



Biography

Prunella Webber

Australian Editor

Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia Deluxe

Answers to questions like what is Australia's native flower and who was Australia's first Prime Minister, roll off the tip of the tongue of Prunella Webber, the Australian Editor of the Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia Deluxe.

As the local editor, Prunella never stops learning and enjoys exploring and testing her knowledge in quizzes and brainteasers. Her love of knowledge and trivia has also seen her be a contestant on the *Sale of the Century* television program.

Prunella is responsible for ensuring Encarta Encyclopedia has strong Australian content and for keeping that content up to date and relevant. The Encarta Reference Suite includes four multimedia reference works in one – Encyclopedia Deluxe, Interactive World Atlas, World English Dictionary and Encarta Online Deluxe. Encarta is also the only product to include Australian curriculum guidelines and lesson plans for teachers

Along with editing Australian content, she sources new Australian material for upcoming editions of the encyclopedia including text and multimedia - namely, the images, videos and sound recordings. Generally she works a year in advance and is currently involved in the development of the encyclopedia's edition for 2002.

As well as writing some entries herself, she locates appropriate experts to write others. Some of those experts include Emeritus Professor Garth Nettheim of the University of NSW, Professor John Warhust and Professor Ann Curthoys at the ANU.

Prunella also writes monthly articles, called yearbook updates, that are downloaded by Encarta users from the website and updates local material already in Encarta.

Born in Sydney and raised in a family of journalists and broadcasters, it is no surprise that she chose editing as a career.

She has a Degree in English Literature and History and has worked in the UK and New Zealand. Prior to taking on the editing of Encarta, she worked at Reader's Digest where she worked on literally hundreds of Australian and New Zealand articles about politics, history, medicine, science, sport and culture, as well as several non-fiction books.

Along with being a wealth of knowledge on many subjects and enjoying a "good brain tease", her personal interests include devouring over four books a month, movies, tennis, playing the saxophone, swimming and walking her dog.

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