

Jon Faine

Media Personality, Keynote Speaker, Facilitator & MC

Jon Faine is an exceptional journalist with a legal background who, over 30 years, has presented a high rating daily morning radio show for the ABC. Along the way, Jon has interviewed Prime Ministers, Premiers and Government Ministers of all persuasions. He has asked hard hitting questions of business moguls, celebrities and authors, and encouraged countless remarkable but not-so-famous people to tell their personal stories.

With an impressive ability to research, listen, analyse and discuss, Jon brings events to life as a professional conference speaker, MC and facilitator. His wit, energy, fearlessness and passion for contesting ideas never fail to engage, leaving people inspired and enlightened.



More about Jon Faine:

For over three decades, Jon Faine has covered some of Australia's most significant events. From the catastrophic events of the Black Saturday bushfires, through to the ABC coverage of elections and political battles, and horrific crimes including the murder of his colleague and friend Jill Meagher, Jon has held the hand of his audiences through tumultuous times.

Whether he is examining our ethical crisis in public life, questioning democracy, technology and its impact, social trends, political movements, or legal challenges, he manages to scrutinise our contemporary world in an entertaining way.

Jon has written several best-selling books, including an account of his overland adventure from *Melbourne to London*, with his father and son. The book *From Here To There* sold 20,000 copies and is a top rating audio file.

Jon Faine speaks about:

Jon speaks on a range of contemporary issues affecting business, government and communities. These can include, for example:

A look into our national soul: whatever happened to ethics? - Australia is experiencing an ethical crisis. Many institutions and individuals we thought we could trust have let us down. Why,

and what do we do about it? How do we navigate our way through to better relations between business, the professions, government and the people. How do we restore trust? How do you protect your good reputation? What do you do if your past is less than perfect but you are seeking redemption?

When the whole town burned, who stepped forward? – Strathewan and Kinglake were towns devastated by the Victorian Black Saturday fires, with 173 people dead in a single day. The impact was felt for years afterwards, and some unexpected lessons were learned. Jon, who was on air for the ABC Radio Emergency broadcasts that day and non-stop for days afterwards, tells of the harsh lessons learned, lessons that apply across many walks of life.

Is leadership instinctive or learned? – So many workplaces and organisations become captive to an individual charismatic figure – usually to their disadvantage, yet the lessons are rarely learned. Who steps up in a crisis? What happens when a natural disaster strikes? Bushfires? Floods? Massacres and terrorism?

Women in leadership – Why do so many women defer to lesser qualified men? A year long experiment on Jon’s talkback radio show, seeking women guests for the main interview every day, found that most declined and deferring instead to a less qualified man as being more expert in their specialised field. How do we change attitudes and nurture a genuinely collaborative workplace? And as a clue to the answer... what is ‘nudge’ theory?

Who should you trust? Fake news and legacy media – The business model of the news has been shattered, and the replacement is evolving in our own lifetime. How do we protect our society from fake news? What are ‘citizen’ journalists and do they know what they are doing? Are we being bombarded with propaganda from overseas? How do we encourage any investigative journalism if the funds are no longer there to support it?

Career suicide or mid-career tonic? Six months driving overland to London – Jon discusses six months and 35,000 k’s, spent driving through Europe with his father and his son, a story also recorded in his book *From Here To There*, which sold over 20,000 copies. What is Turkmenistan like? The Silk Road? Eating dog in Laotian jungles? Driving through the Gobi Desert in a snow storm! Were they still talking to each other by the end? And did it crush his work ethic and career or revive it?

Cheaper than a shrink – Many parents and teachers – and employers – are dogmatic in their thinking that the best way to achieve success is to cram students full of facts and figures. That may get you superficial short term success – but it is often those very students who struggle once they emerge into the real world. Are we teaching kids to pass exams and get into the course of their choice... only to see them drop out at alarming rates? How realistic is life-long learning?

Why Facebook is the same as the internal combustion engine – Social media — actually antisocial media – is undoing our civil society, its anonymity allowing anyone to say anything to anybody with no consequences.

Client testimonials

“ Jon Faine was recently a moderator at our annual Neuroethics free public event, held at the State Library Victoria with an audience of around 270 people. Jon facilitated a rich discussion that was engaging and thought-provoking with our four expert panellists from the areas of digital health and privacy. Prior to the event, Jon worked with us to ensure the panel discussion would be entertaining and flow smoothly so that the audience would feel like they had attended a worthwhile event. I would not hesitate in recommending Jon as a speaker, moderator or MC. He is incredibly professional and will definitely add value to your event.

- ARC Centre of Excellence for Integrative Brain Function

“ Jon Faine MC'd the 9th International Criminal Justice Conference which was a great success. Not only was Jon professional and efficient to work with in the lead up to the event, he was captivating and on point throughout the entirety of the conference, keeping the audience engaged and bringing the sessions together, asking questions where necessary and subtly keeping all presentations on schedule.

- Alignment Events

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