



RECURRING CAST

Gibbo is Josh Gibson

Around 33 years old

Divorced father of 2 children

Gibbo has an "edge". Occasionally Gibbo becomes quite aggressive (even with his friends) and in the third movie, he ropes in the Terzo boys as personal protectors.

In "**Slash and Burn**" Gibbo is the author of the original murder mystery.

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Gibbo appears as a major actor in the follow-up movie "Picaroons". [See last page].

Gibbo appears as a major actor in the third movie ("Eight Point Five Years") as Sir Walter Elliot.

Gibbo's role in the fourth movie ("Broke 'N' Ill") is not quite as demanding. But he does take on the mantle of Prime Minister for a TV broadcast.

Donny is Donald Airlie

Around 30 years old

Started off sharing a Sydney flat with Gibbo and Cooper.

In "Slash and Burn" Donny is a hanger-on and mate.

Donny appears as an award-winning actor in the follow-up movie "Picaroons".

Donny completely dominates the third movie ("Eight Point Five Years") in that he explains the novel to anyone who will listen, writes the screenplay and acts the main role of Captain Wentworth.

Donny's role in the fourth movie ("Broke 'N' Ill") is very small (almost non-existent).

Cooper is Max Cooper.

Around 30 years old

Started off sharing a Sydney flat with Gibbo and Donny.

Cooper is a complete dag who brings comedy to the most serious of situations.

In "Slash and Burn" Cooper is a hanger-on and mate.

Cooper appears as an award-winning actor in the follow-up movie "Picaroons".

Cooper appears in the third movie ("Eight Point Five Years") taking the role of

Captain Harville.

Cooper's role in the fourth movie ("Impoverished and Poorly") is key. He is the Araldite holding the whole movie plot together.

Jeparit is Jasprit Namipors. The boys cannot pronounce that name so he is called Jeparit Name-Your-Poison.

A solicitor of around 30 years old

Roped into legal duties by Cooper to become a solid fourth team member.

In "**Slash and Burn**" Jeparit is the legal eagle and superb actor.

Jeparit appears as an award-winning actor in the follow-up movie "Picaroons". His portrayal of the Arab nobleman is exemplary.

Jeparit plays the contemptible Mr Elliot in the third movie ("Eight Point Five Years").

Jeparit's role in the fourth movie ("Broke 'N' Ill") is important: he almost dies from F-PROTA.

Shailah Coniglio

A beautiful woman of less than average height. She has a full figure (Junoesque).

She takes on the roles of many characters:

Constable Giselle Monroe

Lindel Huckerby (twee English)

The golden syrup hot number

Maureen (in the Tarandrelong TV series).

Wayne

Wayne Elwin. Unlike Shailah, Wayne is always Wayne but his accent alters when he plays the British

	iteration of his character. Otherwise he is an Australian bloke, usually a police detective. Got an impressive, manly build.
Gibbo	Josh Gibson (see below)
Donny	Donald Airlie (see below)
Cooper	Max Cooper (see below)
Jeparit	Jasprit Namipors AKA Jeparit Name-Your-Poison (see below)
Ian	Police sergeant Ian Westmore who assists Wayne.
[Gus Fuller]	[not appearing mentioned only]
Leon	Leon Freland English theatrical agent who comes up with the "British" storyline.
Fleming	Fleming Hardcastle Genius US director who cobbles together a great film based on the original idea of Gibbo and Donny.
Bonnie	Bonnie Mason-Carr (see below)
Jonquil	Jonquil Frangello.
Marie	Marie LaGras.
Colonel	Colonel Sir Reginald Aston. English ex-Army gentleman of the early 1950's. Very proper and polished. Quite the gent.
Tyrone	Tyrone Bosson Film critic who waxed lyrical about the excellence of

	Fleming Hardcastle only to be devoured by Rip the T-Rex. An egocentric arts commentator whose head is firmly stuck up his own arse.
Tony Nedson	The worst actor ever seen on Australian TV. Plays Larry Pye and then Harry Pye in "Tarandrelong".
Rip the T-Rex	Rip can only think (not speak). Evolution has failed this species (in providing useless arms).
Dapto bowlers	Minor characters: two men and three women are collected from the Dapto railway station by Reg in the minibus.

The Occupants of the Coroner's Court (Lawyers, scientists and others)

Sir Malcolm Sterling	The Coroner.
Henry, the Greco, Jouse, Burnsy.	

