



## **NEWSLETTER NO. 46 DECEMBER 2019**



### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:**

On behalf of the Committee, may I wish all our members the very best for the festive season and the New Year. My thanks for your support during the past year and we can look forward to a fascinating program both at the NFSA and CMAG in 2020. I hope to see you at many of our events.

Ray Edmondson, President (Ray's Annual Report is included in this Newsletter)

***And International Congratulations are in order for our President Ray!***



At this month's meeting in Hyderabad of the Film Heritage Foundation, Ray (centre, left) was awarded the Foundation's **Life Achievement Award**. This comes shortly after the AMIA (Association of Moving Image Archivists) decided to rename their Advocacy Award the **Ray Edmondson Advocacy Award** in recognition of his inspiring advocacy efforts within the AMIA since its earliest years. Congratulations, Ray!

# The Friends' Annual General Meeting, held on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2019.



NFSA CEO Jan Müller addressed the meeting, the Committee held its final meeting for 2019 and convivial discussions were had by AGM attendees.

**2020 Committee:**  
**Committee Members:**  
Ray Edmondson  
Sue Terry, Chris Emery,  
Jill Matthews, David  
Kilby, Lindy Ross, Tony  
Briscoe

(Positions yet to be  
decided)

**Public Officer:** Jude  
Briscoe

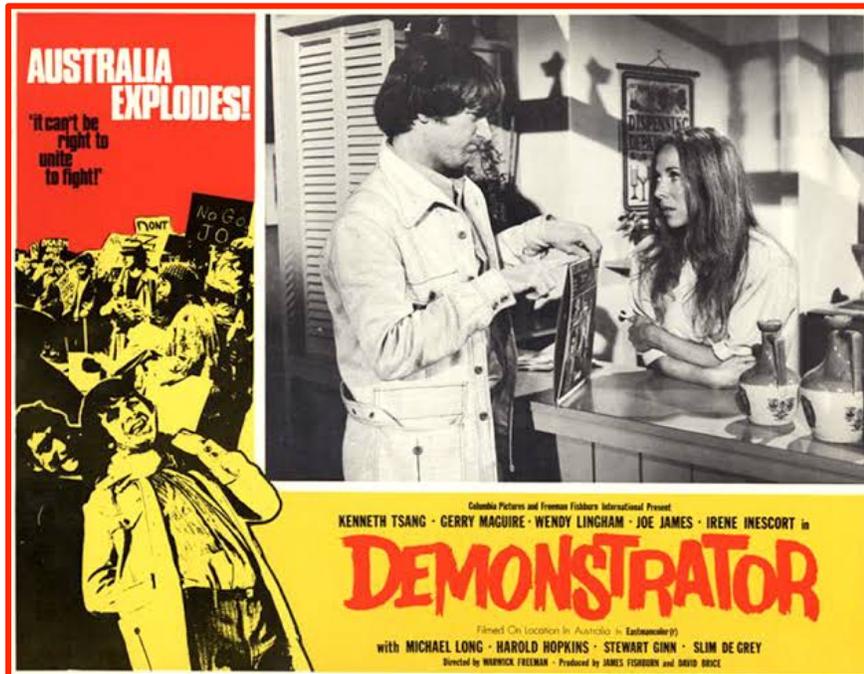


# Friday with Friends at the NFSA



At our final **Friday with Friends at the NFSA** for 2019 former Sound, Broadcast and New Media curator Matthew Davies transported us into the Virtual Worlds! It is was a very different and exhilarating journey for the Friends who attended – Richard Keys was one who enjoyed the experience and caught up with Matthew after the show.

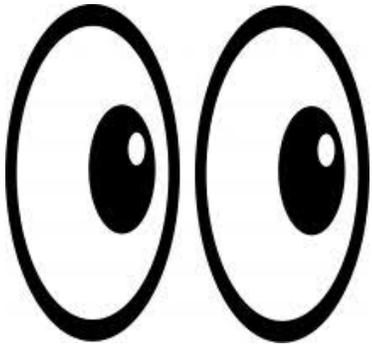
## To start the New Year, our first Friday with Friends for 2020 at the NFSA is a beauty!



