

Kevin Biggar



Global Threads Local Ties

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Speaker Bio:



**Extreme Adventurer &
Businessman**

From his unique background in business consulting, ultra-endurance adventures and TV presenting Kevin delivers powerful, battle-tested tools and techniques that will make your team much more effective in setting and achieving their own outrageous challenges.

Kevin's Adventures: Kevin was a strategy consultant with The Boston Consulting Group when he decided he had to take control of his life. So, he quit his job, sold his house, left his girlfriend and went back home to live with his mum(!).

He sat on the sofa, watched TV, ate fast food and put on weight. Then he saw a news clip about one of the world's toughest endurance races - rowing the 5000km Atlantic Ocean in a 7m plywood dinghy. He figures it's probably not as hard as it looks. If only he knew how to row!

Yet, with Sir Edmund Hillary as his patron, he set off on a desperate and thrilling race. In the end he not only won but smashed the previous record, completing the grueling challenge in an astonishing 40 days and 5 hours at sea.

Kevin then took on a far greater challenge, the first unsupported trek from the coast of Antarctica to the South Pole by New Zealanders. To put this in context, more than 5000 people have climbed Mt Everest, 500 have been into space, but fewer than 50 people had ever trekked from the 1200 km Antarctic coast to the South Pole.

Kevin is now one of less than a handful of people who have ever rowed an ocean and trekked to a Pole. If you recognize Kevin, it's because you may have seen him as the co-host of TVNZ's much loved 'First Crossings' and then 'Intrepid New Zealand'. In this series (winner of the TV Guide People's Choice award) Kevin went to some of NZ's most magnificent and inaccessible places to recreate the extraordinary adventures of early New Zealand pioneers.

Kevin graduated from the University of Auckland with a degree in physics and psychology and a Master's degree in Environment & Development from the University of Cambridge, UK. His business career has included roles at the New Zealand Treasury in the International Economics Division, as a Strategy Consultant for The Boston Consulting Group, a Strategy Manager with Telecom NZ, and the CEO of a software start-up. Somewhere along the way he also worked as a truck driver in London, a giant chicken for an amusement park, a brick layer in Nepal and has also won the Toastmasters humorous speech competition for the Wellington region. Kevin is the author of three books, the award-winning 'The Oarsome Adventures of a Fat Boy Rower', 'Escape to the Pole' and 'First Crossings'