

CURRICULUM VITAE

Name

Earl de BLONVILLE 

Current Address



PO Box 1425, Carlton, 3053
Victoria, Australia

Fellow: Royal Geographical Society, London







**Mobile
Email
Skype**






+61 (0) 448 776 676
earl@earldeblonville.com
earldeblonville

EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS




1964-67	Ballarat Grammar School, Victoria, Australia 
1967-68	Sign-writing and graphic art training. Melbourne College Sign Arts
1966	Outward Bound Course, Senior Program, Fisherman's Point, NSW
1975-76	BCU Senior Instructor Kayak Certificate, Scotland and Wales
1975-76	BCU Advanced Whitewater Kayak Certificate, Wales
1975	Mountain Leadership Certificate, Plas y Brenin National Mountain Centre, Wales 
1976	Winter Mountaineering, National Mountain Centre, Scotland
1977	Mountain Instructor Certificate, National Mountain Centre, Wales
1977	Advanced Winter Mountain Rescue, Scotland. Supported by British Army Helicopter Squadron
1977	International Diploma of Outdoor Education, National Mountain Centre, UK
1980	ACF Australian Sea Kayak Certificate
1981	ACF Advanced Whitewater Kayak Certificate, Australia

PROFESSIONAL AND CORPORATE POSITIONS

2010-current	<p>Arctic Explorer  <i>Extreme Leadership Coaching</i> Founder and Chief Executive of new pioneering leadership programs for entrepreneurs and senior executives, conducted in the world's wildest places. Involves exploration, science, adventure, virgin summits, television filming. Fastboat based, rugged lifestyle, remote wilderness, difficult ice navigation. Two new programs per year from 2012.</p>
2008-2009	<p>Research and Writing Leave  Time away from professional and corporate consulting and coaching to write the book "Seventh Journey."</p>
2002-2008	<p>Ursus International  <i>Corporate leadership consultants</i> Founder & Chief Executive of globally-oriented enterprise focusing on the development of exceptional leadership communications at the senior executive level. Applications included corporate recovery, leadership change, new growth, mergers & acquisitions, floats, rapid expansion, tendering and major pitches. Clients included World Health Organisation, Business Victoria, UrbisJHD, AIM-CEO Mentor program and Citadel Securix. Ursus offered individual C-level leadership coaching, supported by a range of unique proprietary workshops, including face-to-face persuasive presentation skills for executives, cultural alignment processes and corporate strategic reorientation.</p>
2000-2002	<p>AchieveGlobal  <i>Global business skills training & consultancy organization</i> Account Executive responsible for developing corporate accounts. AchieveGlobal was the world's largest and most acclaimed business training and consultancy organisation, specialising in leadership, teamwork, customer service and sales performance. They served over 450 of the Fortune 500 companies in the USA, with a similar picture in Canada, Europe and the Asia Pacific region, through offices in 40 countries and programs translated into 25 languages. Principal client base: combined privatized light rail industry.</p>
1999-2000	<p>Rogen International <i>International business development consultancy</i>  Consultant and trainer/facilitator, specialising in rapid business growth through enhanced presentation and negotiation skills and multi-million dollar account pitching. Rogen helped clients win \$23 billion of new business in five years and played the pivotal role in the winning bids for the Olympic Games, Sydney 2000, and the Masters Games and Commonwealth Games for Victoria. They have offices in 15 countries. Principal client was the Victorian State Government, with the project a major Rural Leadership Program.</p>
1990-1999	<p>Explorers UK Limited  <i>Unique adventure recreation system</i> Creator and developer of world-exclusive adventure recreation system for education, management training and local government markets. Product range sold under licence in the UK with total sales to 1999 of around \$14 million.</p>

