

IN THE AUSTRALIAN OUTBACK, NOT ALL THAT WANDERS IS LOST

Local Legends  
PRESENTS

**MEDIA KIT**

THERE'S SOMETHING IN THE  
**PILLIGA**



**THERE'S SOMETHING IN THE PILLIGA**  
**GENRE – Horror/ Mystery/ Drama**  
**TIME - 83 minutes**

**There's Something In The Pilliga** is a feature film shot as Point Of View (POV) with one camera. The film is shot as a real life account of four people who become stranded in the Pilliga Forest in Northern NSW, Australia. One by one they are systematically hunted down by a creature known as the Jingra.

The film has an interesting back story, with twists and turns, that adds to the intrigue and leads to an open conclusion depending on the viewer's interpretation of the events.

**There's Something In The Pilliga** was filmed from May 21-29, 2011 in the Pilliga State Forest and surrounds. It consisted of Special FX make up, special effects editing, state of the art equipment and a dedicated full time cast and crew of 22 with another 11 part-time cast and crew.

No feature film has been made on this subject before; thereby the film claims exclusivity on this topic. Furthermore, no Australian film has been filmed using one camera POV in this genre.

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## Dane Millerd **Writer/Director**

The project **There's Something In The Pilliga** started back in 2005 when I had a discussion with my cousin Tracey Gaynor about an experience she had some twenty years before with her friend and two men in the Pilliga forest in NSW, Australia.

Tracey and her friend met two men one night in Gunnedah before agreeing to go on a midnight road trip with them to see an old hermit friend of the two men in the Pilliga. The hermit's name was Old Man Grosser, and it was believed he had lived in the Pilliga in a humpy for over 70 years. Tracey and her friend were taken to see Old Man Grosser who apparently had some bad experiences in his younger days when the love of his life took off with his best friend. The two men decided they would play tricks on the girls and scare them by pretending to be the Pilliga Yowie also known as a Jingra – a mythical hairy man who allegedly roamed the bush land. That was the original inspiration for **There's Something In The Pilliga**.

When Tracey told me this story I was captivated and thought about all the other things that have gone on in this region – numerous “Yowie” creature sightings, encounters with the “Pilliga Princess” – an old lady who wandered the forest and the surrounding highways as well as reports of “Hairy Mary” – a prostitute who had also become a forest inhabitant.

I then read Eric Rolls 'A Million Wild Acres' to get a better idea of the area as my only real previous experience had been a pig chasing trip in 1996 and a story for Australian Post Magazine on Gwabegar in 2002. Gwabegar is an old timber town in the heart of the Pilliga that was once the poorest town in NSW after a succession of business closures, fires and natural devastation.

These elements further reinforced my desire to explore this story and this region. All that was left to do was to write down a platform from which I could build.

In 2006 a first draft was written and it was titled Jingra at that point. Jingra is an Aboriginal term for 'Outback Yowie'. The story was originally about four pig-chasing males who discover a body in the Pilliga Scrub near the Cuttabri Shanty.

In true 'Deliverance' style, the film was about what they would do with the body, as one by one they were stalked by the Jingra.

Between 2007 and 2008 numerous drafts were written, however the script was largely put on the back burner as other projects gained more momentum. It wasn't until 2010 when the script was revisited by Dane Millerd and Paul Denham that it was changed from the original idea to that of two men and two women. We also “de-Americanised” it and coloured it with the Australiana lexicon and theme you see today.

Along with additional writer Amy Slessor and with some assistance from Greg Hamilton and Charles Silvestro, the film was shaped into the current script and was finalized in February 2011. The title was also changed to **There's Something In The Pilliga** as we believed the film was not just about the Jingra but about the people and region. We were now ready and happy with the script. All we had to do was shoot it!



# THE TEAM

## Dane Millerd

Film screenwriter and director, Dane was also director and co-writer for the multi-award winning 'Trucker Chicks' film clip with Paul Denham. He has also worked for the Sydney Morning Herald / Fairfax, Onspec Ontic - one of the largest product placement agencies in film, and Sensis. Dane is the chief writer, director and producer of the film.

## Paul Denham

Paul is a three-time award winning cinematographer at the American Country Broadcasting Awards for the country music clip – 'Trucker Chicks'. Paul's video work has produced eight top 30 hits on Foxtel /Austar CMC channel and he was the camera operator for Horse Talk TV, which won the 2010 Antenna Award for "OUTSTANDING INFORMATION & LIFE STYLE PROGRAMME". Paul is the cinematographer, editor, grader and a co-writer of the film.

## Amy Slessor

Current newspaper editor who will help with exposure, promotion and marketing of the film. Amy is one of the youngest editors ever appointed by Rural Press. She is also the 2nd Assistant Director, Continuity and Art Director for The Jingra. She is a co-writer of the film.

