



NEWSLETTER NO. 44 FEBRUARY 2019

Welcome back to the New Year of events with the Friends! Our Friends program at the NFSA and CMAG has already started with a bang - join us, through autumn, for more fascinating glimpses into the world of the NFSA.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE FRIENDS:

Welcome to 2019 and another year of Friends activities! We celebrate the New Year with a redesigned Friends website - take a look! <http://www.archivefriends.org.au> . The NFSA will turn 35 on October 3rd, just one day before we reach the centenary of the premiere of "The Sentimental Bloke" in the Melbourne Town Hall in 1919.

The "public face" of the NFSA has re-opened. A three-hour limit has been reinstated in the NFSA's parking area, so when visiting the NFSA during business hours it is now usually possible to find a convenient parking spot. A new hourly bus service visits all of the cultural institutions, making it easier to reach the NFSA by public transport. The Heath Ledger exhibition was well patronised and has run its course: a new exhibition based on the film "The Dressmaker" will open in April.

At the Annual General Meeting in November, your committee was re-elected for a further year, and we look forward to what the year will bring. We already know, of course, that there will be a federal election, probably in May, and that means that an incoming government will be reviewing budgets and setting priorities for the next three years. The NFSA's budget is simply not large enough to fund the digitisation and other urgent challenges facing the institution and the Friends will be doing its part to present those needs to the relevant political players.

Rav Edmondson

Friends of the National Film and Sound Archive Committee 2019

President: Ray Edmondson
Vice President: Chris Harrison
Secretary: Sue Terry
Treasurer: Chris Emery

Committee Members: David Kilby
Lindy Ross
Tony Briscoe
Public Officer: Jude Briscoe



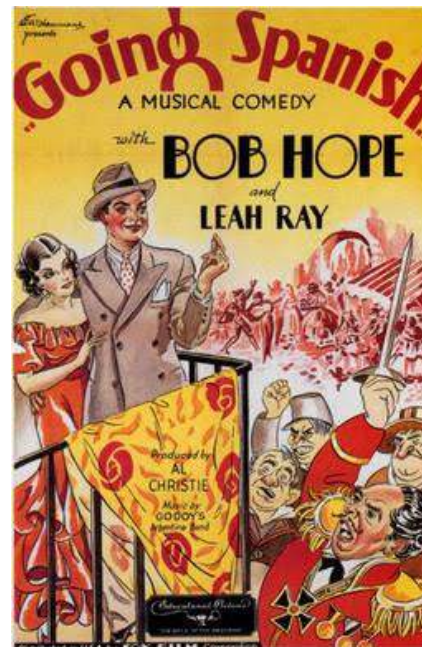
Stop Press!
Coming up this Friday 22nd Feb 2.30 at CMAG:

BING AND BOB ON POVERTY ROW

Our Friday afternoon programs at Canberra Museum and Gallery resume for the autumn season.



Like many Hollywood stars in the 1930's, Bing Crosby and Bob Hope each got their start in short, low budget comedies churned out by small 'poverty row' studios in Los Angeles and New York. Hope's debut was in *'Going Spanish'* (aka *Bob's Busy Day*) in 1934. It was panned by the critics as well as by Hope himself, so he was fired from the studio. Bing Crosby fared better. For US \$600 a week he starred in a series of musical two-reelers for veteran director Mack Sennett, of which *Blue in the Night* (1933) was the last. Separately and as a team Hope and Crosby went on to much bigger things, while their early work slipped from sight . . .but now you can see it! Special contemporary added attraction: *The Haunted Ship* (1933), a bizarre musical cartoon from the 'poverty row' Van Buren studio. The 16mm prints come from a private Canberra collection.

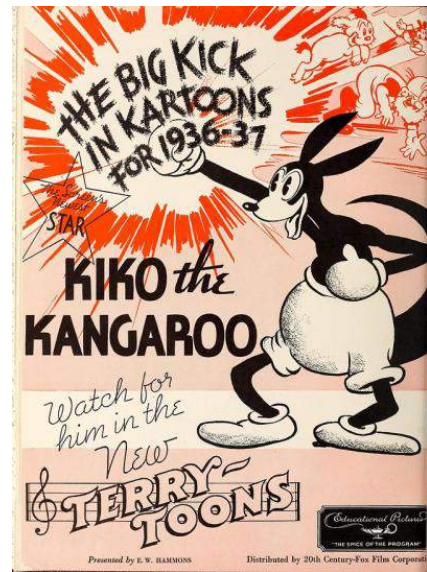


Friday with Friends at CMAG: Our Afternoon AUTUMN Program.

There is plenty of parking adjacent to the Canberra Museum and Gallery in Civic Square, or in the Canberra Centre. The bus interchange is close, too. Join us for coffee beforehand at the CMAG Café. NFSA Friends and CMAG Members free, or by gold coin donation.

Friday 15th March 2.30 – 3.30: HOLLYWOOD IN THE HOME

Before television and videos changed our social habits, you could bring Hollywood to your home by inviting family and friends for an evening of 'package' movies – specially edited short versions of the 'big' films which you could buy or rent and show on your own projector. We visit this forgotten world of comedies (condensed to make the laughs come faster!), cartoons and documentaries with a selection of rare, original 16mm prints featuring Abbott and Costello, WC Fields, Kiko the Kangaroo and others.