### FRIDAY WITH FRIENDS: *DEMONSTRATOR* (1971)

**Australia explodes!** The 1970s may seem a world away, but in today's activist climate this story of political conflict and the generation gap is strangely contemporary. Carefully set against Canberra's scenic highlights, and unseen for decades, this local feature film stars Slim de Grey as the Prime Minister, Noel Ferrier as the Governor General and Kenneth Tsang as the Asian protagonist. Written by Kit Denton, screenwriter father of Andrew Denton.

**FRIDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY – Time TBA**



**Keep you eyes peeled for our first Newsletter in 2020 when we announce our Autumn Friday with Friends at CMAG program.**

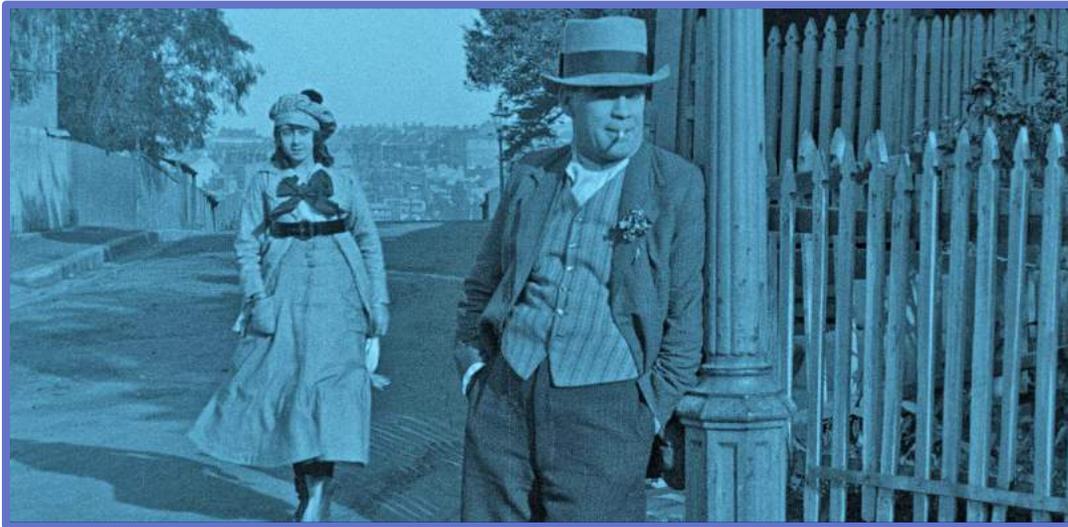
***More great entertainment at a convenient time and venue!***

### **Life Membership for Chris Harrison**

***At the Friends of the NFSA AGM, President Ray Edmondson announced that the retiring Vice-President of the Friends, Chris Harrison, would be awarded Life Membership - 'In grateful recognition of his service to the Friends of the NFSA during his long tenure as Vice President and his commitment to the Archive and its predecessor during his professional career.'***



Friends of the NFSA Life Member Chris Harrison pictured here with his good friend Helen Morse at a past Friends event.



## ***'The Sentimental Bloke' turned 100 in 2019!***

One of Australia's greatest silent films now celebrates its centenary with a new digital restoration by the NFSA, and an extraordinary musical score composed and performed live by ARIA award-winner Paul Mac.

Based on the verse novel *The Songs of a Sentimental Bloke* by CJ Dennis, this is a tale of romance, jealousy, temptation and redemption. It tells the story of Bill 'The Kid' (Arthur Tauchert), a larrikin who cleans up his act when the beautiful Doreen (Lottie Lyell) enters his life.

Directed by legendary filmmaker Raymond Longford, *The Sentimental Bloke* is set in the then-rough streets of Woolloomooloo and the beaches of Manly, offering contemporary audiences a rare glimpse of Sydney 100 years ago. A huge box-office hit at the time, *The Sentimental Bloke* is one of the few silent-era Australian films to have survived in its entirety.

Presented by NFSA Restores, 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.

**In Sydney in February? The 'Bloke' is being screened at the Westpac Openair Fleet Steps on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 6.00 for an 8.30 screening. Tickets available from the NFSA.**

### **Good news for Friends at the NFSA Box Office!**

**The NFSA regrets that it has had to increase ticket prices but Friends will still receive special discount pricing:**

**At regular events tickets will be available for \$10  
(usual adult price \$12)**

**At special events, Friends tickets will be \$20  
(regular price \$25)**





Did you make it along to the Canberra International Film Festival (CIFF) and enjoy the wonderful Hitchcock films?

