

"It is about seeing if you can achieve something, the thrill of trying and the process of learning more about yourself..."



# Living In Epic Proportions

Meet Tim Jarvis, the man who wants to save the world

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Perhaps it was all those times in his childhood when he wandered the forests and tin dredges of Kuala Lumpur with his dog, but Tim Jarvis, 44, just loves the outdoors and has the habit of finding new places to go and extraordinary feats to accomplish.

Call him a modern-day superhero. During the day, Jarvis is a sustainability and climate change strategist at Arup, a multidisciplinary organisation that delivers "innovative and sustainable designs" on existing structures. But left to his own devices, Jarvis morphs into a valiant adventurer and environmental scientist, ready to conquer polar regions and desert lands, mountains and rainforests.

"There's plenty left for the enquiring mind to find – 80 per cent of the world's oceans remain largely unexplored, and 90 per cent of Antarctica's peaks remain unclimbed," he quips.

Did we mention he holds the world record for making the fastest unsupported journey to the South Pole?

While most men his age are knocking back whiskies and trading investment strategies, Tim Jarvis is planning his next expedition: the "Shackleton Epic". He aims to re-create the 1,290-kilometre journey first completed by polar explorer Ernest Shackleton in 1916, right down to the same turn-of-the-century equipment and rations that sustained Shackleton. Jarvis will follow the same route from Elephant Island, Antarctica, to South Georgia Island.

Despite frequently putting his life in danger, Jarvis does not profit from his expeditions in the belief that money should not get in the way of higher ideals.

"Exploration is about the adventure of seeing whether or not you can achieve something, the thrill of trying, and the process of learning more about yourself

and your surroundings."

Jarvis was made Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for services to the environment, community and exploration in the 2010 Australian honours list, and a Fellow of the prestigious Yale World Fellows Programme in 2009 based on both his leadership to date and ongoing potential for global leadership in the field of environmental sustainability.

He speaks candidly yet passionately about the environment, voicing his concerns about the most pressing environmental issues. While the biggest issues revolve around water and food availability, he feels that what endangers the environment most is man's resistance to change, and how doing nothing to help could further endanger the environment.

His experiences have led to some unusual encounters. "It was the eve of the new millennium, and I heard the sound of a distant plane. As it approached, I saw parachutes appear and was soon surrounded by members of the Russian military. They were from the Russian Ministry of Extreme Situations, and they were jumping over Antarctica to celebrate turn of the millennium. I don't know who was more surprised – they or I. Soon, we were drinking vodka (yes, they parachuted vodka in) like old friends." We're pretty sure that brings a totally different definition to "bottle service". **A**