

FROM THE PRODUCER & DIRECTOR OF **THE MAN FROM SNOWY RIVER**

A MODERN LOVE STORY...



Cool Change PG

JON BLAKE
LISA ARMYTAGE

A GEOFF BURROWES-GEORGE MILLER PRODUCTION MUSIC BY BRUCE ROWLAND

Home Distribution

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INTRODUCTION

Out of a powerful emotional and personal involvement in the High Country of the Victorian Alps, Melbourne film producer Geoff Burrowes has forged a film, a love story set against this unique, beautiful country.

It's no surprise that Burrowes should make such a film as "Cool Change". He is the man who produced "The Man From Snowy River", a film that outgrossed, at the Australian box office, such international greats as "Star Wars" and "Raiders of the Lost Ark".

The genesis of "Cool Change" lies in Geoff Burrowes' long-held desire to make a contemporary film in the High Country, following in the tradition of "The Man From Snowy River".

The High Country is Burrowes' country. He lives there, on a cattle property at Mansfield in the foothills, and his wife, Kerri, is formerly a Lovick, one of the best-known mountain cattlemen families in the area.

"The while point about the mountain country is that it is overwhelming," Burrowes says. "I hope that point was felt by people seeing "The Man From Snowy River". You cannot fail to be impressed by its awesome size and beauty, yet also by its subtlety. You are in awe of the power of its personality – friendly and welcoming one moment, dangerous and life-threatening another. Above all, it is a challenge: to get to know it and to adapt to it. And you cannot do that without loving it and being prepared to spend a long time working on it."

When Geoff Burrowes and his partner George Miller (director of "The Man From Snowy River") started to form the idea of "Cool Change" three years ago they set out to make a love story set against the traditions of the mountain cattlemen. Says Burrowes, "The key to any understanding of that country lies in those who know it best – those who are a reflection of it and who in turn reflect its own values and traditions. And those people are the legendary mountain cattlemen and their families." But then fate took a hand. The entire status and future of the High Country was thrown into confusion by a series of State Government decisions made at the behest of the conservation movement.

Suddenly, as Burrowes and Miller saw it, the High Country and its traditions were under threat from a small group of radical and ideologically motivated conservationists with undue influence on Government. At their instigation the entire area is to be wrested away from its traditional management authorities and incorporated into a vast National Park. If the conservationists have their way, the mountain cattlemen will be permanently excluded from the country they had developed and worked in since the very beginnings of European settlement in Victoria.

"The cattlemen have a 150-year-old tradition there," explained Burrowes. "They understand the mountains, they know every inch of the ground, they maintain the tracks, build and look after the huts and refuges. They don't own the land but they must be worthy of the grazing leases granted to them, leases that are passed down from family to family. They must be, and are, custodians of the High Country".

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Geoff Burrowes points to the impact of "The Man From Snowy River" as revealing one particular, important fact. It showed that the mountain cattlemen have a special ethos, a heritage that is of great importance to Australia. And now we stand to lose it."

The real life crisis – where literally the man from Snowy River would to day be banned in favour of bureaucrats and regulations – is the potent, and at times funny, drama underlying the love story of "Cool Change".

Filed entirely on location, this \$3.5 million production shows more of the High Country than was depicted in "The Man From Snowy River". And once again, it brings the mountain cattlemen to the screen – on their horses, in their country and in action.

"Cool Change" also sees Jon Blake in his first big screen role since his outstanding performance as Flanagan in the Burrowes Dixon television mini-series "Anzacs". Starring with Jon Blake is young Melbourne actress Lisa Armytage – a truly fresh new face in her first cinematic role. They are supported by Deborra-Lee Furness and David Bradshaw.

Music is by "Anzacs" and "Snowy River" composer, Bruce Rowland.

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SYNOPSIS

Steve Mitchell has a simple rejoinder to those who ask where he's going in life – F.N.Q. (Far North Queensland).

Steve prefers to cruise through life, asking for no trouble and giving none. Born and bred in the High Country, he left the strictures of his domineering father's mountain cattle run and emerged as a State Park Ranger at a seaside park – an easy job in the great outdoors and one that enables him to spend a lot of his time and all his money fixing up an ocean-going boat.

Steve sees himself spending his future steering that tub through tranquil tropical waters. Instead Steve is about to steer into stormy weather. Other people are about to shape his future.

the Minister, for instance. The Minister's State Government has just been elected with the backing of the powerful conservation lobby, the Greenies.

