



The  
BLAKE  
Mysteries

Coming soon > 

# The Blake Mysteries

## 'GHOST STORIES' TELEMOVIE



Jean Blake is drawn into the investigation of several bizarre murders whose only connection seems to be a series of articles recently published in *The Courier* about Ballarat's most infamous unsolved mysteries.

It's a mad, mad world. President John F. Kennedy has been assassinated; the world has changed and tremors are being felt even all the way in Ballarat where Jean Blake (NADINE GARNER) is unexpectedly drawn into the investigation of a pair of murders.

No one knows the town's history better than Jean and she's determined to help, despite pushback from Chief Superintendent Matthew Lawson (JOEL TOBECK).

Jean's whole world has fallen apart with Doctor Lucien Blake missing, presumed dead. But that same inner strength which got her through the losses of war and enabled her to raise two sons on her own will not allow her to be defeated.

Able aided by friends Chief Superintendent Matthew Lawson and newly appointed Police Surgeon, Doctor Alice Harvey (BELINDA McCCLORY), Jean is about to throw herself back into a world she thought she had left behind.



### CAST

Nadine Garner	Jean Blake
Joel Tobeck	Chief Superintendent Matthew Lawson
Belinda McClory	Doctor Alice Harvey
David Whiteley	Senior Sergeant Bill Hobart
Joshua Orpin	Constable Peter Crowe
Ian Rooney	Cec
Tom Wren	Martin Carver
Emma Annand	Amy Parks
Alan Brough	Steve Whelan
Gynton Grantley	Don Roper
Julie Nihill	Maggie Butson
Joshua Firman	Evan Butson
Gabriel Egan	Russell Payton-Smith
Finn Scicluna-O'Prey	Geoffrey Roper
Lara Schwerdt	Brenda Roper
Christopher Bunworth	Bruce Beattie
Asleen Mauthoor	Diana Zurvas
Hugo Iser-Smith	Ricky
Sebastian Court	Joe
Abbey Andrews	Livvie
Matthew Connell	Jack Stanton

# Nadine Garner is JEAN BLAKE

Everything changed for Jean the day she married Lucien Blake. All those sordid rumours about the Doctor and his housekeeper were finally put to bed.

But happily ever after was never on the cards for Jean. Two years after their wedding, Lucien disappeared whilst in pursuit of a killer. Any other woman might feel their life was over. But Jean, ever practical and pragmatic, found a way to continue on, getting through one day at a time.

Jean has long been the fount of all local knowledge – a skill she soon put to use as a newly elected member of local council. Everything Jean has learnt over the years by watching and studying both Blake and his father before him is now going to stand her in good stead, as she finds herself more and more drawn into a world of murder and mystery.

Jean knows people; she understands them. She can see what makes them tick and why they are what they are. She can see beyond the obvious, what made them do what they did. It's a blessing and a curse, and Jean has no choice but to do the right thing.

But beneath it all are her own fears – that she's kidding herself. That deep down she's still just Jeannie Randall, the poor farm girl, the woman who never left Ballarat, the Doctor's housekeeper. Surely it's only a matter of time before everybody realises it?

## Biography

Nadine Garner is one of Australia's most respected actors. Her career has spanned film, television and theatre for more than 25 years. Nadine will next be seen in *The Blake Mysteries* Telemovie and Ben Hackworth's debut feature *Celeste*. She most recently starred opposite Craig McLachlan in the ABC's *The Doctor Blake Mysteries*, on stage for the Melbourne Theatre Company in *Di, Viv and Rose* and *Watch This* National Theatre's *A Little Night Music*.

Nadine's other television credits include Channel 7's *City Homicide*, the ABC comedy *It's A Date*, *Blue Water High*, *The Henderson Kids*, *G.P.* *The Flying Doctors*,

*Boys From the Bush*, and *Raw FM* for which she was nominated for an AFI Award for Best Actress in a Television Drama.

Nadine's feature film credits include Ana Kokkinos' *The Book of Revelation*, Darren Ashton's *Razzle Dazzle* and Amanda Jane's *The Wedding Party*, which earned her a New York City International Film Festival Award for Best Supporting Actress. In 1988, Nadine received an AFI Award for Best Actress for her role in *Mull* and in 1995, she received a Film Critics Circle of Australia Award for Best Supporting Actress and an AFI Award nomination for Best Actress for her role in *Metal Skin*.