'Notorious' starred Ingrid Bergmann and Cary Grant and was a sell out!

The Friends had made a \$500 donation towards the CIFF and we were very pleased to be acknowledged publicly at the events, and by Andrew Pike, CIFF Director, in a letter to the Friends. **You may wish to make an individual donation to support this important local event.**

Dear Friends,

I am writing on behalf of the CIFF Committee.

This year's short CIFF event took place last weekend with full houses for each of the 3 sessions, and very positive feedback. Audience range was from young to elderly, and we were very pleased that quite a number of local filmmakers were present for all three films: we seem to be getting some traction with the right people.

As you know, with the re-direction of local government grants for the arts, we are fighting hard to re-build our financial base, and the Friends' very kind grant of \$500 was of critical importance in allowing us to keep going with our event. We are hoping that the response last weekend will bring some strong interest from philanthropists, and we are hopeful of returning to a larger event in 12 months' time. My hope is that we can grow from three screenings this year to 18 films next year over 6 days.

The Friends' support was acknowledged at each session on the screen and in our program brochure. We couldn't have done it with this support!

If the Friends group is willing and able to contribute again for 2020, we will be immensely grateful. If it is relevant, we have a tax-deductible platform now for donations through the Australian Cultural Fund: <https://australianculturalfund.org.au/projects/canberra-film-fest-2020/> **This platform is short-term only and expires on 31 March 2020.**

Again, with our thanks -

Andrew

Andrew Pike,  
Festival Director

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO AGM 2019 - Ray Edmondson, 29.11.19

The role of the Friends, as a visible part of the NFSA's constituency, is to act as a public advocate and support the NFSA in fulfilling its mandate, to increase public awareness and to offer a membership program. This financial year (2018-19) the Friends has maintained its ongoing program of events and member benefits and been an active advocate for the NFSA.

**Advocacy** The Friends are concerned about the cumulative effects of the Government's continuing, so-called "efficiency dividend" budget cuts on the NFSA. As an independent body the Friends can advocate for the NFSA's needs as it sees them, and its Advocacy Subcommittee arranged several in-person visits to relevant politicians. We have supported the call for increased funds to digitise the NFSA collection.

In May 2018 the Friends had made a lengthy submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry on Canberra's National Institutions (for the text, visit the Friends website). In its final report in April 2019 the Committee recommended greater cooperation between institutions, and certain relief from swingeing "efficiency dividend" cuts. It also recommended that the Government *acknowledge the need for the digitisation of analogue audio-visual items in the collections of the institutions, to ensure that all such material is digitally preserved by 2025, and develop a clear and coherent whole of government strategy across institutions to get this done.*

[https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Joint/National\\_Capital\\_and\\_External\\_Territories/NationalInstitutions/Report](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/National_Capital_and_External_Territories/NationalInstitutions/Report)

**Volunteer activities** have continued, with the staffing of the NFSA Library on Wednesday afternoons. Volunteers have taken over the task of preparing the NFSA's ongoing contribution to FIAF's *International Index for Film Periodicals*.

Regular **film screenings and other events** by NFSA are promoted by the Friends, which whenever possible operates a greeting table in the lobby in advance of screenings. Friends members gain discounted entry to screenings and to other events. We were delighted to see the NFSA's public gallery reopened in August 2018 with the Heath Ledger exhibition.

The **Argonauts page** on the Friends website has continued to quietly gather reminiscences from former members of this highly influential children's club on ABC radio, which makes a distinctive addition to the NFSA's collection, since so little remains of the original radio broadcasts. The Argonauts signature song (which can be heard on the website) features on the NFSA *Sounds of Australia* register.

**Profile** The Friends *Newsletter* was published in August 2018 and February 2019 and distributed to members. The Friends' Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/NFSAFriends](http://www.facebook.com/NFSAFriends)) and website ([www.archivefriends.org.au](http://www.archivefriends.org.au)) publicise both Friends and NFSA activities. A hotlink on the NFSA website also points to the Friends' website. The website was extensively revamped during the year.

