

Troppo movies developed from my creative drama classes at Cardwell State School. At first all the improvisations the kids offered were rehashes from unsuitable movies or programs on TV, The plots went nowhere because at the first sign of a problem to be solved out came guns, bombs or fists - end of story! When I banned rehashes, violence, twitchy noses and witches, gave them maps, golden treasures and other objects to work with their creative adventures began!

Our first adventure 30 minutes was shot mostly at Dead Horse Creek on weekends and after school with a cast of 6 kids and a couple of baddies! The Treasure of Dead Horse Creek had its world premiere in October 2001 complete with the mayor, M&M comedy duo and popping flash bulbs as our cast walked the red carpet!

School budget cuts in November 2001 ended drama classed at school but parents and teachers urged us to carry on and RADF gave us a small grant towards a our next movie!

In January 2002 we set up a training program to include both technical and performance skills. We expected 9 or 10 students but 16 enrolled!

STOWAWAY needed a cast of 6 main kids, a few adults a police car, an ultra-lite plane and, 25 extra kids and a dog! The books all warn you "never work with kids or animals!" They don't know what they're missing!

The adventures of Charlie Girl who ran away from Cooktown to try to find her Dad took place over a week but it took three months to shoot it on location in Cooktown, Cardwell, Port Hinchinbrook and on Hinchinbrook Island. And many hours burning the midnight oil to edit it in time for its Oct 12th World Premiere at the Cardwell Community Hall.

Tully High School Concert Band played and a full house applauded the kids as they walked the long red carpet. Mayor Tip Bryne and Mark Rowell Member for Hinchinbrook praised the kids for their hard work and commitment and the P & C served pop corn and movie snacks. .

Sincerely,

Una & George Hill
Cardwell