



F1 THE AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND STORY

Developed and Financed with  screen queensland





Title: Formula 1: The Australian and New Zealand Story

Format: 3 X 50 min Documentary Series

Genre: Sport/Historical

Production Company: Roller Coaster Productions, Glass Engine

Producer/Director: Drew Roller
Producer: Neil McGregor

Filming Dates: March 2027 - Jan 2028

SHORT SYNOPSIS

They came from the edge of the world with nothing but talent, grit and an obsession with speed. This is the electrifying true story of the Australians and New Zealanders who conquered Formula One against impossible odds.

LONG SYNOPSIS

High-octane. Big personalities. Impossible odds. Formula 1: The Australian and New Zealand Story is a cinematic documentary series that plunges audiences into the golden age of motorsport, where fearless Australians and New Zealanders travelled halfway around the world chasing impossible dreams. Through breathtaking never before seen archive, unforgettable characters and legendary races, the series relives the triumphs, heartbreaks, rivalries and tragedies that forged Formula One's greatest underdog story. This isn't just the history of Formula One—it's the story of the people who refused to accept that greatness belonged somewhere else.

SIZZLE TRAILER: <https://vimeo.com/1195208398/3fc97ee593>





BASED ON A BOOK

FORMULA ONE: THE AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND STORY

The definitive, bestselling Allen & Unwin hardcover by
veteran motorsport journalist John Smailes

Publisher: Allen & Unwin

Year: 2021

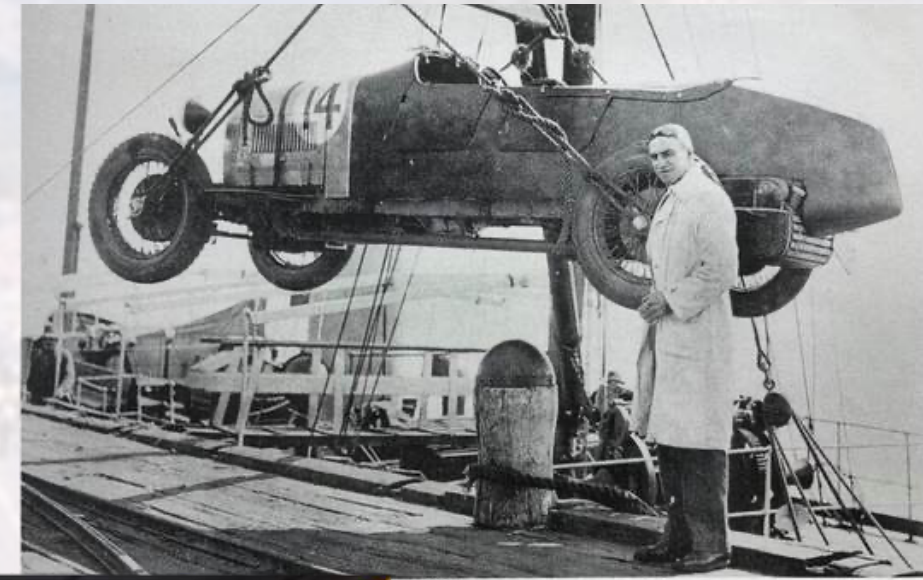
Book Optioned June 2026

CREATIVE APPROACH

Each episode combines long-form contributor interviews with key figures in European, Australian and New Zealand motorsport history, rare archival film and photography sourced from institutional and private collections across Australia, the United Kingdom and Europe.

Attached to the application is a comprehensive archival strategy that will be used to map and cost F1 archives domestically and abroad.

Original animation will reconstruct events for which no footage survives and when licensing costs are too expensive.



ONE STORY - THREE EPISODES

Episode 01

1928 – 1970



The Gladiators

The story begins in 1928 on a grass track at Phillip Island at the innagural Australian Grand Prix. A generation of antipodeans test their metal on circuits around the country eventually making the pilgrimage to the race circuits of Europe and taking the greatest prize in motorsport in the first decade of its existence.

Episode 02

1964 – 1995



Race to the End of the World

Formula 1 comes south. In the 60s the Tasman Series brings the who's who of F1 world champions to antipodean circuits igniting a fire in Aussie and NZ crowds. In 1985 Adelaide secures Australia's first-ever official FIA championship race. Australian motorsport would never be the same again.

