

ambassador

Ian McNamara is Ability First Australia's first celebrity Ambassador. Affectionately known as Macca by his loyal audience from across Australia, Ian has an understanding of the issues faced by people living with a disability and those who care for them.

Ian was born and grew up in Sydney, attended Oatley West Public, Kogarah High and Sydney University where he emerged with an Economics degree (B.Ec) in 1974.

Whilst doing his degree and even while at school Ian worked in various jobs, delivering papers, assembling lawnmowers, Jackerooing in country NSW, or playing guitar as one of Col Joye's – Joy Boys.

Ian joined the ABC in the search for a radio career but spent a few years in Finance and Industrial Relations, waiting for a break which came in 1977 where he got an opportunity to work as a reporter in Regional Radio

After stints in radio Current Affairs and on television programs such as A Big Country Ian began his life's work if you like as the compare of a small regional radio program called Australia All Over.

This program has become the 'most listened to radio program in Australia 'with a listenership in excess of 2 million people, plus a large audience overseas via Radio Australia and 'the net'.

Ian has maintained his interest and enjoyment of music, still performing concerts when he gets time and it's his ability to do this that enables him to raise money to help all sorts of causes.

Ian has done concerts 'all over' for the Paralympics, the Bush Church Aid Drought Relief, and much small country towns across Australia have received thousands of dollars from a Macca concert.

Everyone appreciates the affect of drought especially in small communities. Macca goes into little towns you probably haven't heard of, attracts a crowd from all over, raises money for the local community and more importantly lifts spirits.

'It's better to give than receive'. There was never a truer phrase spoken. "When I see the smiles on the faces of the people in the front row and see everyone talking animatedly after the shows as we all share a cuppa and a sandwich, words can't describe that feeling. The whole town young and old, turns out. Money raised is just a bonus.