1988-89	<p>Clifton Management Consultants  <i>Regional shopping centre developers</i> Project Manager for Melbourne-based development consortium with \$35 million of regional shopping centres under construction. Project Manager of two regional centres with project value of \$11 million (1988). Appointed Group Marketing Manager to develop modern marketing initiatives to propel lease sales across the national portfolio and generate successful trading launches.</p>
1987-88	<p>Tall Ships Victoria <i>Official launch</i>  <i>of Australia's Bicentenary year</i> Project Director of multi-million dollar, five-day program televised internationally. Responsible to National Director (Admiral Swan) and Chairman of Victorian Steering Committee (John Bertrand). Responsibilities included official arrangements for Governor, Prime Minister, Victorian Premier and visiting Diplomats. The event drew 1.5 million local visitors. The Government confirmed it was the biggest staged event in Victoria's history.</p>
1973-78	<p> Professional mountaineering instructor working with a wide range of ages and abilities, including school groups, industry trainees, young offenders, long term unemployed and Outward Bound groups. In addition to teaching high-risk technical activities, developed new site facilities, instruction programs and specialised equipment. Led team of instructors handling weekly throughput of up to 200 clients. Helped under-performing major outdoor pursuits centre facing closure to achieve turnaround to profitability in 18 months.</p>
1982-85	<p>Community Development. Founded and led the Mansfield Chamber of   Commerce in Victorian alpine region. Successfully developed an expanded tourism industry to help rebuild local economy following the demise of timber and cattle industries, which had displaced almost 15% of the population. Substantial inward investment attracted region that generated major retail and residential construction, created many new small businesses, a raft of new jobs and doubled land and property values within three years.</p>
1979-81	<p>Adventure Travel. Designed, researched, marketed and led series of new high-quality adventure packages aimed at the Australian domestic market for Peregrine Expeditions, now one of the world's larger adventure travel operators. Set new operational and quality standards for industry. Achieved extensive news and media coverage and exceeded year bookings targets.</p>
1969-72	<p>Created Sign Businesses. Trained in signs and graphics, opened first sign business in Dubbo when only 18 with key clients throughout central west NSW. Between expeditions, during the 1980s, opened Alpine Signs in Mansfield, Victoria, offering general design and signage and sales of paint and decorative finishes. Client sectors included tourism, retail, food, performing arts, banking and snowfields.</p>

EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS

2005-2009	<p>Arctic Climate Leadership Challenge </p> <p>Nonprofit Organization Management industry Australia's first national youth climate leadership program. Details: www.arcticexplorer.net</p>
2001-2009	<p>Courseware Development </p> <p>Developed a range of courseware products related to leadership and organizational development. WIN, Capsize, EC school stuff.</p>
1990-1999	<p>Explorers Challenge® </p> <p>Developed a new concept of low-level modular adventure ropes course, suitable for all ages and abilities. Used for improving aerobic fitness, agility and co-ordination in adults and children. Extended uses include leadership training and corporate team building. Early generic developments sold widely across the UK (1,000 plus sites). A new sophisticated version, marketed as <i>Explorers Challenge®</i>, is now used very successfully by local authorities to increase site usage and reduce bullying and vandalism, and by schools as a programmable curriculum resource to help deliver parts of the National Curriculum. The <i>Explorers Challenge®</i> system received strong endorsement from local governments, educationalists and health experts. Overall licensed sales of some \$14 million (1999).</p>
1980	<p>Development and delivery of adventure skills programs for secondary teachers at the University of Melbourne University.</p>
1972	<p>‘CAWs’ Children’s Adventure Weekends, self-confidence development programs for underprivileged inner city Melbourne youth, developed with Outward Bound Association</p>

EXPEDITION LEADERSHIP

Earl has been an Expedition Leader of small and large scientific and adventure groups in desert, Arctic and Himalayan environments. These included private clients and a large undergraduate team with professional scientists, medical officers and support staff. Budgets ranged up to \$200k. Developed highly effective procedures for reconnaissance and operation of scientific fieldwork. Trips included first Europeans into remote area of Kimberley, Western Australia, and first commercial whitewater rafting expedition to descend the Sun Kosi River, Himalayas.

Major Geographic Expeditions

1989: Skipper of British-Australian Arctic Cruise, West Greenland

Extended Australian exploration of West Greenland inshore navigable routes, from Ilulissat north to the Nussuaq Peninsula. Mounted and led exploring expedition aboard own 50' yacht, recruiting and training an English and Greenlandic crew. Explored complex fjords by inflatable boat and despite unusually thick ice, fed from from two massive icecap glaciers, succeeded in crossing Torssukaatak Fjord to reach the hunting settlement of Qeqertaq on the Nussuaq Peninsula at 70° N. Explored uncharted narrows and major bird rookery on Arve Prinsens Island. Voyaged south to Qaqortoq and then crossed the North Atlantic, beating winter gales to make landfall in Plymouth, England.