The “Tarandrelong” Production Team (leaving Gibbo, Marie, Jonquil and Bonnie out for clarity)

Sirius	The boss.
Lewey & Forbes	

THE PLOT



Usually with a murder mystery there is a clear path to get from start to finish:

- setting, locale, and mood are all revealed in the beginning
- acquaintance with the various characters
- progress of the crime in stages
- introduction of blue herrings
- dramatic revelation of the guilty party (usually someone nobody suspected).

However, in “Slash and Burn” it is the construction of the story (rather than the story itself) which is of interest.

Or rather it is the character of the story creators which interests us.

At one point Wayne Elwin whinges that he is the araldite holding the shipwreck together: that the three friends (Gibbo, Cooper and Donny) are simply tossing ideas into the mix as they come up. And this is true. Most of the ideas are silly. The guys are grasping at popularity, at “vox populi”.

THE PROJECT ITSELF

I am dead against offering to a test audience a variety of plot twists in order to find out which is the most popular.

Much better to tell the peeps what is going on. They can like it or lump it. Writing for "bums on seat" simply leads to rubbish.

Yeah. Well, this might be rubbish: but it's **my** rubbish!

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For instance, the dialog surrounding Gibbo's sacking was tweaked over and over again. In the end the formula was to listen to the resonance.

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GIBBO (Josh Gibson) is a scriptwriter who has scored a well-paid position as part of the team presenting Australian TV series "Tarandrelong".

It is a soapie which is: "A run-of-the-mill, stock-standard Ozzie TV drama-romance with loads of lovable characters."

There is great excitement as the first episode is about to be previewed. However, hardly have the members of the team started watching than they realize that their lead man (hunk Tony Nedson) is Australia's worst actor.

Gibbo feels it all slipping away as the head honcho demands that Nedson be taken out (immediately!) by a large piece of farm machinery.

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Gibbo lost his wife (and most of his access to his kids) because he was always locked away working on the Tarandrelong script. What makes it worse is that Gibbo has in mind a filmic project of his own: a murder mystery set in Victoria (Carlton and Strathern). Every time he tries to storyboard it (by discussing with Donny and Cooper) they come up with some total distraction. Gibbo is getting cheesed off.

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Then, Gibbo gets a windfall. It's pretty bad that Gibbo is sacked from "Tarandrelong" for being a male. However, the sweetener (a humungous severance payout) leaves Gibbo free to write his own script. Even more: Cooper, Donny and Gibbo will all have cameo acting roles in this movie. Gibbo's role will be as pathologist Dr Grant Whiteley.

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The movie's plot is that three people are murdered at around the same time. They are all linked to a fourth person (in a Tattslotto syndicate). The evidence is compelling: the survivor (that is the fourth member of the syndicate) is clearly the murderer.

But is that what really happened?

Now all Gibbo has to do is cope with a national emergency (an anthrax outbreak) and clear up some stray dinosaurs ... Too easy!

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Gibbo takes Donny's advice and hires an AUSTRALIAN theatrical agent to assist in staging the movie. But this bloke turns out to be a failure. The lads get taken on a high-speed police chase, followed by a would-be raid on the oldies at the Dapto RSL Bowls club. As useless as tits on a bull!

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Then Gibbo tries a LONDON-based movie buff. This leads to an homage to Miss Marple

which is interesting but unsatisfactory.

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Bonnie (the lady who became head honcho at Tarandrelong, sacking Gibbo in the process) is now sacked herself. She turns up at a legal firm. She gives to Gibbo a letter of introduction to a famous (and switched-on) director in the USA. So, the movie will prove a success. Gibbo will turn his life around, having access to his children and living a healthier life.

I have no idea what **DONNY** (Donald Airlie) does for a crust. He has a job (I think in a bank or building society) but we are not told what it is.

Donny is geared-up for sex. His idea for a movie centres on a couple licking golden syrup off each other.

However, Donny is very caring about Gibbo. Often sympathizing with him, especially the trouble Gibbo has had with his wife and children.

Donny (like Cooper and Gibbo) gives himself a role in the movie. Mark Guthrie comes across as a devoted love-sick man who cares for the woman that he has invented more than for life itself.

Further, Donny is very keen to add transformers to his magnum opus (much to Gibbo's chagrin). Donny does not believe that Gibbo's plan for a movie free from CGI and animatronics makes sound financial sense.

COOPER (Max Cooper) is a national treasure. He is a complete dag. Cooper gives traction to the relationship between Gibbo and Donny. He lives with these two men in a flat in Sydney.

