



Holiday announcer

Steve Liebmann

Age: 65

Profession: Journalist/TV anchor

Experience: 52 years

First job: Working for pocket money on weekends in the local record bar in Cooma

Interests: Family (especially grandchildren), travel, sport (especially tennis)

STEVE Liebmann, who launched *Today* on Channel 9 in the 1980s, now enjoys a more flexible work life as host of *Crime Investigation Australia*.

What does your job involve?

After 40 years of a fairly regimented life on radio and television I can now select what I want to do. I'm contracted to Foxtel to present crime documentaries on the CI channel. I also work as a "locum" for 2UE, filling-in when someone is on leave. I am also ambassador for the National Career Development Week campaign and do corporate work around the country and overseas.

When did you decide journalism was what you wanted to do?

In 1962-63, after I started with commercial radio in Canberra (2CA). I decided I would never be the next John Laws or Bob Rogers. I'd always been interested in news, especially politics, so when the chance came to move into journalism I took it.

Describe the first job you ever had.

Delivering papers for the local newsagent. We'd start at about five in the morning wrapping the papers, then go out on the delivery. And let me tell you, early winter-mornings in Cooma on a paper run was like working in a freezer-room.

What was your first job in your profession?

I worked on Saturday mornings in the record bar in Cooma. The owner of the local radio station (2XL) offered me more money to work in the station's record library. An announcer was leaving and he said to me "Why don't you get behind the microphone?" and I did. I worked on air on weekends and in school holidays. When I finished

high school in 1960 I worked full time at 2XL.

What do you consider to be your big break?

In '72 I was appointed director of news at 2UE. About the same time I went on air each afternoon to present a three-hour news and current affairs program. That lasted until 1976 when I then went to join 2SM.

What are your career highlights?

Launching the *Today* program on the Nine network in 1982 and remaining co-anchor until I left in 2005 because of health issues. Covering 9/11, and interviewing George Bush, Michael Jordan, Barbra Streisand, John McEnroe.

What are the pros and cons of being a television presenter?

Coping with the press/public scrutiny and balancing family life with an on-camera life.

You've hosted a range of shows. Do you have a favourite topic?

Politics and sport. Some people might suggest there is no difference. I've always been fascinated by politics.

What do you do when you are not working?

We have three grandchildren and I love spending time with them. I also play a lot of tennis.

