



Kippa-Ring is a family cartoon with an absolutely endearing storyline.

Travelling from the United States to Australia, the Skolgord family meet up with
a host of marvellous characters.

And the Skolgords manage to sort out their problems while finding Dal's missing father.

All this happens within the realms of a rehashed fairytale.

What an entrancing adventure! Please enjoy Kippa-Ring.



KIPPA-RING: THE QUEST OF HOPE

Prologue:

Throughout, our narrator is Bern Skolgord. We start off with a bit of fast, humorous, brisk cartoon fun. Music will be bright and gutsy.

Cedric runs towards the camera at full gallop (if goats can gallop): his face is set in a mean, mulish glare.

Cedric butts several stable lads. The lads yell and howl as they run off. Cedric adopts the pose of a champion who has bested the field.

Cedric *irate* Aroint thee naughty knaves! Be off! Be gone, scallywags!

Then Cedric prances about in the stable, watched in awe by the many horses.

Cedric *proudly* None shall say me "Nay!" when I oversee the equine livestock of King Rolando of Perinvale.

Cedric strikes a heroic pose and the music responds to this. Then, the music grinds to a halt: Cedric looks confused.

Narrator (Bern Skolgord) shouting in annoyance
Will you get out of here, Cedric? Sheesh!

END OF PROLOGUE

MAIN TITLES: *will be in cartoon format. There will be a mix of knights in shining armour galloping (in company with Cedric) through Australia (with emphasis on the Outback and the Great Barrier Reef). The Sydney Harbour Bridge and Opera House will also be featured. Throw into the mix a damsel in distress being abducted on horseback. And the obligatory fire-breathing dragon, of course, along with a bunyip.*

These knights will “bustle” the Skolgord family (equipped with suitcases, backpacks and so on) as they try to take in the sights. Prajapasi looks on wisely, while at his heels a pangolin nuzzles him. Meanwhile, Bing will look on, with a world-weary gaze. Bing is really too cool to care!

ACT I

Part 1: The Skolgords At Home Hearing The News

Narrator (Bern Skolgord) the action is described below

My grandmother is a hopeless romantic.

Not last Christmas, but the one before that, she gave my sister and me a DVD called "The Quest of Hope". It was about knights in shining armour and fair damsels needing rescuing. You know the sort of thing ...

My sister liked to watch the romantic parts and fast-forward the great sword fights and terrifying dragon scenes. Can you believe that?

Action Scene: Exterior, fighting a dragon.

Side-by-side, Rafe Enderby and Prince Dagamund bravely fend-off a fire-breathing dragon. They fight with large swords and carry bucklers (that is, small shields) on their arms. The Prince wears a fancy bronze helmet and breast plate. Rafe wears his trademark woollen cap.

Together, the two men lunge and thrust such that their swords simultaneously pierce the exposed lower neck of the dragon as it gulps in air such that it can spew out more fire. With a horrible groan, the beast rears and collapses backwards.

Narrator (Bern Skolgord) the scene is described below

I (on the other hand) skipped anything where the hero and heroine talked to each other, looked at each other in that goofy way that they do, or kissed. Kissed! Yuk!

Romance Scene: Exterior, lovers' bower.

In a beautiful bower, with sweet little birds flitting about chirping and tweeting, Prince Dagamund pays court to Princess Alice. They are both dressed in top-quality late medieval formal attire. They hold hands and look at each other, very much in love. In the background, watching this scene is Rafe.

Rafe is angry and frustrated. He paces about, slapping his gauntlet against his hand and leg. [This is due to his disputed inheritance, as we shall discover.]

Narrator (Bern Skolgord) *action as appropriate to Bern's words.*

So, as you can imagine, we fought. Mom almost confiscated the DVD right there and then. But Fate intervened.

I discovered by accident that if you owned the "Quest of Hope" DVD and had found the registration number in the packaging, that you could register to legally download the full movie onto a laptop. Sweet!

So I did the honourable thing and gave the DVD outright to my sister, and let her watch the stupid mushy bits, and gave the impression to my family that I was a saint of a brother, whilst in reality I holed-up in my room and watched the movie on my laptop at my own pace. As I say, sweet!

Action Scene: Exterior, Dal's Fire Magic.

At night, Dal Tremoine (wearing a lap-lap) dances in corroboree style before a blazing campfire under the moon in the Australian outback. He stops and (hands on hips) looks up at the moon with a huge smile on his face.

Narrator (Bern Skolgord)

That was the plan, anyway. But you know, Fate is a funny thing.

A little guy with the whitest smile on the other side of the world changed my life forever, and just because I was trying not to fight with my sister ...

But we'll get to that ...

Scene: Interior, Skolgord family home. *Mom arrives home from work, entering the house weighed down with bags, groceries, shopping and so on.*

Mattie sits at one side of the dining table working on a tablet, and Bern sits opposite her (wearing earphones) as he seriously uses a joystick whilst playing a computer game.

Elizabeth It's so nice to get home from a hard day at work and find you children peaceful and happy. It really is a joy.

Narrator (Bern Skolgord) action as appropriate to Bern's words. Include fierce wrestling with his friends on the ground.

Children! Mom still calls us children.

*I have an impressive growth of hair on my chest and have grown to just a smidgeon over 6 foot 1 inch tall and my sister has developed into ... Well, let's just say that she looks very enchanting to all my friends and so I spend hours putting them straight about what they can and **cannot** do with my sister. And that means more fighting of course but fighting with guys is a totally different thing to fighting with your sister and so ... Oh, hey! I don't need to tell you that ...*

Scene: Interior, the Skolgord family home. Mom is busy in the kitchen, putting away groceries and tidying up. Mattie clears away all the empty food containers and drink containers from the dining table, especially from Bern's side of the table. Wiffie (a small fluffy terrier) jumps about expectantly.

Elizabeth *thrilled* Have I got a huge surprise for you two. We're going on an education vacation to Australia!

Mattie stands stock still, unable to believe what her mother has said.

Mattie *uncertain, pretending to be excited* Australia! Wow! That's great, Mom.
I mean ... Well, it's **probably** great, although ...

Elizabeth *very excited* I might have told you about the challenge that was put to us by the Board of Directors, and I won. I won!

Elizabeth dives into a mega-hug with Mattie who seems bemused.

Narrator (Bern Skolgord) Present a cartoon of the Easter Bunny and Santa Claus having a discussion and then meld that into the southern hemisphere moon.

It wasn't that easy, Mom. The little guy with the mouthful of white teeth interceded

here.

Say, did you know that Down Under they don't have a man in the moon? It's more like the Easter Bunny and Santa Claus having a powwow at a table, discussing stuff ... That's a little-known fact.

Elizabeth Did Bern hear our great news or is he still grooving to heavy metal?

Out of her many bags, Elizabeth pulls out the cutest stuffed animals (Australian marsupials). Mattie falls in love with her fluffy kangaroo with joey and cuddles it to her face. Bern stares blankly at his wombat and pulls off his headphones.

Mattie *enraptured* Oh, Mom! Thank you. This is the cutest thing I've ever –
Oh, look! The little baby kangaroo comes out of the pouch!

Bern *circumspect* What is this? Is it a badger or something?

Sorry, Mom, but I'm really over the stuffed-toy phase.
Wiffie ... Want to massacre a cute Australian stuffed toy?

Mattie It's a wombat.

Mom won that competition at her work. We're going to Australia.
Eight days Down Under.

Narrator (Bern Skolgord) as he stares at the stuffed wombat

No. No, we're not.

Not this little black duck anyway.

*I am not (repeat **not**) flying half-way around the world.*

Bern *yells so that his* In Australia, people get eaten by sharks and crocodiles; they get bitten by spiders, snakes and blue-ringed octopus Down Under,

mother can hear him Mom. I learned that in Applied Geography.

I think we should skip the trip.

Mattie nods and calls out Maybe Bern is right ...

It's the Wet season down there. People get swept out to sea in horrific floods. I'm not sure we should visit during the Wet season.

Bern nods and yells That's right! This is shaping-up as a really bad idea.

And they have killer bush fires and dust storms and violent hailstones the size of golf balls.

Imagine how stupid I'll feel when they etch into my tombstone that dearly loved Bern was pounded to death by hailstones the size of golf balls.

Elizabeth returns to the dining room and smiles fondly at her children.

Elizabeth We leave next Wednesday for 8 days.

Our passports will still be valid from Cancun and I've already cleared it with your Principal. And Grandma will mind Wiffie.

It's educational as well as a vacation. It's almost Summer down there. We can swim and sunbake --

Mattie desperate Mom, you're not hearing me: it's all desert and big rocks.

Do you know, Mom, that there's a website where you can book to go to Australia and do away with your rich partner or spouse while snorkelling on the Great Barrier Reef?

Narrator (Bern Skolgord)

Now, I really have to admit to being impressed by my sister's knowledge about hot web sites.

I am stoked: blown away.

Bern *super impressed* Oh, wow! That's ... That's ... Woo! A website for that ... Boy!

Elizabeth *sweetest of smiles* Oh, and by the way. Your father is coming along. He's approached me on a couple of occasions, and we've discussed ...

Well, you know ... Forgive and forget ...

We're going to use the vacation as a time to patch things up.

Mattie rushes forward to hug Elizabeth. Bern sits as he was at the table.

Mattie *teary* That's great, Mom.

Bern gives a grotesque quasi-smile.

During the following narration, we shall see some scattered scenes depicting the strained relationship between Bern and Flynt. In a later ACT, when Dal and Bern discuss fatherhood, we shall witness the more physical and emotional side to that relationship.

Narrator (Bern Skolgord)

Which loosely translated amounts to "more screaming matches".

Dad and I will be shuffled off to spend some valuable "male-bonding-time" together, whilst Dad will unwillingly surrender his credit card so that Mom and my sister can shop.

You may not have picked up on this but father-son bonding can often be no more than an uncomfortable duty for the Dad and a gross-out for the son. Another little known fact ...

Elizabeth Pack sensibly. It's only for 8 days, remember. Something to wear when you feed kangaroos, and climb the Sydney Harbour Bridge, and surf at Bondi Beach and hang out with crocodiles and sharks and –

Narrator (Bern Skolgord) with heavy emphasis on the last 7 words.

Sure. I can do that. Board shorts, a hoodie and a full body suit of chainmail.

Elizabeth swings around and beams at her children.

Elizabeth *a-gush with thrill* We only spend one night in Sydney to start with, and then it's off to the Great Barrier Reef for 2 nights. And then back to Sydney.

Should be fun!

Mattie and Bern glance at each other, as if their mother were completely insane.

END OF PART 1

Part 2: The Skolgords Head Out Down Under

Scene: Interior, airport.

The scene is of a busy international airport. The Skolgords board the plane and take their seats. They have 4 seats together in the mid-section of the air bus. There is lots of noise, chatter and bustle.

Narrator (Bern Skolgord) visualize Bern's words.

Hey! I should have started with the introductions. Sorry about that ...

That's Dad. He is Flynt Skolgord, software engineer. As you may have gathered, Dad no longer lives at our house, but is busy trying to worm his way back. Good luck with that one, Dad!

Mom is Elizabeth, named after the English queen, so I'm reliably informed. She works at an advertising agency.

My sister is Mattie. Her real name is Matilda, named for another English queen. Look at her flirting with her eyes at those innocent, harmless guys there! Don't you hate it

when girls do that? I'm going to have to punch her arm when I get close enough ...

*And I got lucky, I guess. I'm Bern (aka Bernard). Now you can claim (if you want to) that I'm named in honour of an Italian king but I'll deny that absolutely. My male friends have a variety of names for me that I'm not at liberty to divulge ... And my female friends call me – Duh! I don't **have** any female friends ...*

Scene: Interior of airbus.

During the long plane flight, everyone is asleep. Flynt and Bern are mirror images of each other, lolling about with mouths open.

The flight attendants wander about, checking on the passengers. Both Flynt and Bern cock open one eye to check out the rear ends and legs of the flight attendants. Then they drop back to sleep.

Scene: Interior of airbus.

The passengers are waking up as the plane makes its descent over Sydney. We hear gasps of delight from the passengers. Our Skolgord family members will crane their necks to get views out of the port holes on either side of the plane.

Male voice over Good morning passengers. This is your captain speaking again.

 We are now making our descent into Sydney, Australia. The views are stunning from the port side of the plane.

 I've been advised that they are not quite ready on the ground for us yet, so we'll do a couple of figure-eights over Sydney Harbour so that you can all see the fabulous views.

Scene: Aerial views of Sydney Harbour.

Our view is of the plane touring above Sydney Harbour, with the sun rising and all the usual early-morning bustle of a busy harbour. This will be sumptuous and enticing.

Narrator (Bern Skolgord)

Guess I woke up in time, huh?

That great building there is the Opera House. If we don't let on to Mom, then we might well be spared the unmitigated horror of grand opera or worse -- ballet.

Scene: Interior airbus.

In the body of the airbus, we can see the members of the Skolgord family.

Elizabeth *pointing* Oh, look at that great building there!

Mattie *thrilled* It's the Opera House, Mom.

Flynt and Bern wince.

Elizabeth Do we know what operas they are putting on right now?

Mattie Yes! This brochure says that they are staging the Ring Cycle by Wagner.

Elizabeth Wow!

Narrator (Bern Skolgord)

Wow!

[Imitates his mother saying "Oh we just have to see that!"]

Mother *ecstatic* Oh we just have to see that.

Flynt and Bern manage to glance at each other, with speaking looks.

Narrator (Bern Skolgord)

Okay, well I will say this for Dad ... He and I are of one mind when it comes to Wagner operas. We'll grit our teeth, sign-up for male-bonding and check out the rock-climbing or whatever.

The ladies can opera-up to their hearts' content!

Mattie *excited* And ballet. Mom! They are presenting the complete and unabridged "Swan Lake". The show runs for over 3 hours.

Flynt speaks quickly, feigning eagerness.

Flynt I'm really keen to try my hand at rock climbing.

Bern *nodding* Me too!

Elizabeth *fondly* That'll be fun for you boys. Some male time together. That's nice.

Mattie *big eyes* And you're sure that you won't mind missing the ballet and the opera?

Both Flynt and Bern intimate with facial gestures that they are willing to sacrifice that thrilling prospect.

END OF PART 2

Part 3: The Download Of “The Quest Of Hope”

Scene: Interior, hotel room. *Mattie stares out at the wonderland of lights which is Sydney by night.*

She wanders into Bern’s room and quietly takes his laptop and earphones.