## Ros Wilson

Former General Manager of Village Roadshow, the third largest distributor of films in the world. Ros will assist with Australian and overseas distribution deals.

## Matthew Scott

Matthew is a producer and scriptwriter who is working with acclaimed organisations such as Lions Gate Films and Sony Films. Matthew will also aid with promotion of the film when it is complete, as well as distribution.

## G. Wayne Thomas

A former number one Australian / NZ recording artist who has provided music for the film and who also has US based contacts who can assist with distribution.

## Graham Irwin

A luminary of Australian film, who has worked with the likes of Simon Wincer, Jack Thompson and Ray Barrett. Graham will be 1st Assistant Director on the film.

## Charles Silvestro

Charles is a director of several companies and holds a Diploma in Freelance Journalism, a Certificate in Radio Training and a Masters Degree in Engineering Science. Charles has over twenty years experience in broadcast radio and print media and is a special consultant to the producers on various matters.

# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

# THERE'S SOMETHING IN THE PILLIGA

Written by Dane Millerd (AWG #13676)

A Jingra is considered by Aborigines to be a devil-man, a hairy man, a bigfoot, an outback yowie. For centuries it has hidden from indigenous and white man alike, having carved out its own private existence in the Australian landscape. But now it hides no more ...

In the tradition of films such as the Blair Witch Project, Rec and Paranormal Activity, comes the first one-camera real video account of a group's encounter with the Pilliga Yowie in northwest New South Wales, Australia – the Jingra. More people have seen the Pilliga Yowie than any other yowie in Australia with tales dating back decades.

Our story, **There's Something In The Pilliga**, begins when Jay, an Aussie bushy and his cameraman acquaintance Dylan decide they are going to go to Baradine for New Years Eve after Dylan has taken some photos of Jay's F350 truck. On the way, they encounter two Goth girls, Emma and Stephanie, at the Pilliga Natural Spring Bore Baths as well as a grumpy Vietnam Veteran and his wife who object to Jay bathing his dog at the baths.



Not to be perturbed, they continue on to the Baradine Hotel where they then meet two more females, Liz and Tammy. Aside from a scuffle with some jealous local men the group of four get along well and agree to go with Jay and Dylan to meet Jay's hermit friend, Hard Up Hermie, a recluse who has had bad luck with women and lives in the Pilliga Forest.

Upon arriving at Hermie's only to find him strangely absent, Jay and Dylan leave the camera with the girls while they take Jay's dog to look for Hermie. Hours later the girls, coming down from ecstasy and severely hung over, decide they can no longer wait and begin to walk out of the Pilliga Forest. The two men, who have now also lost Jay's dog, return and then locate the women explaining to them that the delay was because of the dog disappearing as well. All four decide to go back and help find the dog. Instead they find the naked corpse of one of the Goth girls, Emma, from the Pilliga Natural Spring Bore Baths seen only the afternoon before.



The group argues about what to do next but Jay, being a criminal and the alpha male who owns the truck, decides to hide the body in a pig wallow for the feral pigs. This displeases the group and Liz walks off again in protest. The group follows in the truck and a truce is partly and uneasily negotiated. Not long thereafter they are pulled over by the local policeman who fortunately for them, allows them to go but they can't, not yet, for Jay has to still find his dog for it is the only thing linking them to the crime.

The party return to the scene of the crime so Jay can find his dog Wolfy but he hears his dog bark, sparking a frenzy that sees Jay vanish into the scrub leaving the remaining three marooned at the truck.

The trio awake to the violent shaking of the truck and suspect it is Jay playing games until a set of bloodied teeth are dropped on the windscreen sending the threesome into panic and raptures. With only the camera light guiding the way Dylan and Liz are separated from Tammy in the darkness and soon stumble upon the second girl from the Bore Baths, Stephanie, who is still alive. Stephanie explains that she and Emma have been following Jay for a while as he and the old hermit, Hermie, have been trying to find the Jingra/ Pilliga Yowie. She indicates that the reason the others are out there (Dylan, Liz and Tammy) is largely because Jay needs bait!

Soon Stephanie and then Liz are taken by the Jingra as Dylan, with camera in hand makes a run for the highway. He too gets taken but he has also captured it all on film. The Vietnam Veteran and his wife on the way through the Pilliga then pick up the camera but things are not so straight forward, particularly not when you have Jay driving right behind you wanting the camera and its footage for himself!

The bush has many secrets and the Jingra is one of them ...

**'NOT FAR FROM A CIVILISED WORLD IS A WORLD UNCIVILISED...'**

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**Photos by Paul Denham,  
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