

## Movie spotlight shines on Queensland

*Queensland is the new hotspot for international and local film production. Already the list of movies produced within Queensland is huge and 2008 shows no signs of slowing down with new productions getting the green light daily. Below are some of the biggest films produced within Queensland and a sneak peak at what's to come.*

### **Bowen is our new Bollywood**

Beautiful Bowen in the Whitsundays proved it's more than just the home of famous fruit (mangoes) when it hosted screen darlings Hugh Jackman and Nicole Kidman in April, 2007 for the filming of Baz Luhrmann's new film *Australia*. *Australia* is Luhrmann's first film since 2001's *Moulin Rouge* and is predicted to be a huge hit at the box office when it's released in mid-2008. Away from the set here are a few things Bowen has to offer:

- Best beach: A hard one to pick because the choice is glorious, but perhaps old favourite Horseshoe Bay or the lesser know delights of Gray and Murray Bays.
- Go: Fishing! Throw a line in from the beach, at a creek, off the rocks or the end of the jetty or head to deeper waters on a fishing charter.
- Visit: Muller's Lagoon, a wetlands and botanic gardens in the centre of town.
- Stay: At the beachside accommodation at Rosebay Resort Villas.
- Dine: Drive to *360 on the Hill*. Perched atop Flagstaff Hill you get magnificent views and food, day or night.

Visit [www.australiamovie.net](http://www.australiamovie.net) or [www.whitsundaytourism.com](http://www.whitsundaytourism.com)

### **Port Douglas hosts *Pacific***

Co-produced by Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks, *Pacific* is a new 10-part television mini series being filmed entirely in Port Douglas, north of Cairns. Depicting scenes and stories from World War II, it will be amazing to see how Spielberg and Hanks transform this idyllic tropical location into a combat zone. While not on set, Tom Hanks has stayed at Bale, one of Port Douglas' newest resorts. Set among 15 hectares of beautiful landscaping and planned as a tropical village, Bale's vast open-plan villas provide the ultimate in luxury, privacy and intimacy. Port Douglas has long been a hot spot for celebrity getaways, with former US President Bill Clinton, Hollywood star Keanu Reaves and comedian Jerry Seinfeld just a few of the celebrities who have been spotted walking along the town's palm-fringed beaches.

Visit [www.portdouglaswebs.com.au/the\\_pacific\\_movie.htm](http://www.portdouglaswebs.com.au/the_pacific_movie.htm) and [www.tropicalaustralia.com.au](http://www.tropicalaustralia.com.au)

### ***Scooby-Doo... where are you?***

When Scooby-Doo and his investigative team of Fred and Daphne weren't busy filming their 2001 hit flick, you could be sure to find them having fun at Warner Bros. Movie World. Situated on the Gold Coast, the theme park is right next door to the Warner Roadshow Studios where the film was shot. Starring Freddie Prize Jr (Fred) and Sarah Michelle Gellar (Daphne), the *Scooby Doo* movie is about the gang's adventures after they are reunited at Spooky Island, a "frightfully" popular theme park. Other theme parks well worth a visit on the Gold Coast include Dreamworld, White Water World, Sea World and Wet 'n' Wild.

Visit [www.film-makers.com/scoobymovie/](http://www.film-makers.com/scoobymovie/) and [www.verygc.com.au](http://www.verygc.com.au)

### **Fool's Gold found in Queensland**

Heart-throbs Matthew McConaughey and Kate Hudson are sure to look as beautiful as their tropical surrounds in their new flick *Fool's Gold*. Set for release in mid-2008, the movie was filmed in late 2007 in Port Douglas and is about Ben (McConaughey) and Tess Finnegan's (Hudson) life as a married couple and their trials and adventures as they search for lost treasure. A new clue will see them diving amongst the brilliantly coloured corals and marine life of the Great Barrier Reef, flying in a seaplane over beautiful sand cays and islands, and speeding on a scooter through dense tropical rainforest. Locations including luxurious Lizard Island and Queensland's capital city, Brisbane.

Visit <http://foolsgoldmovie.warnerbros.com/> and [www.tropicalaustralia.com.au](http://www.tropicalaustralia.com.au)

### **Gold Coast hosts Matrix Trilogy**

The year is 2199, the location is the Gold Coast and humanity is fighting a war against intelligent machines. While the *Matrix* Trilogy was actually set in America, filming locations were all Australian! The renowned futuristic set designs and spectacular visual effects of the three *Matrix* films were all created between Sydney at Australian Village Roadshow Pictures and the Gold Coast at Warner Roadshow Studios. Who knows what the Gold Coast will look like in 2199, but today the beautiful city offers a perfect holiday spot where you're spoilt for choice. Spend days in the sun on one of the region's many golden surf beaches, visit a theme park, enjoy world-class shopping and dining or wander through World Heritage-listed rainforests.

