



Beauty AND THE GEEK

Goes Tropical

Introduction

***Beauty And The Geek Australia* is back but with a twist. Now in its fifth season, the show gets steamy in tropical Fiji**

For the first time in the program's history, the ultimate social experiment will move from the safe confines of the mansion to a beach-side paradise.

Will the exotic shores of Fiji provide the perfect backdrop for a holiday romance for the bikini clad Beauties and sandal and sock wearing Geeks?

And what will happen when one of the Geeks receives a surprise package with explosive consequences for everyone on the island?

It's guaranteed to be a rollercoaster of fun and adventure for the gorgeous Beauties and academically-gifted Geeks.

The Beauties are vivacious, fun-loving girls who love socialising and being the centre of attention. They're preened and ready to take centre stage. But ask their opinion on politics, or the solution to a mathematical equation, and they'll be stumped.

The Geeks are intellectual pin-ups. They love sci-fi, comics, gaming and computers. They're socially-awkward, conversationally-challenged and many are still waiting for their first kiss.

Throw eight Beauties and eight Geeks together on a tropical island; team them up to compete in a series of challenges to test their brains and charisma, and watch as they evolve throughout the process.

There will be plenty of fun, laughter and teamwork along with miscommunication and frustration as the teams bond to overcome their differences in pursuit of a \$100,000 prize.

We'll see the Beauties study up on zoology, superheroes and maths. For the Geeks there will be a warrior challenge, conversation capers and a tropical photo shoot.

Each contestant will need to share their strengths with their partner in order to win

Beauty And The Geek Australia is executive produced by Paul Melville for Seven and Marty Benson for Shine Australia.



James Tobin

HOST

James Tobin is ecstatic to be taking over the reins of *Beauty And The Geek Australia*.

The new host has been a huge fan of the show since it first hit screens in 2009.

"It's such a fun concept, the ultimate social experiment, bringing together two completely different groups of people and watching them work together to transform themselves," says James.

Plus, with the exciting twist of *Beauty And The Geek Australia* going overseas this year to the sunny shores of Fiji, James is betting the sultry, idyllic island will provide the ideal backdrop for a holiday romance.

"We all know a tropical island raises the romance stakes," laughs James.

"Being relaxed and on a holiday may prompt the Geeks to be bolder whilst interacting with the Beauties."

When asked if James considers himself a Beauty, or a Geek, James is quick to concede that he belongs in both camps.

"My similarity with the Beauties is that I have a tendency to make up words, which could be attributed to having a German mother. But I also studied economics, had a stamp collection, model trains and collected cicada shells so I definitely have my fair share of Geek too."

James has been incredibly busy whilst working for the Seven Network for the past 10 years and continues to cover a lot of ground, presenting the weather for *Weekend Sunrise*.

He is also a roving entertainment reporter on *The Morning Show* and hosted *No Leave No Life*.

Before joining Seven, James was one of Nickelodeon's brightest stars, hosting their Saturday morning show, *Saturday Nick TV*. He also co-hosted the TV special *Head to Head* and participated in other programs, such as *Sarvo* and the *Nickelodeon Kids Choice Awards*.



Ntula

19, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

“I would definitely describe myself as fabulous but also really fun... so I am ‘funtabulous’.”

Despite her tender age, waitress and self-confessed shopaholic Ntula has no problem with confidence. She believes her strong sense of self, coupled with her impeccable fashion taste, will help transform her Geek into a winning Romeo.

“I’m a very confident person so I will make him fabulous and a ‘chick magnet’. If he can get a date with one of the ‘Beauties’, I’m going to be so happy,” confirms Ntula.

One of the ways Ntula hopes to achieve the metamorphosis will be by offering styling tips ahead of the much-anticipated makeovers.

“I’m ‘in’ with fashion, you know? Very chic, very now, so I give good fashion advice.”

And it’s not hard to be across designer trends when you’re perusing fashion websites and in store displays daily.

“I shop every day. It’s something I need to do. It’s like a cleanse. People who like to go to the gym are gym junkies, but I’m a shop junkie.

