



## Arron Wood – Biography

2007 Prime Minister's Environmentalist of the Year Award winner **Arron Wood** has already achieved more than many of us would in a lifetime and his commitment to mainstream environmental sustainability has seen him advise the Australian Government, work closely with State and Territory Governments across Australia and New Zealand, mobilise the Australian school community and build links between the corporate world and the community sector.

Arron is the weekly environment reporter on radio 3AW, Melbourne's number one talkback station, 6PR Perth and across WA and he has recently completed his autobiography '*Billabong Boy*' published by New Holland. Arron gives 100's of free seminars each year to community groups, schools and not for profits all about how the environment can build a sense of community.

Arron has recently been appointed by Lord Mayor Robert Doyle to the high level Enterprise Melbourne Advisory Board to attract sustainable investment to Melbourne to fulfil a key goal from the Council Plan in '*protecting and strengthening the city's economic prosperity*'. The Board is responsible for promoting Melbourne's business credentials as a globally competitive city.

Having worked with the iconic Melbourne Arts Centre on implementing behavioural change across a staff of 500 in conjunction with their environmental management strategy and counting names such as Sony, Toshiba, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Citipower, Powercor, Pratt Foundation, City of Melbourne, Sustainability Victoria, the Australian Government, the United Nations New York, Hanson and Telstra as clients, Arron's skill is his ability to galvanise business leaders and community groups alike to deliver innovative triple bottom line solutions. His program Kids Teaching Kids recently won the prestigious 2010 People's Choice Banksia Award chosen from 55 finalists across 10 categories.

Arron sees the environment as the single biggest industry within the next 5-10 years and he'd like Australian businesses to be at the forefront of this global phenomenon to secure the nation as an environmental knowledge and technology broker in a booming green economy. Whether it is advising 700 local government executives from around the world on how to see sustainability as an opportunity or speaking at the National Business Leaders Forum on Re-calibrating the Risk From Climate Change Arron's leading edge understanding coupled with global experience on sustainability issues results in constant demand for his talents across a wide variety of industries, community groups and government organisations.

Arron won the prestigious 2007 Melbourne Business Award for Contribution to the Environment and was selected to complete Al Gore's Climate Change Leadership Program.

Arron received The Centenary Medal for outstanding contribution to conservation and the environment, awarded by the Governor-General and in 2008 completed a Churchill Fellowship which took him to New York and Geneva working with the United Nations to research replication of environmental education programs on a global scale.

As winner of the 2006 United Nations Individual Award for Outstanding Service to the Environment Arron was also the 2001 Young Australian of the Year (National Environment Winner). Arron holds a degree in Forest Science from the University of Melbourne and is currently the youngest Board Member of the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority. Arron's commitment to the environment was covered on ABC's Australian Story watched by 1.4 million viewers and he hosted and co-produced Channel Seven documentary Our Water, Our Future. Arron was the youngest Waterway Manager in the State of Victoria by some ten years and held the Deputy Chair of the Victorian Waterway Managers Group in 1999.

Arron is now the Director of Firestarter Pty Ltd, an environmental communication and education consultancy business. The business works through behavioural change management, major event organisation, project management, education

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campaigns and innovative company promotion methods aimed at better linking the corporate sector with community and government. Arron initiated and now runs the highly successful Kids Teaching Kids Program for students from around the world which has attracted \$20 million in funding over the life of the project (single-handedly raised by Arron) and seen 30,000 students participate in the program.

Arron's insight and ability to identify emerging environmental markets and risks to existing markets has seen him speak at the Australasian Mutuals Institute Annual Conference, the KPMG Graduate Induction and the Ernst and Young Human Capital Forum to name but a few. He has even addressed the annual national staff meeting for Sony Australia.

Arron has appeared on Network TEN's Totally Wild, and Channel 7's Sunrise and Saturday Disney. In 2001 he was chosen as the Australian representative for the 25 most inspirational 25 year olds from around the world as profiled in French Canadian Magazine, La Actualite'.

Arron first book *Inspiring the Next Young Environmental Leader. Kids Teaching Kids – Addressing Our Environment Crisis* has sold 5,000 copies. The book is being translated into Korean for distribution throughout the Korean school system.

Further details:

- Arron appeared fortnightly for two years on Network TEN's morning show 9am with David and Kim presenting a popular segment updating all things environment
- Named in the top ten education leaders nationally in 2009 as part of *The Weekend Australian Magazine*
- Previous Clean Up the World Ambassador with David De Rothschild and Celine Cousteau
- Member of the Future Melbourne Reference Committee which decided the vision for Melbourne over the next 10 years.
- One of ten Friday Magazines Most Inspirational People for 2003, which included people like Steve Irwin, Troy Cassar-Daley, hurdler Jana Pittman
- Previous Member of the National Council on Education for Sustainability advising Minister Peter Garrett

To view video clips of Arron please visit: <http://www.fire-starter.com.au/media.htm>

For more information on his Kids Teaching Kids Program please visit: <http://www.kidsteachingkids.com.au/>