1988: Leader of First Australian Sailing Expedition, West Greenland

Pioneered Australian executive expedition travel. Raised private sailing expedition to West Greenland for wealthy businessmen using network marketing through YPO and similar organisations. Produced all sales literature and managed launch, presentations and international travel arrangements. Led expedition as skipper of own specially equipped 50' steel yacht. Explored uncharted waters, amended inshore navigation hazards list and made first recorded bivouac on the inland icecap. Discovered historic basecamp hut used by Swiss explorer Alfred de Quervain in 1912 and British explorer Captain Martin Lindsay (ex-BAARE) in 1934 for their icecap crossings, and in 1948 by French scientist Paul Emile Victor to reach the central icecap to establish his pioneering research station.

1986: Leader of Australia's first expedition to the Arctic

Mounted and led Australia's first expedition to the Arctic. Received royal patronage and raised sponsorship of \$2 million (2001). Generated all promotional literature, corporate design, media packs and press releases. Produced 1 hour TV documentary, released internationally (Discovery, BBC, ABC), and undertook audiovisual lecture tours across Australia and Britain. Entire field project took 18 months, including wilderness sea kayak training, logistics and equipment preparation, plus six months of ocean sailing and Arctic sea kayaking. The expedition also established the first diplomatic communication between Australia and Greenland, with Australia, through Prime Minister Hawke and expedition leader de Blonville, being the first foreign country to formally recognize the East Greenland people.

1981: Leader: First commercial raft descent of Sun Kosi River, Nepal

The Sun Kosi (River of Gold) flows south from Tibet into Nepal, then east below the Himalayas for 300 km to break through the Mahabharat Range at the holy shrines of Bahra Chetra and head south to merge with the Ganges. Led an English and Australian team on a pioneering commercial raft expedition into this scantily mapped and militarily sensitive region of Eastern Nepal with the adventure covered by an Australian photojournalist for NewsCorp. Encountered (and named) massive Mungalay Rapids, confirmed by later Australian Kayak Expedition to be wilder and more dangerous to navigate than any of the giant rapids on the famous Colorado River.

Scientific Research Projects

1985: Co-Leader: Quail Creek Expedition, Kimberley region, Western Australia


Mounted and Co-Led private science and adventure expedition to rediscover lost communication tracks crossing the central Kimberly plateau. Undertook the first exploration northwest from Mt Elizabeth Station, guided by local tribal elder Peter Lacey, into the Quail Creek region of the Prince Regent River, becoming the first Europeans to ever penetrate this area. Conducted first exploration of the lower Mitchel Falls, using technical climbing equipment. Conducted scientific fieldwork in Entomology and Botany at various stations for the Museums of Victoria and Western Australia. Scientific equipment was loaned by Victoria. Discovered a new species of Grevillea and contributed several new species of insect to science. Whilst in the region, undertook land-based and aerial photographic reconnaissance for the Royal Geographical Society's Multidisciplinary Kimberley Expedition, led by Professor Andrew Goudie.

1980: Chief Leader: ANZSES Expedition Granite Mountain


Appointed as Chief Leader of Expedition Granite Mountain by Scientific Exploration Society President, Antarctic explorer and Founding Director of the Australian Antarctic Division, Dr Phillip Law FRGS. Led team of 30 undergraduates, with professional support team of scientists and medicos to conduct pioneering environmental baseline survey on remote granitic pluton (entire mountain within non granitic range). Discovered far greater range and abundance of bird and insect species than previously known to exist, and contributed many new insect species to science. Established highly effective pre-expedition scientific reconnaissance operations that transformed the value of field operations and the recording of results, ready for distribution to supporting universities. New operations procedure became the ANZSE Society's standard.