“I spent six grand on my last online shopping transaction, but that was only, like, half the stuff I ordered.”

Ntula’s love of clothes is one of the reasons why the blonde from Bunbury believes she could be best friends with Kim Kardashian.

“Kim and I would get on really well. We’re the same person. We love the same stuff.”

And just like Kim K, Ntula wasn’t a fan of school. She’s hoping her Geek will improve her knowledge of all things academic.

“With school every day was a challenge. In Maths I failed everything.”



Kassi

18, NEW SOUTH WALES

“I’ve always been obsessed with Barbie to a point where I was too old to still be obsessed.”

The youngest of our Beauties, softly-spoken Kassi readily admits she’s never outgrown her love of Barbie, or the colour pink.

“I had a Barbie party last year for my 17th and I wore a sparkly pink dress, had big hair, and everyone came in Barbie outfits. I’ve just grown up loving her. People are like ‘Oh, I’m too cool for Barbie now’. Well, I’ve kind of kept her in my life,” confesses Kassi.

So too her passion for pink, which Kassi says extends from the shoes and clothes she wears to what films she watches.

“My favourite movie is *Legally Blonde*. She wears a lot of pink. I wanted to be like her. I had the blonde bit sorted, but not the legal part.”

Her love of all things pretty is what led Kassi to pursue a career in make-up, but the teenager admits she’s still struggling to learn her craft at Mecca Cosmetics with its huge range of make-up, skin and hair care, fragrance and body products.

“You’ve got to talk about all the technologies and ingredients and I haven’t quite learnt them yet, so I’m always stumbling over my words and customers ask, ‘Can I talk to someone else?’”

Being lost for words whilst trying to impress is something the child beauty pageant participant knows she’ll have in common with the Geeks. But she’s confident conversation will flow easily with the male contestants, and she cannot wait to meet her Geek.

“I’m so excited to stay up all night talking with my Geek.”

A longtime fan of *Beauty and the Geek*, the former Latin American dancer and drama student believes her knowledge of the show and her experience performing under pressure will help her stand out from the other Beauties along with her unique appearance.

“I have an unusual look because I’m Armenian like Kim Kardashian, but I’m very fair with blonde hair and blue eyes. Everyone knows Kim is tanned and yet I am so white.”



Erin

18, VICTORIA

“Dieting is hard because I am a chocolate addict. I eat so much chocolate, you wouldn’t believe it.”

Listening to the eating habits of self-confessed junk food junkie Erin, one could think she has the metabolism of a hummingbird.

Known for consuming more than its own body weight in calories every day, the tiny yet hardy bird is not unlike our own Beauty.

“I used to eat Maccas at least once a day. And I had a real bad addiction to energy drinks. I would have at least five a day. It was so bad my eye would twitch if I didn’t have one,” reveals Erin.

“I eat like a man. I love ribs. If I go on a date, I won’t order a salad. I’ll eat a steak.

Little surprise then that the petite Beauty with the big appetite would choose “a restaurant with views” as the venue for her perfect date. But would a Geek stand a chance of winning Erin’s heart and taking a seat at the table opposite her?

“If I’m at a club, I will check out the good looking guys which is bad because they are normally mean. It is the Geeky ones who are kind-hearted.”

Erin admits it took her a long time to come to this realisation and, regrettably,

she was not the nicest person to Geeks in the past.

“At school I didn’t bother with Geeks and I was a bit mean to them, so maybe I can give back now.”

The reluctant babysitter doesn’t like kids, Erin who also enjoys horse riding and says she looks forward to teaming-up with her Geek and taking part in the challenges.

“Sometimes I am competitive, but I give up too easily. If I was chased by a murderer I’d be killed, because I’d give up.”



Jenna

20, NEW SOUTH WALES

**“I’ve never approached a guy,
been dumped by a guy,
or asked a guy out.”**

The doppelganger of one of Australia’s most attractive and photographed women, Jenna is used to turning heads. A Lara Bingle look-a-like, she is constantly mistaken for the controversial reality TV star.

“All the time random people come up to me and say ‘Oh, are you Lara Bingle?’ and I answer ‘No’, but they’ll still ask, ‘Can we get a photo?’ It’s so funny,” laughs Jenna.