Narrator (Bern Skolgord)

[Sleepy]

Somebody is creeping about in my room, stealing my stuff.

How do I feel? Violated, victimized, scandalized --

Bern *very sleepy, deep voice* Put it back.

Mattie I can’t sleep. I want to watch --

Bern I know ... the “Quest Of Hope” saga.

You must know that movie off by heart by now.

[Groans]

Go ahead ... Take my stuff ... I don’t care ...

[Yawns prodigiously]

Mom and Dad: are they back yet?

Mattie Not yet.

Bern grunts.

Narrator (Bern Skolgord)

[Sleepy]

Okay, so I’m being Mr Nice Guy.

She’s my kid sister and I gotta care about her.

She can't sleep. She needs to watch a much-loved movie. Who am I to stand in her way?

Besides, we'll probably both be eaten by a jellyfish tomorrow ...

Bern snores as he sleeps.

END OF PART 3

Part 4: Mattie Revisits The "Quest Of Hope" Downloaded Movie

Scene: Interior, hotel room. *Mattie is sitting on the floor of her bedroom in the hotel in Sydney. We can still see the fireworks in the night sky over the harbour through her window. But Mattie is oblivious to the exciting show: she has Bern's laptop on her knee. The light from the laptop screen is reflected onto her face and neck.*

Scene: Interior, the Quest of Hope download, medieval.

Mattie watches the opening scenes of the downloaded movie "Quest of Hope" and our view is in close-up. This scene takes place in Castle de Frey of King Ludwick of the Kingdom of Spering.

Before a very large oval mirror (that is, what passes for a mirror in late medieval times) held by bewigged servants stands Prince Dagamund. He is magnificently robed and preens himself assiduously. Around him stand various young male supporters. A pair of handsome hunting dogs snuffle about; they look fondly towards the Prince.

Prince Dagamund Well? Shall I do? What think you?

Lord Verney Cousin, you are a paragon of princely virtue.

Sir Percy Your sweet bride will swoon at first sight of you, as you await her approach at the altar, Prince Dagamund.

Earl of Comble Lucky girl!

Prince Dagamund holds up his hand.

Prince Dagamund No, my good fellows. I am the lucky man to have won the hand of such a beauty of renown; and cannot wait to meet her for the first time as my bride.

Sergeant-at-arms Honoured Prince! Your parents await you.

Prince Dagamund smiles at his supporters.

Prince Dagamund King Ludwick ... Queen Ulpia ... Yes of course ...

Friends! My noble father and mother wish to bless me and perhaps offer me some timely advice.

Lord Verney makes a theatrical bow.

Lord Verney Then no bridegroom could be so well-counselled, Your Highness.

Prince Dagamund Let us go, my friends, to meet with the King and Queen.

And then (like a noble band of brothers), let us ride together to Dinlilly Castle, in the neighbouring country of Perinvale. And may God bless this Holy enterprise of matrimony!

Scene: Interior, the Quest of Hope download.

Mattie (teary and smiling goofily) continues to watch the opening scenes of the downloaded movie "Quest of Hope" and our view continues in close-up. This scene takes place in Dinlilly Castle of King Rolando of the Kingdom of Perinvale.

Scene: Interior, in the bedroom of Princess Alice of Perinvale, medieval.

[In the background, we can hear heavenly voices singing].

King Rolando visits his daughter in her bedroom. The beautiful bride trembles: she is lovely, and she is festooned with ribbons and flowers. Tiny white birds flutter and twitter about her.

Many maids are gathered about the bride, fussing over her. When the King enters the room, the maids drop into deep curtses.

Princess Alice then takes her father's extended hand and lowers herself gracefully into a superb curtsey.

King Rolando *kindly* My beautiful daughter! Shall we go to church, now? I am informed that your handsome groom has ridden over from Spering with his manly attendants, and even now awaits you in nervous eagerness and eager nervousness within the church.

Princess Alice *shaking* Papa ... I'm so frightened ...

King Rolando But there is no need. As well as being a heroic prince, he is also a kind, good man.

Princess Alice *whispers* He cannot care for me as you and dear Mama have done.

King Rolando *re-* He will love you to the end of his days.

assuring [To the bridesmaids]

Have you ladies finished your ministrations?

Chief bridesmaid Sire, we have yet to fit the pretty slippers to the Princess's dainty feet.

King Rolando *nods* Well, I shall await you in the passageway. Do not be dallying too long, my dear. I'm sure that you cannot wait to be a married lady.

The King leaves the bedroom.

The maids flit about, applying perfume to the bride, and more lipstick, and so on. As the pretty, happy maids make the final arrangements to the bride's perfect wedding dress, the bride sighs.

Princess Alice Dear ladies. I am bursting with happiness. Overjoyed.

But ... but I need ... I need just a little time to myself.

Quickly curtsying, the maids whisk themselves out of the room.

Princess Alice, still with her retinue of tiny birds, moves about the room, humming softly. As she nears the window, she pulls up short, in horror. The members of the Sons of Triplegate (one of whom is Rafe) have climbed up the vines growing on the castle walls; they pour over the ledge and straight into the bride's bedroom.

Princess Alice cannot do more than gasp. Rafe grabs her and pushes his hand over her mouth. He then drags her quickly back over the window ledge, out of sight. As he does so, the birds twitter angrily, following their mistress.

Meanwhile, the men bolt the door and drag heavy furniture in front of it before making a hasty retreat via the window.

Scene: interior, in the passageway, medieval.

On hearing this unexpected noise, the King (who stands outside the door to Princess Alice's bedroom) frowns and calls out (listening intently at the door).

King Rolando *worried* My love? Princess Alice? What is it that you do?

Come now ... Quickly to your wedding shall we hie!

Then follows the faraway sound of a girl's scream.

King Rolando *alert,* What? What?
concerned

As King Rolando hammers at the door, shouting ["Blackguards! Rapsallion rogues! Villains! Varlets!"], several of the maids (who are gathered about in the corridor) faint and swoon.

Hearing the commotion, a small group of castle guards appears on the scene.

King Rolando Make haste! All speed!
authoritative, to the Princess Alice has been abducted, belike!
guards

The men rush off. The maids are busy crying, supporting each other and comforting those who had fainted. King Rolando paces about, mad with anger and despair.

King Rolando *irate* I know who is behind this dastardly act: the Sons of Triplegate led by that nefarious outlaw, Rafe Enderby.

I'll feed them to the dogs as soon as they are brought before me for judgement. Justice shall triumph! And Enderby will be the first to suffer my righteous outrage!

The King strikes his fist furiously into his hand.

Narrator (Bern Skolgord)

... and that's about enough of that for now. As you can see, the "Quest of Hope" is an awesome tale (so long as you steer clear of the mushy bits). There's all kinds of adventure with Prince Dagamund chasing after Rafe (who was once his pal), and rescuing the Princess and ...

Anyhow, we're now flying in a helicopter over the beautiful Great Barrier Reef ...

END OF ACT I



KIPPA-RING: THE QUEST OF HOPE

ACT II

Part 1: The Great Barrier Reef Island Resort

Scene: Exterior, tropical resort island on Great Barrier Reef.

The sun beats down through palm fronds.

*There is a lot of noisy splashing in a superb tropical swimming pool – some kids have a large floatie in the shape of a **pangolin** and they mess about making noise.*

All the beautiful people and the parents lounge around beside the pool, reading or sipping cocktails.

Flynt, Elizabeth, Bern and Mattie arrive at poolside.

They are wearing swimming costumes (Bern and Flynt wear board shorts) and have towels over their shoulders.

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Action Scene: Exterior, slow-motion comic pool jumps

As Bern delivers the following narration, we see Bern run and jump (legs tucked under him) into the pool, making an enormous splash. Flynt does likewise. This is in super slow motion.

And then we see Elizabeth and Mattie (stony-faced) drenched in water and with wet towels.

Narrator (Bern Skolgord)

Here's today's Biology lesson, courtesy of Bern Skolgord, who is now about to launch himself into a tropical swimming pool.

See that pool toy that those kids are playing with? Well, I'm gonna present you with some little-known facts ...

That blow-up toy represents a PANGOLIN: a mammal of Asia and Africa that rolls itself up when threatened. No other mammal has those large, protective keratin scales that overlap to cover their skin.

They live in hollow trees or burrows, are nocturnal, and their diet consists of mainly ants and termites which they capture using their long tongues.

Okay. So some desperate people eat them (yuk!) and use their armour as ... well, armour.

They knuckle-walk, and they stink like a skunk. Hmmm ...

And I'm gonna jump into the water with a ginormous splash!

Action Scene: External, return to normal speed.

Laughing loudly at their womenfolk, Bern and Flynt skylark about in the pool. Making the best of it, Mattie and Elizabeth disport themselves on poolside loungers. A smiling waiter approaches.

Scene: Underwater, exploring coral in the Great Barrier Reef.

Two scenes occur simultaneously.

In shallow water, Mattie is snorkelling with a party of young men (all in boardies).

In deeper water, Bern is diving with SCUBA equipment along with some girls.

Narrator (Bern Skolgord)

Now for some **more** Biology ...

Mattie is wondering how to look attractive with a snorkel in her mouth.

*And, as you can see, I have somehow attracted a pod of female scuba divers ... Why are they following me? What's their plan? A bevy of beauties always has a hidden agenda ... is it **me**?*

Action Scene: External, aboard a small diving boat.

As a humorous device, Bern will revisit the idea that there is a website devoted to doing away with one's spouse while holidaying on the Great Barrier Reef.

When the count of divers is made there is one short, and one lady appears to be extremely pleased with herself, until Bern drags up a really old spluttering man. The lady looks very annoyed.

Narrator (Bern Skolgord)

Uh-oh ... One missing.

There y'are old guy ... I gotcha.

*Bet everyone's relieved that at least **someone** on board is diligent ...*

Scene: Internal, the Main Hall at the tropical resort, at night.

A rock 'n' roll band plays to a crowd of holidaymakers (including children).

The resort guests are dressed in holiday gear, and either dance informally or loll about on attractive cane furniture.

Elizabeth *brightly* Back to Sydney tomorrow. Are we all enjoying ourselves so far?

There is general assent.

The rock band finishes their song.

Flynt stands, and strolls over to the group.

Action Scene: Interior, Flynt and Elizabeth relive their lost youth, at night.

As Bern narrates, Flynt is up with the band taking his turn on lead guitar, whilst Elizabeth dances vigorously with the old sugar daddy from the diving expedition.

Mattie dances with a group of young people.

Bern watches indifferently.

Narrator (Bern Skolgord)

And now for further instalments of the Biology lesson.

My sister and my mother are enjoying themselves with strangers.

My father is living his youth again (and you need to know that he originally left the family hearth to re-acquaint himself with his old rock 'n' roll band). And it looks very much like I'm about to be dragged onto the dance floor by 4 eager British chicks.

[Long, long sigh]

Just as he predicts, and despite his best endeavours, Bern is dragged onto the crowded dance floor by some very boisterous girls.

END OF PART 1

Part 2: Sydney's Kangaroo Petting Zoo

Scene: Exterior, the kangaroo paddock at a harbour-side zoo.

Narrator (Bern Skolgord)

Now, this is where my story takes shape, back on the Australian mainland.

Look out for a huge kangaroo who's built like a linebacker. He is –

Well, you'll see ...

Scene: External, meeting Bing The Roo.

A large gathering of grey kangaroo does (as in female roos) crowd about a solitary male (coloured red). This is Bing The Roo. The females adore him. Bing however lies back at his ease.

The swooning females sing to Bing The Roo – what a handsome, strong, tall, good-looking guy he is.

Bing is suave and loves being adored.

Action Scene: External, Dal Arrives in great excitement.

The female kangaroos are roughly pushed out of the way by Dal Tremoine. The boy is waving a small piece of paper at Bing.

Dal *shouts jubilantly* They're here!!

Bing (still sprawled out in masculine splendour) raises an eyebrow.

Bing The Americans?

Dal *delirious* My fire magic worked, Bing!! **Amazing!**

Fire, smoke, sacred dancing, the moon ... it all worked!

C'mon! Let's go find 'em! They're here in your park.

Action Scene: External, nature park, the koala enclosure.

The koalas are fenced-off and stationed in lopped gum trees, but they are well within reach of the park visitors. Japanese tourists gush as they take what seems like a million photos of themselves with the koalas. Mattie and Elizabeth are right in there too. Flynt hangs back, wandering about, very happy with how things are turning out.

Mattie *almost crying in* Oh, Mom! They are **so** cute! I wanna take one home ...
ecstasy

Bern is not far away, taking photographs (with his movie camera) of a turtle. His narration takes place as all this is going on and will be abruptly interrupted by seeing the faces of Dal and Bing in ultra-close-up through his camera lens.

Narrator (Bern Skolgard)

Now, this is a little-known fact ... Turtles can sleep underwater.

This one sure is big. I heard someone say that he's over 100 years old ... Well, that makes sense, judging by his wrinkles.

Just let me get the light at the right angle.

Woo-hoo, National Geographic, here I --

DA-A-A-A-A-A-A-A-A-A-A-A-A-A-A-GH!

Bern does a gigantic double-take as all he can see through his lens (and we see the same thing) are the 2 faces in closest close-up.

Dal waves his piece of paper at Bern, who is totally gob-smacked.

Dal *excited* Gotcha! This is so good!

My name is Dal and this is Bing the Roo.

Bing and Bern are about the same height. Bing stretches out a paw and shakes Bern's hand. Then, Bing casually takes Bern's movie camera, adroitly switches it from still photographs to movie mode, and stands next to Bern with an arm around his shoulders. We hear the whirr of the movie camera as Bing (smiling in a sleazy, greasy way) films himself and Bern (who is looking like he has seen a ghost).

Bing *confidential* G'day, Bern. I'm a guy like you. A guy ... So no marsupial pouch.
Just don't ask me about what I keep in my pouch 'cause I don't
got no pouch. Guy ... no marsupial pouch.

Bern is still thunderstruck and does not react to Bing's confidential admission.

Bing *winking* It's a fact.

Lots of tourists converge on the small group to take photographs of the huge kangaroo. Bing is obliging, posing in the manner of a male fashion model, even slinging a hessian bag over his shoulder as if it is a stylish jacket.

Narrator (Bern Skolgord) whimsical

Sometimes, saying nothing at all is a much better tactic than trying to speak and only managing to sound like a lost lamb.
--

Dal jumps about, ignoring the tourists.

Dal *thrilled* You've come all the way --

Bing *as he poses* From the USA --

Dal To help me and Bing find my Dad.