Nadine has worked for many of Australia's theatre companies performing both contemporary and classical pieces including *Zebra!* and *Life After George* for the STC; *Di, Viv and Rose*, *The Distance*, *The Weir*, *Private Lives*, *The Three Sisters* and *Cherry Orchard* for the MTC; *Miss Julie* for the Perth Theatre Company; *Romeo And Juliet* and *Taming of the Shrew* for The Australian Shakespeare Company. She starred in Sam Mendes' production of *Cabaret* and received a Helpmann Award and Green Room Award for her performance as Fraulein Kost. In 2011, Nadine wrote and directed the short film *Afterglow* which was nominated for an AACTA Award for Best Screenplay.



# Joel Tobeck is **CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT MATTHEW LAWSON**

The stoic Chief Superintendent of Ballarat. When he arrived back in town a few years ago his plan had been for Charlie to eventually take his place. That plan fell apart when Charlie became a detective in Melbourne.

Now Matthew finds himself over-seeing the Station with no clear succession plan, waiting for a 'tap on the shoulder' from the new Commissioner in Melbourne... any day now...

And then Blake vanished. Lucien was the brother Lawson never had. As such he now feels a duty to protect Jean; she's his family. What Lawson didn't see coming was Jean starting to get involved in solving crimes. Bloody hell – this could all go horribly wrong...

But what do you know, Jean Blake actually seems to have a natural knack for sniffing out the truth and seeing beyond the obvious. How best Lawson can utilise those skills? Well, only time will tell.

At least Matthew isn't completely alone. He and Doctor Harvey have become quite good friends. And perhaps they could be even more than that, if either of them had the gumption to broach the subject.

In the meantime, he has awarded her the contract for the role of Police Surgeon. She was always the best person for the job after Lucien, and Lawson needs people he can trust around him, now more than ever.

## **Biography**

Joel Tobeck is a highly acclaimed international actor working primarily in the USA, Australia and New Zealand. Joel's film credits include Peter Jackson's *Lord of the Rings* III, *Little Fish*, *Ghost Rider*, *Stealth*, *Accidents Happen*, *30 Days of Night* and the highly controversial *Sleeping Beauty* which premiered at the Cannes International Film Festival in 2011. Later this year he will appear in the Peter Jackson produced *Mortal Engines*.

Joel boasts a wealth of television credits which include lead roles in the John Edwards produced *Tangle* (Series 1, 2 & 3), Andrew Denton's *30 Seconds*, as well as the critically acclaimed US drama *Sons of Anarchy*, CBS' *Hawaii 5-0*, Fox Television's *The Glades*, Seven Network's *City Homicide*, ABC's *Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries* (Series 1), Screentime's New Zealand *Underbelly: Land of the Long Green Cloud* and *Siege*, Great Southern Film and Television's *Agent Anna* (Series 2) and South Pacific Pictures *Golden* in which Joel played the lead 'Paul'.

More recently, Joel has been seen on air in New Zealand's much loved *Shortland Street*, the second series of *Westside* and US comedy horror series *Ash vs Evil Dead* (Season 2), ABC's *The Doctor Blake Mysteries* (Seasons 1-5 and Telemovie) in the role of Superintendent Matthew Lawson, Hoodlum/ABC International's *Harrow* and the second series of *Secret City* for Foxtel.

His stage work includes *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* as 'Frank 'n' Furter' with Auckland Theatre Company as well as their productions of *Hair*, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* and *Comedy of Errors*, *Assassins* with Watershed Theatre and *Fawlty Towers* with Custom Theatrics.

Joel's work has been widely recognised by both his peers and the public with numerous award nominations, winning the highly coveted New Zealand Film and Television Award for Best Actor in *Topless Women Talk About Their Lives* and TV Guide's New Zealand Television Award for Best Supporting Actor in *Lawless*.



# *Belinda McClory is* DOCTOR ALICE HARVEY



With her controversial appointment as Police Surgeon, Alice has cemented her place in the morgue at Ballarat Hospital, a singular world in which she has always felt the most capable, the most assertive.

But now, for the first time, she may be searching for more.

She and Matthew have struck up an unlikely friendship. Theirs is a relationship that could be much, much more. But Matthew hesitated too long to take that all-important next step.

And then once he hired Alice to be the new Police Surgeon she became concerned people would misread their relationship and make assumptions about why he hired her in the first place.

