



Southern Science Town

REAL LIFE HUMAN STORIES WITH SOUTHERN OCEAN SCIENCE

Popular science documentary series 6 x 26'

Contact: steve@roarfilm.com.au



Roar Film acknowledges the support of Screen Australia's Enterprise Program

Southern Science Town

Popular science documentary series 6 x 26'

- Unprecedented access behind the scenes to world's key centre for Southern Ocean Science
- Extreme science that could hold the key to the world's future
- Scientists from France, Germany, US, Canada, Japan, Chile, South Africa, New Zealand, Argentina and Australia
- Tells the personal stories behind the scientific research
- Demystifies cutting-edge science practice

The CSIRO (Australia's national science agency) Research Centre in Hobart, Tasmania is the world's key centre for Southern Ocean Science. It is home to an extraordinary collection of international scientists all working on research that may well define the future of our planet. The sixty scientists in Hobart represent many nationalities and branches of science but all are world leaders in their field. Proximity to the Southern Ocean and the world's largest ice sheet, Antarctica is what brings them together.

With unprecedented, open door access, **Southern Science Town** takes us behind the scenes to observe not only the vitally important cutting edge science, but also the compelling personal stories of triumph, disaster, competition and dedication that are at the heart of scientific research. Our guides for the journey will be **Dr Steve Rintoul**, one of only three CSIRO fellows and certainly one of the world's most respected Southern Ocean scientists, and **Dr Andrew Lenton**, an internationally recognised expert in climate science. Both Steve and Andrew are young, gregarious and passionate about the practice of science in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean.

We'll observe them modelling sea-mountains, discovering oxygen-rich currents more than three kilometres below the ocean surface, tracking emperor penguins, leopard seals and mutton-birds, measuring fish populations or mapping the geology of the Antarctic continent. The science in itself is compelling and sometimes risky. But how little we know of the dedicated men and women and their struggles with hypothesis testing, peer review, funding and justifying their work. Every day they must navigate fear of failure and the stresses of managing vitally important project workloads.

Understanding the crucial role played by Antarctica and the Southern Ocean in global climate systems is a critical component in what will be a climatically different future for us all. These scientists more than anyone know how fast the clock is ticking. Let's meet them in **Southern Science Town**.

Producers: Craig Dow Sainter, Kath Symmons

Directors: Varcha Sidwell, Steve Thomas

Director of Photography: Matthew Newton

Partners: Screen Australia, Screen Tasmania

Budget: \$900,000