Bern *confused* Your ... ?

Dal All I got on him is his Tax File Number. It's written on this bit of paper.

Dal shoves the paper into Bern's hand, as he dances and jumps about in high excitement. Bern reads aloud as if hypnotized.

Bern *reads* "A42369IT111118C5".

Bern *looks about, stunned.*

Bern *confused* What ... What is this?

Dal *still excited* It's Dad's Tax File Number. I told ya.

Bing *leans forward.*

Bing *knowingly* You probably know it as a Social Security Number. Works the same way.

Bern *drawls,*
flummoxed R-i-g-h-t ...

Dal *urgent* Come on! We gotta find my Dad.

Dal charges out of the gate which stops the wildlife leaving the paddock, whereas Bing simply bounds easily over the fence (whereby all the tourists gasp in surprised horror). Bern uses his cell phone to call Flynt.

Bern *running, urgent* Wait up! I've got to let them know where I am.

[Talking into cell phone]

Dad? Something's come up. I'll call you later. Go on without me: I can easily find my way back.

Action Scene: External, running down a slope in the park-like petting zoo.

The party of 3 (Dal, Bing and Bern) are seen to be running/bounding through a woodland at full tilt down to a path. Dal looks from left to right to left.

Dal Which way?

Narrator (Bern Skolgord)

And now a little authority is called for, since I am in the company of a man-sized kangaroo and an eleven-year-old kid.

And all we've done so far is to run ...

Bern *sternly* Whoa! Whoa! Whoa! Now before I "rescue" you, my young friend,
I need to know more about --

Dal *imperative, urgent* You logged onto the Web using **that** ID and they downloaded an
exciting DVD for you. And when you did that --

KAPOW!

Matcho-matcho.

And I used my fire magic to **force** you to come Down Under to
Oz. And here you are!

Bern appears dazed.

Bing *shrugs* You might want to verify this unlikely tale by checking out your
DVD Registration number ...

[Points using his paw]

In your wallet ...

*As if an automaton, Bern reefs out his wallet and holds Dal's piece of paper against a red and gold
flashy card. The numbers are the same (and we can emphasize this using flashing lights).*

*Bern looks up as he stows his wallet. Dal is hopping and jumping about and Bing looks like a know-it-
all who has just scored a major hit.*

Bern *whispers* This is spooky.

Bing *confidential* Yeah. And there's worse to come, mate.

Your knights in shining armour story is about to go really wonky.

Bern looks puzzled and mouths the word "wonky".

Dal laughs out loud as he jumps and leaps about in his enthusiasm.

Dal *laughing* Yeah, wonky!

Bern *in wonderment* So, you're saying that my Mom didn't actually win her competition ... ? Is that what you're saying?

And my "Quest Of Hope" download is all screwed up. Right?

Dal stops dancing to nod eagerly. Bing (languid as ever) nods also.

Action Scene: Exterior, the sudden, dramatic arrival of Prajapasi and Cedric

There is a POOF! of smoke: Prajapasi and Cedric appear. Cedric snaps immediately into action.

Cedric *issuing a challenge* None shall say me "Nay!" when I oversee the equine livestock of King Rolando of Perinvale.

With head close to the ground and steam shooting out of his nostrils, Cedric charges.

Dal and Bern freeze in horror.

Bing calmly rocks back on his tail, with his huge hind feet raised. Cedric charges straight into Bing's feet and is knocked out. Bing relaxes back into his former pose, utterly unfazed.

Everyone else appears to be frozen for a moment. Bern recovers first.

Bern *yells* Stay calm!

Bing *languid* I'm cool.

Bern *[Sarcastic, to Bing]*

I was talking to everyone else.

[Yells again]

Stay calm!

Dal – what's happened?

Dal scratches his head.

Dal *shamefaced* My ... My fire magic must have got mixed up ... Your DVD download ID and my Dad's Tax File Number ... I dunno ...

Bern Is this what you mean by "wonky"?

Prajapasi strolls forward to check that Cedric is okay. And then Bern recognizes Cedric.

Bern *surprised* Hey! That's Cedric from the castle's stables!

Prajapasi Yay, verily! This beast is indeed the mascot Cedric who guards the steeds of King Rolando, King of all Perinvale.

Cedric is still K-O'd.

Bern *concerned* Is the little guy alright?

Prajapasi *dismissive* He will be ... When he comes to.

Prajapasi suddenly remembers something. He reaches out to grasp Bern's shoulders.

Prajapasi *alert* But more importantly ... Is Rafe Enderby safe?

Bern *stern* Rafe Enderby has abducted Princess Alice and is riding off with her **as we speak**. Him and the ... er ... Sons of Triplegate ... That's the name of his gang.

Prajapasi stares at Bern, still gripping his shoulders. Bern (uncomfortable) shakes loose from Prajapasi's grip.

Prajapasi *thoughtful* Well ... With his gang ... Indeed! So Rafe is safe ... good!
Princess Alice is a silly little butterfly (not Rafe's equal in the intelligence quota) but very pretty and ...

Bern *male* But she was in a relationship with another guy.
righteousness Right when she was abducted, she was on her way to marry Prince --

Prajapasi *full of drama* Prince Dagamund! Many thanks: you have reminded me!
The soothsayer gasps theatrically as he reels back in horror.

Bern and Bing glance at each other, sharing a sense that Prajapasi has lost his marbles.

Prajapasi *full of drama* Attend to me, all of you!
[Striking theatrical pose]

Prince Dagamund (only son of King Ludwick of Spering) has been turned into a pangolin by that evil sorcerer Captain Rackstraw.

These words stun Prajapasi's audience.

Narrator (Bern Skolgord) gives a slight cough

For 2000 years no-one cared about pangolins, and now they seem to be raining down on us.

This guy ... This "soothsayer" or whatever he calls himself is trying to tell us that the ever-charming Prince Dagamund of Spering is now transmogrified (boy, I love using long words!) into a pangolin, of all creatures.

I gotta set him straight.

Bern slowly shakes his head in denial as he recovers from the shock announcement.

Bern

No! There's no such a critter in our medieval gig.

No pangolin, no Captain Rackstraw, and no sorcerer. It's all just plain jousting knights and fighting dragons and carousing and --

Bing *smart guy*

I told ya, mate ... Your heroic story is now officially rubbish. What you call "trash".

Action Scene: Interior, the villain Captain Rackstraw, medieval.

Dramatic, evocative music is heard. This is the frightening medieval "cave-of-horrors" scene. The lighting (what there is) is provided by many guttering candles scattered about.

We are in a dim, spooky dungeon. As the "camera" pans around the scene, we get the impression of a sorcerer's workroom: dark, morbid, scary and cluttered. There are the usual dusty test tubes, old leather-bound tomes, and other discarded but suggestive lumber/junk. There is a huge stone fireplace, from which weak plumes of smoke emerge.

Further, there are many small cages containing a variety of extremely ill-treated animals. Many of these beasts are cryptids: snarling, desperate pseudo-beasts designed by a madman.

Captain Rackstraw throws open the heavy oak door and enters this cave. He is a thin, wrinkled man with an autocratic look about him. He is very down-at-heel, indicated by the threadbare uniform and many military medals. He has warts all over his face, along with grisly scars. He wears an eye-patch.

With a casual backward flip of his gnarled hand, Captain Rackstraw slams closed the heavy door.

He leers around the cave. Then he limps over to the cages. Miniature lions and tigers (in cages) shrink from him. Rackstraw grabs some food scraps from his pocket, and chucks it into some of the cages, laughing demonically as he does so.

Captain Rackstraw's voice is thin and raspy.

Rackstraw *grinning in an evil way* My treasured starlings ... How do ye all do in your sweet little nests, dear ones?

He turns towards a particular cage and leans forward, with the most evil, hateful look on his face.

Captain Rackstraw And our right royal guest: how do ye do, Your Elevated Highness?
unctuous

Captain Rackstraw peers into the cage. His expression changes to frowning uncertainty. He cannot see the expected occupant of the cage. Rackstraw peers much closer, his mouth working in distress.

Captain Rackstraw What? What?

He turns and quickly grasps a nearby candle. He shoves this towards the cage. We see (just as he does) that the cage is now empty.

Captain Rackstraw emits a long gurgling groan. He extends a bony finger to touch the still-locked cage.

Captain Rackstraw Where is little Foley? Where is my pretty boy?

Rackstraw slams down the candle and limps hurriedly towards the door. He reaches the door, and a strange very evil expression washes over his face. He stops, with his hand on the door handle.

As he speaks, it will appear that our "camera" moves about, allowing different perspectives of the cave in the background.

Captain Rackstraw He has escaped from my clutches ... from a locked cage ...
whispers with evil Hmmm ...

intent It would seem that my magic spell has been breached by that of a rival magician. I shall deal with the interloper in no uncertain way.

Action Scene: Exterior, return to the park with Prajapasi and Cedric.

The group of 5 (Dal, Bern, Bing, Prajapasi and Cedric) are as we left them earlier.

Prajapasi *blustering* Haste! Haste!

urgency There is not a moment to lose!

Rackstraw wants to turn the pangolin into a nifty suit of armour.
For ye know verily that even the mighty lion may not breach the armour of the pangolin.

Prajapasi scoops up the still unconscious goat and begins to stride off. Dal tears in front of Prajapasi then confronts him.

Dal *desperate* But what about finding my Dad?

Prajapasi pulls up short. Bing begins to shadow-box.

Prajapasi *uncertain* Your ... ?

Bern *explaining* Dal wants to find his father.

Prajapasi Name!

Dal Dal.

Prajapasi Is that your father's name? Seems very short.

Dal No, that's **my** name: Dal Tremoine. I dunno my father's name. All I got is his Tax File Number.

Prajapasi (still holding the inanimate form of the goat) looks around at Bern for advice.

Bern *shrugs* It's kind of like a social security number. It's all Dal has to go on ...

Prajapasi The soothsayer is now fully apprised of the situation.

Let's away, men! I must locate Prince Dagamund (whose pangolin

name is Foley, by the way). I must save him from almost certain annihilation **and** find this child's father.

I say, chaps! This goat is getting a tad heavy, forsooth.

Is the large rodent-like beast able to give Cedric a ride ... in its pouch?

There follows a taut silence. Dal and Bern squirm. Bing stands over Prajapasi.

Bing *ultra deep voice* I'm a guy. Guy's don't have no marsupial pouches.

Action Scene: Internal, change of scene to a small, cramped theatre.

There is an audience filled with female kangaroos (most of which have joeys in their pouches). They whistle, catcall and clap as Bing prances like a muscleman in a spangled posing-pouch on a stage.

Action Scene: External, return to the pathway at the petting zoo.

Prajapasi points dramatically to the left.

Prajapasi *in command* This way, men – With all speed!

The group of 5 (Bern with the comatose Cedric slung over his shoulders, Dal, Bing and Prajapasi) run/bound towards the left. However, the camera shot does not move with them.

Prajapasi *voice off* This way, men!

The group of 5 (Bern with the comatose Cedric slung over his shoulders, Dal, Bing and Prajapasi) run/bound towards the right, into shot and then out of it again.

Prajapasi pants "Yay, verily!" as he jogs. Bern brings up a salient point.

Bern *breathless* Hey! So what do we call **you**?

Prajapasi I am Prajapasi, the soothsayer. I say sooths to suit all tastes and expectations.

END OF PART 2

Part 3: A Train Ride From Sydney To Bulli Bulli

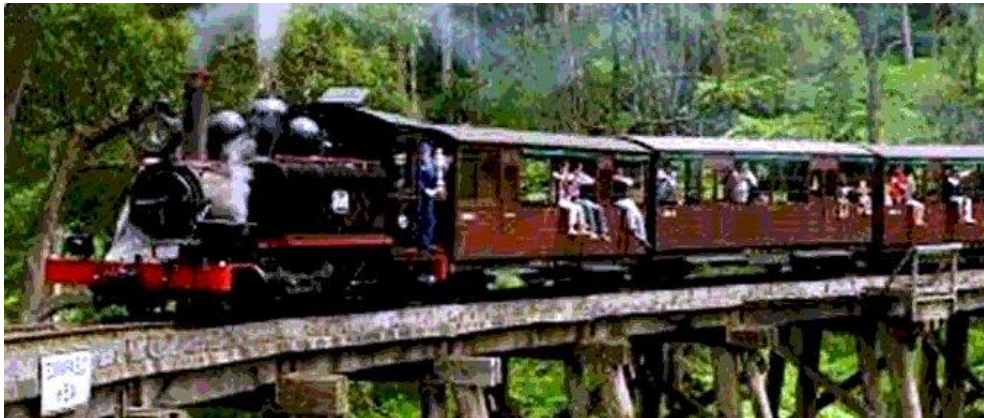
Narrator (Bern Skolgord)

Just texting to Mom that I'm on a steam train with a gigantic smart-talking red kangaroo and –

Nah, you're right ... It'd freak her out ...

"Mom, I am OK and on a train. See you soon."

That oughta do it.



Note that some of the carriages of the steam train bear advertisements for the Royal Wottamatta Agricultural Show.

Action Scene: Partial external, aboard a steam train with open-sided carriages.

The group of 5 (Bern, Dal, Bing, Prajapasi and Cedric) are now aboard an old-fashioned steam train which rambles through the Blue Mountains as a tourist attraction. Cedric is now alert: he stands up with his front paws resting on the side of the open-sided train. Dal, Bern and Bing sit with legs dangling over the side (as per the picture above).

Prajapasi has a tourist guidebook in his hands and wears reading glasses to decipher the content.

Prajapasi *reads aloud*, Our last stop will be at Bulli Bulli, where there is a large sacred
as if a scout leader pool and play area. Tourists are advised that --

Cedric *fearless* I vouchsafe that they are advised they shall have **me** to deal with
if they step out of line.

Action Scene: External, jumping off the train and scrambling back aboard.

The train moves slowly on a slight downgrade in the thick bushland.

The tactic is for the younger male passengers (and a few brave girls) to jump off the train as it slowly approaches a hairpin bend, run through the bush and then scramble back aboard the train as it slowly rounds another hairpin bend.

Suddenly, without warning, Dal and Bing leap off the train. Bing leaps easily, landing on his feet, whereas Dal rolls over and over when he lands. Cedric quickly follows, with all the agility of an ibex. There are yells, shouts, laughter and screams as the youngsters vacate the train.

Bern looks about, wondering what is happening, and then he too leaps athletically over the side of the train.