Of course losing Lucien will sting for Alice – he was her conduit to the outside world of the morgue, helping her believe she could connect with people. And now, for the first time, her role will demand much more contact with people – live ones, at that!

So she'll seek the help of the closest thing she has to a friend in the world – Jean Blake. Jean in turn will trade her knowledge of romance and life for the darker secrets held by Alice. Together they will form an unlikely but formidable team.

## **Biography**

Belinda McClory is a VCA graduate and has worked extensively in film, theatre and television. She has worked for all the major Australian theatre companies and has performed on stage in Paris, London and Vienna.

She has performed with the Melbourne Theatre Company in many productions and her most recent work includes *Di, Viv and Rose*, *The Waiting Room*, *Queen Lear*, *The Ghost Writer*, *Boy Gets Girl*, *Frozen* and *Proof*. For the Malthouse Theatre: *Revolt. She Said. Revolt Again*, *Edward II*, *Dance of Death*, *Pompeii L.A.* and *The Trial*; Sydney Theatre Company's *Gross Und Klein*, *The City*, *Holy Day*, *Concussion* and *Emergency Sex*; Griffin/Belvoir Street *Love Me Tender*; and Red Stitch productions of *Splendour* and *Hir*.

Belinda's screen work includes four series and one telemovie of *The Doctor Blake Mysteries*, the comedy web series *Little Acorns* and the second series of *Glitch*. She starred in the Hollywood blockbuster *The Matrix* and Australian films *Redball*, *Mullet*, *Life*, *darklovestory*, *Acolytes* and *The Wheel*. Belinda also co-wrote and performed in the feature films *X* and *Turkey Shoot*. She has received both a Helpmann and a Green Room Award for her theatre work.



# Tom Wren is MARTIN CARVER

Well-educated, well-travelled, well read, handsome - a deadly combination.

Martin's still settling into his role as the new editor of The Courier newspaper. How the hell did he find himself in Ballarat? If pushed, he might tell you over a drink or two that it's a punishment from the powers-that-be for stuffing up an important story in Sydney. That he can't wait to leave this place and re-join high society.



But the truth is his connection with Ballarat runs far deeper than he'd ever openly admit. See, Martin has a few secrets of his own... David Martin Finchley was actually born in Ballarat. He was only seven years old when a fire razed his home to the ground, killing his parents and orphaning he and his older sister Margaret.

The children were separated, adopted by two different families. David Finchley moved to Sydney, became Martin Carver. He never saw his sister again.

His entire life, Martin has always suspected that fire was deliberately lit. But by who? That's what he's really back in Ballarat to find out. It's the whole reason he printed his 'Unsolved Mysteries' stories in The Courier.

It was this tragedy as a boy that helped shape the man Martin has become. Very proud, but also deeply wounded. Never really settled, both professionally and personally. Hesitant to truly trust anyone.

## Biography

Tom Wren is a graduate of the Victoria College of the Arts and has enjoyed a successful career in Australia and internationally. Tom is best known for his role in four successful seasons of Seven Network's much-loved drama *Winners & Losers* as Dr. Doug Graham, garnering a Logie Award nomination for Best New Talent.

Tom has also appeared in the chilling US sci-fi drama series *Hunters*, Screentime's *Fat Tony & Co*, *Rush*, *City Homicide*, *Bed of Roses*, *The Saddle Club* and the US telemovie *Paradise Pictures*. Tom will soon be seen in the second series of Matchbox Pictures/Universal Media Studios International's *Secret City*.

On the big screen, Tom has been seen in the UK/Australia co-production *The Inbetweeners 2*. He also appeared in the independent feature *Drama* and will soon be seen in the psychological drama *Disclosure*.

In theatre, Tom performed in the Sydney Theatre Award winning *The Only Child*, *The Suicide* and *3xSisters*. Other productions include *A Man for All Seasons* (Melbourne Theatre Company), *Othello* (Bell Shakespeare Company), *The Little Dog Laughed* (Red Stich Theatre Company), *Lovers and Haters* (Adelaide Festival) and *Harp on the Willow* (Martin C. Cook and Associates).

# Emma Annand is *AMY PARKS*

Amy Parks... why is that name familiar? Because she's the daughter of Jean's oldest friend Nancy, and the youngest sister of Sergeant Danny Parks!

But Amy is most decidedly not her brother...