Friday 26th April: THE OVERLANDERS (Special 2 hour session 2.30 - 4.30)

Film historian Andrew Pike will present one of Australia's greatest film classics, screened in its entirety. Released in 1946 it's the story of an epic wartime overland cattle drive across the Top End, to remove food supplies from the reach of Japanese invaders. It made an international star of Chips Rafferty and established his 'bushman' image. Backed by John Ireland's dramatic musical score, Australia's outback was revealed to a global audience. After the screening Andrew will hold a Q & A session. 16mm print from the NFSA.



Friday 17th May: TV NOSTALGIA - first of a series (2.30 – 3.30)

When television first arrived in 1956 it caused a profound social change and introduced Australians to a new world of entertainment with series imported from the US and elsewhere. Superman, Maverick, Mickey Mouse Club, Bilko, Wyatt Earp, I Love Lucy were all part of a rich black-and-white universe that captivated us, a world far removed from today's big screen coloured extravaganzas. We will be recalling and celebrating television of the 1950s and 1960s, and our first program will be a surprise! Stay tuned!



Friday With Friends at the NFSA - our original Friday night format has resumed this year. Programs run from 6.00 - 7.00 with a social get together from 5.30, at the Archive, McCoy Circuit, Acton.

5.30 pm Friday 12th April: 'Laurel and Hardy' - The music of Leroy Shield.

Shield composed background music for the Hal Roach studio output in the 1930s and it has since taken on a life of its own, with a Dutch orchestra called 'Beau Hunks' recreating it in authentic 'low fidelity' for modern audiences. Absolutely everyone has heard this music at some time - without realising where it came from. Audio and visual clips. **With the imminent release of the new feature film 'Stan and Ollie' this program will have a very special relevance!**



What a start to our 'Friday with Friends' 2019 program!

KEITH POTGER OPENS THE YEAR FOR THE FRIENDS

Keith Potger AO, founding member of the iconic music group The Seekers, took us on a journey through the group's history at a Friday with Friends presentation in the NFSA Theatrette on 15 February. In conversation with committee members Tony Briscoe and David Kilby, Keith related the evolution of The Seekers, growing out of two earlier groups, the Trinamics and The Escorts, and finally coalescing into the well-known quartet of Judith Durham, Bruce Woodley, Athol Guy and Keith. The Seekers climbed to fame in the early 1960s as their recordings reached the top of the charts in Britain as well as Australia, with "I'll never find another you", "The Carnival is Over", "A World of our Own" and "Morningtown Ride" all hitting the heights in 1965. The group's 1967 concert at Melbourne's Myer Music Bowl attracted a crowd of over 200,000, a record for the Bowl that remains unequalled.

Over the years The Seekers have re-formed in various iterations and Keith has also continued his career as a solo performer. He paused in his conversation with Tony and David to perform with his 12-string guitar and sing some Seekers favourites with, of course, audience participation! Individually and as a group, the Seekers have a long association with the NFSA, where their recordings and memorabilia are preserved. As an interesting audio experience, Keith recorded one of his songs on an Edison cylinder phonograph for the NFSA a few years ago. Check it out:

<https://www.nfsa.gov.au/collection/curated/guardian-angel-guiding-light-keith-potger>

Keith foreshadowed that a new 50th anniversary tour Seekers DVD is in preparation for release later this year. It was an evening to remember.



Keith Potger in conversation with Friends' Committee members Tony Briscoe and David Kilby.

Tap and Donate at the NFSA!

If you've been to the NFSA in the last six months or so you may have seen a little device on the reception counter called Tap and Donate.

WHAT IS IT? It's a little terminal that enables people to make a small pre-set donation to the work of the NFSA.

HOW DOES IT WORK? Simply tap your credit card on the screen, and the standard (pre-set) donation amount (currently \$4) is automatically deducted from your account. (Your credit card does need to be PayWave or PayPass enabled, and currently only Visa, MasterCard, and debit cards are accepted.)

IS IT TAX DEDUCTIBLE? Yes, but you do not get a receipt. Your bank statement suffices as evidence for your claim on your tax return.

So, next time you visit the NFSA, do think about tapping your card. It's quick and easy, and for the price of a cup of coffee you can help make a difference!

NFSA Restores is an exciting program to digitise, restore and preserve, at the highest archival standards, classic and cult Australian films so they can be seen on the big screen in today's digital cinemas.

The collection belongs to all Australians but it is fragile. Films, tapes, recordings, photographs and costumes can all deteriorate over time and need constant care.

The NFSA is always working to preserve Australia's audio-visual collection and make it available to as many people as possible. The Committee decided it would be appropriate for the Friends of the NFSA to support this important venture with a \$1000 donation.

Individuals may also wish to donate – and can do so at the

NFSA: <https://www.nfsa.gov.au/about/our-mission/support-us/nfsa-restores-campaign>

CALLING for VOLUNTEERS!



Are you interested in film culture?

If you would like to help the committee in some way - perhaps with our events or publicity, for example - we are also interested to hear from you. You may wish to man the desk on NFSA Film Nights, or give introductions to the films shown on these occasions.

To offer your services or to find out more about any of these, please email Sue Terry at archivefriends@gmail.com



The Friends would like to acknowledge the support of the IT firm, Blue Packets, in hosting our website.



Find the Friends on Facebook
[www.facebook.comNFSAFriends](https://www.facebook.com/NFSAFriends)

It's worth regularly checking the Friends' website and Facebook page to keep up with what's happening.

The 2019 Friends of the NFSA Committee:

President: Ray Edmondson, Vice President: Chris Harrison, Secretary: Sue Terry,
Treasurer: Chris Emery, Committee: David Kilby, Lindy Ross, Tony Briscoe. Public Officer:
Jude Briscoe, Newsletter Editor: Lindy Ross

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