Further humour is provided by the fact that Prajapasi has no idea that his audience has vacated the train and then reboarded. He simply reads on.

Prajapasi *reads on* And we shall find your Father (I've no doubt) awaiting us there.
Yay, verily.

When it comes to haring down the slope amidst the thick bushland, there is a mass of bodies, lurching all over the place. As the train slowly passes, Bing assists Dal to scramble back aboard. Bern lifts Cedric back on board.

Once returned to the train, the lads rock about with breathless laughter. Other train travellers look askance at all the young people who have attained the feat.

Prajapasi *reads on* So bully to Bulli Bulli!

Prajapasi mumbles to himself as he reads. We return to Bern, Bing and Dal.

Bern Say, if there's a sacred pool at this place we're headed for, maybe we all could have taken a dip. Pity that we don't have our swimming trunks with us.

Dal *shrugs* Doesn't worry me ... I always swim in the nuddy anyway.

Bern *not sure what that means* What? In the what ... ?

Dal *giggles* In the nuddy. Nuddy, nuddy, nuddy.

Bing *confidential* In the raw is what he means. In the buff. Naked. *Au naturel*.

Narrator (Bern Skolgord)

It's a little-known fact that skinny-dipping is a very pleasurable pastime.

*It's a group thing. But **everyone** has to be in it. If there is a crowd of onlookers, then no!*

Am I being indelicate? Sorry 'bout that...

This conversation is going way out of line ...

Bern *laughs* Okay, then. Maybe better forget that idea.

[Quickly changing the subject]

And you say that you are up to level 82 of the Hotspur Trilogy?

That's some claim to fame. Why, I know gamers (older than me) that had to give up at level 14. And you got to level 82? Amazing!

[Sneaky, weasel-like]

So, did ya cast a magic spell ... Did ya?

Dal squirms and giggles.

Dal *shy and giggly* Kinda ... But I gotta be real careful. Lots of dodgy things can happen if I get the fire magic wrong. Lots of unexpected ... um ...

Bern *helpful* Collateral damage?

Dal Yeah ... Guess so ... And that's why I can't just "find" my father ... The magic has to kind of go by a weird path.

[Much more confident]

But now that you and the others are on my side, I reckon that I can find my Dad. No worries!

Both Bing and Bern give Dal a brotherly pat on the shoulder.

Prajapasi closes the book with a snap and smiles smugly at the lads.

The train draws into the Bulli Bulli railway station.

Scene: External, the Bulli Bulli park, lake and picnic area.

There is a large sign "BULLI BULLI". The party of 5 look about them.

We can see a large lake, complete with all kinds of lakeside attractions, water slides, waterwheels and cascades. Children squeal with delight as they enjoy the water sports and race about.

Crowds of people picnic. This is a very enjoyable scene.

Rafe Enderby sits alone on a rock ledge, very downcast.

Action Scene: External, Prajapasi believes that he has found Dal's father

With his usual flair for drama, Prajapasi points in the direction of Rafe.

Prajapasi *theatrical* Hie thee over there, lad, for there sits your noble pater on yon stone wall. I vouchsafe it.

The party of 5 charges over to where Rafe sits. Cedric stands up, putting his forefeet on Rafe's lap.

Rafe absently strokes Cedric's head.

Bern *accusing* Rafe Enderby! You lowlife chump!

Dal (downcast) looks Rafe over.

Dal *disgruntled* That's not my Dad ... Nothing like him ...

Prajapasi *apologetic* Well-said, well-said. The soothsayer appears contrite, shamefaced.
No ... You are entirely in the right, young Dal. Mercy Myrah me ...

Prajapasi unexpectedly bows to Rafe.

Prajapasi *delighted* Rafe Enderby ... As I live and breathe! I trust and pray that your majestic person is well?

Bern *outraged* What have you done with Princess Alice, you heel, you creep?

Rafe *to Bern* Good Sir, I have not the vaguest idea where I am, let alone Princess Alice's current whereabouts.

This pronouncement riles Bern. He goes to smack Rafe but is held back bodily by Bing.

Bern *savage* Why, I oughta knock your rotten head right off of your shoulders!

Dal and Cedric are thrilled by the promise of some action. Rafe jumps to his feet. Prajapasi is appalled. Bing continues to hold Bern from behind. Bern continues to try to squirm out of Bing's grip.

Prajapasi *alarmed* Steady there! Steady on!

Rafe *offended* Do you know who I am, varlet? You dare to strike my noble person?

Bern *very angry* Yes, I know who you are, alright Rafe "Triplegate" Enderby; and I wanna know what you've done with Princess Alice? You've just kidnapped her right before she was marrying the **one** man that she loves.

Bing *matter-of-fact* Who has been turned into a pangolin, according to our resident fortune-teller here.

Rafe *at sea* A pangolin?

Dal *annoyed* Well he's not a very good fortune-teller, is he? Where's my Dad?
You said he is here.

Prajapasi *kindly* And he **is** here, boy.

Dal rushes off shouting "Dad! Dad!" at the top of his voice. Cedric capers along with Dal, and in so doing frightens many children.

Bern tries again to shake Bing off.

Bern Aw, c'mon Bing. You can let go of me now. I'm not gonna slug this bottom-dweller, much and all as he deserves it.

Bing lets Bern go free and then (once more) is the subject of photo opportunities with the many park visitors gathered about.

Japanese tourist #1 Boy, that guy must be hot in that furry costume.

Japanese tourist #2 I reckon you're right. That's the most realistic costume I've ever seen.

Rafe *in denial, to himself* A **pangolin**?!

Scene: External, the Bulli Bulli railway station, beside the train.

Lewis Corrie (who is also Dal's missing father) is an assistant at the steam train's Bulli Bulli railway station. He looks tired and worn-out.

The stout, middle-aged driver climbs down from the train and walks past Lewis, patting him on the shoulder.

Driver I'm off for a cuppa tea, Lewis.

Lewis *sadly* Righto.

We hear "Psst! Psst!" from beside the train.

Lewis goes around to the side of the train to investigate.

Boxing promoter Hey! Hey!

I thought it was you ... Lewis Corrie: the Kippa-Ring Crusher. Nice to catch up with you, mate.

I can give you a bit of work back in the boxing ring!

Lewis *shakes head* Nah ... I gave that up, mate.

Boxing promoter What have ya been doing with yerself over the years? It must be 10 or maybe 11 years since I seen ya last.

As Lewis remembers, we see quick snippets of his various jobs over the years.

Lewis *remembering* Well, I went on to join a boxing troupe at the local agricultural shows. That was fun.

For a while I was an opal miner at Coober Pedy.

I had a job for a couple o' years as a trapeze artist in a bush circus.

And a drinks waiter on a cruise boat touring the islands in the Great Barrier Reef.

Now I'm manning the Bulli Bulli railway station. It's not much ... But it's a job.

But I don't box no more. I gave that caper up.

Boxing promoter No you haven't. There's lots of money to be made: a fat purse.

Lewis *shakes head* No, mate. I gave it up.

Boxing promoter Here's my card. Give me a buzz when you get back to Sydney.

Lewis stares down at the business card in his hand. A great whoosh of steam from the train envelops him.

Action Scene: External, the Bulli Bulli picnic area, Gents toilet.

As Bern narrates, our focus is on the open outer door to the Gents toilet. We can see men come and go but not right inside. There is a large GENTS sign visible above the door and the usual black silhouette of a man in trousers.

Narrator (Bern Skolgord)

Okay ... Okay ... So I got a little hot under the collar. Who wouldn't do that?

There seems to be a bit of action going on in another part of this park: historical recreations I guess you'd call them. Maybe Dal's father is part of that stuff ...

Dal exits the Gents and ostentatiously zips up his fly.

Bern exits the Gents and ostentatiously zips up his fly.

Bing exits the Gents and looks straight at the "camera". He looks down and then looks at the "camera" again. He shrugs cheekily and then follows the others.

Narrator (Bern Skolgord)

This story that I'm telling you will leave no stone unturned in our quest for realism and authenticity.

You just don't find that in stories now-a-days ...

END OF ACT II



KIPPA-RING: THE QUEST OF HOPE

ACT III

Part 1: Locating Foley

Scene: Partial Exterior, an up-market outdoor cafe at the Sydney Opera House.

Sydney's most beautiful, stylish glitterati take lunch on a superb afternoon on one of the many terraces around the Sydney Opera House (an up-market cafe).

There are superb views of the Harbour, where expensive watercraft while away the peaceful afternoon.

Elizabeth, Flynt and Mattie have a harbour-side view. They sit on a small balcony which contains a small border of shrubbery. Their table is covered with the remains of a delicious meal. A waiter quietly clears away the remains.

Elizabeth stretches, grinning like the Cheshire cat.

Elizabeth *sighs*

This must be a Sydney high spot. Bern doesn't know what he's

missing.

Flynt grunts in the manner of an aggrieved parent. He reefs out his cell phone and clicks a preset number.

Flynt I'm calling that boy. He should be here with us.

Mattie *shakes head* Dad, he's 17.

Flynt This is a **family** holiday after all.

[Into his phone]

Bern! What?

[To Elizabeth and Mattie]

Do you believe this? He's at a picnic area up in the hills.

Elizabeth *anxious* Who with? Is he okay?

Flynt *into phone* Just get yourself back to the hotel, young man: do you hear me?
No excuses, Bern.

Flynt slams shut the phone.

Elizabeth *concerned* But will our son be okay? I mean --

Flynt *with finality* Sure!

Mattie *re-assuring* He's 17, Mom.

Elizabeth frowns heavily.

Elizabeth But I mean ... Will he be ... Strangers ... They might not speak English.

Flynt *annoyed* He can communicate with them by drawing stick-figures in the sand, then.

Mattie *to Elizabeth* Mom, it's time for us to powder our noses.

Elizabeth Oh ... Oh yes ... Over there.

Mattie and Elizabeth rise and move off.

Now that Flynt is on his own, he seems pleased to be watching the aquatic activity (yachts and pleasure craft) on the Harbour.

There is a movement in the shrubbery. Flynt frowns and leans forward. The pangolin Foley shuffles out from under the small bushes.

Flynt Well now, aren't y'all a cute little fella.

Foley creeps out into the open, questing the air with its distinctive snout.

Action Scene: Exterior, the historical re-enactments at the Bulli Bulli park.

A sign has been erected:

NED KELLY RE-ENACTMENT

The Fans of Ned Kelly put on a re-enactment. Ned Kelly was a small-time criminal of the 1870's whose career captured the public imagination over the interceding decades, making him an iconic hero.

The area is a large grassed gentle slope situated between some market tent/shops. No seating is provided: people wander up and stand around watching the action, or else they shop for souvenirs from the open market.

There is a close-up of an actor portraying Ned in armour pretending to shoot-up the audience. Actors representing the coppers arrive and there is a melee. The audience clap enthusiastically.

Our party of 6 (Dal, Bern, Bing, Cedric, Prajapasi and Rafe) wander about, indifferently inspecting the trinkets for sale).

Bing *chatty* ... and our Ned was a famous bushranger. Kinda like an Oz version of Jesse James. Rafe would understand, given his track record.

Rafe *horribly offended* How dare you suggest --

Bern *confronting* So where **is** Alice, Mr Goody-Two-Shoes?

Scene: Partial exterior, return to the up-market outdoor cafe at the Sydney Opera House.

Mattie and Elizabeth have returned to the table. Flynt signals to them to be quiet and points to Foley.

Mattie gasps.

Flynt proceeds to feed Foley more of his cake. Elizabeth and Mattie obviously think that Foley is adorable.

Mattie *gushing* Mom! Look! It's one of those echidna things.

Mattie quickly takes photos of Foley.

Flynt *frowns* I'm not sure that it is an echidna ... They have spines, I'm certain.

Foley moves very purposefully towards Mattie.

Foley Mattie, please help me. Take me to Prajapasi. I am Foley, and only the wise soothsayer is able to help me.

The 3 Skolgord family members are aghast.

Elizabeth It can speak!

Foley turns to look at Elizabeth and nods its head.

Foley Aye! Words trip easily from my lips.

I was bewitched by Captain Rackstraw: a first-class villain.

Will you allow your daughter to assist me?

Mattie *horrified* But ... But how? I don't know this ... This Praj--

Foley *patient* The soothsayer Prajapasi is in the company of your brother Bernard.

Now the 3 Skolgords are really floored.

Mattie *aghast* With Bern? Are you serious?

Scene: Exterior, return to the historical re-enactments at the Bulli Bulli park.

Bern (arms akimbo) is standing before Rafe and has adopted a very threatening posture.

Narrator (Bern Skolgord) sighs

*The first law of confrontation is that you must **look** like you mean business, whether you do or not.*

Rafe appears to be at his wits' end.

Rafe *appalled*

Alice? Princess Alice of Dinlilly Castle, Perinvale?

Look you, Sir. I shall tell to you my sorry tale, as far as I am able.

The Sons of Triplegate and I stole Alice on the very day of her wedding in order to have a bargaining chip: I needed to get ahead of King Rolando.

Bern *surprised*

Rolando?

Rafe *insistent, proud*

I have pledged to unseat King Rolando; to dethrone him.

Prajapasi *shocked*

Oddsblood! I knew it! Prajapasi (soothsayer to kings) almost sinks to the very earth in his untimely distress!

Bern *confused*

I don't get it ... You stole Rolando's daughter. How does that help to get him off of the throne?

Bing *nodding*

I dunno ... Way I see it, it seems to be unsettling for people to be without their kids and vice-versa.

Scene: Interior, Captain Rackstraw's dungeon, medieval

Once again, the dungeon where Captain Rackstraw performs his weird experiments on animals is our focus. We hear spooky music as the "camera" pans around the ghastly, medieval torture chamber.

Rackstraw sits amidst unbelievable clutter, slowly flipping tarot cards onto a tiny bare space at a very dusty solid oak desk. A snaky-looking black cat (named Craddore) pads about on the desk, knocking aside this and that in its progress.

The wicked sorcerer Rackstraw reaches out a shaky hand to touch the cat.

Captain Rackstraw Craddore ... I have come to the conclusion (though it pains me much) that it was that most dreaded of magic – fire magic! – which spirited away our captive ...

Rackstraw strokes the cat with one hand. With the other hand, he flips over another card. His voice is a ghastly rasping whisper.

Captain Rackstraw Fire magic, Craddore ... Fire magic ...
grimly

Rackstraw stares at the wall.

Captain Rackstraw Fire magic has ruined my excellent plans.
musng

It is the most ancient of magic: the most potent ... and cannot easily be counteracted.

