



SBS will surely be the talk of the nation when it airs the ambitious documentary series **Go Back To Where You Came From** during Refugee Week.

I've only seen a 9 minute DVD preview of this, but already it looks utterly compelling.

Billed as a 'Television Event' this will air across three consecutive nights as 6 Australians take a "leaky refugee boat" from Darwin, when they are rescued mid-ocean. They will witness first-hand scenes in Malaysia, Kenya, Jordan, the Congo and Iraq.

Go Back To Where You Came From follows six ordinary Australians, of varying ages and backgrounds, who agree to challenge their preconceived notions about refugees and asylum seekers by embarking on a confronting 25 day journey. Tracing in reverse the journeys that refugees have taken to reach Australia, the series features unprecedented access to some of the most dangerous and desperate corners of the world.

Deprived of their wallets, phones and passports, the participants board a leaky refugee boat, are rescued mid-ocean, experience immigration raids in Malaysia, witness sheer desperation in Kenyan refugee camps and visit slums in Jordan, before ultimately making it to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Iraq, protected by UN Peacekeepers and the US military. For some of the Australians it's their first time abroad. For all of them, it's an epic journey and the most challenging experience of their lives.

Matt Campbell, Director of Television and Online Content, SBS, says that Go Back to Where You Came From will challenge perceptions of what it means to be a refugee.

"Go Back to Where You Came From is a powerful documentary, the scale of which has never been seen or attempted in Australia. It will tackle controversial questions about refugees and asylum seekers – whether there is a right or wrong way of coming to Australia, if any refugees and asylum seekers should be sent back to where they came from, and who deserves protection in Australia."

Peter Newman, SBS Commissioning Editor added, "We're taking the important debate about refugees and asylum seekers from the pages of newspapers to the living rooms of Australia, in a confronting and compelling way."

It airs 8:30pm Sunday June 19 – Tuesday June 21st on SBS ONE.