HONOURS, AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Honours and Awards include:



- Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, London 1985 – current
- Queen Elizabeth 11 Silver Jubilee Award, Australia 1987 
- Olegas Truchanas Expedition Canoeing Award, Australia 1987

Major Achievements include:

- **Mountain Climbing Achievements: First Australian Ascents:**
 - Dolomites, Italy 
 - Grossglockner Alps, Austria 1974
 - First solo winter ascent, Mt Ida, Crete 1984

- **Kayaking Achievements and Expeditions:**
 - Hebrides circumnavigation, Scottish western isles 1975
 - Leader: Great Glen trans-navigation, Scotland, 1976
 - Major white water rivers, Dauphin Alps, France, 7
 - First sea kayak circumnavigation of Tasmania 1979
 - Leader: First northerly kayak crossing of Bass Strait 1986
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- **Leadership of Major Expeditions:** 
 - Chief Leader: ANZSES Expedition Granite Mountain 1980
 - Leader: First Australian raft descent of Sun Kosi River, Nepal 1981
 - Co-Leader: Quail Creek Expedition, Kimberley region, Western Australia 1985
 - Leader: First Australian Arctic Expedition, 1986. Patron: The Prince of Wales
 - Leader: First Australian Sailing Expedition, West Greenland 1988
 - Skipper: British-Australian Arctic Cruise, West Greenland 1989

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND HONORARY POSITIONS

1990-98	Expedition Advisor for the Royal Geographical Society. Projects included the Irish classic yacht Arctic expedition to  Greenland (winning the Blue Water Cruising Medal) and CAMELL, the world's longest camel expedition (14,000 km circumnavigation of Australia).
1990-98	Philanthropy: through his expedition lectures in the UK, Earl has raised significant research funds to help the Cystic Fibrosis gene breakthrough and has contributed widely to other social causes at home and abroad.
1996-97	President: Devon Gaffers Association (UK) 
1983-85	Co-Founder/Director: Mansfield Mountain Country Festival
1983-85	Creator/Director: Great Mountain Race of Victoria, Mansfield
1982-85	Founding President: Mansfield Chamber of Commerce
1979-82	Founding President: Victorian Sea Kayak Club

PUBLICATIONS AND MULTI-MEDIA PRODUCTIONS

Books

De Blonville, Earl (2009) *Seventh Journey*, Bear Books, Melbourne, Vic. 416 pages.
ISBN 978-0-9805830-0-7

De Blonville, Earl; Brewster, John (1979) *Tasmania Circumnavigation Report*, Private. 72 pages.

Films

“The Greenland Expedition” 1987

Format: One hour (non-commercial) television documentary

Producer: Pickwood River Films (Earl de Blonville)

Director & Cinematographer: Mike Boland CSC

Sound Recordist: Greg Burgmann Editor: Tony Paterson

Worldwide distribution: Discovery Channel (US), BBC (UK), ABC (Aust), plus broadcasters in Canada, South America, Europe and South Africa.

Synopsis: Australia's first expedition to the Arctic, travelling by sea kayaks and led by Earl de Blonville, sought to retrace Gino Watkins' 1931 open boat journey down the remote East Greenland coast. After an almost disastrous stormy crossing of the North Atlantic, the expedition missed the short Arctic summer and was tossed headlong into a survival epic, racing to beat the onset of winter and escape Greenland's rapidly freezing seas. A hurricane washed all the kayakers' food and equipment into the sea and, during an agonising week-long snowstorm, they faced death from hunger and cold. Later, during another hurricane, their yacht was totally disabled and left drifting amongst massive icebergs. The team narrowly escaped death for the fourth time and caught the last plane out before the airport was closed.

“The Kimberley Expedition” 1985


Format: One hour VHS documentary for expedition members

Producer: Earl de Blonville

Synopsis: Pioneering 4WD expedition into a region of the Prince Regent River gorge never before penetrated by Europeans. Scientific fieldwork conducted for two State museums. Team of eight, including two young teenagers, experienced significant hardships and risk with considerable damage done to vehicles and no possibility of rescue.

Audio-Visual Shows

The Tasmania Circumnavigation

A one-hour twin-projector fully programmed slide show with  music and voice-over tracks that told the story of Australia's first modern sea kayak expedition, a 70-day, 1,600 km historic first circumnavigation of Tasmania, that included surviving the worst West Coast storm in living memory (with 70' Antarctic waves), the rescue from certain death of three men in a disabled boat during a sudden high-intensity storm (they were illegally poaching) and the most southerly Eskimo kayak roll ever recorded (off South East Cape, Australia's most southerly point).


