

2009 Roundup

• April 2009

John Mangos visited the Territory as MC for a Tourism Conference and spoke to the Territory Regional Weekly about his extensive career in Television.

Article from the Territory Regional Weekly



John Mangos speaks about his extensive career in Television

TV : John Mangos is one of the most enduring and well known faces on the Australian Media Landscape

He has been a regular on Australian TV screens for almost thirty years. He is currently a senior anchorman with Sky News Australia, a post he's held since the 24-hour news channel was launched in 1996. He is also a weekly regular on Australia's leading breakfast program, the Seven Network's Sunrise. And he's a regular afternoon host on top rating Sydney talkback radio station 2UE.

A widely respected newscaster, John spent 14 years with National Nine News where he worked in the Federal Parliamentary press gallery and as the NSW state political correspondent before he became the network's United States correspondent based in Los Angeles.

John returned from the United States at the request of the "King of Australian television", Graham Kennedy, to co-host the top rating nightly Coast to Coast news program. John went on to make documentaries for the Nine Network as well as hosting the Our World series on Sunday nights.

At that time he was a guest host of Nine's Today show and the Midday show.

He then moved to Network Ten to present the Eyewitness news, but a year later was lured back to his old stomping ground at Nine for the irresistible chance to be an international roving reporter for the Midday show.

The Territory Regional Weekly caught up for a Chat with John Man-

gos. We started by asking John

Q You have spent the last three decades doing broadcast news programs in one form or another, are there any significant changes that you see to the way news is researched and broadcast over that period?

A There has definitely been some major changes in the presentation of news in that time. The news now is far more instantaneous and there are so many methods of delivery. There are now free to air channels, cable channels and mobile phones.

I think that this is a good thing. There is nothing wrong with giving people choice.

Q In 1999 Greek Australian Television was launched, how successful was the station and how well was it been received by the Greek Community?

A I was with Greek Australian Television for a couple of years at the start. There was a lot of competition from satellite TV programs coming in from overseas and the network did not really have enough support from the community.

I am not sure if there is enough support out there today for a specific Greek Channel to be taken up again.

Q What effect do you see the introduction of 15 free to air channels having on the existing commercial channels and on the Fox and Austar networks?

A I think that this is a good thing. When the Fox and Austar networks came in, people said there were too many channels but it is great to have a wide range of choices. It means diversity of programming and the creation of a lot of jobs.

Q What was it like working with one of the true legends of Australian Comedy in Graham Kennedy on Coast to Coast?

A It was a great experience sitting side by side with one of legends of Australian Television for twelve months. I am amazed by the number of people who remember the show and even remember vivid details on sketches from the show.

Working on the show was a highlight and it set the trend for similar style shows to follow. The Panel was a similar show with a different format. It was a weekly show with news items and funny commentary. Other shows like Good News Week have followed the same formula that Graham pioneered 20 years ago.

Q Out of Graham's three on air nicknames for you, The Unique Greek with the Sleek Physique, The Calamari Kid and the Man with the big Molevi which one was your favourite?

A I would have to say the Man with the big Molevi. If you remember the sketch it involved a piece of paper and a pencil. It also involved a play on words and a word which sounded a bit like an English swear word.

Q How heavily do you feel the current recession has impacted on ordinary Australians, has there been a big impact in Sydney?

A There has been a major impact on people's lives. There are daily conversations on the impact of the recession and people are concerned about losing their jobs. The recession is starting to bite hard and there is a lot of apprehension out there.



John Mangos with Sotiris and Christina Tsatsoulis