Visit <http://whatisthematrix.warnerbros.com/> and [www.verygc.com.au](http://www.verygc.com.au)

### **Whitsundays is *Dead Calm***

Despite the horror story line, *Dead Calm* is sure to inspire a holiday to Queensland's Whitsunday region. Starring Nicole Kidman, Sam Neill and Billy Zane, this 1989 thriller was filmed in the Whitsunday passage of the Great Barrier Reef and helped launch Nicole Kidman's Hollywood career. The movie is about a troubled couple, Australian naval officer John Ingram (Neill) and his wife Rae (Kidman) who take a break on their yacht to recover from a family tragedy. The holiday turns into a nightmare however after they rescue a troubled stranger who claims to have lost his travel companions. The movie's stunning backdrop showcases the Whitsundays, which includes 74 islands – only eight of which are inhabited – floating like jewels amongst one of the world's seven natural wonders, the Great Barrier Reef. Whether you choose to bush walk, scuba dive or sail, there are a myriad of ways to experience the Whitsundays. Visit [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dead\\_Calm\\_\(film\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dead_Calm_(film)) and [www.whitsundays.com.au](http://www.whitsundays.com.au)

### **Tropical north ideal location for *The Thin Red Line***

The World Heritage-listed Daintree Rainforest near Cairns provided the perfect backdrop for *The Thin Red Line*, a movie about the Battle of Guadalcanal in World War II. This 1996 hit flick earned itself several Academy Award nominations and was filmed mostly within the 135 million-year-old Daintree Rainforest. Don't be surprised if you spot some unfamiliar flora and fauna in the movie, as the rainforest is home to the largest range of plants and animals on Earth – some of which are found nowhere else in the world. With its idyllic location right next the Great Barrier Reef, the Daintree is also the only place in the world where two World Heritage-listed regions exist side by side. Holiday options for the adventure traveller in the Daintree are extensive. Snorkel in a rainforest river, join a crocodile spotting safari or fishing adventure, take a guided walk to learn about the rainforest's flora, fauna and rich history, or 'jungle-surf' your way through the canopy of the oldest rainforests on earth! Visit [www.tropicalaustralia.com.au](http://www.tropicalaustralia.com.au)

### **Paris's House of Wax on the Gold Coast**

Starring a line up of Hollywood's young starlets including Elisha Cuthbert, Paris Hilton and Chad Michael Murray, *House of Wax* was filmed entirely on the Gold Coast in 2005. The movie was a remake of the 1953 horror film which sees six friends stranded in a ghost town with a towering wax museum. Inside the museum are two brothers who have a special way of making the wax figures look real. The Gold Coast has in fact long boasted its very own Wax Museum, where visitors can spend an hour or two in the company of more than 70 celebrities including musicians, movie stars, Prime Ministers, explorers and Kings. Other ways to get your heart pumping on the Gold Coast include the thrill rides at one of five theme parks, or at the just opened Haunted House in Surfers Paradise – a five storey walk-through building with scary thrills and fun for the whole family. Visit [www.imdb.com/title/tt0397065/](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0397065/) and [www.verygc.com.au](http://www.verygc.com.au)

### **Peter Pan flies into Gold Coast**

The secret's out - Never Never Land is on the Gold Coast! Filmed as a remake in 2003 almost entirely at Warner Bros. Movie World on the Gold Coast, Peter Pan is a cult classic loved by children throughout the world. Today the Gold Coast is a much loved destination for families, with a myriad of activities to keep the little ones entertained. Enjoy old-fashioned hospitality and help out with the animals on a working farm stay, see 360 degree views of the region from the 77<sup>th</sup> level of the world's tallest residential tower Q1, visit one of the region's theme parks, or lose the kids in the giant outdoor maze at BreakFree Paradise Island Resort. Visit <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0316396/> and [www.verygc.com.au](http://www.verygc.com.au)

### **Take Paradise Road to north Queensland**

In 1997, the beautiful Tropical North Queensland town of Port Douglas and its surrounds were transformed for the filming of the dramatic *Paradise Road* movie, starring Cate Blanchett. The film is a fact-based recounting of a group of women who banded together to survive in a WWII Japanese Prisoner Of War camp, and used music as a relief to their misery. One of the film's stars, Glenn Close spent a rare day off flying to the Sunshine Coast to meet the late Steve Irwin at Australia Zoo. If the movie is a bit intense for your viewing pleasure, a holiday in the tropical town of Port Douglas will certainly lift your mood. Enjoy the wonders of the Great Barrier Reef on one of the many day trips, wander through the boutique shops and dine at some of the region's best restaurants. Visit [www.imdb.com/title/tt0119859/](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0119859/) and [www.tropicalaustralia.com.au](http://www.tropicalaustralia.com.au)

### **Swimming Upstream in Brisbane**

Tony Fingleton was Australia's fastest backstroke swimmer during the 1950s and 60s. The inspirational tale of how he rose to success was turned into the film, *Swimming Upstream*, which was filmed almost entirely in Brisbane. The Spring Hill Baths is where Tony and his brother trained for hours each day as children and it has been featured prominently in the film. Meanwhile, the Fortitude Valley Pool was also used as a number of locations in the film, with the help of various special effects. It was relocated to Sydney and then again to Perth as the venue for the British Empire and Commonwealth Games in Perth.

### **The tropics make the perfect island set**

*Nim's Island* starring Jodie Foster as a reclusive author opened in Australian in April. This was one movie that made the most of tropical Queensland to show the story of a young girl living on an isolated island with her scientist father. The movie was shot around the Whitsundays at Bowen, at Port Douglas in the Tropical North and on Hinchinbrook Island near Townsville. What's more the Australia sea lions used in the movie live at Seaworld on the Gold Coast. Their real names are Selkie and Galileo.