The Greenland Expedition

A one-hour, professional produced twin-projector show telling the full story of Australia's first Arctic expedition. It introduced a new format to the illustrated lecture genre, combining two slide-based storytelling formats (one with music and voiceover, one with music and sound effects), separated by middle section with personally presented stories and anecdotes, tailored to suite the audience type. Show presented around Australian and the UK.


Nansen the Explorer

A twin-projector slide show, using mostly historical images (rostrum camera), that presented a biographical picture of the great Norwegian polar explorer and humanitarian, Dr Fridtjof Nansen FRGS. The focus of the presentation was his pioneering first crossing of the Greenland icecap (the first icecap in the world ever to be crossed), and his revolutionary attempt to reach the North Pole by drifting in a wooden ship, trapped in the polar ice. Presented in Australia and the UK.


Arctic Greenland Cruise

A twin projector slide show, based on  extensive archival research, to promote a yacht-based exploration of the central region of West Greenland's glacial fjords and ancient Inuit camps. Presented in Australia.

High Arctic Exploration Cruise

A twin-projector slide show to promote an Australia's first executive adventure program, the aim of which was to penetrate by yacht the inner channels of Melville Bay and make an attempt to sail all the way to the most northerly village on Earth. Presented in Australia, with contributions by Dr Phillip Law and John Bertrand, to an exclusive audience of high net worth individuals. 

Art Exhibitions

'*Night on a Bald Mountain*' - Solo exhibition of works in oil pastel, held in 2005 at Sydney's Gallery 307 and officially launched by Danish Consul General Jorgen Mollegaard with Gallery Notes written by Jethro Lyne, Senior Lecturer, Department of Art History, National Art School, Sydney. Also exhibited was '*Moments*', a series of whimsical pictures of imagined events 

Published Articles

2010	ThinkBIG business magazine: Regular bi-monthly column on Leadership Coaching, examining a range of leadership development scenarios.
1998	<i>Ocean Paddler</i> magazine. Article: Australian Greenland Expedition
1995	<i>Across The Outback</i> – Readers Digest. Travel & Adventures series. London. Special Adviser to the Editor on Aboriginal culture and exploration history.
1980-95	<i>Sea Trek</i> magazine (Victorian Sea Kayak Club). Various technical articles
1983	<i>Wild</i> magazine: Article: Flinders Island sea kayak expedition
1981	<i>Mountaineering</i> magazine Article: Himalayan rafting expedition
1980	<i>Mountaineering</i> magazine Article: Tasmania sea kayak expedition
1979	<i>Mountaineering</i> magazine Article: Scotland sea kayak expedition

INVITED KEYNOTES, LECTURES AND WORKSHOPS

2011	The Human Group. Sydney. ‘The Reality of Uncertainty: New views of real leadership for an uncertain future in Human Resources’
2010	The Entrepreneurs Organisation. Melbourne. ‘Leadership Secrets from Hell’
2000-05	WIN Leadership 5-day communications programs for senior executives, live pitch consulting programs and diagnostic change programs.
1997	Leadership seminar for Bristol Chamber of Commerce Business Expo, UK. ‘Exploring Leadership’
1979-97	Audio-visual lecture tours and engagements, Australia and Britain
1993	Expedition Advisory Centre Effective Leadership Seminar, Cumbria. Created & delivered innovative interactive leadership game ‘Capsize’.

