraordinary film that until recently, virtually nobody knew existed. Weirdly, this is more of a nature and zoology film than a Land Rover film. Be ready for insects and wildlife in abundance!

In the fall of 1956, Bristol Foster had completed his masters in biology at the University of Toronto and was itching for the chance to leave academia behind for a while. He had known Robert Bateman, then teaching art and geography, since the days when both were boys in a nature club at the Royal Ontario Museum. A shared love of the outdoors made the two ideal travelling companions.

Their 1957 Land Rover was properly bespoke in a time when the word actually meant something. Built by Pilcher with a Series I powertrain, the coach-built ambulance body was fitted with unusual features like a rooftop hatch for observing dangerous wildlife. Construction must have taken hundreds of man-hours, but when the bill arrived, Land Rover had accidentally only charged for the chassis.

Ghana to Nairobi, then across India and finishing with a crossing of Australia. All this and, the car is alive and well to this day.

Sky and Ground

A compelling, ground-level immersion into the greatest humanitarian crisis of our time; refugees. Sky & Ground accompanies the Nabi clan, a large, extended Syrian-Kurdish family, as they painstakingly make their way from their home in Aleppo, bombed out by the war, to the Idomeni refugee camp on the border of Greece and Macedonia. Their goal is Berlin, where they will reunite with family members and seek asylum but first they must make the arduous and dangerous journey through Serbia, Hungary and Austria. Why dangerous? Because they're not supposed to be there.

The Devil's Road

Following the century-old expedition route of two of Baja's most prolific and obscure naturalists, a group of adventurers set out on a 5,000-mile journey on motorcycles to document over one hundred years of change in Baja California.

Their search takes them on a thrilling quest—by motorcycle, airplane, boat, and horseback—to recreate the historic, unprecedented expedition across Baja. Along the way, they bear witness to the vibrant culture and unforgettable people, endure the challenges of the road, and get a glimpse into this extraordinary place and its uncertain future.

The Devil's Road is rich with adventure and shows the interplay between past and present. A film about discovery and change, it acts as an environmental call to arms that pays homage to the strange and awe-inspiring Baja California. A true masterpiece of a documentary and a textbook example of a travel doc that isn't actually about the travellers.

The Road To Sydney

Zac Newham embarks on a 25,000 mile solo cycle ride from his home in England to Sydney on his budget childhood bicycle. "The Road to Sydney" gives the viewer a truthful (albeit whirlwind!) snapshot of this epic year and a half long journey on two wheels and palpably puts us all in the saddle as he pedals his way east. We need more films like this one, funny, simple, unpretentious and full of good cheer.

Traversing The Canol

Five female cyclists cross the indifferent yet majestic landscape of the Selwyn and Mackenzie Mountains in northern Canada as they explore the history of the region. Their route follows the historic Canol pipeline, constructed by the US Army Corps in 1943, only to be abandoned two years later. They explore the rusty relics, reflect on the enduring legacy of the Canol's short-term resource infrastructure, and witness the nascent remediation efforts of the Sahtu Dene to transform the Canol pipeline access road into a wilderness trail. This film gives new meaning to the word 'recycle'. A delight!

Walled Citizen

A Palestinian filmmaker attempts to explore the planet as a backpacker defying the restrictions of movement imposed on him as a holder of one of the world's weakest ranking passports.

Over a period of 3 years, Sameer Qumsiyeh travels with his camera from Palestine to Europe to the Canary Islands and Ecuador, documenting his encounters with other freedom seekers, wanderers, refugees, immigrants, indigenous communities and nomads all of whom are facing the physical and non-physical borders, barriers and walls that are erected between people in our modern time. This is an amazingly important film which totally transcends the genre.

When The Road Ends

Dylan is motorcycling around the world. So far so normal. Then, he reaches the famous Darien Gap in central America. Rather than put his motorcycle on the boat or a plane, he resolves to devise a DIY solution. For this reason alone he enters the pantheon of ATFF gods! We cannot say more but this is one helluva ride! Easily one of the definitive Adventure Travel films of the last 20 years and hence, our main starlight screening on the Saturday night.

SHORTS

14,000 Miles To Chile

Eric Sharman, an avid surfer and marine biologist, left the central Oregon Coast April 1st, 2019 embarking on the adventure of a lifetime. Eric plans to ride over 14,000 miles on his motorcycle from the Pacific North-West, to the southernmost point of Argentina. With only the possessions he can carry and a custom surfboard rack he welded to his bike, he will be orchestrating beach clean-ups and spreading awareness about ocean plastics and their impact on the marine ecosystem. This film is his 'pre-departure' reel and is NOT an account of his time on the road. We have included it because of Eric's great attitude and ethos. Before he had even left, he was an inspiration!

143 Seconds In Iran

Human-powered around the world travel legend, Dimitri Kieffer send us his trademark film. A ONE second shot from every single day that he spent cycling across Iran. Dynamite!

As It Blooms

This is a super perfect Iran film. Garnered from 3 hitch-hiking trips. It should be a must-watch for any American politician. Simply another shovel-load of reasons for the case that Iran is possibly the best country in the world to visit.