But ...

Rackstraw sweeps the tarot cards off the desk, and they rain onto the floor. Craddore gingerly leaps to the floor from the desk, landing on the fallen cards as he does so. I want to focus on that effect.

Rackstraw drags himself to a very cluttered, dusty, disorganized bookshelf. Muttering to himself in a dark way, Rackstraw runs his index finger along the spines of the books until he encounters a very slim volume. He extracts this book from the bookshelf, flips this book open at the place where an ivory bookmark is located, and grins in an evil way as he reads. His finger traces the words.

Rackstraw *mysterious* Kippa-Ring ... I must find Kippa-Ring ... He is the perpetrator of this intrusion ... He has Foley in his keeping, of that I am positive.

[Drawls]

... In his keeping ...

Rackstraw slams shut the book. Craddore jumps, startled.

Rackstraw *harsh* But not for long.

Action Scene: Exterior, return to the historical re-enactments at the Bulli Bulli park.

Just as Bern is about to fire-up his cell phone rings. Bern moves away from the others.

A new sign is erected:

MEDIEVAL RE-ENACTMENT

Prajapasi lights up.

Prajapasi *delighted* Begosh! How appropriate is **this**?

Now the actors and rôle players in the Bulli Bulli Medieval historical society perform their re-enactment.

Once again, the members have set up tents where they demonstrate medieval crafts. Out on the grass, a few male members (dressed in rag-tag costumes) flurry about with swords and bucklers. It is all very amateurish but quite entertaining.

The steam-train toots dramatically and we can just make out a tannoy announcement (made by Lewis) that the first train back to Sydney is just about to depart.

Bern *excited* My sister just called me – she has found Foley the pangolin (only she thinks he’s an armadillo) in Sydney. Foley told her that he wants **you**, Prajapasi. That only you can help him.

Prajapasi rubs his hands together, and then gestures down the slope towards the train.

Prajapasi My brave, faithful friends: let us hie to the great steaming monster (which you call a “train”) and we shall return to the place from whence we set off.

[Calls out]

Foley! Be brave, my friend! The soothsayer is on his way!

Scene: Exterior, the Bulli Bulli railway station platform.

On the platform, Lewis steps up to the steam train with his flag and looks up and down. He is just about to flag the train clear when our 6 friends race up.

Lewis has his back to the group as they all leap onto the train. Then Lewis looks about again and waves the flag. (That is, both Dal and Lewis miss seeing each other).

He wanders back to his little station office and watches as the train departs the platform amidst gushes of steam.

The boxing promoter leans out of the last carriage and waves to Lewis.

Boxing promoter *yells* Don't forget my offer, mate!

Lewis gives the man an off-hand wave.

Lewis *very sad* I'd get back in the ring tomorrow if it would help me to find me
son ...

Action Scene: Exterior, the arrival of the two kings.

Although our 6 friends have run/bounded down to the railway station and set off on their journey back to Sydney, the medieval re-enactments continue.

Then, down the slope ride the members of King Rolando's party. They are the real thing (in that they are superbly turned-out), which confuses the duelling medievalists.

From another quarter, King Ludwick and his entourage approach.

The local actors step back, entranced by the authenticity of the interlopers. Huge horses paw the ground and caper about as the 2 kings and their henchmen face-off.

The various members of the audience evidence huge amazement and appreciation. Cameras begin clicking.

Japanese tourist #1 Boy! These people really put on a good show.

Japanese tourist #2 I thought that the sweaty guy in the roo suit was a winner, but
this surpasses **anything** I've ever seen!

Scene: Partial Exterior, aboard the steam train with open-sided carriages.

Background: Cedric is busy cadging food tidbits from other passengers, whereas Bing is lounging about like a tart having his photograph taken in a variety of questionable poses.

Prajapasi sits with a goggle-eyed family group, gesticulating as he waffles on about astrological signs.

Rafe, Bern and Dal sit with legs dangling over the side of the train. Dal lolls over the railing, very cheesed-off. Rafe is in a brown study.

Dal *disgruntled* He's a phoney, a fake.

Bern shoots a look over his shoulder towards Prajapasi.

Bern Your father **could** have been at that park, Dal. That was one helluva crowd there.

Dal I shouted and shouted and shouted ...

Bern And there was a lot of noise. He might not have heard you.

Dal *really down on himself* You're saying that he **was** there but not looking for me. I get it.

Bern is not sure how to continue.

Bern *sincere* Listen, Dal!

My Dad and I had the biggest spat not so very long ago.

He left me (and Mom and my sister) to hook-up with his old rock 'n' roll band. You know, he was kind of reliving his youth, I guess.

Scene: Interior, relive the fights between Flynt and Bern, as if a FLASHBACK.

It is night. Flynt has gone into the back of what was his garage. He flicks on the electric light. He has a large cardboard box, into which he intends to stow some of his belongings.

Wiffie (the fluffy little terrier) jumps about, excited to see his former master again.

Flynt *sadly* Hiya, there, Wiffie! You're a cute fella, aren't ya? Pleased to see your old man again, are ya?

The following conversation (with angry voices raised) between Flynt and Bern is aggressive, confrontationist and delivered at high speed. There will be pushing and shoving.

Bern bursts in. He scoops Wiffie up into his arms and holds him thus until advised.

Bern What are you doing here? Cleaning us out?

You're not taking Wiffie! Wiffie is **my** dog!

Flynt Why don't you behave yourself, Son and be sensible. I need you to help Mattie to understand. She's taken this very hard.

Bern Are you surprised? You've walked out on all of us – on Mom and me and Mattie to --

Flynt Yeah, yeah, yeah ... Turn the record over, Bern ... You've told me a hundred times that I'm a louse and a degenerate to -

Bern You're throwing away what **was** a happy little family – We **were** happy and --

Flynt You can't possibly understand! I was being driven totally mental by our sterile existence. I needed one more chance with the band.

Bern shoves Flynt in the shoulder.

Bern If I did what you did and threw in my studies for a rock 'n' roll band, you'd throttle me!

Flynt slaps Bern's face. Bern puts the dog down ungently.

Flynt Why is this about **you**, Bern? I don't ask you to follow in my tracks. I'd never want that.

Look, I tried to be a straight father who cares about your sports and your studies and --

Bern But your old rocker pals mean more to you than us ... Huh?

Bern leaps at his father and we hear the 2 of them wrestling on the floor. Tools and other impedimenta go flying about. Wiffie barks excitedly.

Fade out.

Scene: Partial Exterior, aboard the steam train with open-sided carriages.

Bern stares straight at the "camera" as if in a deep trance.

Dal Did you make it up with him?

Bern continues to stare.

Narrator (Bern Skolgord)

Did I? Or not?

He's my Dad, no matter what he does ... Nothing can alter that ...

But have I made it up with him? Have I?

Bern *trying a different tack* It's difficult for fathers. They kind of have the weight of the world on their shoulders.

Dal *persistent* Did ya make it up with him?

Bern That's what this trip Down Under is all about: re-establishing our family of 4.

Dal My Dad went on walkabout just when I was born and I never ever met him.

How difficult is that?

Bern *desperate* He might **want** to come back but isn't sure if it will work ...

Dal *weary* If you say so ...

END OF PART 1

Part 2: Bulli Bulli Historical Realism

Scene: Exterior, in bush land, day time.

The royal party from Perinvale still confronts the royal party from Spering. Tourists and other park visitors flock about taking photos. However, the 2 kings have moved off (alone) into the bush.

Comic note: King Ludwick has a nifty folding stool which he unfolds by clicking this and clicking that in swift succession. He then sits with a long sigh.

From the capacious sleeve of his gown, King Ludwick draws a scrappy book with lots of loose pages evident. The King seems to be extremely happy and contented.

On the other hand, King Rolando is edgy and impatient. He glances at Ludwick, observes his contentment and clucks in annoyance.

King Ludwick *reads* Now, my friends: can any of you remember this one?

"Ding dong carpet pussy's in the tarpit

Who put her in? Little Tommy Flynn.

Who pulled her out? Little Tommy Sprout."

Ludwick chuckles mischievously.

King Rolando *aggrieved* Gracious me! We are searching for our respective children and you give me this pap?

And besides, the only 2 people in this wilderness are yourself (Ludwick) and myself.

Let us conduct our Council of War ... And with much speed!

King Ludwick *oblivious* Oh! Now, this!

"I had a little gum tree -- nothing would it bear

But a silver gumnut and a golden pear

The King of Spain's daughter

Came to visit me

And all for the sake of my little gum tree."

King Rolando

King Ludwick (much and all as I respect you) will you please put a sock in it?

What are we to do about our missing children?

King Ludwick

Nursery rhymes are balm for the soul. This is my hobby, collecting favourite nursery rhymes. I am addicted, my friend.

"Hey diddle diddle The moon and the fiddle

The cow leapt athletically

The little cat chortled to see such fun

and the dish reasoned arithmetically."

King Rolando stamps angrily, uttering groans of impatience.

King Ludwick *frowning*

You might be in a position to assist me in this one, Rolando. I cannot quite recall the verse ...

"Zaklinda had a little lamb Its fleece was white as milk

something something something something rhyming with "silk"!"

King Rolando *over it*

Ludwick! Cease and desist in this tiresome nonsense!

We need action, Ludwick!

King Ludwick

And then there's: *"Three kind mice three kind mice" ...*

Or ... Oh, here's an old favourite:

"Hickory dickory trumpet, the mouse ran over the crumpet."

King Rolando *taking command*

Let us remount our steeds ...

We'll head directly towards the Western horizon.

END OF PART 2

Part 3: Foley the Pangolin Becomes Foley the Roo

Action Scene: Exterior, getting from the train station to the Laszlo hotel.

The time by now is very, very late in the afternoon. Twilight is looming over them.

With the steam train visible behind them, our 6 friends (Dal, Bern, Prajapasi, Bing, Cedric and Rafe) face the frenzied bustle of the Sydney Harbour wharves. They do not look very confident.

Then Bern gets a bright idea and points in the direction of a small pier.

Bern *excited* What does that sign say: "Water Taxis". My hotel is on the harbour front. Maybe we can get there by water!

The 6 friends run/bound in the direction of the small pier.

The water taxi provides glorious views of Sydney Harbour.

They are now in the largest water taxi available (the driver looks askance at Rafe and Bing). The wind off the water ruffles their hair and we get some excellent and breath-taking Harbour views as the taxi mows quickly through the water.

It is twilight. Evening is closing in.

Prajapasi *taking charge* It behoves me to make some momentous decisions, men.

My first step will be to find me a large scroll of parchment and a quill pen ... Oh, and some ink ... A list of planned activities is required, and delegated bodies assigned to their tasks ...

Bern *very concerned* Wait, wait, wait, wait, wait!

Before you start joining the dots, I need to focus on the big picture here.

What did you say will happen to Princess Alice if we don't find her immediately?

Prajapasi *wound-up with his own* Yay, verily, did I see the truth shining before mine eyes.

It was like that I had been enveloped in a cloak of darkness and

importance then the light shone brighter than --

Bern *insistent* Never mind the English Literature lecture, Prajapasi – just tell me in plain simple words about Princess Alice!

Rafe *re-assuring* Sirrah, be calm!

Alice is safe. I've instructed the Sons of Triplegate to hide her where Rackstraw will never think to look for her, and hence will never find her.

Even **I** know not where she is hid.

Prajapasi *musng* Good, good. Alice is safe. That is good. Well thought-out ...

Now, where was I ...?

Dal is obviously keen on the sensation of wind blowing in his face and yells into the wind. Cedric stands up beside him, equally joyful.

Dal *shouts* Pen, paper, list.

Prajapasi A list! Of course.

The soothsayer recovers his poise in order to continue to steer our efforts efficaciously.

[Takes a big breath]

Firstly ... No, no ... the list was first ... ah ...

Secondly! I shall magically transform Foley into one of **these** creatures.

Prajapasi casually gestures in Bing's general direction. Bing looks surprised and points to his own chest.

Bing *surprised* Me?

Prajapasi *grandly* That way, if Captain Rackstraw attempts to retrieve him, he'll be foiled.

Dal I'm hungry. I wanna eat.

Bern *longingly* Yeah. I could swallow a king-size burger and fries, with a Coke to wash it down.

Rafe Hmmm ... the fatted calf awaits, I trust.

Prajapasi Very well. Thirdly, we shall undertake a robust repast.

And fourthly, at first light, we shall retrieve the lovely Princess from the hiding place bethought by the Sons of Triplegate **and** locate your father, Dal.

Dal *sceptical* You make these promises but ...

Dal makes an expansive gesture to indicate that nothing happens.

Prajapasi Then our final activity will be to revert Foley to his original Royal Highness; to his former manly self.

And that will be that.

Bern points.

Bern *shouts* There it is. The Laszlo Hotel. That's where me and my family are staying.

Action Scene: Exterior, outside the Laszlo Hotel.

From a short distance away, we can see the silhouettes of our 6 friends outside the well-lit entrance to the Laszlo Hotel. There is a large neon sign proclaiming the name of the hotel, along with "Harbourside Luxury".

Bing *voice-off* No, you guys go up to your room. I'm gonna bed-down in the park. I'll be okay, really. And I'll be waiting for you guys out here, at first light.

We see Bing bound away, to the many calls of "Good night" from the others.

Then (again, from a safe distance) we see the other 5 members of the party enter the hotel.

Porter *voice-off* Er ... I'm afraid that you gentlemen won't be able to enter the

hotel with the goat.

Cedric *voice-off*

Rapscallion rogue! Base lesion! Naughty knave!

Aroint thee, varlet! Take ***that!***

Then we see the porter flying through the air, landing on his backside on the footpath.

Prajapasi *voice-off*

Now, my heroic Cedric: is that ***really*** how we behave in company?

Action Scene: Interior, inside the Skolgord's hotel room (number 229).

Narrator (Bern Skolgord)

Without wanting to sound like I'm building a case for myself, in times of necessity, old Bernard Skolgord comes shining through.

Witness how adroitly I tie-up the many threads of my existence.

Bern is on the phone, apparently ordering room service.

Bern *into the phone*

... and a Lip-smacking Black Sauce Pizza (thick crust), and 2 Laszlo-special burgers with double fries and 2 large Cokes, and some veal cutlets with all the trimmings, and some raw carrots and a bale of hay.

Yeah, you heard right. Room 229 and that's needed right away.

Bern slams down the phone, and then looks around the room. On one side, Flynt and Elizabeth look appalled at the group of people whom their son has dragged up to room 229.