Always a bit of a troublemaker, Amy went to the local state school close to home, until she was 'asked to leave' at 15. Now, Amy doesn't know what she wants to do or who she wants to be, and consequently has chosen not to think about the future. For now, Amy's focused on nothing much but having a good time.

She smokes, won't say no to anything alcoholic, occasionally dabbles in the harder stuff when she's flush. But that's not often – she hasn't been able to hold down any steady work for God knows how long. Which could be why she's turned to selling drugs here and there whilst working part time as a bar maid at Flaherty's Pub... until they fire her.

And why it comes as such a shock when not long after Jean offers her a job as her new part-time Housekeeper! Amy will offer Jean an insight into a world she has no real access to – what the youth of today are thinking, and the 'word on the street' in Ballarat. She'll be alternately helpful and occasionally a handful. But the one thing Amy Parks is not is predictable.

## **Biography**

Emma Annand is an actress and theatre maker. Since her graduation from VCA ('14) and New York Film Academy ('13) Emma has performed in theatre productions *I Still Call Australia Homo* (toured), *Bock Kills Her Father*, *Reasons To Stay Inside* (toured), *Absurd Person Singular*, *Undercoat: A Parafoxical Tale* and *Too Ready Mirror*. She co-wrote "I Still Call Australia Homo," which was well received in both Melbourne and Adelaide. She has also performed in short films *Sweet Misery*, *My Father*, *Food For Thought*; the feature film *Nightshift* and commercial projects for Holden, RACQ and Lunamik Pictures.

Amy has run theatre workshops for youth at La Boite Theatre Company and Footscray Community Arts Centre and will soon be running a devising workshop at Pipalyatjara Anangu School in remote South Australia. She teaches acting to children and teenagers at Stage School Australia.



# Joshua Orpin is CONSTABLE PETER CROWE

The latest Constable to be sent to sleepy old Ballarat. Unlike previous officers who have arrived from Melbourne, to Peter Crowe this place may as well be New York City.

From a farming family out near Serpentine, Peter's the youngest (and smallest) of four boys – which is slightly terrifying, because Peter's a strapping young lad.

He left home because not only were the Crowe boys costing a fortune to feed, but because he was never going to take over the family farm. He wants to forge his own path, have an adventure or two. Plus, Peter always thought the cop back home, Davo, was a complete legend.

Fresh out of the academy, Peter's a happy, young Golden Labrador of a policeman – happy to roll his sleeves up and try anything. Not book-smart perhaps, but extremely intuitive. He's never afraid of looking stupid, and fiercely loyal. Peter will prove to be a huge asset to anyone with the patience to deal with his boundless enthusiasm and endless questions.

## **Biography**

Joshua Orpin is a graduate of the prestigious Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts. He performed as Cornelius Hackl in *The Matchmaker*, Stephano in Shakespeare's *The Tempest* and Peter Van Daan in *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Joshua made his feature film debut in *The Neon Spectrum*. He also starred as Gus in the WA Screen Academy's short film *You, Me & Karen* and Groom in *Dark Horses*. He was most recently seen in *A Midsummer Nights Dream – Under The Stars* for The Australian Shakespeare Company.



## David Whiteley is SNR. SGT. BILL HOBART

Good old Bill Hobart has slowly ingratiated himself year by year with the Blake family.

He remains Lawson's blunt instrument at the Station – always handy with his fists. But his recent transgressions, like attacking suspects he falsely believed to be homosexual, have left him a little more likely to wait for the final word from the Boss before doing anything silly.

It's both a blessing and a curse for Lawson, that in Bill he has a senior officer he trusts - just not to show any real leadership or initiative. Whoever it is that will one day inherit the role of Chief Super in Ballarat... you can guarantee it won't be William Hobart.

### Biography

David Whiteley has recently appeared in Series 2 of *The Wrong Girl* and *Jack Irish*. David appeared as Senior Sergeant Bill Hobart in the long running *The Doctor Blake Mysteries*. He has credits in a number of Australian television series, including *Gallipoli*, *Conspiracy 365*, *The Hollowmen*, *City Homicide*, and *Mr & Mrs Murder*. Feature films include *Menkoff Method* and *Killer Elite*. David has also appeared in many stage productions over the years including *The Other Place* for MTC (2013) and *Uncle Vanya* (2016) at Red Stitch, the independent theatre company he helped found and managed as Artistic Director from 2005-2013.



