

Movie guide volunteers prove to be an asset



The 98-odd movie guide volunteers are proving to be almost as popular as the movie stars themselves because they are a wealth of knowledge when it comes to movie news and gossip. Anyone who wants to know what is happening on the sets each day can talk to a movie guide volunteer manning

a movie information station and find out all sorts of titbits. A combined initiative of Tourism Bowen, shire council and Bazmark Films, the volunteers are filling an important communication role between the movie crew and the public while the movie is being made. They help the production crew to achieve their

goals while assisting inquisitive locals and visitors with informative filming updates. They also provide useful information about road closures, where best to park vehicles and also inform out of town visitors about facilities such as food outlets and shopping and other interesting places in

Bowen and the shire to visit while they're here. Outfitted in smart distinctive uniforms design by Baz Luhrmann's production company's design department, the volunteers are positioned at three vantage points close to the movie set and are authorised to advise the general public about what is happening on the sets each day. And by all accounts they find the job rewarding. Some have managed

to meet and be photographed with the movie's two biggest stars, Nicole Kidman and Hugh Jackman. Others have met other high profile actors including Bryan Brown, David Wenham and Ben Mendelsohn. The consensus among the volunteers is that it's great to be so close to the action. There's not too many opportunities in the movie making world where the public can get so close to the making of a major blockbuster.

The distinctive uniform

Decked out in distinctive uniforms, the movie guide volunteers stand out in the crowd of eager onlookers. The front of the black t-shirt has a map of Australia with the names of the film's locations highlighted in red with the words 'Australia Volunteer' over the image. The backs of the t-shirts read 'Nicole Kidman and Hugh Jackman in Baz Luhrmann's Australia - Coming to a town near you - Sydney, Darwin, Bowen, Kununurra, Sydney'. The shirts are complemented with colour coordinated wide brimmed hats with the film title Australia printed in large letters on the hat band.

BOWEN EVANS & CO.
Drapers & Mercers
 63 HERBERT STREET, BOWEN
 Established 1929

for locals cast as extras

Mark describes his experience on set as "unbelievable" and has also found it providing an excellent opportunity to understand more about what goes into making a movie. "I am bowled over by just how many different people and different jobs exist to film a movie. I didn't imagine it was so involved and still don't understand all the various job roles," he said. "I have also met lots of different interesting people. There was one day on set where I was positioned near a guy from Hong Kong, two Frenchmen and a Dutchman and it was great to hear their stories. They just happened to be in the right place at the right time and got parts as extras". When the Bowen Independent spoke with Mark he was



Mark Gaudry
Bowen Shire councillor

on the movie set dressed as a "dirty, grubby fellow in rough sandals standing outside the pub holding a beer in one hand". "Yesterday I was one of the crowd watching the fight cheering on the drover. It was great fun. I have also had to walk up the road dodging the traffic, horse and drays and old cars," Mark said.

"I find it surreal to leave the set which is a total reconstruction replica of the 1930s including buildings, costumes, vehicles, street lighting and the red dirt, only to walk up the main street and to suddenly see modern vehicles and street lighting. It takes a moment to re-adjust your mind to the fact that you are indeed in modern day Bowen, not late 1930s Darwin".



Olivia Stewart - Bowen resident.

Olivia echoes Therese Saad's sentiments and claims that it has been the most amazing experience of her life to date. She has been costumed as a cinema goer and high society uptown woman, and like Therese, has found the experience to be insightful, informative and educational. The significance of the making of the film in Bowen is not lost on Olivia. "People go to the Olympics or to a World Cup final and claim that it is a once in a life time experience, but those events

occur on a regular basis," she said. "Not the making of *Australia*. This film will never be made again. This is a one off. It truly is the once in a lifetime opportunity and I'm so excited and thrilled to be a part of it". "Because we aren't permitted to take photos while on set, the final cut of the film released to the public will be our only memory of the experience," Olivia said.



Watch AUSTRALIA (The Movie)

Choose from our wide range of Plasma, LCD Televisions & DVD Players



- ★ LCD & PLASMA TVs
- ★ LARGE RANGE OF ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES
- ★ FOLLOW-UP SERVICE
- ★ GIFT VOUCHERS
- ★ AIR-CONDITIONERS
- ★ STOVES



- ★ LAPTOPS
- ★ COMPUTERS
- ★ DIGITAL CAMERAS
- ★ CAMCORDERS
- ★ MOWERS
- ★ VACUUM CLEANERS
- ★ TELSTRA MOBILE PHONES
- ★ KITCHEN PACKAGES



NO 

NEXT TO THE DENISON HOTEL.

16 GREGORY ST., BOWEN - 4786 4644