JEPARIT. His real name is Jasprit Namipors. A lawyer, he is a fantastically gifted actor and cricket tragic. We have a lot of fun with Jeparit because he is a square peg in a round

hole. That is to say, he is obviously a clever, gifted man ... Yet he is quite at home being a rough-hewn Ocker with the other three lads.

Our Main Theme [Gibbo, Donny]

~~ SPOILER ALERT! ~~

Gibbo and Donny came up with the main movie theme. Gibbo wanted to avoid any “false” effects (as in CGI or click-click fighting). He wanted a more natural mood where the scenery, acting and script would win. Donny leant more towards raking in as much financial backing as was possible such that the “bums-on-seats” special effects could be included in the film. Donny thought that it would fail otherwise.

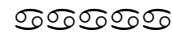
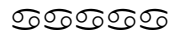
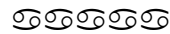
Basically, this was a murder mystery. Three people were murdered. They all had a link (a Tattsлото syndicate). A fourth person was framed for the murder. However, another man had calmly and callously committed all three crimes. Two of the murders were “blinds” to hide the meaningful third murder. This victim was instrumental in threatening the habitat of a rare parrot (in regional Victoria). His “fatal slip” which led to his arrest was the feather he used as a bookmark.

The questioning of witnesses takes up some of the script. Also, police discussing the progress of the investigation features prominently.

Gibbo throws an anthrax scare into the investigation (with Gibbo playing the pathologist). This brings howls of outrage from Donny and Cooper.

Donny tries to introduce a femme fatale into the mix. However this woman does not appear in the final movie.

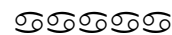
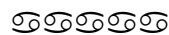
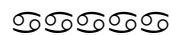
It is in fact Constable Giselle Monroe who does all the “brainy” work and ultimately solves the mystery.



The Golden Syrup Couple (Donny)

Of the four men, it is Donny who is fascinated by women. Donny's idea for a movie is to smother a sexy couple in golden syrup, then have them lick it off each other. It is Donny who makes a move on Bonny. We see in the END credits that they become a couple.

~~ PERIPHERAL: this movie idea does NOT encroach on the main movie theme.



The Post Jurassic Park Dinosaur Outrage (Cooper)

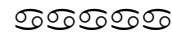
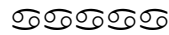
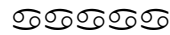
Cooper works for a multinational company which follows all the "on-trend" personnel training schemes which proliferate.

We learn that Cooper is willing to do "whatever-it-takes" to get a firm foothold on the greasy pole. He wins a berth on a four-day EDREC to New Caledonia.

Good-hearted, Cooper is a tearaway. He comes up with many crazy ideas.

Cooper's first filmic notion follows on from a supposed dinosaur break-out from an Australian dinosaur park. In the Coroner's court, litigants shout and accuse (with respect to multiple deaths, injuries and destruction). The court session is interrupted when a female T-Rex (Rip) crashes into the courtroom, devouring one of the scientists. Gibbo hates this suggestion completely and mocks it, deflating Cooper.

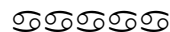
~~ CENTRAL: this movie idea infiltrates many aspects of the main movie theme.



Early Years Of The Rolling Stones (Cooper)

As soon as his dinosaur theme is squashed, Cooper throws in the formative years of the Rolling Stones as a good suggestion. This idea is also squashed.

~~ PERIPHERAL: this movie idea does NOT encroach on the main movie theme.



Click-click Fighting And Transformers (Donny)

Donny's premise was that without ultramodern movie "gadgets", the movie would flop. While watching the boxing on the TV (during lunch at the cricket) Donny and Gibbo got a taste for rush-of-blood boxing combined with transformers.

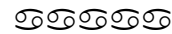
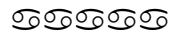
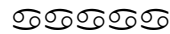
~~ CENTRAL: this movie idea infiltrates many aspects of the main movie theme.



Refurbishment Of Captain Cook's Cottage (Cooper)

By far Cooper's whackiest offering was to present a TV show which involved remodelling Captain Cook's Cottage (that is a copy of same).

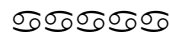
~~ PERIPHERAL: this TV show idea does NOT encroach on the main movie theme.



Sweet Romance (The Ladies)

The ladies (Bonnie, Marie and Jonquil) take over the TV soapie "Tarandrelong". While busy feminizing the series, they formulate plans for a romantic drama featuring a blossoming teenager matched with an older man. Object: matrimony.