The Greenies, and the 'Co-ordinator of the Alpine Conservation Movement', James Hardwicke, want to rid the High Country of the cattlemen. They call up their election dues and the Minister calls in the ranger most likely to make a perfect sacrificial goat – Steve.

Against his will Steve takes the transfer to the High Country. He's coming home. Home to his father, bitter because Steve turned his back on four generations of tradition. Home to old adversaries like Bull Raddick and his sidekick Curly who eat State Park Rangers for breakfast. Home to where Greenies squat in the roadway and where Jo Regan, unmarried and in her mid twenties, is struggling to bring up her small son and manage a cattlestation single-handed.

Like all her High Country neighbours, Jo wonders where Steve's loyalties lie. Since her father died leaving her to run things, she's had to sell off part of her run to keep going. Now she's running more cattle than the law allows and Steve is the law.

Gradually Steve convinces Jo that he's on the side of fair play for all and together they pick up the threads of the past.

But Jo's affection turns to outrage when the Minister's adviser, the elegant, ice-cold Lee Francis, arrives in town. She wants Steve to get things moving by evicting a "J. Regan" who, the Greenies report, is running an over-the-limit herd.

That's business. Then there's pleasure. And pleasure, Ms. Francis decides, is Steve.

Stung, Jo storms off. Steve goes after her to get her to see reason. But while he's arguing, the Rangers, in a military-style manoeuvre, are crashing into the High Country to make an example of Jo.

The High Country Cattlemen, faced with this small army of bureaucrats in four-wheel drives, mount up and ride out to do battle on Jo's behalf.

In the middle, and a long way from F.N.Q., is Steve Mitchell.

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TITLE SONG

"LOVE TOOK ME BY SURPRISE"

BY BRUCE ROWLAND AND JOHN FARNHAM

SUNG BY PETER CUPPLES



THE PRODUCERS WISH TO THANK
THE PEOPLE OF MANSFIELD AND MERRIJIG
FOR THEIR HELP
AND CO-OPERATION IN MAKING THIS FILM

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE ASSISTANCE OF
THE MOUNTAIN CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION
THE PURCELL, STONEY AND LOVICK FAMILIES
ELDERS - DSM ESTATES
MACFARLANE GENERATORS
HONDA AUSTRALIA

FILMED ON LOCATION AROUND
MANSFIELD AND THE GREAT DIVIDING RANGE
VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

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CAST:

Steve: JON BLAKE
Joanna: LISA ARMYTAGE
Lee: DEBORRA-LEE FURNESS
James Hardwicke: DAVID BRADSHAW
Bull Raddick: ALEC WILSON
Snr. Ranger: JAMES WRIGHT
Frank Mitchell: MARK ALBISTON
Rob Mitchell: MARIE REDSHAW
Ray Regan: CLIVE HEARNE
Jim Regan: CHRISTOPHER STEVENSON
Jennifer Regan: JENNIFER HEARNE
Minister: ROBERT BRUNING
Wally West: WILBUR WILDE
Joanna's Child: ALISTAIR NEELY
Stock & Station Agent: CHRIS WATERS
Curly: RAY PATTISON
Greenie: TERRY BRITTINGHAM
Punk Girl Greenie: MERYL McCOLL
Frank's Mate: BOB HALSALL
Yobbo Leader: ROBERT RATTI
Yobbo Girl: ANGELA GIGLIOTTI

MOUNTAIN CATTLEMEN

GRAEME STONEY	JOHN LOVICK
JACK PURCELL	CHRIS STONEY
TOM PURCELL	PETER PURCELL
JOHN COOMBS	GERALD EGAN
NOEL EGAN	DICK FOREST
BASIL EGAN	BRUCE McCORMACK
LLOYD PARKS	BRIAN LEWIS
MAX SCANLON	GEOFF BURROWES

STATE PARKS RANGERS

RUSSELL NEELY	ANDREW CROCKETT
LARRY CAMERON	JIM HUGHES
DENNIS VICKERY	JOSEPH BOURKE
PETER McELROY	CRAIG McDONALD
PAUL PURCELL	JONES?

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GEORGE MILLER — DIRECTOR

With 17 years experience as a film and television director at the forefront of the industry, George Miller is among a very select few. As if experience alone were not enough, Miller went one better by achieving an unrivalled pinnacle in his profession: with "The Man From Snowy River" and "All The Rivers Run" he has directed respectively Australia's biggest box office film and its highest rating television mini-series.

After cutting his teeth, like so many other notable Australian directors, on the early Crawford television series, George Miller branched out into mini-series. He directed the Ian Jones/Brownyn Binns productions "Against The Wind" and "Last Outlaw".