However, Rafe and Mattie (holding Foley) cannot take their eyes off each other.

Bern sighs.

Bern *matter-of-fact*

[To the guests in the hotel room]

voice

Sorry everyone ... Introductions. My Mom (Elizabeth) and Dad (Flynt) and my sister, Mattie. We are the Skolgord family of the

USA.

[To his family]

Now you have to be aware that Bing didn't come up. He'd prefer to sleep out of doors. (Bing is a huge red kangaroo: y'okay with that?)

And this is Prajapasi, who is a soothsayer and magician (I hope).

And this is Cedric, who minds the horses in King Rolando's stable.

And Dal here is kind-of an orphan, looking for his lost father.

And this is Rafe Enderby, of the Sons of Triplegate. We picked him up along the way to help us locate Princess Alice.

And the pangolin that Mattie is holding you've already met. He's Foley who is really Prince Dagamund, changed to be like what you see by an evil sorcerer.

Elizabeth and Flynt are shocked: they stand stock-still with mouths gaping.

Rafe rushes forward to take Elizabeth's hand and kiss it with great humility. When he takes Mattie's hand, there is a rush of emotion in the room (evidenced by butterflies, tiny hummingbirds and lovely music).

Rafe *adoringly* Please allow me to adore you, loveliest of ladies.

Bern *frowning* Okay, knock-off the mushy talk, Rafe. For one thing, she's my sister and for another, it makes me wanna puke.

Bern turns to Prajapasi.

Bern Okay, Pradge: the second item on your fabulous list was to deal with Foley. Go, man, go!

Rafe tenderly removes Foley from Mattie's arms and places him on the floor in front of Prajapasi.

When Prajapasi performs his magic, his audience is aghast (apart from Foley).

Prajapasi's Magic:

Prajapasi adopts the Lotus Pose (of yoga) with eyes closed.

Foley *desperate* At last! Kindly return me to my --

Prajapasi *eyes open* Too dangerous, Sire!

I have decided to take recourse to a stop-gap measure.

Now, please everyone! Be very still and very quiet.

Prajapasi's Magic:

Prajapasi adopts the Lotus Pose (of yoga) with eyes closed.

He raises his hands and swivels them in cobra-like movements. Meanwhile, he makes weird squeaking/clucking noises. Then his body rises from the floor.

He makes an outlandish star-jump in the air, landing in a magician pose, gesturing hypnotically.

Foley changes into many shapes:

Foley morphs into the following animals/people in very quick succession:

Pangolin → beaver → Elvis Presley → Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer → a trumpeter swan →
Lewis Corrie → elf → lizard → Marilyn Monroe → pelican → walrus

Prajapasi is exhausted by this feat. His audience is startled. Then Bern frowns, shaking his head.

Bern *annoyed* Hey! You told me you planned to make a copy of **Bing**.

Dal Yeah, Bing.

Rafe and Cedric nod in agreement.

Prajapasi *defensive* Well, then: would somebody please inform me, pray – What kind of animal is Bing?

Bern, Cedric, Rafe and A kangaroo.

Dal together

Bern *warning* And don't give him a marsupial pouch, for Pete's sake!

Prajapasi squeaks and clicks, gesturing hypnotically as he does so.

Foley morphs from walrus directly to male kangaroo.

There is a knock at the door. The food (and bale of hay) has arrived on 2 separate trolleys.

Bern pays the waiters and tips them. Everyone except for Elizabeth, Flynt and Mattie (who are still shell-shocked) dives into the food, eating hungrily.

While this is going on, Foley looks about, awestruck. Realizing that he is naked, Foley screams and then bounds to the bathroom, shutting himself in.

Bern *taking charge* If we're gonna leap out of bed at first light, then we have to get some sleep.

Okay! Sleeping arrangements:

Dal, you'll sleep in my room with me. I'll take the floor.

Rafe, you and Prajapasi will have the lounge-room, and Cedric can find a corner in Mattie's room.

Dal But what about Foley?

Bern *decisive* He can't sleep in the bathroom, that's for certain sure.

Maybe there's enough room in the lounge area ...

Dal hammers on the bathroom door.

Dal *yelling* Come on, Foley! We're your friends. Come out and have some tucker. Mmmmmmmm ... Yum!

Foley *voice-off* No! I'm in the nuddy. I won't come out.

Dal turns back to the assembled company.

Dal Foley says he's in the nuddy and he won't come out.

Now the entire assembled company is lost. No-one appears to have any ideas.

Dal strolls over to Flynt and looks up at him.

Dal If you give me some cash, I'll tear down to the shop and buy
Foley some clothes.

Flynt stares at Dal and then reefs out his wallet. Absently, he opens the wallet and extracts several notes.

Flynt *far-away voice* Will \$200 be enough?

Dal takes the money.

Dal *doubtful* Maybe ...

END OF PART 3

END OF ACT III



KIPPA-RING: THE QUEST OF HOPE

ACT IV

Part 1: The Royal Wottamatta Agricultural Showgrounds

Action Scene: Exterior, break of day outside the Laszlo Hotel

Sydney Harbour is utterly superb at dawn. And then the "camera" will swing around to the front of the Laszlo Hotel.

Bing (brash and insouciant) leans back against the front wall of the hotel, watching several deliverymen trolley comestibles into the hotel foyer. The porter stands staring at Bing, arms akimbo. Bing ignores him, and continues to negligently pick his teeth with a piece of twig.

Scene: Interior, break of dawn in room 229 of the Laszlo Hotel

In the darkened lounge room, Prajapasi sleeps in the Lotus Position, propped against a wall. Rafe has secured a couch and Foley is curled up happily on the floor, with head on cushion.

Foley the Roo now wears (and this will continue until he is finally turned-back into a Prince) the Sydney Swans AFL strip: red and white sleeveless guernsey and red footy shorts (with a special hole for his tail). The number on his back will be 14 in honour of Bob Skilton.

Prajapasi bounces awake, bright-eyed and standing.

Prajapasi *shouts* Wottamatta!

Rafe *sleepy* Nothing's the matter, old man ... Go back to sleep , I pray you ...

Prajapasi *shouts again* You must listen to the wise soothsayer: Wottamatta.

The sleepy occupants of room 229 drift into the lounge room. Rafe cannot take his eyes off Mattie.

Bern *yawning, drowsy* What's a "Wottamatta"?

The occupants of room 229 look about at each other for inspiration.

Dal *blinking, sleepy* I know what he's on about.

Wottamatta is a place. They got a big showground there ... Farm animals that you can feed ... You get showbags and stuff ...

Everyone is lost. We see Flynt mouth "showbags?"

Dal *yawning* Showbags are plastic bags full of ... you know ... comics and toys that break as soon as your cousin gets hold of them ... and they cost about 8 or 10 bucks or that ... and they got junk food in 'em ... and a ruler and stuff ...

[Shrugs]

Showbags!

Mattie *alert* Do they have cosmetic ones, and perfume ones?

Dal *uninterested* Guess so ...

Mattie *very pleased* Cool!

Flynt Well ... Since we haven't made any other plans for today ...

Prajapasi *elated* Then we are of one mind – that is to say, of **my** mind.

Our quest of hope will end with unparalleled glory, men (oh, and ladies ... sorry).

Let us away with all speed to this place: Wottamatta.

Scene: Interior, the reception desk of the Laszlo Hotel

The well-groomed female receptionist on the front counter of the Laszlo Hotel smiles encouragingly.

Receptionist Oh yes! The Royal Wottamatta Agricultural Show is on at the moment: for the rest of the week actually.

That's lucky isn't it (if you were intending to visit)?

The various members of the party of 9 (Dal, Flynt, Elizabeth, Mattie, Bern, Rafe, Cedric, Foley and Prajapasi) look about at each other. The receptionist turns to Flynt and Elizabeth.

Receptionist I imagine that you would think of it as a State Fair in the US. All the prize-winning livestock and farm produce from New South Wales is on display. There are loads of interesting things ... I like the sheep dog trials and the Jack Russell hurdle races the best.

Elizabeth *confused* But ... "Royal"? Did you say "Royal"?

The Receptionist nods, smiling.

Receptionist That's right. Most of the Australian establishments have "Royal" in the name. But everyone just calls it "The Show" or simply "The Wotta".

I'll book you 2 taxis to take you there, if you like. It's not that far.

Bern *frowning* Nope, you'd better make that 3 taxi cabs, Ma'am. Bing the Roo is waiting for us out the front.

Dal *excited* Yeah! Let's go! I'm gonna find me Dad!

Scene: Exterior, catching taxis outside the Laszlo Hotel

As the party of 10 (Dal, Flynt, Elizabeth, Mattie, Bern, Rafe, Cedric, Foley, Bing and Prajapasi) pile into the 3 taxis, Bing circles around Foley, giving him a very contemptuous look.

Bing *disparaging,* What is this specimen: a footy roo?
looking at Foley

Bern *to Bing* We missed you last night. Where'd you sleep?

Bing gives a meaningful wink.

Bing On a park bench, mate. Was I alone? Now that'd be telling ...

THE WOTTAMATTA ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SHOW

Background: the lowdown on the Royal Show.

Not far from Sydney, the Wottamatta trots track functions all year round.

However, at this time of the year, it is transformed into a wonderland for children. This is where City meets the Bush. It is just like an American state fair.

Farmers and their prize-winning animals stay at Wottamatta for 10 days. There are also bush-type competitions (eg sheep-shearing, the wood-chop, tree-felling, equestrian events, displays of farm machinery and so on).

Sample bags are sold (they are called "show bags") and there are hundreds of food stalls for people to try. Also, there are walls dedicated to prize-winning decorations composed entirely of fruit and vegetables.

As well, there is a huge sideshow alley (complete with boxing troupe performing under a large marquee), ferris wheels and all kinds of novelties.

Action Scene: Inside the main front gates at the Show

The Skolgord party is jostled about as they enter the showgrounds because of the large, noisy crowd.

Mattie *shouts* If we get separated, we can stay in touch using our cell phones.

Bern *shouts* Great! Those of you without a phone, make sure you stay close to someone who has one.

Dal laughs and points. Coming along a road within the showgrounds and towards the Skolgord party are several men paired up in the disguise of fake cows. The fake cows dance and prance about in a comical way.

Dal *laughs* Look at those weird fake cows!

As soon as they are close enough, the men strip off their costumes, revealing themselves to be the Sons of Triplegate. Rafe is instantly on the alert.

Rafe *urgent* Triplegates! My friends! Where is Alice?

The men shake hands with Rafe, or simply pat him affectionately on the shoulder.

One of the men Follow us!

Action Scene: Exterior, running through the Show

The Skolgord party jog/bound behind the fake cows through a variety of stalls selling showbags. They head quickly towards side-show alley. As they move along, they have collected several showbags. They also pass many "blocks" dedicated to displays of farm equipment and machinery. Farmers in broad-brimmed hats wander about, along with the day-tripper visitors.

Narrator (Bern Skolgord) really pushing the humour of his words

*Now early on in this riveting tale, I might have mentioned to you all the potential pitfalls in visiting Australia ... all the dangers and terrors ... But never in my wildest dreams did I imagine myself **HUMILIATED!** In this way ...*

Yep, here I am dutifully following a herd of phoney cows.

Action Scene: Exterior, rescuing Alice from side-show alley

Alice is found to be dressed as an Arabian slave girl. She is part of a "lure" to entice people into a tawdry tent, advertised as the "Sultan's Harem". Alice dances and does a contortion act. Both Cedric and Rafe physically take care of some sailors who are wolf-whistling and heckling Alice. And then Rafe jumps up onto the tiny stage on which Alice performs, wraps her in a cloak and then carries her off. He and the Sons of Triplegate (still disguised as cows) find their way (past displays of pigs, sheep and goats) to the safety of the enormous cattle pavilion. All the others dutifully follow.

Scene: Exterior, Cedric is distracted and heads for the goat pavilion

Meanwhile, as they travel past the goats, Cedric is distracted.

Cedric *delighted* Goats? I shall be very pleased to inspect the goats.

He promptly disappears into the goat pavilion.

Scene: Exterior, back at the cattle pavilion

Back at the cattle pavilion, Dal walks about outside calling out the only clue he has to his father's identity.

Dal *yelling* Anyone with the Tax File Number "A42369IT111118C5"? Calling Tax File Number "A42369IT111118C5".

Bing *browed-off* Nobody would remember their Tax File Number in a fit. Dal has no hope that way.

Bern *determined* We gotta find the little guy's Dad. I promised.

Narrator (Bern Skolgord)

Okay ... So we picked-up Prajapasi and Cedric at a petting zoo. Dad found Foley (AKA Prince Dagamund) at our hotel and Rafe turned up in the hills by a lake ... And now these Triplegate guys (dressed as cows) and the lovely Princess Alice at an

agricultural show ...

I'm getting the feeling that the "Quest of Hope" people are flooding onto our storyboard ... Can I expect any more of these dudes to float Down Under?

Scene: Exterior, in the deepest outback, the Never Never

The colours are ochre, orange, yellow and red brown. A didgeridoo plays evocatively.

There is some sparse vegetation about: harsh, prickly and totally drought-resistant.

A pair of emus and their chicks wander about, pecking here and there. Some wild camels forage about.

Then, suddenly, the emus and camels look swiftly and in some alarm towards the East. They scatter.

The two kings (Rolando and Ludwick) and their horse-borne retinues approach. This will appear as the usual caparisoned affair, complete with flags, banners and weaponry.

Our "camera" travels further around to pick up a gnarled old road sign, with a black crow perched on it.

Welcome to the NEVER NEVER

Population: ~~12~~ 11

Area: 61 times the size of Belgium

Rainfall: None lately

The kings and their mounted retainers move in an informal manner towards the "camera".

King Rolando signals to the men to halt.

King Rolando Halt! We have ridden for miles and miles ... is **this** all that there is in this place? Nothing?

There is a silence, except for the sound of a cawing crow and the sand-borne wind. The men look miserable and the horses appear to be browned-off.

King Rolando Does anyone have even the vaguest idea where we are?

A lone voice is heard from the back of the troop.

Male voice Majestic Sires, the minstrel is cognisant of our location.

King Ludwick *surprised* Indeed? Then let the minstrel come forward.

A horse and rider shuffle forward. It is the Minstrel dressed in over-the-top silken costume.

Accompanying himself on his lute and remaining on horseback, the Minstrel sings. His accent is that of a twee, proper English public schoolboy. The song is from 1946: "(We're riding to the) Never Never" by Letty Katts.

