

ALEX KIRBY OF THE BBC

Senior British environmental journalist, Alex Kirby, will be visiting New Zealand – briefly – after speaking at the Pacific Public Broadcasting Summit in Fiji on reporting of environmental issues.

Alex Kirby is a presenter on BBC Radio Four's environment series *Costing the Earth*.



The BBC Radio 4 presenters web-site tells us that Alex Kirby, born in Liverpool shortly before the start of the second world war, is glad the world has finally recognised his birthplace as a cultural icon. He obtained a degree in theology which was of as little use to him before he became a journalist in the mid-1970s as it has been since.

After working for the BBC World Service in the UK and in North Africa, he was agriculture and environment correspondent for BBC News on radio and TV for nine years (1987-1996), then for a time reported on religious affairs before leaving in 1998. Since then he has covered the environment as a freelancer for BBC News Online and is a reporter for BBC R4's *Costing the Earth*.

One highlight of his career, he says, was teasing an interview from Brigitte Bardot, cultural icon to an earlier generation, while covering an animal rights demonstration in Brussels. Lowlights are too numerous to list, but include forgetting where he was (while on air) during live coverage of the Queen Mother's funeral procession in central London.

He enjoys working for *Costing the Earth* because it gives serious attention in a prime slot to subjects which will affect all of us, and our children as well.

He also writes a regular column for *BBC Wildlife* magazine.

Alex has no scientific education, and is convinced that the widespread distrust and misunderstanding of scientists in industrial societies is a threat to human development.

His dry wit will make him a very entertaining as well as thought-provoking speaker.