## Ian Rooney is CEC DRURY

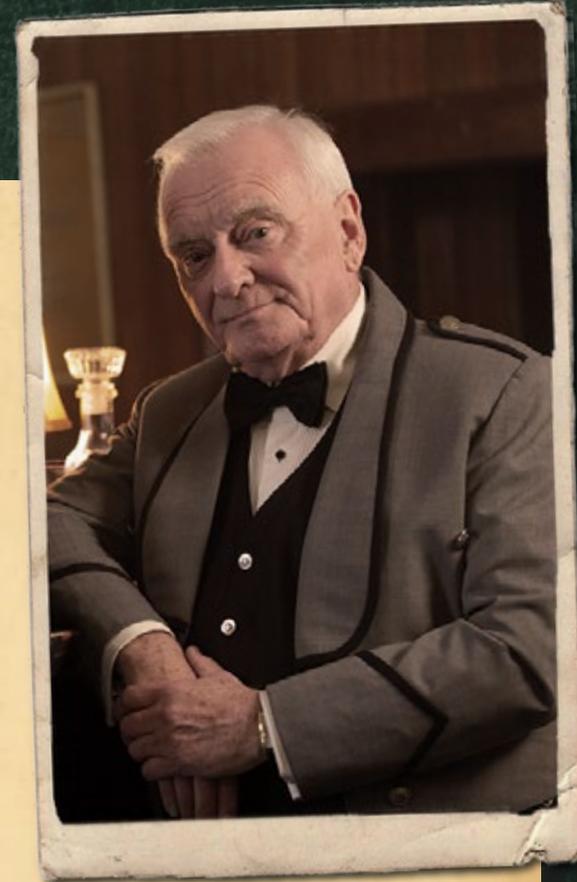
If there's anyone that knows Ballarat almost as well as Jean Blake, it's Cecil Drury.

Since Lucien's disappearance, Cec obviously misses his friend terribly. He will receive Jean with open arms at the Colonist's – even if Club rules clearly state that women are only welcome as the guest of a member. Cec would rather resign from the only job he's held for 40 years, than tell Mrs. Blake to leave.

Cec will keep an eye and an ear out for Jean. He'll be there whenever she needs him, ready with a shoulder to cry on and a glass of sherry or two. After all, he's an irreplaceable member of the Blake extended family. And he always will be.

### Biography

Ian Rooney has worked in the Television, Film and Theatre industry for more than 30 years. His film credits include; *The Bank*, *The Cup*, *Tender Hook*, *Hawke*, *Cliffy* and *Rats and Cats*. His TV T credits include; *Neighbours*, *Stingers*, *Halifax F.P.*, *Marshall Law*, *Blue Heelers*, *Last Man Standing*, *City Homicide*, *Winners and Losers*, *Jack Irish*, *Underbelly* and *Chopper*. Ian has been a regular cast member on *The Doctor Blake Mysteries* since its beginning in 2012. He toured interstate with Red Stitch Actor's Theatre, and has appeared in numerous other theatre productions, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Julius Caesar*, *The Death of Peter Pan*, *Angels in America*, *Hobson's Choice* to mention but a few. He also works as a voice over artist and has appeared in numerous TVC's.





## Gyton Grantley is DON ROPER

A Korean war veteran, Don's done his best to re-integrate into civilian life. But he can't help but be haunted by the places he's been, the lives he saw snuffed out through his rifle scope. He's noticed the bruises on his son – so he's volunteered to chaperone on the next scout camp. He believes that it's the scoutmaster, Evan, that's been hurting his boy. The truth, sadly, lies closer to home.

### Biography

Since graduating from QUT, Gyton has forged a remarkable career in film, theatre and television.

His feature film credits include *The Dressmaker*, *Don't Tell*, *The Reef*, *Beneath Hill 60*, *Balibo* and *Prime Mover*.

Gyton is renowned for his television performances and has appeared in *House Husbands* (Series 1 to 4) as series regular 'Kane', *Fat*

*Tony & Co*, *Cliffy*, *30 Seconds*, *True Story with Hamish and Andy*, *Rescue Special Ops*, *East West 101*, *All Saints*, *Bond* and *Underbelly* where Gyton's portrayal of Carl Williams garnered critical acclaim with an AFI Award for Best Actor in a Television Series and a Silver Logie for Most Outstanding Actor.

