


Aaron Smith

Award-winning media and communications professional

CONTACT

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PROFILE

I am an award-winning multi-platform media and communications professional based in Cairns who is widely published in print, online, broadcast TV and radio journalism.

With over a decade's experience, I was the last editor of Torres News and continue to produce freelance journalism for multiple outlets, including the Guardian, SBS, CNN, Australian Geographic and the Koori Mail.

My work has garnered me two Qld Clarion Awards and I have been nominated as a finalist for another four. I also have three years' experience as a TV Stringer for NITV, and I am a photographer, videographer, and a communications consultant.

I am a critically acclaimed three-time published author in four countries and my latest book, [The Rock, looking at Australia's Heart of Darkness from the edge of its wild frontier](#), (December 2020) has received multiple positive reviews.

EDUCATION

MASTER'S DEGREE

Journalism, Media & Communications
University of Tasmania

BACHELOR'S DEGREE

Environmental Science
Monash University

DIPLOMA

Art and Design (Photography)
University of Tasmania (deferred)

SOCIAL MEDIA



<https://au.linkedin.com/in/aaronsmith1>



<https://twitter.com/aaronsmithtweet>



<https://www.instagram.com/senhor.smithy/>

WORK EXPERIENCE

MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER (P/T)

Wet Tropics Management Authority / November 2019 – Present

FREELANCE JOURNALIST

Various publications and media outlets / 2009 — Present

Including: The Guardian, SBS, CNN, Australian Geographic Magazine, ABC, The Australian Newspaper, The Koori Mail, The Mercury Newspaper, The Advertiser Newspaper, The Griffith Review, Australian Traveller Magazine, The Australian Way (QANTAS inflight magazine), Jetstar Magazine, Outer Edge Magazine, Sport Diver Magazine, Diver Magazine (US), The Strategist and Australian Geographic Outdoor Magazine.

FREELANCE EDITOR & COMMUNICATIONS CONSULTANT

Various public and private organizations and individuals | 2010 – Present.

FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHER & VIDEOGRAPHER

Various organizations / 2010 – Present

GQ Magazine, The Monthly Magazine, Australian Geographic Outdoor Magazine, Jetstar Magazine, Sport Diver Magazine, Cairns Post, Tourism and Events Queensland, Recognition Australia, James Cook University, and many more.

AUTHOR and PLAYWRIGHT

Various | 2000-present

Critically acclaimed author of three books who has spoken and literary festivals in Australia, NZ and the US. Playwright whose plays produced at various arts festivals.

TV STRINGER

NITV / June 2017 — December 2019

Cover stories about the Torres Strait and Queensland's Far North.

NEWSPAPER EDITOR

Torres News / Regional and Remote Newspaper Group / 2013 – December 2019

Regional and Remote Newspaper Group ran two weekly independent tabloid newspapers that services North Queensland's Cape York and Torres Strait, that merged into a new regional newspaper, Cape and Torres News.

MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

University of Tasmania / 2010 – 2013

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TECHNICAL SKILLS



OTHER SKILLS

- Car, bus & boat license
- PADI SCUBA Divemaster

REFEREES

Stefan Armbruster
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Policy Research
ANU Research Fellow
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PORTFOLIO

China's fishery deal with PNG: wolf-warrior diplomacy or just business? The Strategist | DEC 2020
<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/chinas-fishery-deal-with-png-wolf-warrior-diplomacy-or-just-business/>

Indigenous Australians locked in immigration detention believed to be entitled to payout due to 'negligence'
GUARDIAN | SEP 2020
<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2020/sep/05/indigenous-australians-locked-in-immigration-detention-believed-to-be-entitled-to-payout-due-to-negligence>

Our Reef Ambassadors AUSTRALIAN GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE | MAY JUNE Edition 2020
<https://www.australiangeographic.com.au/topics/science-environment/2020/05/the-new-great-barrier-reef-ambassadors/>

High Court decision could free Islanders living in limbo. SBS | FEB 2020
<https://www.sbs.com.au/nitv/article/2020/02/15/high-court-decision-could-free-islanders-living-limbo>

Doctors call to arms over climate change impacts on Indigenous Health. GUARDIAN | DEC 2019
<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/dec/08/torres-strait-doctors-issue-call-to-arms-over-climate-change-impact-on-indigenous-health>

Australian government fails to consult PNG over deportations SBS | FEB 2019
<https://www.sbs.com.au/nitv/article/2019/02/11/australian-government-fails-consult-png-over-deportations>

'This is my home': Woman fears deportation after 56 years in Australia SBS | NOV 2018
<https://www.sbs.com.au/nitv/article/2018/11/02/my-home-woman-fears-deportation-after-56-years-australia>

'The forgotten people'. When death came to the Torres Strait CNN | MAY 2018
<https://edition.cnn.com/2018/05/25/asia/aboriginal-massacre-australia-intl/index.html>

Australia's forgotten World War II Veterans CNN | APR 2018
<https://edition.cnn.com/2018/04/24/asia/australia-ww2-torres-strait-intl/index.html>

NBA star Patty Mills returns to his ancestral home CNN | OCT 2017
<https://edition.cnn.com/2017/10/09/sport/patty-mills-nba-australia/index.html>

AWARDS

QUEENSLAND CLARION JOURNALISM AWARD WINNER FOR BEST REGIONAL FEATURE STORY
• MEAA / QLD Australia / 2019

QUEENSLAND CLARION JOURNALISM AWARD FINALIST FOR INDIGENOUS ISSUES
• MEAA / QLD Australia / 2019

QUEENSLAND CLARION JOURNALISM AWARD FINALIST FOR BEST NEWS REPORT
• MEAA / QLD Australia / 2019

AUSTRALIA DAY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: for contributions to community journalism
• Torres Shire Council / QLD Australia / 2015

QUEENSLAND CLARION JOURNALISM AWARD WINNER FOR INDIGENOUS ISSUES
• MEAA / QLD Australia / 2014

QUEENSLAND CLARION JOURNALISM AWARD FINALIST FOR HEALTH & WELL BEING
• MEAA / QLD Australia / 2014

QUEENSLAND CLARION JOURNALISM AWARD FINALIST FOR BEST REGIONAL NEWS REPORT
• MEAA / QLD Australia / 2014

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Knight Centre for Journalism of the Americas
- Investigative Journalism for the Digital Age MOOC
- Social Media for Journalists MOOC

Australian Geographic Magazine
Editor Internship, 2010

RMIT University
Cert IV in Business Management