Then came "The Man From Snowy River" — George Miller's debut as a feature film director. He followed that up with another resounding success, The Crawford mini-series "All The Rivers Run", starring Sigrid Thornton and John Waters.

By then Miller had come to Hollywood's attention. He directed Superman star Christopher Reeve in "The Aviator" for M.G.M.

Back in Australia he teamed up with Geoff Burrowes again as one of the directors of "Anzacs". It was during this that he decided that Jon Blake was the actor he wanted to play the lead in "Cool Change".

Since completion of "Cool Change", George Miller has directed Michael York and Sigrid Thornton in the Neville Shute inspired "Far Country."

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PRODUCTION

GEOFF BURROWES — EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Since graduating from Monash University in 1970, Geoff Burrowes has spent his entire working life in the film business. He spent four years with Hector Crawford as his personal assistant, one year as private secretary to the Minister for the Media in the Federal Government and three years with Phillip Adams.

As the initiator and principal of "The Man From Snowy River", Burrowes produced the most successful film project ever made in Australia. It was his first venture after his 'years of apprenticeship' and has so far grossed over \$50 million worldwide.

His next three years were devoted to producing the acclaimed television series "Anzacs", which saw him first work with actor Jon Blake. "Anzacs" achieved colossal ratings over its entire 10 hours on the Nine Network and did so in the face of opposition such as "Gone With The Wind", "Raiders of the Lost Ark" and "Mad Max 2". It was the Nine Network's most successful mini-series ever.

Following "Cool Change", Geoff Burrowes teamed up with actor Jon Blake again on the recently completed feature film "Free Enterprise". A modern action thriller comedy, the \$6.6 million "Free Enterprise" was written and directed by Snowy River writer and Anzacs writer/director, John Dixon. It is set for release in Australia later this year.

Next comes "Backstage", starring American rock star Laura Branigan in her first major dramatic role. A \$7 million comedy drama, "Backstage" is currently filming in Melbourne and is due for release early in 1987.

Later this year Geoff Burrowes will tackle another major project, the making of "The Man From Snowy River 2", and the following year will head up a \$12 million production of "Clancy of the Overflow".

To support these production activities, and others, Burrowes recently announced the formation of The Burrowes Film Group. This group brings together, under one banner, many of the key creative and management people associated with "The Man From Snowy River" and "Anzacs". As well the Group has made a massive commitment to the future of the Australian film industry by buying Cambridge Film Productions and Melbourne Film Production Facilities. The Burrowes Film Group, situated in South Melbourne, now maintains fully operational film management and production teams, film studios, equipment hire organisations, extensive post production facilities and marketing operations. With its own and outside creative teams, the Group is in every sense, a major studio - with an output comparable to all but the biggest such operations anywhere in the world.

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GRAEME STONEY — LIAISON

Graeme Stoney is a well-known mountain cattleman who, with his wife Helen and four children, farms cattle at Merrijig in the foothills of the Victorian Alps. The family graze cattle in the High Country each summer.

A strong and articulate adversary of the Victorian Government's Alpine National Park legislation, Graeme Stoney has been constantly in the news over the past few years representing the Mountain Cattlemen's Association. As Executive Officer and chief spokesman of the association, Stoney organised 300 horse riders to appear in the 1985 Moomba procession to commemorate the 150th anniversary of High Country grazing.

No stranger to film work, Graeme Stoney has assisted in several productions, being a "crack" in "The Man From Snowy River", an extra and location consultant for "High Country", and location consultant for "Far Country".

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Presents

A GEOFF BURROWES – GEORGE MILLER PRODUCTION

Cool Change

PG

Starring

Jon Blake **Lisa Armytage**

Executive Producer: Geoff Burrowes

Producer: Dennis Wright

Director: George Miller

Screenplay: Patrick Edgeworth

Director Of Photography: John Haddy

Music: Bruce Rowland

Production Supervisor: Bill Regan

Production Designer: Leslie Binns

Film Editor: Philip Reid

Sound Supervisor: Terry Rodman

Release Date:

Cool Change

BRUCE ROWLAND

Acknowledged as one of Australia's most successful composers, Bruce Rowland is fast achieving a greater public recognition for his film soundtracks.

Rowland has created the music for such major films and television series as "The Man From Snowy River", "Phar Lap", "Now and Forever", "All The Rivers Run" and "Anzacs".