Being beautiful has been both a blessing and a curse for the Kiwi-born stunner who moved to Australia six years ago. She is rarely without male attention, but her appearance at bars, nightclubs and parties inevitably arouses the ire of other female patrons.

“When I am out, girls judge me straight away, which really upsets me. They never want to be friends and only care about being the centre of attention.”

The Mosman skincare consultant believes her kindness is her greatest strength. She intends to use it to help put her Geek at ease while she sets about improving his style and confidence. In return, she hopes he’ll improve her English and Maths.

“I enjoyed English [at school], but then they started getting too much into Shakespeare and I’m like, ‘That’s not even English!’”

Jenna hopes her appearance on *Beauty and the Geek* will kick-start a career in media as a celebrity gossip reporter or fashion stylist. She loves clothes and works out regularly to maintain her figure. She just wishes her pet rabbit would join her on exercise outings.

“I took her for a walk and got five metres down the street when she just about had a heart attack. I think she doesn’t like dogs barking and cars going past. She’s like ‘Oh my God! What are you doing to me Mum?’ But dogs like to walk; I don’t see why rabbits wouldn’t.”



Bella

20, NEW ZEALAND

“If I could do anything, I’d be a Princess at Disneyland.”

Larger-than-life Bella knows she has a unique and sometimes polarising personality, but she is unashamedly proud of it.

“I’m not going to lie, I have a pretty good personality. I’m just funny. I have no filter,” reveals Bella.

Her honesty and candor is something Bella believes will be an asset to her Geek along with her empathy for social outcasts.

“At school I did calculus, so I hung out with Geeks, but then I was also in the popular group. My friends used to bully them, but I never did. It’s hard seeing people that don’t possess social skills being put down.”

The chance to transform people and improve their self-esteem not only led Bella to audition for *Beauty and the Geek*, it also influenced her career path. But the freelance make-up artist says her dream job would be to work at the ‘Happiest Place on Earth’.

“Disneyland is amazing. It’s a fantasy dream world, everything is possible at Disneyland.”

And who would be Bella’s Prince Charming?

“Looks aren’t important; it’s more about the person. I like weird facial features like googly eyes. I don’t like plain gorgeous men. That’s just boring. I also like slim guys who don’t have any muscle. I’ve always been the fattest partner in my relationships.”

Bella’s taste in the unusual not only extends to potential partners, but also to her movie choices.

“Horror and torture films like ‘Saw’ get me excited, isn’t that weird? Any Disney movie, I’m all over, but my number one ‘go-to’ is horror.”

Perhaps even more bizarre than her intense love of horror films is her phobia of fruit.

“I can drink orange juice and apple juice, but it’s the actual fruit itself and the texture and the way people eat it, is just really scary.”



Emily

19, VICTORIA

“I bought a baby blow up pool because there were days I couldn’t be bothered to go out.”

Emily is addicted to three things: tanning, exercise, and trash TV.

The pint-size Beauty from Bayswater North always attracts attention for her bronzed body which she proudly proclaims is au naturel.

“I get a lot of comments on being tanned. It’s natural. In summer I live in the sun, at the beach, and at friends’ pools,” says Emily.

When she’s not soaking up the rays, Emily can be found at the gym or sprinting up the deep and stony steps of the Kokoda Track Memorial Walk in the picturesque Dandenong Ranges. She boasts she can now complete the 1000 steps trail in 25 minutes.

“Yeah, I’m a fitness freak. I exercise about five days a week and I do the ‘1000 Steps’

every day. At the gym I have leg, arms, triceps, and biceps days.”

The former professional cheerleader is so committed to her fitness regime she lists a recent fitness/modeling competition as her proudest achievement ... although not actually participating in it as the crowning glory.

“Sticking to the diet! I actually did it and no one thought I could. You model bikinis, formal wear and sportswear and to do it you need to diet so, so hard. It was probably the hardest thing I’ve ever done.”

In her downtime away from the gym and her work as a retail assistant, Emily likes nothing more than to “veg out” in front of trash TV.