Minstrel *singing* "We're riding to the Never Never
 Along a long white road
 A road that has no end.
 We're riding through –"

King Rolando Enough! Fall back in line, saucy fellow.

Sadly the Minstrel returns to his place.

King Rolando It is my decision that we turn back.

 I want my daughter returned safely to me, and Ludwick here
 wishes again to embrace his son.

Again, someone from the ranks calls out.

Male voice Sire, noble king ...

 The Jester has more than a clue as to where we should betake
 ourselves.

King Ludwick Bring forth the Jester!

Another horse and rider shuffle forward. The Jester is dressed in motley.

King Rolando *stern* Well?

Jester Wottamatta, Sire.

King Rolando *offended* What's the matter?

Why, you **know** what is the matter, Fool.

Can you not be more helpful?

King Ludwick *pointing* Off with his head! De-bean the Jester!

Jester *desperate* Sire! Sire!

Wottamatta is the place to which we must hie ... and with all speed, Your Glorious Majesties!

King Ludwick Oh? And how know you this? Did you read it in your tealeaves?

The Jester reddens with embarrassment. He holds up a used tea-bag and then reads from the tag.

Jester *reads* "Wottamatta Special Blend – By Appointment To Her Majesty".

King Rolando *decisive* That settles it! Men, follow me to this place called "Wottamatta", and may our efforts be blessed so that sweet virtue might triumph!

The troop of horses turns and ambles away from the "camera" amidst a cloud of dust and sand.

Scene: Exterior, outside the cattle pavilion at the Royal Wottamatta Show

There is a great crowd of happy visitors (mostly laden with showbags) trooping back and forth in front of the cattle pavilion. There is lots of noise.

Narrator (Bern Skolgord)

I need to step back, and I guess you do, too.

Cedric has spotted a whole lot of other goats and that's the last we saw of him.

Princess Alice was upset and tired after her awful adventure. So Mom and Mattie took Alice (and a pile of showbags) to the ski lift for a quiet, leisurely ride. They're all safe up there.

Bing and Foley have disappeared ... And this is a real worry (about Foley

disappearing, I mean ... Bing can handle himself).

Prajapasi has sprinted off to find them ...

Dal screams in the manner of a child having a major tantrum.

Dal hysterical I hate you! I hate you!

Flynt works miracles in calming Dal down. The two stroll off, hand-in-hand.

Narrator (Bern Skolgord)

Dal is with my Dad, buying food and stuff. Probably more showbags ...

Dal had a meltdown when Prajapasi took off. Guess he's worried that the old soothsayer has forgotten his promise ... About Dal's missing Dad ...

And so that just leaves Rafe and me to work over the unploughed field.

Rafe and Bern move about at the Show, collecting more show bags as they wander about.

We shall listen to Rafe as we watch the sheep shearing. And then we shall witness the axemen perform the tree-felling. Finally, we shall watch the coloured ducklings in the Government pavilion.

Scene: Interior, Rafe discloses the situation to Bern as they watch the sheep shearing

Rafe It is all about the legend of Triplegate. My uncle (the King of Perinvale) died suddenly in battle and should have been succeeded by my father (Triplegate) who was only 17 – your age. Rolando (old friend and counsellor to my uncle) grabbed the throne.

Thus, by rights, I (Rafe, son of Triplegate) am the King of Perinvale.

Scene: Exterior, Rafe discloses the situation to Bern as they watch the tree-felling

Rafe Now, we turn to the other kingdom: Spering.

Captain Rackstraw was a faithful liegeman to King Ludwick, but he was always very strange (dabbling in Dark Magic and in creating designer animals and so on). As he has aged, the Captain has gone quite mad and needs medical help.

Scene: Interior, Rafe discloses the situation to Bern as they watch the coloured ducklings

Rafe In his turn, King Ludwick has become old and childlike: this marriage between Alice and Dagamund was to be the start of a new era. Ludwick would renounce the throne due to his failing health, abdicating in favour of Dagamund. So we would all revel in the glory of united kingdoms, a true love match and happiness all around.

Except that Rackstraw (evil sorcerer that he is) fancies becoming the King in Ludwick's stead.

I am no longer interested in asserting my claim to the throne, but I am now concentrating my efforts on putting a stop to Captain Rackstraw's dreadful, evil magic. He must be brought to book. And it seems that Dal's magic has worsted him: for the moment.

Action Scene: Interior, Ferdie MacWren's boxing tent

A large crowd (mainly men) cheer enthusiastically as Foley and Bing put on a really entertaining demonstration of kangaroo boxing in a makeshift boxing ring.

Then Bing is seen in the back part of the tent, talking to the boxing promoter (the one we briefly met near the train at Bulli Bulli).

Boxing promoter That was a terrific demo you blokes just did. I mean ... roos. Got the crowd worked up, and I need that kind of wind-up.

I'd like to put you on the payroll, mate. If you give me your name, I'll sign you up.

The boxing promoter sits down at a rough old desk on which a laptop sits. (It is chained to one of the tent uprights). He begins to type as Bing speaks.

Bing Bing Roo. My name's Bing Roo.

Boxing promoter Ah ... That's funny ... You don't look Chinese.

Sing out your tax file number, mate. Can't pay you without it, I'm afraid: Government regulations and what not.

We now hear "ooo-here-we-go" music. Bing puts his head to the side and a wicked grin passes over his face. The man types in the number as Bing recites it.

Bing *confident* A42369IT111118C5.

Boxing promoter Hey, you're pretty good, remembering your TFN off by heart. Not many people can --

The man stares at the screen, frowning.

Boxing promoter H-a-n-g o-n ...
dubious, drawls

That can't be right ... There's another bloke here with the same number as you ...

Bing *pretending* What?! Someone's parading around with **my** number? Who is he?
annoyance Let me at him!

Boxing promoter His name is Lewis Corrie and if you want to chit him about this, nothing could be easier. He's over there, about to step into the ring with the sailor.

Bing *abrupt* Ta!

Bing bounds over to the area which has been roped off for boxing.

A rough, tattooed sailor is pulling off his shirt in order to fight Lewis, who is shadow-boxing in the corner.

Bing bounds over the ropes and pushes the sailor onto a stool in the corner. The sailor looks totally gobsmacked.

Bing *to the sailor* You can have a turn later, Sailor-boy. This bloke is my pigeon.

The seconds quickly slip boxing gloves onto Bing's paws. The boxing promoter grabs the microphone to introduce the opponents.

Boxing promoter *using microphone* Ladies and gentlemen!

The Ferdie MacWren boxing troupe is proud to present our next bout.

Boxing Bing Roo versus the Kippa-Ring Cruncher, Lewis Corrie.
Give them a great round of applause!

These fine young men ... er ... this man and this kangaroo will fight 3 rounds or until there is a knock-out.

The prize is \$25. I'm tipping that this will be a sensational and exciting experience for you all.

Gentlemen ... er ... Okay guys, let's box!

Bing dances around, pretending to hit Lewis but not connecting. Lewis is unable to keep up with Bing, who suddenly goes into a tight clinch. This allows him to whisper to Lewis.

Bing *whisper* Go for the knock-out! I'm gonna take a dive. I can take you to your son.

Lewis and Bing pretend to box seriously, and the crowd goes wild. Then Lewis delivers a savage right cross. Bing staggers about drunkenly and then keels over. The crowd applauds wildly. Several heavies move in and carry Bing out, while Lewis celebrates his win (hands over his head).

Emotional Scene: Exterior, Dal and his father are united

Bing (who has been hardly affected by the boxing match with Lewis) bounds off in company with Foley, looking for Dal. Lewis (now dressed in casual clothes) jogs along in their wake.

Flynt and Dal (now happy to be eating fairy-floss) have bumped into Bern and Rafe.

Now, Bing will bring Lewis and Dal together, with the collateral re-union of Flynt and Bern.

Bing Dal, I found the guy belonging to that tax file number you keep waving about.

Lewis, this youngster (who calls himself Dal Tremoine) has only one clue as to his father's identity: your tax file number.

So, right now ... I wanna say something clever like: "You have to break eggs to make an omelette" ... but ...

Dal *in wonderment* Dad?

Lewis *tearful* Son?

The boy and his father hug. This is a very emotional scene. Flynt and Bern (tearing-up) look at each other and then go into a man-hug. From that, they start to play-wrestle and tousle one another, laughing delightedly. Our attention now turns to the other father-son pair. They go into a bear hug.

Bern *shaken with emotion* Welcome back, Dad.

Flynt *equally emotional* It took a trip Down Under to bring us together, Son. But it sure has been worth it.

Narrator (Bern Skolgord) <i>emotional</i>

My eye is watering, that's all.

Hey! I'm not crying, you know. I just can't remember when I last cried ... When I was 2 probably. No, it's just some dust in my eye ... It's very dusty Down Under ... [watery sniff]

Flynt continues to hug Bern's shoulders.

Flynt *happy* What a fantastic outcome! This is my best day ever!

What about this: we'll collect the ladies from their ski-lift and go

out for a knock-out dinner ... All of us!

Bern And Prajapasi (wherever he has got to) can change Foley back into the handsome Prince.

C'mon, guys: old Pradge'll be in the cattle pavilion.

Action Scene: Interior, the cattle pavilion where Prajapasi works his magic on Foley

Prajapasi is very dramatic, loving being the centre of attention. He adopts a posture at once mysterious and dramatic.

Prajapasi What is the most difficult of all magical illusions?

Dal Sawing a lady in half?

Bern Escaping from a tank full of water while you are bound, chained and gagged?

Prajapasi *triumphant* No! It's taking a priceless object and then burning it to ash ...
And then bringing it back unharmed ...
I vouchsafe it. Go on -- look it up on your infernal machine which I understand is called a Web search.

Prajapasi's audience seems to take him at his word.

Prajapasi Now, I ask for a lady's handbag from a member of the audience.

Bing And then you set fire to it?

Bern *sarcastic* I'd like to see you try that with my mother's purse.

Prajapasi *dramatic* I set fire to the prized object and --

Bing And then the lady's husband punches you in the nose?

Prajapasi I cast my enchanted spell and then the handbag returns with all its valuables in place, sirrah.

Dal *curious* Doesn't the lady's lipstick melt?

Prajapasi *[Dismissive]*

But I'm not going to perform that trick.

[Becoming very grand]

I require absolute quiet!

Everyone is quiet. However, we can hear an absolute cacophony from the showgrounds: spooky spruiking for the ghost train, screams from kids on the roller coaster, cattle mooing and various other loud noises.

Prajapasi coughs.

Prajapasi *softly, with hidden emphasis* I require absolute quiet, please.

All of the external sounds fade out. Bing snorts, grinning widely. Prajapasi seems contented.

Prajapasi I shall now return Prince Dagamund to his manly form.

Behold!

Foley stands alone, looking nervous. Bing re-assures him by raising his thumb and winking. Foley gulps.

Prajapasi's Magic:

Prajapasi adopts the Lotus Pose (of yoga) with eyes closed.

He raises his hands and swivels them in cobra-like movements. Meanwhile, he makes weird squeaking/clucking noises. Then his body rises from the floor.

He makes an outlandish star-jump in the air, landing in a magician pose, gesturing hypnotically.

Foley changes into many shapes:

Foley morphs into the following animals/people in very quick succession:

Kangaroo → elephant → Prince Harry → a mackerel → a hairy caveman → fairy → eagle → Prince Dagamund

Prince Dagamund and Rafe hug. They play-wrestle, just as Flynt and Bern did.

Action Scene: External, the Grand Parade and subsequent melee

General note about the parade ring (the grand parade) at the Royal Wottamatta Agricultural Show:

The parade ring is really the trots track.

There is so much drama/comedy/action going on in this section that it will appear to be fast and pacy.

People in their horse-drawn carriages etc drive around in a uniform direction on the trots track.

In the vast area inside the trots track, people in lab coats lead about animals behind someone carrying a sign/banner (and all the animals in each group are of the same breed).

Most of the animals are loaded down with prize ribbons.

The crowd of onlookers occupy the copious stepped seating around the trots track. They are usually exhausted parents lugging tons of showbags. For their entertainment, a couple of branded trucks with people in costume throw sample foods to the crowd (eg bags of potato chips, wrapped biscuits and health bars).

Scene: Exterior, at the front gates, Rackstraw arrives with Craddore

We see Captain Rackstraw in his usual dilapidated military costume, with the addition of a red and white beanie carry Craddore the Cat (in his arms) into the showgrounds. [He will invent the cat tote box later.]

He heads immediately towards a 2-storey building, the top floor of which is dedicated to cats: the cat pavilion.

Scene: Interior, in the cat pavilion

We see hundreds of "cages" containing silk cushions, cat toys and spoilt cats of many varied breeds.

The doting owners of the cats fuss over them: they are almost all middle-aged women with weird hair.

We can see all the ribbons and trophies attached to the cages.

Into this pavilion shuffles Captain Rackstraw carrying a cat tote box. We catch a glimpse of the yellow eyes of the cat. His objective is the area set aside for the fluffy Selkirk Rex cats (Craddore is the farthest possible remove from "fluffy", being skinny, short-haired and black).

This part of the cat pavilion has a great view of the trots track/ parade ground. There is a small window which could be opened.

Rackstraw shows Craddore the parade ring from this window.

Captain Rackstraw You must let me do this my way, Craddore -- else I shall be
murmuring confounded by the fire magic of the Kippa-Ring people.

The eccentric women showing their cats fuss over their pets as they sneer at Rackstraw.

In spite of the contempt, the cats themselves behave in a strange way ... pulling away, spitting and cowering in fear.

Rackstraw carefully opens the window a fraction, and pushes Craddore through, such that he is able to pad across an aluminium roof.

Action Scene: Exterior, grand parade – Bing takes action

Bing stops amidst a huge crowd of visitors to the Wotta: they try to make their way in all directions along streets that have been built years before like boulevards at the showgrounds. Even though weighed-down with showbags, these folk cannot resist the chance to photograph this giant kangaroo.

However, Bing is no longer playing the photo-op tart: he stretches his nose skyward, questing the air.

Bing *to himself* Over the top of the fried chicken, the burritos, the stuffed hot
 potatoes and the spicy peanut Thai noodles, I can smell
 something: and that something is "trouble" ...

Bing looks around. At an outdoor tent, on the boulevard (along with dozens of other tents) a swordsmith works at his anvil, surrounded by a small posse of onlookers.

Bing *urgent* Quick mate! There's an emergency brewing. I need a coupla
 swords and some chest armour, if you can spare it. I'll bring it all

back: scout's honour.