**Events** The Friends' partnership with CMAG (Canberra Museum and Gallery) continued and offered a monthly "Friday with Friends" afternoon presentation in the CMAG theatrette. CMAG is in the heart of Civic with convenient parking, good public transport and a friendly café. It allows the possibility of projecting 16mm film, now a disappearing experience. This series complemented presentations in the NFSA theatrette with its full range of facilities for digital presentation. The list of events:

## 2018

20 July Showgirl's *Luck* (1931) Australia's first screen musical.

17 August *Unknown Frank Hurley* Three quirky short documentaries from 1919 and the 1930s

21 September *A dubious decision ... a disturbing result* David Kilby on disc jockeys who couldn't resist recording their own vocals

12 October *Canberra's Yesterdays* Vintage views from 1913, 1934 and 1965

19 October *Adventures in the film trade* Andrew Pike traced the bizarre and forgotten aspects of the field

16 November *MGM - The Great Movie Shorts* Classic short subjects from 1930s and 1940s

23 November *Barry York: Reaching for the stars* A journey through a private collection of autographed photos

## 2019

15 February *Keith Potger in Person* In conversation and song, tracing the story of the iconic singing group *The Seekers*

22 February *Bing and Bob on Poverty Row* Hope and Crosby at the start of their careers

15 March *Hollywood in the home* Before video - the forgotten world of condensed Hollywood movies tailored for home screening

12 April *Laurel and Hardy - the music of Leroy Shield* the secrets behind the background music in Laurel and Hardy and other Hal Roach films

26 April *The Overlanders* (1946) The enduring classic about a wartime cattle drive - which launched Chips Rafferty

17 May *TV nostalgia* Revisiting Australian television programming in the 1950s

21 June *Don't call me girlie* The role of women in the Australian cinema

**Melbourne Chapter** Discussions were commenced with a group of Melbourne members towards the possibility of establishing a Melbourne chapter of the Friends, able to mount its own public events.

**Canberra International Film Festival 26 to 28 October 2018:** The Friends was a sponsor of the festival and a collaborator in its organisation. Screenings were in the Arc cinema and Friends' members were given discounted entry to all sessions.

**Relations with NFSA** The Friends Committee worked closely with CEO Jan Müller, Karina Libbey and other staff and appreciated their support and cooperation.

**Membership** remains small compared with Friends organisations of other national memory institutions.

I would like to thank the members of our very hard working voluntary committee, which has met approximately monthly over the year. I want to especially acknowledge the huge contribution of Vice President Chris Harrison over many years as he retires from the Committee at this meeting. Finally, I thank the staff of CMAG for their support of our afternoon presentations.

Any Friends in Melbourne in the New Year? Come along and join in!

## **MELBOURNE: Sundays With Friends 2020**

For further information please contact Teresa Pitt at [teresa.pitt@outlook.com](mailto:teresa.pitt@outlook.com)

**Sunday 9 February 2020 (second Sunday of the month)**

**2.00 – 4.00 pm**

**Liardet Community Centre, 154 Liardet Street, Port Melbourne**

**Speaker: Emeritus Professor Jenny Hocking**

**Topic: The Palace Letters**

*In December 2016, Professor Hocking initiated a Federal Court action against the National Archives of Australia, seeking the release of the 'Palace letters' – the correspondence between Sir John Kerr and the Queen regarding the dismissal of the Whitlam Government in 1975. The case will be heard in the High Court in early 2020. In this talk Jenny will discuss her biography of Gough Whitlam and the significance of archival research to history, and will outline the development of the landmark 'Palace letters' case. Free for members, gold coin donation for non-members. RSVP [teresa.pitt@outlook.com](mailto:teresa.pitt@outlook.com)*

### **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 - 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.

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.

### **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](mailto:archivefriends@gmail.com)*

**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, our second donation of this amount.**

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>



*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.com/NFSAFriends](http://www.facebook.com/NFSAFriends)

or on our website

[www.archivefriends.org.au](http://www.archivefriends.org.au)



***Check the Friends' website and Facebook page to keep up with what's happening!***

Friends of the National Film and Sound Archive Inc.

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