“It just sucks you in, and I love it. *Toddlers and Tiaras* and *Teen Mom* are addictive.”

Emily is also a fan of *Beauty and the Geek*. She hopes her time on the show will make her more accepting of others. And she hasn’t ruled out the possibility of finding a love interest amongst the Geeks, acknowledging looks aren’t everything.

“What’s the point of going for someone’s looks if they’ve got the personality of a lamp? It’s like, ‘Well this is boring. See you later!’”



Temaura

22, QUEENSLAND

“I had no idea Easter and Christmas were based on religion.”

Townsville born Temaura confesses she has room for improvement when it comes to judging people based on their appearance, which is why she auditioned for *Beauty and the Geek*.

“Once upon a time I wouldn’t even talk to you if you weren’t good looking and I want to change that because I realise it’s very shallow,” admits Temaura.

Temaura, a bikini model names the ab-tastic US actor Channing Tatum as her perfect guy in his role as Magic Mike.

And just like Magic Mike, who takes a directionless college drop-out under his wing, Temaura plans to teach her Geek how to be a hit with the ladies.

“I use my charm and pickup lines to get what I want when it comes to the opposite sex so I’ll be able to show my Geek how it’s done.”

Although Temaura, who recently moved to Brisbane to further her career, does have some less than charming habits by her own admission.

“I’m a grub. I always spill food on myself. So, I’ll be wearing this beautiful outfit, looking immaculate, and you’ll see a tomato sauce stain smudged right across the front of the dress.”

Listing cooking as one of her favourite past times, Temaura attached her Year 12 attendance record when applying for jobs as she mistook it for her graduation certificate, which she never received after failing her high school certificate.

“I wondered why I kept on getting knocked back for jobs until my best friend explained that I had been attaching my attendance record to all my CVs...oops how embarrassing.”

Despite being ultra-competitive, Temaura readily reveals that the prize money was not the draw card for her *Beauty And The Geek* application and she had actually forgotten there was cash and cars given to the winning team.



Sheridan

21, VICTORIA

“I broke-up with my last serious boyfriend via a text message.”

Former lifesaver Sheridan is a sports nut and Collingwood tragic with a penchant for tattoos.

“I love sport. I love watching the footy so much. Collingwood is my life. You know Dane Swan? The tattooed one? He’s so beautiful,” says Sheridan.

“I like every sport there is except netball.”

Sheridan has 13 tattoos, mostly dedicated to her family, but she discloses her inked appearance is not to everyone’s liking.

“Some people are against it, but it’s becoming more accepted. It’s a form of body art. I want to get lots more because I feel like I’m a canvas and I just adore it.”

Sheridan grew up in the sleepy resort town of Lakes Entrance, but recently left the popular Gippsland holiday spot for Melbourne to pursue work in beauty. Whilst she enjoys the work the career dreamer still has big plans for her professional life.

“I have so many things I want to do in my life. I would love to be a criminal psychologist. I’d love to be a zoologist. I’d love to work at animal conservations in Africa.”

Right now Sheridan is set on having fun on *Beauty and the Geek* and soaking-up her “once in a lifetime” experience with her fellow contestants, especially the boys.

“I will get along with the Geeks in a way the other girls won’t because I bond with guys really well. I can be a guy too, so they’ll just see me as one of them.”

While the exotic beauty with her Tahitian and Hawaiian heritage boasts she is more of a bloke than most men, her bravado and courage falls short when faced with a small class of invertebrates. When it comes to insects, Sheridan is particularly ‘girly’.

“Being stuck in a room with a pray[ing] mantis. OMG, they’re so scary! And crickets; I can’t stand them. I’m not afraid of spiders, sharks, just crickets like those black ones. Even stick insects. Yuk!”



Zac

18, NEW ZEALAND

“If I see a couple, sometimes I think ‘I wish I could experience that’. Even if it fails miserably, at least I’d be able to say ‘I did that’.”

Kiwi Zac has never watched an episode of *Beauty and the Geek*. He auditioned for the show after a dare and bribe from his sister.