~~ PERIPHERAL: this TV show idea does NOT encroach on the main movie theme.



Meaningless Car Chase and Raid on the Dapto RSL Bowls Club (Wayne)

This is truly the biggest waste of time that anyone dreams up. They (Cooper, Gibbo, and Donny) are transported in a police car driven by Ian (Wayne is the front seat passenger). This involves a super high speed thrills-and-spills car chase through

Sydney. They end up at the Dapto RSL Bowls Club where a full scale police raid is anticipated.

That fact that Sydney and Melbourne (where the murders happened) are over 800 kilometres apart is rather a bummer ...

~~ CENTRAL: this movie idea infiltrates many aspects of the main movie theme.

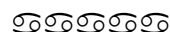


Our Main Theme As Per The British Contingent (Leon Freland)

The three friends decamp to London to employ the services of a professional.

Leon vamps up the storyline which Gibbo and Donny devised. He introduces a more "Miss Marple" 1950s mood. The brainwave is the grizzled old colonel. Like Constable Monroe, he solves the murder.

~~ CENTRAL: this movie idea infiltrates many aspects of the main movie theme.



Jasprit Namipors (AKA Jeparit) and His Mocket

Leon failed. So now the three friends head to Los Angeles where they meet up with top director Fleming Hardcastle. Cooper has dragged along Sydney lawyer Jasprit

Namipors. Cooper cannot pronounce that mouthful: he comes up with "Jeparit Name-your-poison".

Fleming will direct the movie. It will be a success. However, along the way, Jeparit tries to force his *bête noire* (Mocket) onto the trio. Mocket is a hail-back to the stiff-upper-lip movies starring Franchot Tone, C Aubrey Smith and so on.

~~ PERIPHERAL: this TV show idea does NOT encroach on the main movie theme.



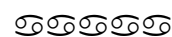
The Wash Up

To round out the main movie theme, we see how the killer is unmasked in the newsagency where he works.

This is followed Dr Grant Whiteley (played by Gibbo) performing some clever pathological magic.

Jeparit (being a cricket tragic) goes into bat (partnered by Donny) in LA. The fielding team are black-coloured transformers, with the umpire as a Dr Who dalek.

Rip the T-Rex cannot speak, but we are able to read her thoughts. She really struggles with having miniscule arms. Rip tells us of how hard it has been to interrupt the Coronial hearing in the Bowery Building (6th floor, room 15).



And then the four friends meet for the grand finale. They are in a primitive Proterozoic world where Life began. Only it is being spoiled by warring transformers who spray them with stray bolts of electrocharged energy. Zap! One by one the four friends are spifflicated. END

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### Tyrone Bosson, Film Critic

The critical analysis belted-out by Tyrone (and relating to Fleming) is total fudge. It is ever more waste-of-time than the car chase through the streets of Sydney.

However, it was required to kick-start the progress of the movie.

For his sins, Tyrone is fortuitously gobbled-up by Rip the T-Rex.

~~ PERIPHERAL: this commentary does NOT encroach on the main movie theme.

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TV Soapie “Tarandrelong”

TV series which are centred on regional districts of Australia prove immensely popular.

“Tarandrelong” should have been a real winner. However, some prat cast dopey Tony Nedson (Australia’s worst actor) as the alpha male love interest. He has been wiped out in a horrible farm accident in the very first episode. Gibbo was one of the scriptwriters and he hoped for great things.

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With the usual lack of forethought associated with these efforts, a decision is made to put a female in charge of the series. This role falls to Bonny. Without a blink,

Bonny sacks most of the men (because they are men) and heads the show down the road to ruin. Bonny rehires Tony Nedson (who now plays his twin brother). She ends up being sacked in return and things drift back to where they were when Gibbo was one of the team. Needless to say, Tony Nedson's character once again suffers a ghastly farm accident.

~~ PERIPHERAL: this commentary does NOT encroach on the main movie theme.

*We thought it was safe to go back into the water ... but no! ... Think again ...*

Gibbo meets up again with Cooper, Donny, Jeparit,  
Wayne and Shailah.

They all made a packet from their movie "Slash and Burn".

And now Gibbo has a stupendous suggestion:

**LET'S DO A PIRATE MOVIE!**

Along with Des Ormond (Gibbo's bestie) Gibbo drags in Vikings,  
Arabs and assorted freebooters.

Also appearing in this wild ride is Australia's own  
William Dampier.

Loads of fun!!

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And a new twist on the ever-popular corsair flick.