

Spartan control bestowed upon Eddy and Hamish

World's toughest obstacle competition coming to Seven

(5 November 2017) **Edwina Bartholomew** and **Hamish McLachlan** will lead the charge as hosts of Seven's new event TV program, **AUSTRALIAN SPARTAN**.

Commenting on the announcement, Seven's Director of Production **Brad Lyons**, said: "Edwina and Hamish have worked side-by-side on a number of productions, from red carpet events through to Olympics. The chemistry between these two friends, in this big event arena environment, will make for viewing magic."

A journalist with over 13 years' experience including sports coverage for the Network, Sunrise presenter Edwina is excited about the challenge ahead.

"Spartan will be next level. The location is incredible; the competitors are world class and the show will be something to behold," she says. "Expect to see everyone from Olympic and Commonwealth Games athletes, CrossFit champions, marathon runners to workmates and mother's groups."

"There is clearly an appetite for good family entertainment," added Edwina. "This will be a show that everyone can sit down, enjoy and cheer-on their favourite team. It will be incredible to watch."

Joining Edwina on the Spartan course will be Channel Seven sports commentator **Hamish McLachlan**. Hamish has covered some of the biggest sporting events in Australia and abroad, including the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, The Melbourne Cup Carnival and, since 2008, The Australian Open.

Hamish, who also hosts Seven's popular AFL Game Day, says **AUSTRALIAN SPARTAN** will have audiences on the edge of their seats.

"When I saw the format and the incredible set, I had to be a part of it," said Hamish. "The course has to be seen to be believed, it will test the toughest of the tough and we will have ringside seats."

AUSTRALIAN SPARTAN is a test of strength, speed, agility and endurance in which only a truly unified team can conquer.

Inspired by the world-wide fitness phenomenon 'Spartan Race', this is the world's most demanding physical obstacle course. Teams of three must join forces to race across a specially designed Spartan course engineered to challenge their determination, endurance and will. The extreme obstacles escalate to test the most outstanding athletes in the country. In the end, only one team will rise to become the ultimate Australian Spartans.

With the second hit season of the American format currently broadcast on NBC, the popular competition has also seen a localised version commissioned in Denmark.

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Media Release

AUSTRALIAN SPARTAN is a Matchbox Pictures and Eureka Productions co-production for Channel Seven.

The format rights for Spartan: Ultimate Team Challenge are held by NBCUniversal International Formats and will be distributed worldwide by NBCUniversal International Distribution.

Applications for AUSTRALIAN SPARTAN are now open at www.australianspartan.com

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About Spartan Race

Founded in 2007, Spartan Race was born in the green mountains of Vermont by world-class adventure racer **Joe De Sena**. The sport has grown into a worldwide phenomenon, with huge Spartan communities in over 16 countries around the world.

Not just the ultimate obstacle race, Spartan Racing is a community, a philosophy, a training and nutrition program, a podcast, a series of books, an activity for kids, a range of workout gear, a media channel, an international television format and a digital magazine.

About Seven West Media

Seven West Media is one of Australia's leading integrated media companies, with a market-leading presence in broadcast television, magazine and newspaper publishing and online. The company is the home of many of Australia's best performing media businesses – Seven, 7TWO and 7mate, 7flix, Pacific Magazines, The West Australian, and Yahoo!7, and the biggest content brands including My Kitchen Rules, House Rules, Home and Away, Sunrise, the Australian Football League, the Olympic Games, Better Homes and Gardens, marie claire, Who, The West Australian, The Sunday Times, Perth Now, racing.com and PLUS7. The company is expanding its presence in the further delivery of its video and publishing content beyond its digital broadcast channels and across an array of platforms. Seven is now creating more content than at any time in its history and is expanding its presence in international content production with the formation of new international production companies. These new businesses underline a key part of its strategy for today and in the future: the expansion of its leadership in the production of content across all screens.

About NBCUniversal International Formats

NBCUniversal International Formats, part of NBCUniversal International Studios, is the International Sales group for all formats created within the production and broadcast divisions of NBCUniversal. The slate encompasses Reality, Lifestyle, Entertainment and Scripted formats from NBC, CNBC, USA, Bravo!, Oxygen, Syfy, E!, Monkey, Carnival, Working Title Television, Matchbox Pictures and Lark Productions.

NBCUniversal International Formats' leading brands include: NBC competition reality success, *World of Dance*, 21 territory smash *Top Chef*, hit game show *Hollywood Game Night* and scripted formats *Law and Order* and *Parenthood*.

About Matchbox Pictures

Matchbox Pictures is a prolific scripted and unscripted Production company. Its credits include multiple series of *The Real Housewives* franchise, as well as many unscripted productions in Australian, Asia and New Zealand. Matchbox Pictures scripted output includes international hits, *Seven Types of Ambiguity*, *Glitch* and *Barracuda*, *Secret City* and *Deadline Gallipoli* and the smash hit Emmy nominated series *Wanted* for Channel 7.

About Eureka

Launched in 2016 Eureka Productions has become one of the world's fastest growing unscripted production companies, producing over seventy hours of programming in 2017. Eureka produces multiple series in Australia, the United States and Canada including *The Chefs' Line*, *Behave Yourself*, *The Launch* and co-producing *The Voice*.

