

*"Basically I'm interested in the whole top end of Australia"*

LORD ALISTAIR McALPINE Tory Treasurer, one of Europe's richest men, developer, patron of the arts ...

and now ...

# LORD of the BUSH

a film by

**TOM ZUBRYCKI**

with music by Broome bands

**KUCKLES and SCRAP METAL**

# LORD of the BUSH

Broome is a town in the remote North of Australia that boomed into existence on the trade in pearl shell. Come the bust, the pearling masters took their wealth, leaving behind the people that had been brought in to serve them: Malay, Filipinos, Chinese, and local Aborigines. A unique community with a distinctive cultural flavour that has been going its own, rather sleepy way.



Enter Alistair McAlpine, a larger than life romantic, a man who has a dream, an urge to create a whole new civilization in Australia's North. Within hours of arriving in Broome he bought the cinema and the finest of the pearling master's villas. In a year he'd started a zoo, and then a luxury resort. Broome must cop McAlpine and his money. Some have doubts ... but also hopes.

STEPHEN PIGRAM is a songwriter with the band SCRAP METAL. He worries about the power McAlpine exercises over the town. But could the Lord's patronage be put to use — like promoting Broome's music?



PADDY ROE is an elder who wants McAlpine to help him make a protected "Heritage Trail" and thus preserve the coastline from further development.

ALLAN GRIFFITHS is a businessman who sees McAlpine's initiatives as a springboard to Broome's "inevitable" growth.

ELSTA FOY is concerned for the Shinju Festival: their own celebration of Broome's ethnic diversity that has been made into a shopkeepers' jamboree.

LORD ALISTAIR McALPINE is comfortable with power. He is one of the wealthiest men in Europe, and the Treasurer of Thatcher's Conservative Party. Is he a landlord of a modern day fiefdom — a clever hunter mesmerising his prey, or should he be welcomed as the most sensitive developer this country has yet seen? There are no simple answers, and the film doesn't force conclusions. The audience must decide from the evidence before it.

For much of the year, Broome swelters in tropical heat. In this film we see strong-willed characters in a unique community as they push up the temperature. The stakes are high: the last great wilderness in Australia is up for sale.



Producer / Director TOM ZUBRYCKI

Editor / Associate Producer RAY THOMAS

Cinematography JOEL PETERSON

Original songs by Broome bands KUCKLES and SCRAP METAL

Running Time 56 minutes. Available on VHS, U-matic and 16mm.

Made with the participation of the Australian Film Finance Corporation and with the assistance of The Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Available for sale and rental on VHS, U-matic and 16mm. Sale and rental prices on application.



Distributed exclusively in Australia and New Zealand by  
AFI DISTRIBUTION LTD

49 Eastern Road, South Melbourne VIC 3205 Phone (03) 696 1844 Fax (03) 696 7972  
PO Box 522, Paddington NSW 2021 Phone (02) 332 2111 Fax (02) 331 7145

