

# Kananaskis area ranch featured in Australian television broadcast

By Gillian Beckett  
STAFF REPORTER

The Anchor D ranch, located west of Turner Valley, was recently transformed into Anchor 'Down Under' following the visit of some special guests.

On May 10, the picturesque ranch was flooded with television cameras and crew of the Australian 'Today' show.

Executive producer Steve Wood explained that the filming of the live television broadcast at the Anchor D ranch was part of the show's 'Canadian Week' theme.

He noted that the overall production of the Canadian Week shoot was the result of about two-and-a-half years of hard work in cooperation with the Canadian Tourism Commission.

"This is the end of a really long, grueling week for us filming throughout western Canada," said Wood. "We started in Victoria and we've ended here."

Wood added that the film crew also visited Vancouver, Whistler and Banff throughout the week.

When selecting the final spot for the show's week long film journey, Wood explained that it was a fairly easy decision.

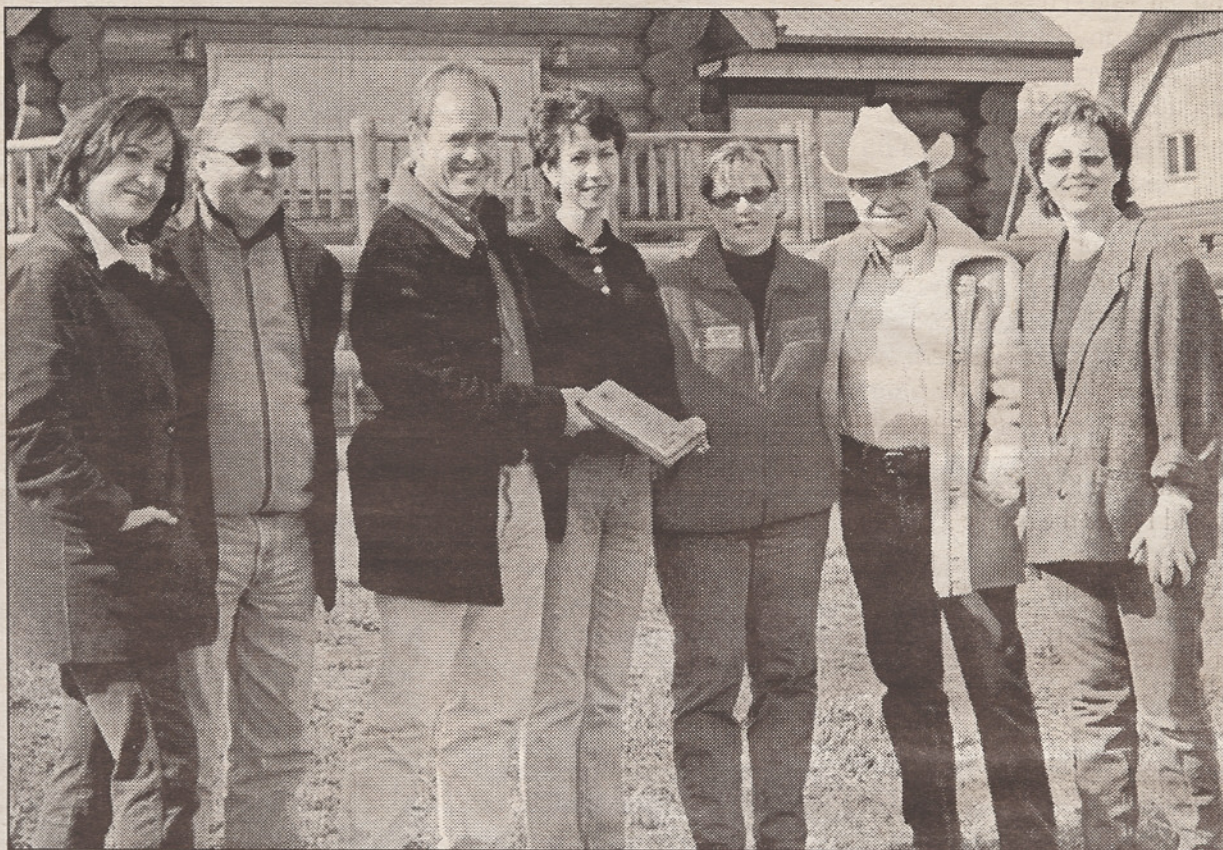
"A local person in the film industry showed me around about 15 ranches in three days, this is my third trip out here in the past three months," he said. "I looked at a number of ranches, but I went through here and just fell in love with it — this is a great ranch Dewey has."