1990-95	Royal Geographical Society Expedition Planning Seminars, London. Arctic Expert Advisor for leaders of scientific expeditions.
1990	Royal Geographical Society Expedition Planning Seminar. Address: 'Risking Change'
1987	National Outdoor Education Conference, Western Australia. Keynote address: 'Plain Truths from a Plain Man'
1987	Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Trust (Australia) National Leaders Forum. Keynote address: 'Future Perspectives'
1984	National Outdoor Education Conference, Queensland. Address: 'Expedition – A Total Concept in Outdoor Education'
1980	National AV lecture tour for Peregrine Expeditions: Tasmania Sea Kayak Expedition, in conjunction with Michael Dillon's Edmund Hillary film.
1979	Victorian & Tasmanian AV lecture tour: 'The Tasmania Circumnavigation'
1977	British National Mountaineering Centre, Wales. History and development of the circumpolar sealskin hunting kayak, from the Koryak Mountains (USSR) to East Greenland (Denmark)
1977	British National Mountaineering Centre, Wales. 'History of pioneering British sea kayak expeditions and development of expedition sea kayaking'
1975-78	Lakeside National Mountain Centre, Lake District. 'History and development of rockclimbing and mountaineering in Europe and Britain'
1974	American Air Base school – Suffolk, UK. Australian Aboriginal culture.

Review Articles and Media

Media for Tasmania Circumnavigation 1978-79

- Print: 55 stories including syndicated, all major papers
- Radio interviews: 13 in all states
- Television interviews and appearances: 10 in three states

Media for The Greenland Expedition – 1985-87

- Print: 34 feature stories and reports, all major papers and key magazines
- Radio: 22 interviews in all states
- Television news, affairs and live chat shows: 16 in three states

Media for Peregrine Expeditions

- Print: 4 feature & magazine articles in the Herald, by embedded journalist
- Radio: 6 interviews across Australia

Media in the UK

- Fundraising for charity: Range of print and radio appearances
- Promotion of Explorers Challenge: Range of print and broadcast appearances

Recent media in Australia


- Retrospective bios: Major multipage articles in WILD and Australian Geographic
- Book reviews: Wild, Australian Geographic, thinkBIG, Outer Edge magazines
- Arctic expedition program: Feature article in BRW (full page)

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Earl has pursued personal development extensively throughout his adult years. His journey has ranged from martial arts to inner enquiry and extensive reading, exploring aspects of human spirit and motivation looking for universal principles. From 1972 – 2004, he has completed the following professional development courses:

- Shaolin Kung Fu
- The Forum (original)
- Tai Chi Chuan
- Landmark Forum
- Advanced Forum
- Art in Therapy
- Adventure Learning
- Meditation
- Quantum Theory
- Psychotherapy
- Hypnotherapy
- Neuro Linguistic Programming

He is qualified in:

- Advanced Presentation Skills – Rogen International
- Pitch Consulting Skills – Rogen International
- Executive Coaching Certificate – Institute of Executive  Coaching

He is a Certified Practitioner in:


- Neuro Linguistic Programming
- Eriksonian Hypnotherapy
- Time Line Therapy

CONSULTING EXPERIENCE

Consulting Experience

Earl has extensive experience in consulting, from SMEs to Corporates. In the UK he built a successful business in adventure recreation from scratch to sales of \$14 million, and in Australia he has consulted with global business trainers Rogen International (now: rogenSi) and AchieveGlobal, as well as worked independently. He has been engaged on a range of assignments to create leadership communication and cultural solutions for clients that include:

- World Health Organisation
- Australia Post Corporate
- Melbourne City Council
- Victorian Government
- Fitzroy Programs
- QBE Insurance
- Citadel Securix
- Sailability USA
- Explorers UK
- Urbis JHD
- PricewaterhouseCoopers
- Pesel & Carr Communications
- Mansfield Chamber of Commerce
- Australian Bicentenary Authority
- AIM-CEO Mentor program
- Bristol-Myers Squibb
- Usana Nutritionals
- The Delphi Centre
- Business Victoria
- Reputation Qest
- Business Matrix
- Western Mining
- Trust Company

He has been engaged on a wide range of business development and change-culture assignments, all focused on leadership communications to deliver measureable financial and other results. Details on the scope, complexity and measurable outcomes achieved, and the spread of assignments, are available here: www.earldeblonville.com/consulting-coaching.html 

OTHER INTERESTS

Earl's personal interests include Middle Eastern history, Arctic anthropology and the North African Zerzura mystery. Having restored one of the UK's most important traditional working boats (Freda - an 1890 Itchen Ferry gaff cutter, featured in the international Classic Boat magazine), he retains a strong interest in traditional and gaff-rig sail together with an interest in theatre, opera, art and vintage motorcycles. In his spare time he follows his artistic pursuits such as painting, playing music and writing children's books.