“I mentioned it to her as a joke and she said ‘You do it, and I’ll get you a great Christmas gift.’ I figured so many people are going to apply, and I get a really awesome gift even if I just apply. It was a numbers game that I lost, or won, depending on how you look at it,” says Zac.

A first-year undergraduate at Victoria University in Wellington, Zac is studying political science and International relations, art history, and law. He hopes to pursue a career in Europe with INTERPOL’s Art Crime Unit indulging his three loves.

“I love art and I’ve got an interest in history. I’m also doing law. My father was a Police Officer, so I guess I’ve got that sort of streak. And I don’t want to become one of those criminal lawyers, so it just takes everything I’m interested in and puts it into one package.”

Zac may have his studies sorted but he admits when it comes to the opposite sex, he is clueless. While other students are enjoying an active social life both on and off campus, Zac reveals he has never had a girlfriend, kissed a girl, or even been on a date.

“It’s not that I haven’t tried but I just keep getting ‘friend zoned’.”

Raised by his mother and grandmother, Zac worked part-time in a supermarket after school for four years to fund his first year tuition. A child from “a low wealth family”, he says the \$100,000 prize money is a huge incentive to win, but he also has other goals.

“I’m happy with who I am, I just need more refinement in some areas, particularly social skills; they are my weak point. Sometimes I can’t understand sarcasm, so I’ll get really offended at something someone has said. It’s that inability to connect.”



Peter

21, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

“Asking a Geek to describe their perfect girl is like asking a man who’s never had ice cream ‘What’s your favourite flavour?’”

Physicist and swing dance enthusiast Peter has found his rhythm in all areas but relationships. He has never had one.

“I am fairly chicken when it comes to asking girls out. It’s a case of ‘Well, I like her, but I can’t tell if she likes me, and I don’t want to make an idiot of myself by asking’, so I don’t,” admits Peter.

Peter blames a lot of his social awkwardness on the fact he had little peer interaction as a child. Prodigiously bright, Peter was 15-years-old when he started university. He completed a Bachelor of Science before attaining Honours in Experimental Physics.

“Going to university at 15 was difficult because it meant there were few events I could attend, most were for people 18-plus. And since I couldn’t drive I had to bus it everywhere.”

University did however introduce Peter to swing dancing and he took to it like a duck to water. Every week he can be found at various socials throughout Adelaide, gliding, bopping and leaping around the dance floor to toe-tapping beats inspired by the swing era.

“When I’m dancing, it’s less of the social awkwardness. Dancing is fun and when I’m dancing I’m me, without all my neuroses.”

Peter hopes he can introduce his Beauty to some fancy footwork as a way of breaking the ice. He worries about first impressions.

“A lot of my friends say when I first met them they thought I hated them because I come off stilted and awkward and it sounds like I’m forcing myself to be nice to these people. But actually, I have no idea how to be nice to these people because I don’t know them.”

Peter lives with his parents and younger sister in suburban Adelaide and spends most Saturday nights at home.

“Oddly enough Saturday nights are when there isn’t much dancing on, so generally I stay in and watch a movie.”



Brett

24, VICTORIA

“It’s the inner beauty to me that really makes a person. They could look really great on the outside but be rotten on the inside.”

Standing just 160 centimetres tall with a thick, dark beard, Brett has always attracted attention but the games wizard hopes his appearance on *Beauty and the Geek* will allow people to see past the facial hair and his height.

“I wouldn’t judge a person on their looks because I know what it feels like to have it done to me,” says Brett.

His stature and appearance made Brett an on-going target for bullies throughout school, but he found a way to fight back.

“A bit of wit is what helped me, and slowly over time people were less inclined to make a comment about my height. Also I think what made it easier was being in the school

play. I became known less as ‘the short guy’ and more as ‘the little guy that does acting’.”

Brett’s love of performance paid off in his senior years, topping the school in drama studies. He continues to enjoy entertaining audiences through Cosplay, recreating characters in costume from comic books and video games which are his other key interests.

As a games advisor for a large retail store, Brett owns hundreds of games, “too many than I can actually play”. He spends his weekends glued to a console or reading his comics.