Dewey, of course, being the Anchor D's owner Dewey Matthews.

"He's a great character," said Wood.

During the shoot, Matthews and his family showed the film crew and the Today show hosts Steve Liabmann and Tracy Grimshaw the inner-workings of a real Canadian ranch.

In one part of the segment, the 20-member Australian film



'Today' show hosts Tracy Grimshaw (first from left) and Steve Liabmann (third from left) accept a welcoming gift at the Anchor D Ranch west of Turner Valley.  
photo by Gillian Beckett

tion when word spread around the set that a 'bear' would be coming out of a shed which Liabmann was supposed to enter.

After a few nail-biting moments as Liabmann tried to get the jammed shed door open, the gasps dissolved into giggles as the 'bear' turned out to be a bearskin.

However, after a final wrap up of a musical performance which featured the Chad Krieger Band and an end clip, Dewey offered a nail-biting moment of his own when he demonstrated his whip-wielding skills on Grimshaw for a publicity photo.

Grimshaw was directed to stand still with an object in her mouth while Matthews cracked the object out of her mouth with a few expert whip moves.

Although each whip crack prompted a few Australian production mates to utter the occa-

sional 'Crikey!', the trick left a brave Grimshaw unharmed.

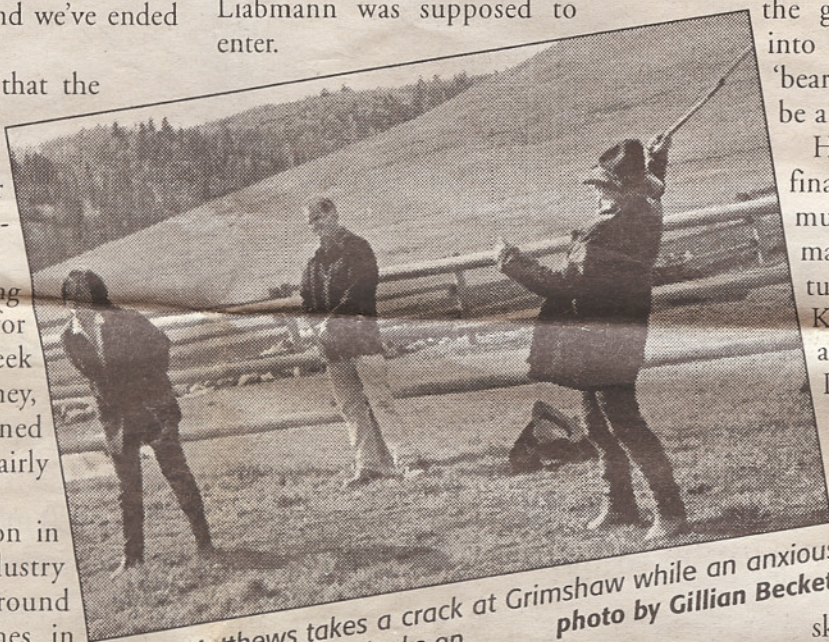
Wood explained that in the 19 years that the Today show has been airing in Australia to an audience of about one million viewers, this was the first visit the show has made to Canada.

"We tend to come back (to previous locations)," said Wood. "We've been to Ireland a few times, we've been to England a few times, we travel a couple of times per year."

As parting gifts, the Australian crew were guests at an official 'White-Hat' ceremony by the Calgary Convention and Visitors Bureau and were given some lasting memories of the landscape surrounding the Anchor D Ranch.

However, the crew was not the only ones who were treated with a memorable experience.

"It was really neat," said Matthews' daughter Katie. "It was so much different than what we're used to... there was a lot of people here."



Dewey Matthews takes a crack at Grimshaw while an anxious Liabmann (and crew) looks on.  
photo by Gillian Beckett

"Quiet everybody!" said one crew member who warned a group of watchers to keep their eye on a dog that was passing by. "We don't want the dog to get nervous, there is a bear that's coming out."



Local musical guests 'Chad Krieger Band' performs a toe-tapping set under the glare of lights