Swordsmith Hang on a minute: what will you be fighting – man or beast?

Bing *uncertain* Dragon ... I think ...

Swordsmith Winged?

Bing *shrugs* Guess so ...

Swordsmith Murderous talons?

Bing *scratches chin* Prob'ly ...

Swordsmith Fire-breathing?

Bing *nods* I reckon ...

Swordsmith Then you'll need a couple of shields as well. Best be prepared.

The swordsmith quickly hands over the weaponry. Bing is hardly able to carry all these heavy items.

Bing *grins* Ta!

The man snorts as Bing bounds off, shakes his head and grins to himself as if he's just humoured a dope.

Swordsmith *calls out* Why not stow some of that stuff in your pouch?

From the side of the "screen", Bing makes a fist that drops the swordsmith out cold.

Scene: Interior, cat pavilion – Rackstraw stops the ski lift

From his vantage point in the cat pavilion, Captain Rackstraw sees that Princess Alice is a passenger on the ski lift. She is happily chatting to Mattie. Captain Rackstraw raises his eyebrows and seems to be pleased (in a demonic fashion).

Captain Rackstraw *evil* The lovely Princess Alice is here, all unattended but for a brace of tirewomen.

Captain Rackstraw gives a harsh laugh, and then snaps his fingers.

The ski lift stops: we can see the heads of the ski lift passengers swing forward and then back as if brakes are suddenly applied.

The ladies (Elizabeth, Mattie and Alice) are stuck in the ski lift and their position is just above but to the side of the parade ring.

Action Scene: Exterior, grand parade – Craddore becomes the fire-breathing Dragon

Craddore prowls about in the parade ground, walking about in small circles.

Captain Rackstraw And now, my dear Craddore: do your work!
voice off

Craddore is in the centre of the trots track, wandering about amidst all the farm animals (that are being led in the parade).

The prize merino rams are being walked along behind their banner. They are resplendent in their coloured sashes. The man leading the first ram (with the most ribbons) is a large chap, certainly of Celtic heritage. He turns to those people behind him (also leading rams) and laughs.

Farmer #1 *laughing* Hey, one of the cats is on the loose.

[To the cat]

You'd better get back to your silk pillows, pussy, before you get trampled by the bulls.

Farmer #2 That cat's not sleek enough to be a prize-winner. That's just a stray ...

Craddore hisses as it turns about, with its tail held high. It spits as its yellow eyes burn. Around and around he turns, growing and growing as he morphs into a huge, ferocious fire-breathing dragon.

Captain Rackstraw Prince Dagamund and Rafe Enderby must die, Craddore. They
voice off must die!

As Craddore transmogrifies into a dragon, its tail slashes about.

Action Scene: Exterior, grand parade – Prajapasi panics

Prajapasi screams when he sees the dragon. He races up to Farmer #1 (with the prize-winning ram) and goes into ultra-fast magic.

Prajapasi's Magic:

Prajapasi adopts the Lotus Pose (of yoga) with eyes squeezed closed.

In very fast speed, he raises his hands and swivels them in cobra-like movements. Meanwhile, he makes weird squeaking/clucking noises. Then his body shoots up from the floor.

He makes an outlandish star-jump in the air, landing in a magician pose, gesturing hypnotically (but very quickly).

The ram changes into many shapes:

The ram morphs into the following animals/people in very quick succession:

Ram → goldfish → python → the Mona Lisa → werewolf → ostrich → mouse → a blood-thirsty dinosaur from the Cretaceous epoch (something other than a T-Rex).

Prajapasi *shouting* Devour the dragon, devil-beast! Kill or be killed!

Bing bounds up to where Prince Dagamund, Rafe, Bern and Flynt stand around, looking horrified, and Bing passes the weapons and armour and shields to them. Both Rafe and Dagamund seem at home with the swords, testing the weight of the weapons in their hands and looking pleased to be seeing some action. Flynt and Bern are a bit lost. The dragon turns on them.

Meanwhile, Farmer #1 approaches Prajapasi. The farmer is furious.

Farmer #1 *angry* What have you done with Cyclone? Bring him back, you moron!

Without any pause, the farmer punches Prajapasi in the nose. Prajapasi keels over. The farmer (undeterred by the terrifying fight going on behind him) frowns over the fallen soothsayer.

Farmer #1 *angry* ***Bring back my Cyclone, now!***

Prajapasi scrambles to his feet, muttering. He looks with terror towards the dragon and tries to communicate his fear to the farmer (who is having none of it).

Prajapasi *to himself* The soothsayer has been attacked by a savage sheepman and his plans have been scotched. Ah, me!

Prajapasi gestures hypnotically, murmuring a string of squeaks and groans. The dinosaur returns to the shape of a sheep (this time, a ewe).

The farmer looks closely at the sheep, especially at its rear end. He is horrified.

Farmer #1 *furious* Cyclone! Cyclone! What has this demented clown done to you?

He's supposed to be a **ram**, not a ewe!

Prajapasi gestures hypnotically, murmuring a string of squeaks and groans. The ewe puffs up and becomes more masculine. Farmer #1 hugs Cyclone, just as a burst of the dragon's fire singes its fleece. Farmer #1 joins his comrades in running quickly away.

Action Scene: Exterior, grand parade – the exciting Dragon fight

The fight against the dragon continues and is very frightening.

Bern *exhausted* And I thought that I was going to be in danger from sharks or crocodiles ... Compared to this, they are cuddly pets!

The dragon's fire comes very close to singeing the ladies who remain stuck in the ski lift, and thus they scream. Alice, Mattie and Elizabeth (holding all the showbags) will be stuck high up in the air on the ski lift, looking down on the fight, terrified.

Action Scene: Exterior, grand parade – the arrival of the Bunyip

Suddenly, a massive bunyip charges onto the parade ring, ridden by Lewis and Dal.

The bunyip goes into action against the dragon.

Japanese tourist #2 What is this? First a dragon and then ... What? What do they call this animal?

The other Japanese tourist flicks through a guide to the Show.

Japanese tourist #1 I don't know. There's nothing about over-sized monsters in the guide book ...

Australian man *shouts* That's a bunyip! Woo hoo!

The dragon's fire cannot harm the slimy, moist skin of the bunyip. The fiery flame simply fizzles with a soft puff against the bunyip's exterior.

The dragon unfurls his immense wings, sending terror into all onlookers. Just as he seems about to take flight, the dragon is attacked by the bunyip, which rips off the dragon's wings and eats them (spitting out the bones).

The end of the fight with the bunyip winning:

The fight continues (breathtaking and dangerous) until (using a flying rugby tackle) the bunyip brings down the dragon. As the dragon lays helpless on its back, Dagamund and Rafe leap onto its chest and strike home with their swords.

The dragon is dead, and the bunyip rears up in triumph. Everyone cheers.

Action Scene: Exterior, grand parade – the Prince rescues the Princess

Prince Dagamund looks up, seeing Princess Alice gazing down at him worshipfully. He gives a quick salute with his sword (which he then discards) and runs to the nearest pole supporting the ski lift. This he easily shinnies up and does a tightrope walk to reach the stranded chairs.

With tender affection, Prince Dagamund lifts Alice out of the chair and lowers her down, such that she can be caught by 3 of the Sons of Triplegate. Next, Dagamund lowers Mattie (who sat next to Alice on the ski lift) such that she is caught affectionately by Rafe. Rafe does not immediately set Mattie back on her feet but continues to hold her in his arms.

Narrator (Bern Skolgord)

Okay, Rafe Enderby, you can put my sister down now ... She doesn't need to be carried.

*You can set my sister down **RIGHT NOW** and rescue my ...*

Just as Prince Dagamund is deciding how best to reach the next chair (where Elizabeth sits alone, loaded to the chin with showbags), the apparatus fires up again and the ski lift begins to move.

Prince Dagamund sways about, and then vaults down, to be caught by the Sons of Triplegate. Prince Dagamund brushes himself down and then embraces Princess Alice, kissing her affectionately. The crowd of onlookers says "Ah!" and begin to clap.

Flynt *laughing* I'll go and collect your Mom at the end of the ride.

Bern *frowning* And I'll stay here to make sure that Mattie is okay; and not being ***annoyed*** unnecessarily by anyone.

Action Scene: Exterior, grand parade – the Royals appear and Cedric is triumphant

Cedric trots into the parade ring, very proud of himself. He is covered in all kinds of prize-winning ribbons, and follows behind a uniformed girl who holds a banner.

At the same time, the 2 kings (Ludwick and Rolando) with all their many retainers enter the parade ground.

There is an audible gasp from the crowd followed by sustained applause.

Japanese tourist #1 How much did we pay to come here? Whatever it was, it was very cheap.

Japanese tourist #2 This is world-class entertainment, for sure.

Japanese tourist #1 We were told in Tokyo how dangerous a place Australia could be, and to be careful. But they never mentioned dragons, did they? Or bunyips?

Cedric trots about inspecting all the horses as if on royal duty.

There is a joyful and affectionate reunion between both kings and their children: Dagamund with King Ludwick and Alice with King Rolando.

Action Scene: Exterior, grand parade – Captain Rackstraw is captured

Rackstraw rushes to the parade ground, aghast and mortified that his beloved cat (in its guise as a dragon) has died.

Captain Rackstraw Craddore! My beautiful Craddore! What have they done to you?
distraught

His guard is down, enabling Lewis and Dal and the bunyip to capture him.

The police rush in, along with an ambulance. Rackstraw (bumbling and confused) is taken off in the ambulance. The onlookers are relieved; they wave goodbye as the ambulance takes off.

Action Scene: Exterior, grand parade – the noble reward

King Ludwick (his eyes filled with tears) holds Prince Dagamund's hand in one of his hands; in the other, he holds Princess Alice's hand.

King Ludwick *emotional* I cannot tell you both how happy I am ... Your wedding must now go ahead. And I feel obliged to suggest that you "tie the knot" in a very pretty spot called Wottamatta.

And furthermore, I'll renounce the throne of Spering in your favour, Dagamund.

No, no ... Don't argue ... I'm sure that you'll make a very good king. So, you must from now on be known as King Dagamund the First, with his lovely wife Queen Alice.

I shall of course retire to my collection of antique nursery rhymes and live happily ever after with Queen Ulpia.

King Rolando After what feels like a lifetime spent hacking about in this wilderness which is affectionately called "Australia", I am now determined to hand back my former kingdom to the rightful heir, to the Son of Triplegate.

Rafe Enderby, I abdicate my throne.

The Kingdom of Perinvale shall be yours, and I formally declare that you are King Rafe the First of Perinvale. Long live the King! Long may he reign!

There are wild cheers from the crowd.

Rolando kneels, with head bowed. Rafe stands straight and proud.

Ex-king Rolando
humbly I'm journeying back to Perinvale at all speed (if that clever boy's fire magic will permit me). Queen Lynetia and I will grow carrots and breed fluffy rabbits.

Rafe *in the style of a proclamation* I, King Rafe of Perinvale do hereby forgive all wrongs perpetrated against me by former King Rolando.

I do hereby swear that a lasting peace shall be maintained between my country and Spering.

My first official act as king will grant me the greatest of pleasure: it will give me no end of happiness to welcome to Spering Lewis Corrie and his son Dal. They shall be raised to the style of "prince". Prince Lewis will be my Champion of Champions and Prince Dal will be the driver and chief engineer on my toy train set.

Dal and Lewis glance at each other and then give halting bows to the King.

Dal *wide-eyed with excitement* Grouse! I mean ... Thank you, Your Majesty.

Lewis *utterly grateful* Crikey! Sir! You do me the greatest honour, blood oath!

Rafe smiles beatifically. He turns to Bern.

Rafe *in the style of a proclamation* For my second official act, it behoves me to raise to the level of knighthood the 3 men (er ... that is, the 2 men and kangaroo) who stood by me (shoulder to shoulder) in my darkest hours.

Kneel, Bernard Skolgord.

Rafe walks to where Bern stands, dumbfounded. Bern drops to his knee with head bowed. Using his sword, Rafe touches Bern's shoulders.

Rafe I dub thee Sir Bernard, Knight of Perinvale and Count Bulli Bulli.

Arise, Sir Bernard.

Kneel, Flynt Skolgord.

As Bern stands, Flynt drops to his knee with head bowed. Using his sword, Rafe touches Flynt's shoulders.

Rafe I dub thee Sir Flynt, Knight of Perinvale and Baron Wottamatta.

Arise, Sir Flynt.

Kneel, Bing the Roo.

Bing is unable to kneel, so he lies on his side in the "sleazy" pose that male kangaroos adopt.

Rafe chuckles. He manages to dub Bing.

Rafe I dub thee Lord Bing the Roo, for services above and beyond those normally expected of a marsupial.

Bing rises. He shakes Rafe's hand and adds to his familiarity by lightly punching Rafe on the shoulder.

Bing *winking* Good on ya, mate.

Rafe turns to Dal and Lewis.

Rafe Two special memorial medallions will be cast to honour the man and boy who made this possible. Without the Kippa-Ring fire magic, none of this would have been put to rights. I thank you both, from the bottom of my heart.

[Confidential]

When I return to my kingdom, I'll send the medals on. Yes, without your special fire magic, I would be branded a scandalous kidnapper for the rest of eternity.

Rafe then goes to Mattie. He takes Mattie's hand and kisses it. Mattie hesitates and then curtsies.

Rafe *under-voice* My loveliest Matilda ... We must part ... But only for a while ... I'll find a way back to you ...

END OF PART 1

Part 2: Flying Back to the USA

Scene: Interior of airbus, flying back to the USA.

Flynt and Elizabeth sit side-by-side holding hands and looking very pleased but tired.

Mattie stares into space, love-struck.

Bern sits by the window, looking out at the banks of clouds below.

Narrator (Bern Skolgord)

My grandmother is a hopeless romantic.

Not last Christmas, but the one before that, she gave my sister and me a DVD called "The Quest of Hope". It was about knights in shining armour and fair damsels needing rescuing.

*But the **real** story of "Quest of Hope" wasn't like that at all ... It was about growing-up with the right set of values – family values.*

We all learned so much from our fabulous trip to Australia, even though it turned out to be 5 times more dangerous than I'd figured.

And what's even worse, we had to buy an extra suitcase just to bring home all the showbags we bought at The Wotta.

Yep, I just can't wait to tell the guys at school that I'm now Sir Bern and that my 16-year-old sister is now the intended fiancée of the King of Perinvale ... wherever that is ...

END OF FILM