“Probably the first comic I ever read was when I was eight. Some are better than others but I just love the art work, the

narrative, and the way I can relate to it as well,” he says.

“Like Spiderman? As a kid he was picked on a lot. If only I could get bitten by a radioactive spider. He gets the powers, he gets the girl and he saves people.”

Next to meeting Marvel Comics legend Stan Lee, Brett says *Beauty and the Geek* will be his biggest life-changing experience to date. A longtime fan of the series, he hopes his appearance on the show will improve his confidence.



Brandon

19, NEW SOUTH WALES

**“I’m in my room 24/7.
I don’t meet too many
people in there.”**

Brandon realised he had a serious obsession for developing apps when he hadn’t left his house in almost a week.

“I went out for dinner with friends on Saturday night and then on Thursday I realised I hadn’t gone outside for five days,” says Brandon.

The budding software entrepreneur knew he wanted to develop mobile apps as soon as he got an iPhone. By the time he completed his HSC, Brandon already had a No. 1 top grossing app on the iTunes app store. He’s since had another three appear in the top 100.

Voted as one of the youngest top 30 entrepreneurs in Australia for the past two years, the tech teen prodigy may be on his way to emulating the success of his idol,

the late US entrepreneur and Apple Inc co-founder Steve Jobs, but he’s yet to develop a lasting relationship.

“I had one girlfriend about three years ago, it lasted about nine months, but we’re still good friends.

“There was another girl I was interested in and I asked her out to see a movie and she said, ‘Who else should we ask?’ I was like ‘Oh, I shouldn’t have asked.’ It’s pretty obvious when someone says that, they’re not interested.”

Brandon is hoping the Beauties will help improve his confidence and his conversation skills with women.

“I find it difficult to approach new people and form a relationship, and by relationship I mean friendship. I find it even harder when those people are beautiful. I have no idea how to continue a conversation after the initial ‘Hi,’” he says.

Brandon spends most weekends working on his business and in his down time enjoys gaming, playing pool, and table tennis. He enrolled in university part-time, taking one subject, in an attempt to force himself out of the house and into social situations.

“Because I’ve got no routine at home and I don’t meet any new people, I thought uni might be a good way to make new friends but it hasn’t really worked out. I’ve added one girl on Facebook and I haven’t yet said ‘Hi’ to her.”



Alex

24, VICTORIA

“I went to New York and I didn’t bother seeing the Statue of Liberty. I went for the op-shops.”

Melbourne board game buff, Alex, feels underdressed unless he’s perfectly suited in a three-piece outfit with tie.

Shunning modern menswear designers, Alex prefers ‘vintage chic’ to the latest runway collections.

“I like the look. I love the fact that you go into an op-shop and you’ve got a rack and every single thing is different,” he says.

Alex’s fondness for recycled rags influences his travels whether it’s around his hometown, or throughout Europe, the UK and the States.

“My way of exploring a city is to get a tourist guide map and Google where all the local op-shops are.”

His antiquated style may be unusual to some, just like his enthusiasm for trading card games. Alex admits he owns “tens of thousands of cards” which he’s been collecting since he was a child. The interest helped land him his last job at a specialty games store.

But perhaps Alex’s greatest joy is circus performance and in particular aerial arts like trapeze.

“I was looking for something to do and someone suggested I check out classes at the National Institute of Circus Arts which I did, and I’ve loved it ever since.”

In his downtime Alex also enjoys watching TV, and like many Geeks he’s a huge fan of the British science fiction series Dr Who. Alex says his affection for the 900-year-old Time Lord from the planet Gallifrey is a family affair.

“I just think it’s awesome. I’ve been devoted to the program since I was a kid as has my dad. It’s just always been a part of my life.”

A desire to experience new adventures, just like the Doctor, was one of the reasons Alex applied for *Beauty and the Geek*; the other was the prize money. If he wins the show he wants to donate part of his windfall to charity.



Nathan

22, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

“The game I play, DotA, I’ve nearly wracked-up 1000 hours on it in three months.”

When it comes to academic achievements in high school, Nathan probably has more in common with the Beauties than the Geeks.