Episode 03

1996 – Present



Unfinished Business

Albert Park takes the race Adelaide lost — and a strange pattern begins. No Australian has stood on the podium at home. Webber and Ricciardo carry a nation's hopes for two decades; A new generation — Lawson, Doohan, Piastri — finds the sport as beautiful and brutal as it has always been.



MOOD BOARD



Drive to Survive (2019 - Current)



Senna (2010)



Love the Beast (2009)



Hill (2025)

COMPS



Brawn (2023)



F1 Movie (2025)

THE TEAM

Director / Producer - Drew Roller

IMDb <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm9075499/>

Drew Roller is a Queensland-based documentary director and producer and the founder of Roller Coaster Productions. He directed the feature documentary GoldenEra (2022), which was sold to Altitude in the UK and Cinedigm in the USA. It also premiered on Sky Documentaries UK and screened at SXSW in Australia. The film traces the making and cultural legacy of one of the most influential video games ever made — GoldenEye 007 — through archive, expert interviews, animation and fan culture.

His earlier feature Acoustic Uprising (2017) holds an 8.9 rating on IMDb, screened at the Melbourne and Sydney Guitar Festivals, and explores the global acoustic fingerstyle guitar movement through music performance, community and artist-led storytelling. Across both films Roller developed the approach that defines his work. A builder - Drew patiently acquires access and trust with people and communities, elevating human stories with quality archival materials and utilises his musical background to elevate productions with sonic layering.

A lifelong motorsport fan, he has spent decades researching the Australian and New Zealand contribution to Formula One, building relationships across the sport's surviving drivers, families, engineers and archive holders. He is the originator of Formula One: The Australian and New Zealand Story, holds the underlying book option with author John Smailes, and will direct and produce the series.

Producer: Neil McGregor a.d.g

IMDb - www.imdb.com/name/nm2387418

Neil's career has spanned major Hollywood productions, government, and commercial advertising. Neil lived in Vancouver, Canada working on films including Deadpool, Robocop, and Godzilla. He has also worked for Screen Queensland under the Queensland Government, Department of the Premier and Cabinet as VP, Locations and Production Attraction. Here he helped attract International films to Queensland and was instrumental in strengthening Queensland's screen industry, attracting production investment of more than \$330 million in film and television production, including Thor: Ragnarok and Aquaman, to film in Australia.

In 2018, he identified an industry gap, conceptualised, and led a key infrastructure project for a \$16 million studio facility in Brisbane which he oversaw construction to opening date. This helped address the identified pipeline which contributed to a surge in screen production expenditure in Queensland has helped contribute to hundreds of millions of dollars in economic activity from inbound productions since opening in 2019.

He founded an award-winning creative company Glass Engine Ventures and his documentary work includes Ramblin Racer (Amazon/ABC Australia), Growing Happiness (Amazon Prime) and I Shot the President (Madman Entertainment/Off The Fence), with his work receiving recognition from nominations at the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) Awards.

Outside of his film work, he has sat on the board of Vision Splendid Outback Film Festival for several years and championed opportunities for regional filmmakers. He has also guest lectured at 'Yes I Can', a Hollywood Not For Profit that enables creatives with disabilities to find opportunities in the screen industry.

IP, MARKET VALIDATION AND ENDORSEMENTS

Book Option — Secured

Allen & Unwin / John Smailes · Signed June 2026 · 18-month option + 6-month extension (24 months total)

The Best Selling Blueprint. Formula One: The Australian and New Zealand Story provides the narrative and archival framework for all three episodes.

International Distribution LOI

Sphere Abacus · Global Content Director: Will Stapley · Issued July 2026

Letter of Intent confirming worldwide distribution interest from tier 1 distributor Sphere Abacus. LOI Attached.

Institutional Endorsement

Australian Motor Heritage Foundation · Letter of support received

Peak body for Australian motorsport heritage. CEO Geoff Pigget. Custodians of Australia's official national motorsport archive — footage, photography and records spanning the full history of Australian motorsport. Confirmed participation in AMHF presentation, August 19. Letter of support attached.

Contributor LOI

Will Davison · Queensland-based Supercars driver · LOI received July 2026

F1 test driver. 2009 V8 Supercar Championship runner-up. Two-time Bathurst 1000 winner (2009, 2016). 22 Supercars race wins. Grandson of Lex Davison (4× Australian GP winner). Step-grandson of Tony Gaze (WWII Spitfire ace, First ever Australian F1 Driver). Formal talent LOI received July 2026.



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