



## Bowen Locations Guide

Welcome to 'Bowenwood'! A sleepy beachside town in the Whitsundays, Bowen didn't know what hit it when Hollywood A-listers Baz Luhrmann, Nicole Kidman and Hugh Jackman came to town for the filming of *Australia* – a \$100 million 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox production. For seven weeks in mid-2007, the town became gripped by the 'Baz Buzz', and a huge outdoor set utilising some of Bowen's existing buildings was created to replicate the Darwin Harbour during World War II. For tourists in town, here's a list of places to visit that the stars loved, and a number of locations around town that are seen on the big screen.

### The Bowen Jetty



The Bowen Jetty was a big drawcard for Baz Luhrmann when choosing a location to shoot the movie *Australia*. The picturesque spot was used to recreate the Darwin harbour, which - as the movie shows - was bombed during World War II. If you're visiting the town today, the jetty's a great place to watch one of Bowen's beautiful sunsets or throw in a line to enjoy a spot of great fishing.

### Police Station

Dalrymple Street, Bowen



The Police Station is the only remaining building façade from the original movie set. The '1894 Police Station' was built in front of two unoccupied Bowen units and was heavily featured in the movie. The large flat grassy area in front of the Police Station was where the township of Darwin was recreated for the filming of the movie. The 16 acre set is believed to be one of the largest outdoor sets ever made.

### Customs House

Herbert Street, Bowen



Situated opposite the Grandview Hotel, Bowen's Customs House is also heavily featured in the movie. Bryan Brown played the town baron (King Carnon) in the movie and there are lots of scenes of him in Customs House, which was his home.



## Grandview Hotel

5 Herbert Street, Bowen  
Phone (07) 4786 4022



The façade of Bowen's Grandview Hotel was embellished for *Australia* to resemble a typical 1930's hotel. You'll see it featured in the movie backdrop frequently, such as when Hugh Jackman and Nicole Kidman lead cattle drives through town. The Grandview also hosted the stars, cast and crew for many meals and many nights, as well as thousands of tourists that visited Bowen hoping to catch a glimpse of the stars on set! Keith Urban also played a concert for the *Australia* cast and crew in the new beer garden at the hotel. If you're in Bowen, make sure you stop in at the Grandview for a meal, a drink with the locals, or an overnight stay.

## Jochheim's Pies

49 Gregory Street, Bowen  
Phone (07) 4786 2462



Seventy-two year old town matriarch Merle Jochheim of Jochheim's Pies, played a pivotal role in Baz Luhrmann's decision to film *Australia* in Bowen. A descendent of Bowen's founding father and owner of Jochheim's Pies, Merle spotted Luhrmann outside her pie shop one day and - thinking he was a tourist - told him all about Bowen's history and the things to see and do. She also showed Luhrmann and his wife Catherine Martin (Academy Award Winner for Best Art Direction and Best Costume Design for *Moulin Rouge*) the walls of the bakery, which are decorated with old black-and-white photos depicting Bowen's past. This is when Luhrmann reportedly said "I've got a good feeling about this town" and the rest is 'Bowenwood' history! Catherine Martin said she was inspired by those very photos when designing the costumes for *Australia*. The cast and crew were sighted daily at Jochheim's Pies enjoying a coffee, or one of 'Australia's best pies'. In fact, Hugh Jackman and his son Oscar were one of the bakery's most frequent customers while they were in town. If visiting Bowen, be sure to try one of Jochheim's *Hunky Hugh Jackman pies*, a *Baz Luhrmann baguette*, or even a *Nicole Kidman Mango Cheesecake*. The bakery staff will happily tell visitors about their frequent encounters with Hugh and recall Oscar's daily visits to help ice cakes and fill pies. The walls of Jochheim's Pies adorn the historical Bowen photos alongside a feature wall of photos of the stars, cast and crew.



## **Bowen Historical Museum**

22 Gordon Street, Bowen  
Phone (07) 4786 2035



Regarded as one of the best historical museums of North Queensland, the Bowen Historical Museum offers a wide display of artifacts that date back to the early days of the town. From Catalina flying boats to the amazing story of James Morril, the Museum is a must stop for those, like Baz Luhrmann, interested in the fascinating history of the town.

## **Flagstaff Hill**

1 Margaret Reynolds Dr  
Phone (07) 4786 6360



The view from Flagstaff Hill is said to be one of the best sea views in Queensland, so it's no wonder the *Australia* cast and crew were often spotted up here. Baz Luhrmann and Nicole Kidman particularly loved the restaurant perched on top of Flagstaff Hill – the aptly named *Three Sixty*. With views over the town of Bowen and out to the Whitsunday Islands, there are few more stunning spots to stop for a meal. In fact, Nicole Kidman and Keith Urban hired out the entire restaurant for a private dinner to celebrate Nicole's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday.

## **Anchors @ the Club**

1 Starboard Drive, Bowen  
Phone (07) 4786 5222



Hugh Jackman dined at Anchors @ the Club every Sunday while he was in Bowen and there's even a signed plate with the statement 'I'll be back every Sunday' adorning the wall as proof! The yacht club's owner and head chef Colin Oatley said Hugh loved his steaks and once he even cooked the fresh fish that Hugh had caught that day on a fishing trip. Other actors from the movie including Nicole Kidman, Bryan Brown, David Wenham and Ben Mendelsohn were also spotted dining at the restaurant. Bowen is known for its fantastic fishing and Anchors @ the Club is one of the best spots in town to dine on fresh local seafood. The restaurant is open seven days a week from noon and dinner from 6pm.



## Summergarden Theatre

40 Murroona Road, Queens Beach  
Ph (07) 4785 1241



A gem of Bowen's heritage, the Summergarden Theatre was built in 1948 and styled on the classic movie houses of southern California at that time. Not only was the theatre the cutting room floor for *Australia*, but many of the famous cast and crew were also seen at the cinemas catching the latest release movies. Baz Luhrmann and his editing and photographic crews used the theatre every few days to privately review raw footage from the days' takes. Theatre owner Ben De Luca said Hugh Jackman would also often bring his family along to the movies, while Nicole Kidman and Keith Urban hired the entire cinema for a private screening of a movie on her 40<sup>th</sup> birthday. They flew the movie up especially from Sydney for her! Summergarden also provided some of the props for the movie *Australia*. The seats used in the Pearl Theatre were replicated on the ones from Summergarden, the theatre's historical projector was used in a number of scenes and the Summergarden's entry tickets were also used for patrons at *Australia's* 'Pearl Theatre in Darwin'. Summergarden screens the latest release movies and Mr De Luca is happy to show patrons the cinema's projection room so visitors can see how a movie works.