



OH, LUCKY MAN: Former Tasmanian Luke Brooks at the Home Valley Station, WA, where *Outback Jack* was shot.

Ex-Hobart bloke now love prize

ANGUS HOHENBOKEN

A GROUP of beautiful European women jumped out of a plane and into the life of former Tasmanian Luke Brooks in the West Australian outback last month.

Wearing flight overalls over evening dresses, the 11 Dutch and Belgian ladies had to skydive down to the feet of the merchant navy navigator — the first in a string of exhilarating experiences they would undertake on the set of *Outback Jack*.

In the reality television series, similar to *The Bachelor*, Brooks, 28, formerly of How-



MADLY IN PURSUIT: Luke Brooks and his 11 suitors in the European reality television series.

den, was showered with attention as they struggled to win his heart on a huge East Kimberley cattle station.

Home Valley Station spokesperson Nicolle Fenech, who watched the love-match series unfold, said of the former Tassie hunk: "He's very col-

ourful, a very down to earth Aussie bloke and has a great sense of humour.

"I'm sure the girls were suitably impressed."

While competing for Mr Brooks' heart, the women had to survive a series of elimination challenges, ranging from

covering an obstacle course through the Pentecost River to catching crocodiles and barramundi by hand.

"One of the Aboriginal elders from the area taught them how to do Aboriginal body painting and had to judge their efforts, which he was quite chuffed about," Mrs Fenech said.

They also had to convince Mr Brooks' mum, Barbara Weetman, of their suitability when she flew to the station to give motherly advice.

The series goes to air in Europe on October 7.

Plans to broadcast in Australia are yet to be finalised.