“I was always bored at school. I didn’t do well. It wasn’t until I discovered I loved I.T. that I smashed out high distinctions at TAFE,” says Nathan.

Nathan is now a successful I.T. technician providing computer support for businesses in Perth. He says the role is a dream job.

“It sounds silly, but I love helping people, and I get a kick out of repairing things. When I have a problem, a really tough one, and I fix it, I love that feeling afterwards. It’s like ‘Yeah! I did it!’”

Unfortunately Nathan’s confidence at work doesn’t translate to women. He’s hoping his Beauty can offer him some guidance.

“I have no problem talking to girls if I’m helping them out with an I.T. problem. But as soon as I move on to something I don’t know about, I freeze up and say the wrong things.”

Nathan has only had two relationships and says both ended badly. He thinks the excitement of finding a partner clouds his judgment.

“I fall for people easily. The relationships I’ve had, I’ve just jumped right in without thinking. It’s something I need to work on.”

Nathan lives with his parents and spends most Saturday nights playing games such as *Dungeons and Dragons*. He owns more than 1000 games. “I’ve been a gamer all my life. The longest I’ve spent playing would be 40 hours plus. I don’t see the sun very often.”

When the former ice skater does venture outside, he enjoys playing volleyball and helping kids at a local church youth group.

Describing himself as “bubbly and energetic”, Nathan is on the lookout for a brunette with similar traits. But at the end of the day, he says looks aren’t everything.



Matthew

24, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

“We’re not aliens; we’re actually people as well. You can talk to us.”

Matthew, a chemical engineer, has always been a shy over-achiever unless fuelled by one substance which tips him over the top.

“I was always a real quiet kid, but my parents said whenever I had red food colouring I’d just go mental. I would run around and start breaking things,” reveals Matthew.

Eliminating artificial food dyes may have improved his physical interaction with others at parties, but not his social.

“I’ve always struggled with confidence. I’m just not a big fan of talking about myself. I even tried internet dating, but it was a disaster.”

Matthew has not had a partner in six years and hopes his appearance on the show will improve his confidence with girls. He’s been a fan of the series for years and looks forward to the challenges.

Unlike many of the Geeks, Matthew is both sporty and intelligent.

“I used to play football as a kid. AFL and touch rugby I’m reasonably good at, as well as basketball. I also got into hockey,” he says.