Gyton has starred in Theatre Productions' *Hand to God*, Opera Australia's *South Pacific*, *Domestic Bliss* for the Old Fitzroy Theatre, *Vincent in Brixton* for the Ensemble Theatre, *The Removalist* for La Boite Theatre, *The Blue Roof* for Jigsaw Theatre Company and *Vertigo and The Virginia* for Tamarama Rock Surfers. He performed the title role in La Boite's production of *Ruben Guthrie*, where he received a Matilda Award Nomination for Best Male Actor in a Leading Role.

## Julie Nhill is MAGGIE BUTSON

Evan's mother, works part-time as the Tea-Lady at Town Hall. People there may not see her. But she sees and hears everything...

### Biography

Julie Nhill has appeared in some of Australia's most celebrated films, popular television shows and on stage for our most renowned theatre companies. She is best known for her role in the multi-award winning *Blue Heelers* as Chris Riley from 1994 – 2005.

Julie won Best Actress for her first lead role in the ABC telemovie *Every Move She Makes*. Other TV credits include *Tusitala*, *Bodyline*, *Cowra Breakout*, *A Country Practice*, *Winners And Losers*, *The Mystery of the Hansom Cab*, *Worst Year of My Life Again*, *Picnic At Hanging Rock*, *House Husbands*, *True Story With Hamish And Andy* and HBO series *The Leftovers*.

Film credits include *Holding The Man*, *Careful He Might Hear You*, *rebel Deadly*, DH Lawrence's *Kangaroo*, *Dalkeith*, *A Slice of Life* and *Undercover* and *Boundaries of the Heart*. Julie's extensive theatre credits include *Bakersfield Mist* (Tasmanian Theatre Company), *The Glass Menagerie*, *Big Toys* (Malthouse), *The Glass Soldier* (Melbourne Theatre Company), *Inheritance* (Melbourne Theatre Company and Sydney Theatre Company), *Mixed Doubles* (Sydney Theatre Company), *Wild Honey* (State Theatre Company of South Australia) and in the title role in *Ursula* (Crossroads Theatre).



# Alan Brough is STEVE WHELAN

A Milliner by trade, a paranoid by nature, Steve has spent his entire life worried people are talking about him... It all stems from a tragedy he was involved in as a young boy. Steve was the only survivor when multiple children drowned in a local dam – rumours have always swirled that perhaps the drownings weren't an accident. Steve's worst fears are fueled when The Courier prints an article about the drowning... were those drownings an accident or are the rumours true?

## Biography

Alan Brough is a New Zealand born actor, comic, presenter and writer who became a household name in Australia for his role as team captain and professional music “nerd” on the hugely popular music quiz show, *Spicks and Specks*. He is also known for his work on *The Games*, *Kath and Kim*, and the feature films, *The Craic*, *The Nugget*, *Bad Eggs* and *Any Questions for Ben*.

Alan co-hosted breakfast radio, a daily radio comedy show that was broadcast nationally and hosted a Sunday morning program on ABC Melbourne. Alan also has a wonderful singing voice which he showed off to great effect as Baron Bomburst in the musical, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*. Most recently Alan has added another string to his bow, publishing several books for children.



## Production Credits

**JULIE McGAURAN** – Head Of Drama, Channel Seven

**GEORGE ADAMS** – Creator & Producer

**TONY WRIGHT** – Executive Producer

**STUART MENZIES** – Executive Producer

**IAN BARRY** – Director

**PAUL JENNER** – Writer

**CRAIG BARDEN** – Director Of Photography

**LOUISE MCCARTHY** – Costume Designer

**JOHN LOGUE** – Make-Up And Hair Designer

**BEN MORIESON** – Production Designer

# Contacts

## NATIONAL/MELBOURNE

Amie Bracken

[abracken@seven.com.au](mailto:abracken@seven.com.au)

03 9697 7782

---

## SYDNEY

Kristina Echols

[kechols@seven.com.au](mailto:kechols@seven.com.au)

02 8777 7253

---

## BRISBANE

Debbie Turner

[dturner@seven.com.au](mailto:dturner@seven.com.au)

07 3368 7281

---

## ADELAIDE

Libby Rayner

[lrayner@seven.com.au](mailto:lrayner@seven.com.au)

08 8342 7297

---

## PERTH

Jessica Mzungu

[jmzungu@seven.com.au](mailto:jmzungu@seven.com.au)

08 9344 0692