

Outback Luke charms Europe

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A BRONZED Ballina boatie has left *Outback Jack* for dust as the latest incarnation of the reality TV show hits millions of European lounge rooms.

Just as underwear model Vadim Dale became a household name in the US three years ago, 28-year-old Luke Brooks is now doing the same on the Continent in a series with the inventive title *Outback Luke*.

The show - which was shot in Western Australia - began airing earlier this month on Vijf TV. A cover of the hit anthem *Down Under* by Aussie band Men At Work is the theme song for the show.

Cast and crew were based at the **Home Valley station**, near Kununurra in the East Kimberley - the same place Baz Luhrmann's chose to shoot scenes for his outback epic *Australia*.

Eleven women from The Netherlands and Belgium were dropped in by parachute two months ago. Described as "*Sex and the City* types" with a penchant for brands such as Gucci and Prada, they had been expecting to stay at a Bachelor-style mansion. Instead they found themselves in a tent camp surrounded by snakes and spiders.

They spent two weeks vying for the affection of their muscular dream man - a boat captain who works on scientific expeditions on the Far North Coast - in the Kanakna Productions offering.

Dale ended up marrying winning contestant Natalie Franzman after the original show aired in 2004 and moved to the US to be with her. Brooks is also believed to have found love on the show.

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Luke Brooks ... will he be as charisma-free as Outback Jack?