The success of Rowland's approach is demonstrated by his achievements. He has twice won the Australian Film Institute's Best Music Award – for "The Man From Snowy River" (1982) and "Phar Lap" (1983). And public response has been as great as that which he has won from the film industry. The soundtrack of "The Man From Snowy River" has sold just under 70,000 copies, the only Australian non-musical film soundtrack to go gold. It is now approaching platinum.

The mood of the music for "Cool Change" is romantic and modern, an audio blend of orchestra and rock 'n roll. Bruce Rowland and John Farnham worked together to write the film's feature song, "Love Just Took Me By Surprise", sung by Peter Cupples.

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DENNIS WRIGHT — PRODUCER

An Arts graduate from Monash University, Dennis Wright joined Crawford Productions in 1973. After 2 years as a First Assistant Director he left to form his own commercial production company.

Over the next 7 years he guided his company from a fledgling operation to an establishment and award-winning production house.

In 1982 he joined Geoff Burrowes to work on the administration of "The Man From Snowy River" – then in its international release. He became Associate Producer on the Burrowes-Dixon television mini series "Anzacs".

Despite the enormous logistical strain of "Anzacs", Wright was able to set up "Cool Change" so that it could be shot within a month of completion of the mini-series.

After "Cool Change", Dennis Wright had "Free Enterprise" ready to go. He was Executive Producer on that Burrowes-Dixon feature production. Since then he has set up "Backstage" and "Ground Zero" for production this year. He will also be Executive Producer of the Burrowes Film Group productions, "The Man From Snowy River II" and "Clancy of the Overflow".

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PATRICK EDGEWORTH — WRITER

Writer Patric Edgeworth is well familiar with the power of storyline and dialogue. He worked as a stand-up comedian in England for five years before starting work in Australia in 1969 as an actor in such television productions as "Homicide", "Division Four", "The Long Arm" and "Matlock Police".

He then wrote comedy sketches for GTV Melbourne before joining Crawford Productions in 1971 as a staff writer. He left to form Homestead Films with partner Russell Hagg. Together they produced the television series "Cash and Company" and its sequel, "Tandarra". Edgeworth wrote and co-produced the action adventure film "Raw Deal" and the tele-film "Taxi".

More recently he wrote "Road Wars" and "Avengers of the China Sea", due to be produced in 1986 by Nilsen Premiere. This followed Edgeworth's and Hagg's success with "BMX Bandits" which Edgeworth wrote.

Patrick Edgeworth has just completed writing an eight hour mini-series for Hoyts Edgely, "The First Fleet", dramatising European settlement of Australia, due to be screened during the bi-centennial.

He is currently writing a \$7 million film based on the autobiography of K'tut Tantri, "Revolt in Paradise".

Patrick Edgeworth won a 1976 Logie for "Cash and Company", a 1976 TV Society Commendation for "Tandarra", and the 1984 Awgie for "BMX Bandits".

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JOHN HADDY — DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

John Haddy began his career 25 years ago at Channel 7 Melbourne, where he was chief cameraman for five years before joining Crawfords as director of photography on 200 episodes of the long-running "Homicide" series and 26 episodes of "Hunter".

He then joined Cambridge Films and began a long, successful career in the commercial world. His credits include international award winning commercials for Shell, Solo, Winfield, The Australian Tourist Commission and Carlton United Breweries.

While living in Far North Queensland, Haddy made a documentary on marlin fishing with Lee Marvin, shot numerous marlin fishing commercials and worked on current affairs projects.

His film work includes "The Great McCarthy", "The Man From Snowy River", "Coolangatta Gold", "Crocodile Dundee", "Free Enterprise", "Anzacs" and Hong Kong episodes of "Dallas".

"The High Country is not easy to film," says Haddy. "The atmosphere is elusive. You can get the height and width easily but getting depth can be a problem. So is the weather. In just one day, it could be very hot, then it changes to cold and windy and it might even snow. One day it did just that."

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WILBUR WILDE

The irrepressible Melbourne musician Wilbur Wilde is best known to the Australian public for his zany appearances on the television show "Hey, Hey It's Saturday Night" and "Blankety Blanks".

More recently Wilde has moved into film. He has won cameo parts in "Dead End Drive In", "Coolangatta Gold" and "Jenny Kissed Me".

In "Cool Change", Wilde plays an easy going park ranger who is just as interested in a good time and playing his saxophone as he is in performing the job in hand.

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CAST

JON BLAKE

With his handsome good looks, and talent to match, Jon Blake is a rising star. After a year studying with Stellar Adler in New York in 1980, Blake returned to Australia to take parts with the Sydney Theatre Company, the Nimrod and Theatre Royal and the television series, "The Restless Years".