As Seen From The Sidecar

Matt and Reece are a couple of guys who thought up the idea to circumnavigate the globe on a scooter with a sidecar back in 2015. At the time, they had absolutely no idea how to ride a motorbike, let alone how to drive a scooter with a sidecar around the world. They came up with the idea when they were sat in their dingy flat in North London complaining about the state of the world and how we were doing nothing to change it. After much deliberation on how we could make the world a better place, they decided that circumnavigating the globe on a scooter with a sidecar to raise awareness of modern slavery was the only solution. By jove it worked!

Ethiopia – Cradle Of Mankind

November 2018, Kevin and his friend travelled all over Ethiopia. They always have been fascinated by human history and Ethiopia is probably one of the best location on earth regarding history of humanity. During this trip, they realized how unbelievable this land is. This film, this story is not only about an old man telling his life but this is the story of a whole nation.

Across unbelievable landscapes such as active Erta Ale volcano, Danakil salt desert, Dalole sulfure springs, blue Nile waterfalls we met the kindest people I've ever met such as Hamar, Mursi and Dorze tribes.

Going Nowhere

Simon, Sarah and Toby Roney venture to a mountain bothy surrounded by stunning Scottish scenery. Focusing on Simon Pitman, this piece follows a two day one night adventure to a bothy in West Scotland. Simon explores his beliefs in why the outdoors is such a precious place that everyone should explore. In many ways when we go into the mountains we head into NOWHERE. Another Scottish film that reminds us of how special our time in the wilds can be.

I Am The Unsung Hero

A humble tyre comes to life and spills the beans on what its life is like supporting adventure m/cycle trips!

In Pursuit Of Whales

Jason and Lisa are biking all over the Americas but take time to attempt some whale-spotting off the coast of the Baja peninsula.

They experience deep joy in spending time with the game and light-hearted grey whales. Heck, you might get lucky and catch one head-on perform the most spectacular acrobatic display. With crazy-good fortune,

they did. Wide-eyed on whales including the blue and fin varieties, the time came to leave and we figured it would be best to give the memories a chance to breathe. Jason and Lisa were humbled by so much raw nature, clearly wanting to connect, the ride from old Blighty to the Baja entailed perhaps the single most blissful experience of their lives.

Shoot and Ride

Motorcycle lensman Villalobos gives us an adventure setting and a lesson in framing all at once. Artful and informative. This is DIY film-making at its most dangerously refined, Villalobos is a genius at the top of his game.

Singapore To Europe By Scooter In A Nutshell

Juvena found her ticket to freedom when she bought her first scooter on her 20th birthday. A friend's sudden passing drove Juvena to combine her love for riding and travel for an adventure. Her late friend used to say, "It's the rider, not the bike." With the moniker "The Wandering Wasp," she left the safety net of home and job to wander the world on her humble scooter.

Solo but hardly alone, she eventually rode from Singapore to Europe covering 44,000 km, 25 countries over 27 months. During the journey, she rekindled her potential and more importantly rediscovered humanity.

The Green Kayak Challenge

A delightful UK mini-adventure; Piotr inherits a creaky old fold-up 1960s kayak. Instead of setting fire to it, and after hearing how much happiness this kayak has brought in the past to its owners he hatched a plan. He phoned his buddy Jane and asked if she was up for a mad challenge: to try to paddle a very long distance in one day, about 85km. They do it locally. The River Tay, Perthshire. Let's use the oldest boat he has ever owned, very fragile and some big rapids will be upon us... strap in chums!

The Need To Go

A film about wild life in the outdoors and what it really means to be whole with Nature. A short but 'moving' film made in less than one day as part of the Canadian BANFF Mountain Film Festival Adventure Filmmakers' Workshop.

The Postman

Clinging to the frayed edges of the ragged shores of the Isle of Harris, a single-track path navigates its way above cliffs, around bays. Three friends make the trip to not only ride the Postman's Path to Rhenigidale, but find out more about its history.

Until a road to the village opened in 1990, the path was the only overland link between Rhenigidale and the outside world. Kenny Mackay – the last postman to walk the track, shares his stories – tales of community, survival and love.

They leave with a deeper understanding that this trail goes beyond being a simple physical connection between two places. It symbolises the emotional and practical ties to the landscapes humans call home. What's more, the mail MUST get through!

The Story of an Adventure Bike Ride

A family (Mum, Dad and 11-year-old son!) from Denmark set off on an unforgettable adventure to explore the world by bicycle. The roads were sometimes challenging. But the world shows its true beauty when traveling in this simple way. Their 10 months of pedaling sees them experience the kindness and hospitality found in the most unexpected places. Which only comes from throwing yourselves 'out there'.

The Tipping Point

Three young adventurers, Teo, Norman and Julien (the Apprentis Nomades) took a journey that would test their mental, physical and emotional capabilities to their absolute limits. In March 2018 they sailed a little boat out of South Africa, destination, the sub Antarctic Kerguelen Islands. Also known as the Desolation Islands, they are some of the most isolated islands on the planet. Ten days out of Kerguelen, their worst fear became a reality. We cannot tell you any more, just watch this film!