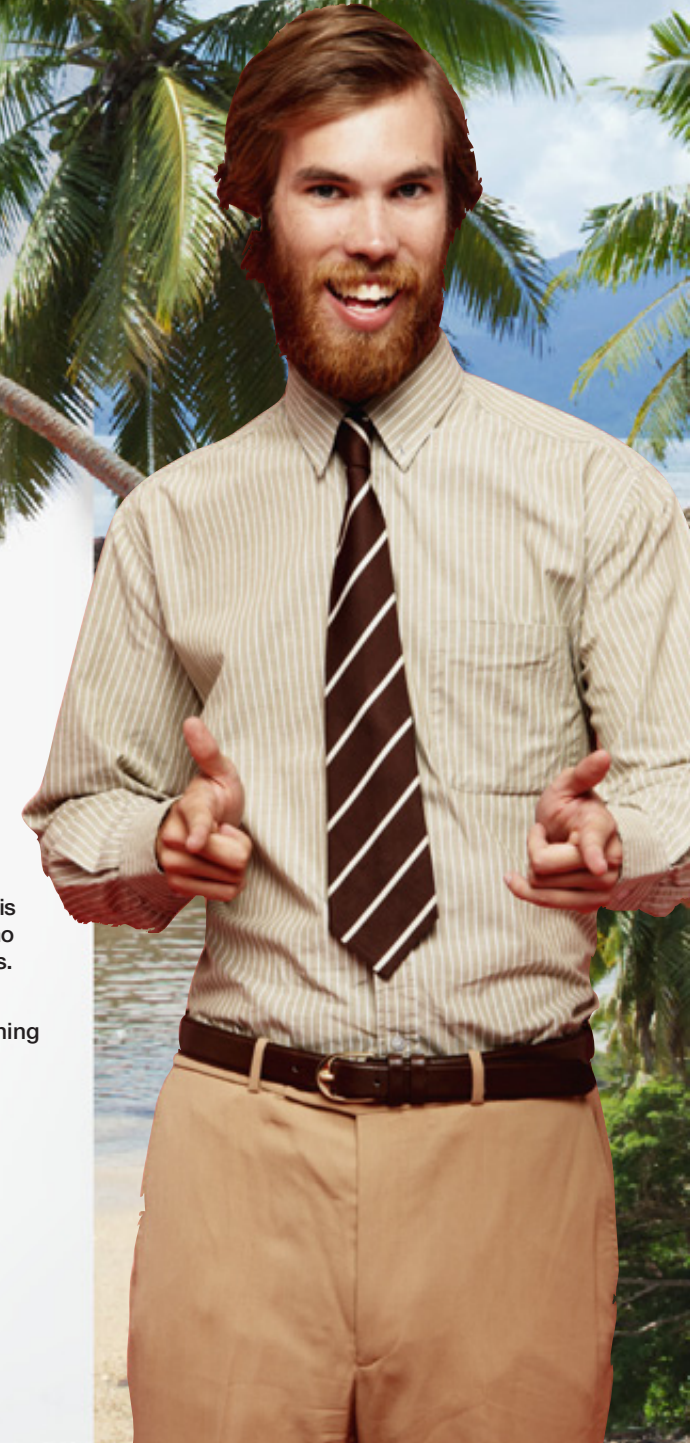
Aside from sport and tinkering with cars, Matthew’s other great interest is film. He is a regular cinema-goer, attending the movies at least twice a week to review films for his blog. He owns more than 300 DVDs, mostly horror films, which is the genre he loves best.

“I’ve always liked horror films. I love the fact you can get really good ones like *The Exorcist* which will have you on the edge of your seat, and then really bad ones which will have you rolling on the floor laughing.”

These days crustaceans are the only thing Matthew fears. A botched crabbing expedition with his Dad left a lasting impression.

“I was about 10 and I got bitten badly and I’ve been afraid of them ever since. I tried it a few years ago with a mate and his girlfriend. We had a competition to see who would scream first and it was me,” he says.

A former researcher in commercial explosives for mines, Matthew is returning to University to study for a PhD.



Michael

26, QUEENSLAND

“I have to brush my hair twice with two different brushes so it doesn’t damage it.”

Michael has been growing his hair for 10 years. He thought it would be a great way to meet the ladies.

“Some women specifically like men with short hair, some women like blokes with long hair. I thought, ‘There’s lots of gents with short hair, there’s not so many blokes with long hair, so maybe this will help my chances’. It didn’t,” concedes Michael.

Like most of the Geeks, Michael applied for the show because of his social awkwardness. He hopes it will improve his confidence.

“I have issues talking to people I don’t know, especially in public, and with women. I have to force conversation and it doesn’t always work. It comes off as creepy sometimes.”

Next to his fear of women, Michael also has issues with needles. His anxiety is so bad he refuses anesthetics for all dental work.

“I will gladly take the pain of a dentist drilling into my teeth, than face a needle. I know the fear is in my head, but it changes nothing.”

Michael works for his father’s Brisbane business as a thermal performance assessor, providing energy efficiency assessments to home-owners, businesses and Government organisations. He says he initially agreed to help his dad out on a part-time basis, but nine years later is still there.

“It is nice to know that two power plants don’t exist because I’ve helped make buildings more energy efficient.”

Michael embraces his eccentricities and admits he has a lot of them. He says he “craves uniqueness” from his imported DeLorean car, to his collection of radioactive isotopes and his French antique octagonal glasses. But his greatest fascination is with clocks.

“I built a clock. It took me 11 years and it ticks in a 25-hour time system. Each second is 1.4 seconds; there’s 25 seconds in a minute; there’s 25 minutes in a small hour; 25 small hours in a big hour. It’s the only one of its kind in the world and I built it from scratch.”





Beauty AND THE GEEK

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