He appeared in such stage productions as "No Names No Pack Drill", "On Our Selection" and "The Merry Wives of Windsor". His first film was "Freedom" made by the South Australian Film Corporation, in which he had the lead role.

After an outstanding performance in the Geoff Burrowes/John Dixon production of "Anzacs", Blake was offered the lead in "Cool Change".

"Working in 'Cool Change' reminded me of my childhood in New Zealand, out in the country and riding all day long," he said. Even though familiar with horses, Blake welcomed the chance to workshop the film before shooting began. "And what a way to workshop a role. We took our scripts out on a trail ride and camped under the stars." Nice work if you can get it. And appropriate indeed for this bright star of the future.

After completing "Cool Change", Jon Blake performed the lead role in the Geoff Burrowes/John Dixon feature, "Free Enterprise". This film, currently in post production, is due for release later in 1986.

Cool Change

ALEC WILSON

Cattle station manager, saddler, horsebreaker, pilot and now actor, Alec Wilson is obviously a man of many parts.

During a relatively quiet period making American roping saddles in South Australia, Wilson decided he would like to do a spot of acting. After doing the rounds of various agents, he got work in several commercials and in film and television including "Sara Dane", "Bush Corridors", "Great Artesian Basin" and "Black Boomerang".

In 1984 Geoff Burrowes and John Dixon cast him in "Anzacs". From that he was given a secondary lead in "Cool Change".

With a working background in the bush, Wilson has no hesitation in supporting the mountain cattlemen in their fight to stay in the High Country. "That's their heritage, that's their life and it's being taken away by a bunch of people who don't know anything about those things," he says. Although he continues to manage his parents' four million acre cattle station, Frome Downs, in northern South Australia, Alec Wilson hopes that his part as Bull Raddick in "Cool Change" will see him bulldozing his way into an acting career.

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LISA ARMYTAGE

English-born actress Lisa Armytage, who settled in Australia in 1979, has consolidated her varied stage and television career with the lead female role in her first film, "Cool Change".

After training at the National Youth Theatre and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, she worked for two years in theatre and radio drama.

In Melbourne she has worked with the Universal Workshop, La Mama, The Melbourne Theatre Company and on television productions including "Cop Shop", "Prisoner", "Dreamers on the Line" (ABC-TV) and "The Lancaster-Miller Affair", a mini-series filmed in 1985.

"Cool Change" was a change in many ways for Armytage. "It was wonderful to be on location in the High Country," she said. "I grew up in the English countryside, in Somerset, but most of my working life I've spent in cities."

In preparing for her role as Jo Regan, Lisa Armytage found a point of personal identification with her character. "I drew a parallel between Jo's struggle to stay on her land and provide a future for her son and my own need to keep on with my acting career as well as be a mother to my three-year-old daughter. It's a question of staying true to yourself."

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DAVID BRADSHAW

A graduate of the Victorian College of the Arts with a solid experience in front line Melbourne theatrical productions, David Bradshaw has been widely cast in television and film.

Usually portraying a man of stature, Bradshaw has appeared in television productions like "Eureka Stockade", "A Thousand Skies", "The Last Outlaw", "Anzacs", "The Sullivans" and "I Can Jump Puddles".

Following his role as Sir Keith Murdoch in "Anzacs", he was cast as the chief career environmentalist, James Hardwicke, in "Cool Change".

Given the role he played in "Cool Change" on one hand, and the fact that he supports the mountain cattlemen on the other, Bradshaw took pains to study the state of the High Country during filming. "I have spent a lot of time with my family in those mountains and I have yet to see any damage caused by the cattle."

"Hardwicke was an interesting role but I believe the cattlemen should be allowed to stay in the High Country," he says.

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DEBORRA-LEE FURNESS

Born in Sydney, Deborra-Lee Furness grew up in Melbourne and trained at the American Academy of Dramatic Art in New York. Before returning to Australia in 1983, she worked in New York for a year, her major roles being in film, "Crossover Dreams" and the stage show "Catch Me If You Can".

In Australia she has worked on the television series "Kings" and "Glass Babies", J. C. Williamson's production of "Torch Song Trilogy" and the film "Jenny Kissed Me".

Deborra-Lee plays a hard-nosed city-bred career woman in "Cool Change" she describes as fun although there were moments of minor trauma when she had to take her character to the country. "In one scene I had to swim a mountain creek and pretend it was warm. It was freezing. And losing false fingernails in the bush and having to find them, is somewhat irritating," she says.

