

Tim Macartney-Snape

A WTM Founding Director and Patron

Extended profile

Best known as the only person ever to climb Mount Everest's entire 8,874 metres from sea to summit, Tim reached the peak on 11 May 1990. Although he began the three month expedition with a small film crew on the shores of the Bay of Bengal, he climbed alone from Base Camp—without the assistance of Sherpas, fellow climbers or bottled oxygen. The documentary of this achievement, *Everest: Sea to Summit*, won prizes in seven countries for the best mountain film.

This feat followed twelve years of successful Himalayan ascents on ten major expeditions, all of which were achieved without bottled oxygen in a lightweight style and, in most cases, up previously unclimbed routes.

In 1984, Australian climbing was put on the international map when Tim and a fellow climber reached the summit of Mount Everest by forging a new route up the North Face. The ascent—filmed by Tim—was also shown to world-wide television audiences.

In 1986, as part of a small US/Australian team, Tim climbed a new route on Gasherbrum IV in Pakistan. The documentary of this climb was also shown to audiences around the world. In addition to his extensive Himalayan experience, Tim has climbed throughout Australia, Africa and South America.

Tim is also passionate about biology and the value of the outdoor experience in developing the individual, regularly introducing groups of novices to climbing.

He spent the first twelve years of his life in Tanzania, where he was born in 1956 to an Australian father and British mother (his father had gone there as a prospector and pioneer farmer in 1927). Tim occasionally returns to East Africa where he is active in developing walking expeditions in wildlife parks and reserves.

Educated at Geelong Grammar School in Victoria, Australia, Tim is a trained biologist with a Bachelor of Science from the Australian National University (ANU), and it was while he was at ANU that his passion for mountaineering developed; he was the only summiteer on the university's 1978 Dunagiri expedition in the Indian Himalaya and the first Australian to do so. Tim is also a qualified outdoor instructor and the author of three books: *Mountain Adventurer* (1992), *Everest: From Sea to Summit* (1992), and *Being Outside* (1993).



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Tim was a founder and director of outdoor equipment business *Sea to Summit* for 26 years, and is a consultant to World Expeditions, one of the world's leading travel adventure companies. He is also Chairman of Leave No Trace Australia and a member of the Fred Hollows Foundation.

In 1987 Tim was awarded an Order of Australia medal (OAM) for his achievements in mountaineering, and in 1993 was made a Member in the Order of Australia (AM) for services to mountaineering and international relations.

Tim was introduced to the understanding of the human condition in 1987 by Jeremy and became one of the Founding Directors of the WTM in 1990, and a Patron of the WTM in 2009. In addition to his many contributions to this all-important project, Tim wrote the foreword to Jeremy's book *Beyond The Human Condition* (1991); accompanied Jeremy on his national tour promoting *A Species In Denial* (2004); introduced Jeremy's definitive work, *FREEDOM: The End Of The Human Condition*, at its launch at London's Royal Geographical Society in 2016; and narrates the podcasts of the Freedom Essays series and the soon-to-be-available audio-book versions of *FREEDOM* and its condensation, *Transform Your Life And Save The World* (2016).

When he is not travelling the wilds of the Himalaya or Africa, Tim lives in the country, about 100 km south-west of Sydney, with his partner, Stacy Rodger.

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